

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018
Date: Monday, 3 September 2018 11:31:11 AM

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

I agree that abortion should not be a criminal offence but I believe that abortion, especially up to 22 weeks, should be avoided when at all possible due to the obvious consequences for the child, but also the physical and psychological harm to the mother.

While ever couples grieve over miscarriages it is impossible to objectify unborn children as "foetuses" and so downplay the seriousness of abortion.

I recognise the rights of women to control their body but believe this should be balanced by the rights of unborn children. Civil and just societies aim to protect the rights of their weakest citizens. There are no more vulnerable members of our community than unborn children.

The bill also increases the likelihood of gender-based abortions which will result in the infanticide of baby girls and pressure on mothers in some contexts to terminate unborn baby girls.

A way forward does exist that upholds both the rights of the mother and their unborn children. Adoption represents the ultimate win-win scenario where childless couples can have their dreams fulfilled and unwanted children can find a home. Surely adoption is a better solution than abortion. Mothers with unwanted children should be counselled not only about abortion but also about adoption. The adoption process should be streamlined as a way of saving harm to unborn children and the women who bear them.

Thank you for your time
Ian

