To whom it may concern,

At 36 I have not (yet) had to make use of abortion services but any female who is it is not planning to become pregnant is personally affected by abortion laws. Over the years I have taken an interest on a range of social welfare issues. We know that abortion laws can affect anyone from any background, with a range of complex and unexpected issues. All women deserve the right to be treated equally and with the utmost respect and support in helping them to make informed decisions during what is likely to be one of the most difficult times in her life.

While there is a great deal of emotion and concern around the issue, I urge your inquiry to consider, above all, the evidence from the medical profession, the clients, and social support services. As the law currently stands, abortion should not be part of the criminal code, leaving police and courts to make decisions (or planting fear preventing others from making informed decisions). Additionally, while we all have the right to freedom of religious belief, no one should be able to impose that belief onto others.

Please strongly consider that this is a well overdue opportunity to modify and modernise abortion law. Please empower women with advice from their personal GPs to make their own decisions regarding procreation. The right to make decisions regarding our own bodies is the most fundamental of all human rights.

Make abortion legal, widely available and ensure unobstructed access for women everywhere.