

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [Abortion Bill](#)  
Subject: Submission in support of reform  
Date: Tuesday, 4 October 2016 3:42:02 PM

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Forgive me if I dispense with the formalities and pleasantries in order to be frank and open. I am always deeply angry when I am forced to argue in favour of basic rights. Anti-choice laws inspire a deep disgust in me and I am thoroughly tired of voicing my arguments against them, when all that is required to understand is a basic respect for women as human beings. The government has no place here. Women are not things owned by the State, the Church, their male partners, or their unborn children. Women do not owe anyone their reproductive labour, or the use of their body parts. We are teaching the next generation to continue our own generation's hatred of women. If you think forcing a woman to convince two doctors, that she need not be a mother for the rest of her life, is not misogyny but responsible law-making I am here to tell you, sadly, that you are a misogynist. Nothing but the brutal truth will change anything for our daughters.

The following by UK writer Sarah Ditum, in the context of gender-selection abortion laws, eloquently sums up my position on abortion law generally. Please read it as part of this submission:

[REDACTED]

We are being disingenuous about our concern over rates of violence against women when we uphold the entitlement of those who abuse women by enacting laws that tell our sons that a woman's body is not her own. That women are not entirely human, but something a little bit less. Bodies to be controlled and used, even without their consent.

The law reform should have passed WITHOUT gestational limits. No woman would abort a foetus at the end of a pregnancy without good reason. And that reason is HER reason and only hers. Law-makers cannot arrogate to themselves this personal choice that belongs to another. It says so much about our society that so many 'law-makers' think it is a matter of morality to be so obviously unjust in this way. These anti-choice laws are, and have always been, immoral, in the most profound sense of that word.

Since you did not have the moral courage to pass abortion law reform without gestational limits, you have forced me to argue in favour of a patronising bill that carries them. I bear you much ill-will for this.

I want to live in a world where unsuitable or unwilling women are not pressured or guilted into becoming mothers by misogynist ideologies, but only become mothers out of profound love for their children.

What world do you want to live in? Obviously one where you dictate the terms of motherhood to women rather than respecting their humanity, otherwise you would have repealed the law completely with the previous bill.

And as such, I feel I owe you no respect, for you clearly have no respect for my kind.

Pass this bill, and leave it to more decent parliamentarians in the future to remove the gestational limits you felt necessary to impose.

Yours,  
A Woman.