

Freedom of assembly and freedom of expression are fundamental human rights – both protected under Articles 10 and 11 of the Human Rights Act.

Any government (or bill) that stops free speech is interfering with an individual's freedom of assembly and freedom of expression. These are fundamental rights and should never be tampered with. Once they are restricted, then everyone's rights are eroded.

This is especially true when you do **not** agree with the opinions of a person or group. No one should be able to make the world an echo chamber, simply based on their own beliefs.

For this reason, I am absolutely against this bill. Pro-life campaigners have the right to express their views publicly and to try to influence women from committing an unnecessary "procedure", that results in the termination of a mother's own unborn child. Especially in a modern western society perfectly capable of looking after that child. If successful, their protest will have saved a life! This is exactly the sort of protest that ended slavery, and the lack of which led to the holocaust.

Besides, stopping (peaceful) protestors from protesting, is itself an act of propaganda – nothing more – a silencing of a voice that is telling the truth. This of course is the real reason this bill has been made. Typically, it is the guilty and the ashamed, who refuse to be questioned, and so hide behind laws of restriction and censorship, that want their path smoothed. Not those who can argue the natural rightness of their viewpoint.

Also, and amusingly, I see that no one is trying to stop other parades, rallies, or protests. Any and all of which could be deemed as offensive in some way. But to stop a few individuals from peacefully protesting the termination of un-born babies apparently requires a Bill through Stormont... really? It is unfair and clearly disproportionate.

In summary, stop trying to erode fundamental rights that have been long since established for the good of everyone. And by extension too, remove the abortion bill since it takes away a human being's most fundamental right – the right to life itself.