

The purpose of the Bill, it seems clear, is an attempt at silencing the voice of the pro-life section of our community, denying them the fundamental rights of freedom of expression and assembly, protected in law, and that all should enjoy and hold dearly.

As a pro-lifer, I am well aware of the choice for life that many women make when offered help and support. Should this Bill be successful, it will silence, at a point which could be the last opportunity to offer a real alternative, those willing to offer such help and support to women and their unborn children.

As far as I am aware, the police have existing powers to deal with any alleged claims of intimidation or harassment, that are levelled at those holding peaceful vigils outside centres providing abortion services. Surely the burden of proof regarding any alleged wrongdoing, must lie with those seeking to establish such a Draconian law.

If the claims of those advancing the idea of ‘safe access zones’ were substantiated, surely there would be court cases in abundance. Furthermore, they are so determined to silence the pro-life voice outside abortion centres, and convinced of their claims, that surely they have filmed/ recorded the very activity they are alleging takes place. In this day and age this wouldn’t be a problem. Have they ? and if not, why not ? Pro-life campaigners have had to protect themselves against such claims, and worse, by wearing bodycams.