



Lisburn Reformed Presbyterian Church

49 Nettlehill Road
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Dear members of Stormont's Health Committee,

I write to you as an individual and also a pastor/minister of a relatively large congregation in Northern Ireland's third largest city, Lisburn.

I am a husband, a father, a pastor, and a prospective adoptive father, and think the changes made to Northern Ireland's stance on abortion in the last few months and years have been not only undemocratic, but uncalled for and deeply ungodly.

Every child, wanted or unwanted, is a unique individual, made in the image of God, with a world of undiscovered talents and gifts and characteristics wired into its DNA. To deliberately end life on the basis of parental choice is grossly inhumane and logically extremely frightening. Abortion is not healthcare.

While I would wish and long for all abortions to be stopped, I wholeheartedly agree with Mr Paul Givan's amendment in proposing that abortion should not be on the grounds of disability. Allowing disability abortion sends the message to people living with disabilities that their lives are less valuable than those without. It is the exact opposite of what it means to live in a civilised and inclusive society. Northern Ireland is better than that.

Please be assured of my prayers for you all in your important work,

Yours,

Robert M. McCollum

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