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RE: Severe Fetal Impairment Abortion (Amendment) Bill.

(1) Regulation 7 of the Abortion (Northern Ireland) (No. 2) Regulations 2020 (Severe fetal impairment or fatal fetal abnormality) is amended as follows.

(2) In the heading, omit “Severe fetal impairment or”.

(3) In paragraph (1)(a), omit the second “or”.

(4) Omit paragraph (1)(b).

We at Rape Crisis NI welcome the opportunity to submit evidence in relation the Private Members Bill (PMB) as detailed above.

In relation to the above PMB, Rape Crisis NI would like to state that we:

1. Oppose the PMB, ‘Severe Fetal Impairment Abortion (Amendment)’ and any attempts to restrict abortion access in Northern Ireland.
2. In addition to this submission endorse the Alliance for Choice and Women’s Policy Group responses to this ‘Call for Evidence’.

Rape Crisis NI oppose on the following grounds:

1. Failing to provide abortion in the case of severe foetal impairment is a breach of human rights as set out by the CEDAW 2018 which UK are signed up to.
2. Breaking the law; Paragraphs 85 and 86 of the CEDAW 2018 report are now law as within the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation etc.) Act 2019
3. Never mind the restrictions associated with the Covid-19 pandemic, having to travel is not a solution for people in Northern Ireland, it limits their aftercare and takes them away for much longer than necessary from their support systems and family
4. NI would be once again be at odds with the rest of the UK in terms of provision
5. Disability rights and reproductive rights are not incompatible

ENDS

If you have any questions or queries relating to this submission, please contact email address detailed above.

