

# *Newtownards Reformed Presbyterian Church*



*Website:* [www.newtownards.rpc.org](http://www.newtownards.rpc.org)  
*SermonAudio:* [www.newtownardsrpc@sermonaudio.com](mailto:www.newtownardsrpc@sermonaudio.com)

Re Consultation on the Criminal Justice Bill:  
Ending the Life of an Unborn Child

I am writing on behalf of the session and congregation of Newtownards Reformed Presbyterian Church regarding Marie Stopes International (MSI), one of the biggest abortion providers in the world, which, in October 2012, opened a facility in Belfast.

All children deserve to be born, we therefore support the amendment proposed by Jim Wells MLA to protect Northern Ireland's unborn children from abortion businesses like Marie Stopes International.

Scripture is quite clear about God's view of the foetus (Psalm 139:3-16, Psalm 51:7, Jeremiah 1:4-5 and Isaiah 49:1, 5) - he affords them human status. If every unborn child is an individual human being, then abortion is not merely a matter of maternal choice. Another human being is affected; the child's rights to life are being violated. Every human being possesses that basic right. God in his Word emphasises, not the exercising of our own rights, but rather the defending of the rights of others. We have a responsibility first and foremost to love God and then our neighbour. In the light of the above argument on the status of the unborn child, surely he/she is one of those neighbours.

We are therefore taking the time to write to you as your valued citizens to ask you to defend the laws which protect our unborn children. We would urge you to support all measures available to prevent MSI from performing any abortions at its Belfast facility. It is a threat to both women and unborn children and should be closed down.

All children deserve to be born.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Robert M. McCollum'.

---

**Moderator:** Rev Robert M McCollum, 19 Manse Park, Newtownards, Co Down, BT23 4TN  
Tel: (028) 9181 0703, E-mail: [robertmccollum@gmail.com](mailto:robertmccollum@gmail.com)

**Session Clerk:** Dr Trevor McCavery, 16 Jude's Crescent, Newtownards, Co Down, BT23 4BY  
Tel: (028) 9181 8197, E-mail: [trevor.mccavery@talk21.com](mailto:trevor.mccavery@talk21.com)