

Stanton Clinic

TO: Committee for Justice, Northern Ireland Assembly

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in regard to Mr Jim Wells MLA's proposed amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill. I wish to state from the outset of my submission that I fully endorse the current law in Northern Ireland which states that abortion is a criminal offence. This law has served the people well and ensures pregnant women obtain world class medical care as both the mother and unborn child are treated as humans with an absolute right to life.

This proposed amendment will copper-fasten this fundamental civil right of mother and child, and will ensure that private clinics such as the Marie Stopes centre which opened in Belfast in October 2012 will be forbidden to contravene the current law.

I have worked both at home and abroad in New Zealand as a Senior Counselling Psychologist for 17 years. I treat a wide spectrum of psychological problems affecting children, adolescents and the adult population. In the course of my clinical work I have encountered the devastating psychological damage caused to girls and women in their lives who have had abortions. Many suffer from chronic depression, anxiety, suicidality and substance abuse disorders. There is frequently a history of failed relationships, broken marriages, and underachievement /discontent in their occupational lives.

These girls and women have experienced biased societal attitudes, fear, shame and utter panic at the time of the confirmed pregnancy. Their increased vulnerability renders them as instant fodder for the highly organised abortion industry whose goal is to make millions from legalised genocide.

A truly caring society will provide for the humanitarian needs of its citizens, born and unborn. It does not seek to facilitate the destruction of human life. It rejects the mechanisms that confers irreversible damage on the mental health and wellbeing of its population. I would like to present the findings of an excellent longitudinal study conducted in New Zealand over a thirty year period on this vital issue. The conclusions of this study were published in 2006.

Professor David Fergusson and his colleagues at the University of Otago, Christchurch gathered data on the pregnancy and mental health history of a birth cohort of over 500 women up to their 30th year. The aim of this study was to examine links between pregnancy and mental health outcomes.

Their evidence concluded that experiencing abortion is associated with a highly significant increase in the development of mental health disorders such as depression, anxiety, suicidal behaviours, and substance abuse disorders. The rate of

mental disorders among those who had undergone abortions was 30% higher than those women who did not choose to have abortions. **THIRTY PER CENT.**

Our humanity informs us that it is grossly abnormal for a mother to choose to end the life of her child, born or unborn. It is against Natural Law. Therefore it is consistent with Natural Law that a mother cannot avoid suffering the psychological consequences of this abnormal act. Yet the highly deceptive narrative of the abortion industry manipulates the rules of Natural Law by deluding pregnant women into believing that the hideously abnormal becomes the sanitised norm. Society also becomes deluded and buys into the lie.

Not alone the Mental Health but the very SOUL of this province must be protected from those who wish to exploit and destroy that which is precious and what makes Northern Ireland so robust and natural.

One only has to look down South to witness how a neighbouring state who once were proud torchbearers for the Right to Life up to 2013 has now withered into a shadow nation which recently permitted the forced abruption of a healthy 25 week old baby boy from his rightful sanctuary of his mother's womb.

This baby will most likely suffer the physical consequences of an unnatural premature birth.

I urge this Justice Committee to stand strong against the forces of Mammon, the deceptions of the abortion industry and the immorality of agencies, pressure groups and politicians in their lust for power and control.

My professional experience has convinced me of the indisputable destructive effects of abortion at both a personal and societal level. There are no winners. The one exception is the bank balance of the abortion industry.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Smyth,

Registered Counselling Psychologist (AFPs.SI,Reg.Psychol)