

Clerk to the Committee for Justice  
Room 242  
Parliament Buildings  
Ballymiscaw  
Stormont  
Belfast  
BT4 3XX

17<sup>th</sup> September 2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, Caitriona Forde, am writing on behalf of *Women's Network*, a pregnancy counselling service that fully informs pregnant women of the very serious risks associated with abortion, including detrimental physical, emotional and spiritual consequences, and provides help and care during pregnancy and after birth. 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 this submission that *Women's Network* fully supports Mr Wells' proposed amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill.

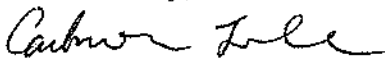
*Women's Network* wants unborn babies and their mothers protected from abortion, and is therefore totally opposed to the Marie Stopes centre, or any private abortion facility, in Northern Ireland. *Women's Network* wholeheartedly supports Mr Wells' proposed amendment's prohibition of commercial provision of abortion 'services' in Northern Ireland.

Marie Stopes proudly professes to be the UK's leading provider of sexual and reproductive healthcare services. However, abortion should not be understood as a 'health service', a 'treatment' for a physical or mental condition, as it is in fact the deliberate killing of an unborn child.

Many women suffer from chronic depression, anxiety, suicidality and substance abuse disorders after abortion. There is frequently a history of failed relationships, broken marriages, and underachievement /discontent in their occupational lives.

With loving care, support and appropriate medical treatment and counselling, every pregnant woman should be comforted and assured that she is not alone to cope with her pregnancy and the birth of her child. Abortion is never the solution to an unplanned pregnancy, and *Marie Stopes* or any private abortion facility will never be wanted or needed in Northern Ireland.

Yours faithfully,



Caitriona Forde