

I am writing to express my objection to the Abortion Free Access Zone Bill. I recognise there are varying reasons why a pregnant woman would take the decision to terminate the life of her baby. There will be situations where the birth of a baby is a mere inconvenience and unwanted and sadly there are cases where a much wanted baby may have a severe abnormality. These are very different scenarios and requiring individual support.

I am becoming increasingly alarmed at the lack of alternative viewpoints when it comes to major decisions people have to take. Facing a pregnancy which challenges the ability of the mother to proceed is a serious matter, with the life of a human being in the balance, and the potential mother may be feeling highly vulnerable. My concern is abortion is being pushed as the solution and other ways to support motherhood in difficult circumstances are increasingly being silenced.

Christians do not bring a message of hate but of real concern for the path that is being taken by attendance at the abortion clinic. Abortion is not a 'done and dusted' solution as many women will go on to have many difficulties post abortion. Christians are present at abortion clinics to offer an alternative way through faith in God and in many cases are offering hope and care to new mothers. The potential mother will have had few opportunities to consider other pathways of support to bring the gift of a new baby into the world. As Christians we have a responsibility to speak up for the unborn children when the creators of legislation and those who pass it create the mechanism to callously end their life.

Christians at the abortion clinic are peacefully present to show love and concern to both mother and baby. They cannot be classed as engaging in criminal acts. To attempt to do so is creating a situation where the right to minister to others is perceived as wrong doing, and the wrong doing to end a human life is considered right. This is a very disturbing situation and the right to a peaceful presence to offer hope and care must not be criminalised.