

Firstly I wish to express my concern that this Call for Evidence was not widely communicated to the wider public. I also wish to remain anonymous for any publishing of the document.

It is my understanding of a democratic society that we welcome people of all views, opinions and faith and value our diversity.

However, it appears that by bringing forward this Bill, that you are trying to silence those people who do not agree with abortion.

As this is a Call for Evidence, I wondered if members of the Committee and MLAs have looked at the evidence available from outside these abortion clinics. CCTV footage is available and those standing outside wear bodycams.

I would suggest that this evidence is scrutinised to see if any intimidation has taken place as has been stated by those bringing forward the Bill.

Why is there an objection to people offering support to vulnerable pregnant women and showing they care? There is very little support being offered to these women except by those who stand outside the clinics.

Do we want a society that claims to be democratic but where this democracy only allows for freedoms if you believe a certain way. Surely we want to go back to a society that values everyone. Articles 10 and 11 of the Human Rights Act allow for Freedom of Assembly and Freedom of Expression.

If no intimidation is found in the camera footage, then there is no reason to pursue this Bill, unless the aim is to take away democracy.

Are you then going to look at protests, eg against climate change, the NI protocol etc ? Is the Government going to make all gatherings illegal, or do they plan to prejudice only one element of society, those who believe in life.

I am in total disagreement with this Bill. Standing praying, or offering help outside an abortion centre is nothing more than showing love, and compassion both for the mother and her unborn child.

In this Call For Evidence, do just that. Speak to the Police, examine the CCTV footage and the bodycam being worn by those outside the clinics. The Evidence should speak for itself.