

**I wish to object to the so-called "*Abortion Services (Safe Access Zones) Bill*" that was introduced in the Assembly by pro-abortion MLA Clare Bailey in September.**

The Bill proposed is excessively harsh and severe. It would be oppressive, and would discriminate against only pro-life people because it is aimed at criminalising only them. Pro-life vigils are peaceful events, and the police already have powers enough to deal with any activity that is against the law without this proposed Bill.

Freedom of Expression and the Freedom to Assemble are basic human rights in a democracy and the Bill would be a denial of these rights making it illegal even to talk to a woman to offer her help; Even praying outside an abortion centre would be punishable...

Many women who are offered help and support outside abortion centres, decide not to go ahead with aborting their babies. By enforcing "abortion zones" the chance of women choosing an alternative to abortion, choosing a more positive and life affirming option is denied.