

Submission

Firstly, the Bill totally discriminates and criminalises ONLY pro-life people.

Secondly, Pro-life vigils are by definition peaceful, and Police already have adequate powers to deal with any alleged activity that is against the law.

Thirdly, there is no Police evidence to verify Claire Bailey's claims of 'harassment' and 'intimidation' outside abortion centres

Fourthly, The Bill will, "**make it a CRIME for a person to even attend peacefully outside an abortion centre.** Simply holding a sign; distributing information leaflets; talking to a woman to offer her help, or even praying outside an abortion centre will be "**...punishable on conviction by fines...**" up to £2500.

Fifthly, Freedom of assembly and freedom of expression are fundamental human rights - both protected under Articles 10 and 11 of the Human Rights Act.

Sixthly - Vulnerable women have alternatives to abortion.

Pro-Life groups have evidence of many women offered help and support outside abortion centres and who then decided to keep their babies when offered such help.

Seventhly – Setting up so-called safe Access Zones could impose costs on the Department of Health. **TWO SIMILAR ZONES IN ENGLAND HAVE COST THE TAXPAYER AN ESTIMATED £150,000 AND £250,000.** The Health Service in Northern Ireland is already in crisis due to lack of funding. Taxpayers' money could be better spent on treating people who are on 10 year waiting lists for treatment, rather than adding more financial burdens to the Health Service by needlessly trying to set up and enforce 'abortion zones'.