

NUS-USI

Opening comments

NUS-USI welcomes the opportunity to provide comments to the Committee for Justice in relation to the Justice Bill and proposed amendments, as we believe that it is extremely important that the views of the public are heard on the important issues being addressed in the Bill and proposed amendments. NUS-USI does not wish to be considered to provide oral evidence on this, as this written evidence covers NUS-USI's key thoughts on this.

Comments on the amendment from Jim Wells MLA

NUS-USI strongly opposes the amendment from Jim Wells MLA. The restrictions that this amendment might introduce could make it almost impossible for any private clinic to operate in Northern Ireland. The restrictions that this amendment could impose could pose significant problems for women.

The amendment could result in the closure of any private clinic here and this could mean less information potentially being available for women around health and reproductive rights. If this amendment passes it could create difficulties for women in that it might pose problems for women who are trying to access guidance around health.

NUS-USI would like to see the Committee for Justice and the Assembly oppose this amendment.

The message that this amendment could send out if passed could be extremely negative. It could send out the message that Northern Ireland is

being left behind by its stance on abortion rather than moving to deliver choice for women.

Choice needed now

NUS-USI believes that women in Northern Ireland should have choice as regards abortion. We believe that government should bring forward legislation to enable women to have choice as soon as possible.