

## St Patrick's Church, Belfast

Dear Justice Committee Clerk,

I am writing in regard to Mr Jim Wells MLA's proposed amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill and assert my firm belief that the right to life is unconditional.

All children deserve to be born and protected. Children before as well as after birth deserve the same treatment and care. This theme was expanded in the United Nations Declaration of the rights of the Child (1959) which declares: "the child, by reason of his physical or mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as afterbirth."

Mr Paul Cornellisson, the then Marie Stopes' Director in South Africa, admitted at an abortion conference in London 2007 that *Marie Stopes* "do illegal abortions all over the world".

According to a research paper by Byron Calhoun, John Thorp and Patrick Carroll, Northern Ireland continues to be one of the safest places for pregnant women and their babies.

I therefore urge the Justice Minister to adopt Mr Jim Wells MLA's proposed amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill, and ensure that the *Marie Stopes* centre does not perform abortions in Northern Ireland and that Northern Ireland continue to be one of the safest places for pregnant women and their babies.

Yours faithfully

Michael Sheehan

**Very Rev Michael Sheehan Adm**

St Patrick's Presbytery

199 Donegall Street

Belfast

BT1 2FL

**Tel:** 028 9032 4597