

LIFE Northern Ireland ("LIFE NI") welcomes the outcome of the NI Assembly votes on the amendments to the Justice Bill which sought to introduce legislation to allow for abortion in the cases of fatal foetal abnormality, rape and incest.

LIFE NI believes in the intrinsic value of life from conception no matter the circumstances of that conception or the condition with which an unborn child may have been diagnosed.

LIFE NI is satisfied that the outcome of the vote last night reflects an understanding amongst the MLAs in the NI Assembly that these emotional and in some cases heart-breaking situations will not be made easier by legislation which allows for the termination of a pregnancy with little or no thought given to the life of the unborn child.

LIFE NI has supported women and their unborn babies for 35 years and will continue to do so through services such as counselling, education, housing and practical support. Through these services LIFE NI is able to provide essential care to women, their unborn child and their extended family.

LIFE NI now calls on the MLAs in the NI Assembly to commit to overseeing the development of effective peri-natal hospice care in Northern Ireland which will be an invaluable service to women in difficult circumstances.

Marion Woods

LIFE NI Public Policy Spokesperson