Speech by Michelle Daley

“Thank you Heidi for voicing the value of Disabled peoples lives.

We are here in solidarity to demand for an end against the unequal law in pregnancy that upholds the devaluing of a disabled persons life. We can not continue to have two systems where the laws are set up to favour a non-disabled persons life and does not give us, disabled people any meaningful protection under the law from discrimination.

We have a government that has chosen to ignore the long term effects created as a result of the unequal laws. These unequal laws are seriously damaging and harmful to everyone. Our unequal laws exposes all of us to injustices and restricts any progress towards an inclusive society.

This case is telling our government to stop acting like unequal laws don’t matter - well it does. This case today reveals the effects of unequal laws across the different areas of our life. For instance in our homes, education, employment, socialising and so on. This case is about the serious harm caused to every single person (whether direct or indirect) because of our unequal laws in the U.K.

This case show how we as Disabled people are treated before birth and the consequence upon our lives which ALLFIE is all too aware of. At ALLFIE we are concerned about the inequality in education and I will now show why this case is so important to ALLFIEs campaign for inclusive education for inclusive society.

For example ALLFIE:

- There are 1,536 special schools in the UK and it is estimated that over 118,000 disabled children attend these segregated places across the country. Each year there has been an increase in the number of segregated schools and places being created as a means to keep Disabled children out of the mainstream education, separated and disconnected from ordinary life

- ALLFIEs own research on school accessibility plans revealed how mainstream schools are using accessibility plans to shut disabled children out of their schools

- We are repeatedly seeing how performance league tables are being used as a selective process to shut out many disabled children from mainstream schools

- In 2017 our Government was found by the UN Disability Committee for causing Disabled people a human catastrophe. Once again our Government have failed to implement the findings to address its failures towards us.

It is so important that our Disabled children and young people are not separated from inclusive education and ordinary life. Inclusive education will help all children to learn about anti-discriminatory practices.

We cannot continue to have Disabled people being treated differently to non-disabled people, this is seriously harmful to all of us and we must demand a change to all laws that devalues all disabled people lives.

We must bring an end to all laws that tells society that the lives of a Disabled person is of no value.

We must not stop fighting until our lives as disabled people get valued and we have equal justice and rights under the UK law.

.