

SIR – We are troubled by the amendment voted through the House of Commons to decriminalise terminations in utero up to full term. As many elected politicians move further away from the Christian moral values that have hitherto shaped much that is good in our national life, our concern is that the vulnerable and voiceless are increasingly overlooked.

The tragedy of abortion invariably moves us to compassion for the pregnant woman, yet we are mindful of the viability of the life of her child, who also deserves compassion and needs protection under the law. This huge change in our understanding of the place of the termination of pregnancies risks overlooking the vulnerable position of women who are victims of sexual and domestic abuse and coercion, which is all the more acute due to the availability of the abortion pill by post, without recourse to in-person consultation with a medical professional.

All of this makes for a dangerous change, which we believe, far from protecting women, places pregnant women and unborn children at even greater risk of harm than previously. It is our sincere hope that this legislation will be further modified in the House of Lords to protect the vulnerable.

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