Hi I am Heidi Crowter.  I am 26 years old.  I have down syndrome (DS).  When i found out that there is discrimination in the womb I was really upset.

I contacted a solicitor, Paul Conrathe and he helped me take the UK Government to the High Court.  The court case was in July 2021 and we got the verdict on 23rd September.  We lost.  The judges did not think that it is discrimination.  We are now asking the Court of Appeal if we can appeal the decision.

I and most of the Down syndrome community think that its wrong that a baby with DS can be aborted up to birth but a baby without DS can only be aborted up to 24 weeks.

It is important to me that we should be treated the same in the womb as it makes me feel that my life is not as valuable as anyone else's.  In 2020 in England and Wales there were  693 abortions for DS  (Ground E) and 14 abortions after 24 weeks for DS.

(Legal abortions: total mentioned of medical conditions for abortions performed under Ground E, residents of England and Wales, 2020 .  Dept of Health and Social Care, 2020)

I am delighted that People First and Reclaiming Our Futures Alliance are supporting my case that can be found here  [Heidi High Court Case September 2021 - (rofa.org.uk)](https://www.rofa.org.uk/heidi-high-court-case-september-2021/)

You can find out more about my court case here:  <https://www.crowdjustice.com/case/downrightdiscrimination/>

I am writing this report to tell you what I and other people with Down syndrome think of the Downright Discrimination in the womb.

I have asked people with Down’s Syndrome these questions:

**How do you feel that a baby with DS can be aborted up to birth but 24 weeks for a baby without DS?**

**Can you tell me a little bit about yourself and what you do and what are your hobbies?**

**What is your main message you want people to know about Down's syndrome and people living with DS?**

**James Carter:**

**How do you feel that a baby with DS can be aborted up to birth but 24 weeks for a baby without DS?**

*I feel emotional, and a bit worried that other people don’t value me as I am.*

**Can you tell me a little bit about yourself and what you do and what are your hobbies?**

*I am James and I live in Coventry, with my lovely wonderful wife Heidi Anne; I have some hobbies, I like going food shopping , going to the cinema, bowling, carpentry, theatre, filmmaking.*

**How do you feel about the doctors putting pressure on the mothers to abort?**

*I feel a bit upset, and a bit overwhelmed; because I want people to be valued in life and down syndrome can’t hold us back from living a fun and fulfilled life.*

**What is your main message you want people to know about Down's syndrome and people living with DS?**

*I want other people to know that people with DS can live independently, and that DS does not define us.*

**Heidi Carter (nee Crowter)**

**How do you feel that a baby with DS can be aborted up to birth but 24 weeks for a baby without DS?**

*I feel distraught and very shocked that this can happen as I am someone who has Down’s syndrome and I feel in the light of this law that no one values me or wants me.*

**Can you tell me a little bit about yourself and what you do and what are your hobbies?**

*I am Heidi Carter, I am 26 and I live with my husband James who I love with all my heart and I will never stop loving. My hobbies are quite many.*

*I love dancing , singing , being the centre of attention, cooking, going on holiday , going to see my parents  in law, eating , going to  the cinema , shopping and supporting Liverpool.*

**How do you feel about the doctors putting pressure on the mothers to abort?**

*To be honest I feel shocked that the doctors don’t respect the parent’s decision. I love James* *with all my heart. and I wouldn’t change him one bit. I think that they need more education on  the conditon and see the baby behind the extra chromosome.*

*I think they need to meet people with Down’s syndrome and see what impact they have on life.*

**What is your main message you want people to know about Down's syndrome and people living with DS?**

*I want people to know that we are amazing just the way we are and worthy of dignity and respect.*

**Rula Sweby, Bedfordshire**

**How do you feel that a baby with Down Syndrome can be aborted up to birth but not after 24 weeks for a baby without Down Syndrome?**

*I feel shocked and deeply saddened at the thought of a baby with Down Syndrome being aborted up to the point of birth because I believe it’s unfair and unjust for anyone to do this. Having Down Syndrome is a blessing not a curse. We are unique; we can make a life for ourselves and be proud of what we can bring to this wonderful community to which we belong.*

*Down Syndrome is a unique condition for anyone to have. We should be able to stand up for ourselves, making our own decisions and making the world a better place with us in it, side by side, figuratively speaking.*

**Can you tell us a little bit about yourself, what you do and what are your hobbies?**

*My name is Rula Sweby, I’m 35 years old and I have Down Syndrome. I was born and raised in Cyprus. My parents Jack & Angela were both teachers and they instilled the love of books in me, which I am grateful for. I have an older brother Alexis who now resides in Lincoln.*

*I am quite a quirky person who seeks pleasure in many things on a daily basis. I would say that my hobbies include gardening with my dad, reading different kinds of fiction and non-fiction books, going for walks in my neighbourhood while singing the latest pop songs on Spotify, watching films, writing and baking.*

*I’m a writer of crime thriller fiction, inspired by the works of Val McDermid and Patricia Cornwell, and also of romantic family sagas in which I have been inspired by Penny Vincenzi.  One of my favourite books is “Le Deuxieme Sexe” by Simone De Beauvoir, which is written in French. It can be described as feminist literature. I spend a lot of time translating the book from French into English which is something I really enjoy doing in my spare time.*

**How do you feel about some doctors putting pressure on mothers to abort Down Syndrome babies?**

*I feel really horrified about doctors putting pressure on mothers to abort their unborn children who may have the unique condition of Down Syndrome because it’s not their business to do so, considering it is actually up to the parents to make that decision themselves. I believe that every baby born with Down Syndrome is unique in its own way just as all babies are. We all have the same human rights.*

**What is your main message you want people to know about Down’s Syndrome and people living with Down’s Syndrome?**

*I would say that the main message I want people to know about Down’s Syndrome is not to be afraid of talking with and getting to know us. We are open-minded, outgoing, honest and very interesting people. We want to be treated as equals and not to have people make too many allowances or exceptions for us but rather to treat us with respect, honesty and understanding, appreciating the contribution we make towards society.*

**Rachel Murray, Edinburgh**

**How do you feel that a baby with DS can be aborted up to birth but 24 weeks for a baby without DS?**

*I don’t think babies with Down syndrome should be aborted up to birth. It should be the same limit as for other babies.*

**Can you tell me a little bit about yourself and what you do and what are your hobbies?**

*I’m 21. I love my life. I love spending time with my family. I have got a job in a care home. I am in amateur dramatics and I am a dancer. I like going to watch football and I like going to see musicals too.*

**How do you feel about the doctors putting pressure on the mothers to abort?**

*I feel that it’s wrong to put pressure.*

**What is your main message you want people to know about Down's syndrome and people living with Down’s syndrome?**

*People with Down syndrome need support and care. They should get more chances in life. They are equal to other people.*

**Grace Hampson, Edinburgh**

**How do you feel that a baby with DS can be aborted up to birth but 24 weeks for a baby without DS?**

*Everyone should be treated the same. If one baby can only be aborted up to 24 weeks, it should be the same for a baby with Down’s syndrome.*

**Can you tell me a little bit about yourself and what you do and what are your hobbies?**

*I am 20 years old. I go to college, and one day a week I study art and design there, that’s my favourite part of the course. I like to use Sign-along and I want to teach others to use Sign-along. I want to do Sign-along in Britain’s Got Talent. I like colouring-in. I play the harp. I’m in two choirs at the moment. I like to do fundraising and campaigning for Down’s syndrome.*

**How do you feel about the doctors putting pressure on the mothers to abort?**

*I think it’s not fair to do that. Doctors need to give information and support instead.*

**What is your main message you want people to know about Down's syndrome and people living with Down’s syndrome?**

*I want people to know that they should treat us the same. Give people with Down’s syndrome the help they need.  They should support people with Down’s syndrome.*

 Dear Hide

I saw your email I'm just answering your questions

I felt sad and Hart broken  and baby with downs sinydrome should be equal with other baby's my training to be actor and I am doing self advocacy group in Wakefield  and do like love have a child with downs syndrome I like to live with them  Many thanks  Firelle

**Firelle’s answers:**

**How do you feel that a baby with DS can be aborted up to birth but 24 weeks for a baby without DS?**

*I think this is a discriminatory law. Its absolutely disgusting.*

**Can you tell me a little bit about yourself and what you do and what are your hobbies?**

*I work with inclusive charities Dancesyndrome and phab  along side people who have downs syndrome. I am also a support worker. I believe in enabling people to live their lives in any way they choose to.*

**How do you feel about the doctors putting pressure on the mothers to abort?**

*I think this is terrible*

**What is your main message you want people to know about Down's syndrome and people living with DS.**

*That their lives matter and with the right support you can do anything!! To quote the founder of Dancesyndrome Jen Blackwell "Dream Believe Achieve"*

**Claire Akari (Claire has Mosaic DS)**

**How do you feel that a baby with DS can be aborted up to birth but 24 weeks for a baby without DS?**

*I feel that it's an unnecessary evil that they want to go the same way as Iceland. I don't understand how they can call themselves people. Im aware it's the mother's choice weather to have it or not, however it still the wrong way to approach life. Everyone deserves life.*

**Can you tell me a little bit about yourself and what you do and what are your hobbies?**

*I'm a proud self advocate for a number of Down Syndrome charities and I volunteer at three jobs around the Greater Manchester area. I love to sing and perform making people laugh in the process. Socialising with friends, karaoke, looking after my hamster and watching TV/film Sci Fi, horror and Marvel movies.*

**How do you feel about the doctors putting pressure on the mothers to abort?**

*It is unnecessary to put any pressure on people to get mother's to abort a child that may or may not have down syndrome. It is not a disease or anything. It's just an extra chromosome and a way of life. The doctor's should feel ashamed of themselves.*

**What is your main message you want people to know about Down's syndrome and people living with DS.**

*The main thing that you should know that everyone with Down Syndrome or a different type is different from each other. We live for freedom, fun and life. We live because we feel. If someone takes that away from us, it feels like they are taking away our identity.*

*Imagine what it would feel like to take away one of your traits. It hurts doesn't it.          So much so that you want them to hurt as much as you did.*

*Give people with any kind of disability life, love and laughter and they will thank you for it. If you give any abuse they will run away and you will watch them as they do.*

**Friend of Beth who has DS.  (I have autism)**

**How do you feel that a baby with DS can be aborted up to birth but 24 weeks for a baby without DS?**

*Crazy reason I filled this out is a friend of mine in her 20s her name is Beth. She's my friend her mum was my drama teacher and she's a actor and I know supports you. She has DS I don't see DS I see a friend!*

**Sarah Wainwright**

**How do you feel that a baby with DS can be aborted up to birth but 24 weeks for a baby without DS?**

*I find it not right at all.*

**Can you tell me a little bit about yourself and what you do and what are your hobbies?**

*I go to my day centre 3 times a week and my hobbies are dancing.  I do jobs in the house, cooking, baking cakes and cleaning.*

**How do you feel about the doctors putting pressure on the mothers to abort?**

*I think this is really wrong.  We should be treated like anyone else.*

**What is your main message you want people to know about Down's syndrome and people living with DS?**

*Just enjoy it.  You can always learn new things.  You can live independently and have jobs.*

**Fionn Crombie-Angus - Ireland**

**How do you feel that a baby with DS can be aborted up to birth but 24 weeks for a baby without DS?**

*I feel discriminated against, because this tells society that to have a baby with DS is a tragedy.*

**Can you tell me a little bit about yourself and what you do and what are your hobbies?**

*I am 25. I love nature, Irish music, horror cinema, good food, and my family. I am a successful social entrepreneur, working in media, the arts and education.*

**How do you feel about the doctors putting pressure on the mothers to abort?**

*Eugenics is ugly. I hope to live in a society that includes everyone equally.*

**What is your main message you want people to know about Down's syndrome and people living with DS?**

*That we are wonderful. Research shows that we are the happiest people in the world, and that other people who know us have better lives because of it. Life is harder in some ways, but far easier in others. When people with Down's syndrome are no longer stigmatised, we'll know we've made real progress toward social justice.*