**NB: Participant did not wish to be recorded, transcript provided from notes taken during interview.**

I: OK, so you’ve read over the participant information sheet and you are happy to go ahead, but I won’t record you….is this OK?

McKenzie: Yes, if that’s OK with you.

I: Sure, just having an insight from you is great and I appreciate your time.

McKenzie: No problems.

I: So, can you tell me about your role as a midwife?

M: Yes….I have been a midwife for 5 years now and I take my job very seriously in the way that I am there to support the women and babies in my care. It is a huge thing in a woman’s life to give birth and I feel that a strong level of support is so important. Some women don’t have much in the way of support and others do – I treat everyone as an individual and my main priority is good care.

I: Of-course. As you know, we’re looking at participation within the termination of pregnancy process and conscientious objection (CO). So, can you tell me what you think of this?

M: About participation?

I: Yeah, let’s look at that 1st.

M: Well I don’t want to take part in the actual abortion procedure.

I: OK. Can you expand on that if you don’t mind?

M: Yes. I was brought up in (country of birth) and I was part of a big family….I have 6 siblings and I was always surrounded by children as we have a large family. We were brought up Catholic and I still have a very strong faith and I am a person who remains quite religious, but I’m not led by that if you see what I mean?

I: OK, I think I do, but can you elaborate? Can you tell me a bit more?

M: Yes. I terms of this subject, I feel that life is life and it is precious. I have seen women who have lost children and they have wanted them so much, but by certain reasons, they haven’t carried to term and it’s devastating.

I: I understand. Is it fair to say then that experience shapes your views as well as maybe your upbringing?

M: Exactly. My feelings on things are based around what I’ve witnessed myself.

I: Yeah. Can you tell me a bit more about what you believe constitutes participation within the termination procedure?

M: Certainly it would be whoever is present in the room when the surgical procedure is being carried out. It would also be signing the cert to go ahead with the procedure and I think it would be giving the drugs also….whether that is orally or through IV.

I: OK. What about caring for a woman after the procedure?

M: Mhmm….that isn’t participating in the procedure as it has already been done, so I don’t have a problem attending to someone then as I wouldn’t have been involved before that point of care if you understand?

I: Yes, I understand. So, if I mention CO to you, what does that mean from your point of view?

M: It means that it is my right and as I understand it by law, I can opt out of taking part in the termination procedure on grounds of conscience as it suggests.

I: Sure, can you give me an example of conscience?

M: Yes….it’s what would sit well or not in my mind. Whether it be religious beliefs or moral beliefs or even just like I said about my experience in life – if I don’t think I can cope with that then I would not want that on my conscience.

I: Yeah, I see what you mean. That makes sense. Do you think there are limitations to CO?

M: I’m not sure….

I: Like, are there any reasons why you think people may not feel able to opt out?

M: I see, yes….maybe due to being under-staffed or maybe because you feel that you can be judged and that can be worrying when it comes to your job and employment.

I: Have you ever experienced this?

M: Not really.

I: OK.

M: It is just something I think is significant.

I: Of-course. OK, thinking about your views….do think they have changed over time?

M: In a way. I think they have become stronger in a sense that I don’t think abortion should be used like contraception. It has become accepted more by society and I think it can be abused – not by everyone – but people do abuse it. I know there are reasons that are given and are valid, but life is life and there are other options for people now more than ever.

I: Do you mean like adoption and things and contraception?

M: Yes, both of those. There are many methods of contraception now and there is more choice than ever before.

I: Sure. OK. So, although we couldn’t record this – and I totally respect your views – I just wondered if there’s anything else you think we could add? Do you think there’s anything relevant that we may have missed?

M: No, I think that you have asked a lot of important questions….hmmm….maybe just that people are entitled to their opinions and beliefs. I mean, not everyone thinks in the same way and that is OK. It is how we care for our patients that really matters most. I came in to this profession to help women deliver life in to the world and to be a support at that time. I know it can’t always be easy or happy, but I know that I do my best to look after those in my care and I just choose not to take part in the abortion side of things.

I: Yeah, I understand. Thanks so much for agreeing to answer my questions and I appreciate your time today.

M: No problem.