

This response was submitted to the call for evidence by the Nuffield Council on Bioethics on *Emerging techniques to prevent inherited mitochondrial disorders: ethical issues* between January 2012 and February 2012. The views expressed are solely those of the respondent(s) and not those of the Council.

- Mrs Antonia Shaw.
- 1 I am 58, live alone, have three adult children, spend most of my time in a wheelchair, use a ventilator at night, with the prospect of even more deterioration to look forward to in my health, but the knowledge that my children are affected, my daughter especially, leaves me with a feeling of complete desolation. They have my life to look forward to.
- 2 I realise that there is not a treatment for the condition so if a method of prevention is found then that path should be taken, complete eradication can only be of benefit to the future offspring and also to society. Disability is still treated poorly by various members of our society, many restrictions are still in place.
- 3 It is too late, I have passed on my condition, if there had been a method of prevention I would have sought it out and used it. It is unfair that the choice of whether to love a disabled child or an ablebodied one should be taken away is even being considered.