

Questions

About you

(Note: Information entered in this “About You” section may be published with your response (unless it is “not for publication”), except where indicated in **bold**.)

1. Are you responding as:

- an individual – in which case go to Q2A
- on behalf of an organisation? – in which case go to Q2B

2A. Which of the following best describes you? (If you are a professional or academic, but not in a subject relevant to the consultation, please choose “Member of the public”.)

- Politician (MSP/MP/Peer/MEP/Councillor)
- Professional with experience in a relevant subject
- Academic with expertise in a relevant subject
- Member of the public

Optional: You may wish to explain briefly what expertise or experience you have that is relevant to the subject-matter of the consultation:

sexual health consultant in NHS with more than 15 years of experience of supporting women involved in transactional sex both physically and pastorally
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2B. Please select the category which best describes your organisation:

- Public sector body (Scottish/UK Government or agency, local authority, NDPB)
- Commercial organisation (company, business)
- Representative organisation (trade union, professional association)
- Third sector (charitable, campaigning, social enterprise, voluntary, non-profit)
- Other (e.g., clubs, local groups, groups of individuals, etc.)

Optional: You may wish to explain briefly what the organisation does, its experience and expertise in the subject-matter of the consultation, and how the view expressed in the response was arrived at (e.g., whether it is the view of particular officeholders or has been approved by the membership as a whole).

3. Please choose one of the following:

- I am content for this response to be published and attributed to me or my organisation
- I would like this response to be published anonymously
- I would like this response to be considered, but not published (“not for publication”)

If you have requested anonymity or asked for your response not to be published, please give a reason. **(Note: your reason will not be published.)**

4. Please provide your name or the name of your organisation. **(Note: The name will not be published if you have asked for the response to be anonymous or “not for publication”.)**

Please provide a way in which we can contact you if there are queries regarding your response. Email is preferred but you can also provide a postal address or phone number. **(Note: We will not publish these contact details.)**

Data protection declaration

- I confirm that I have read and understood the [Privacy Notice](#) to this consultation which explains how my personal data will be used.

If you are under 12 and making a submission, we will need to contact you to ask your parent or guardian to confirm to us that they are happy for you to send us your views.

- Please ONLY place an x in the brackets if you are UNDER 12 years of age.

YOUR VIEWS ON THE PROPOSAL

1. What is your view of introducing a new criminal offence of paying for sexual services? (This is the only mandatory question)

- Fully supportive
- Partially supportive
- Neutral (neither support nor oppose)
- Partially opposed
- Fully opposed
- Don't want to express a view

Please explain the reasons for your response.

challenging demand is the best way forward to end transactional sex and move towards gender equality, reduce violence against women and increase safety and respect for women in Scotland.

2. What is your view of repealing section 46 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982: the offence of soliciting for the purposes of prostitution in a public place?

- Fully supportive
- Partially supportive
- Neutral (neither support nor oppose)
- Partially opposed
- Fully opposed
- Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response.

women are not committing a crime nor are they a threat to society when they are selling sex. Criminalising them only creates further difficulties for them in that they have to pay a fine (when they are already struggling with poverty) and that they then have a criminal record which is a barrier to them moving forward with their lives.

3. What is your view of repealing previous convictions under section 46 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982: the offence of soliciting for the purposes of prostitution in a public place?

- Fully supportive
- Partially supportive

- Neutral (neither support nor oppose)
- Partially opposed
- Fully opposed
- Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response.

these women are not a risk to society and the majority have participated in these activities as they felt that they had not alternative option. A criminal record is a barrier to moving forward, seeking mainstream employment and contributing positively

4. What is your view of giving people in prostitution the legal right to support?

- Fully supportive
- Partially supportive
- Neutral (neither support nor oppose)
- Partially opposed
- Fully opposed
- Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response.

this will only work however if links are developed between the criminal justice system and the support organisations. The currently proposed hub model has lots of issues and has not been consulted on appropriately. It is highly likely to fail and is not supported by the organisations involved. However a network where women who are found to be involved in prostitution by the police or criminal justice services are referred to a link organisation and then assessed and triaged for support would be a better model

5. What is your view of including provisions for exiting services in the bill?

- Fully supportive
- Partially supportive
- Neutral (neither support nor oppose)
- Partially opposed
- Fully opposed
- Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response.

exiting is very difficult and it is common for women to spend months or years trying to do so with some episodes where they return to transactional sex. The driver for these failures is money and is the reason why they need to return to selling sex. Whilst I am very supportive of provisions for exiting, these need to include financial support. I would suggest that there is redistribution of money received from fines to women who require financial support beyond that available from government benefit system to help women permanently exit involvement in prostitution

6. **How should the proposed offence be enforced. Are there any particular techniques which you think should be used or obstacles which might need to be overcome?**

should this Bill become law, there will be a requirement for increased police involvement. Detecting where transactional sex is taking place, who is involved, catching punters and identifying pimps or other controllers will take increased workforce and inevitably cost. This needs to be factored in to the bill.

7. **Do you believe that there are any new policing powers that would be necessary or beneficial for enforcing this offence?**

I do not think new powers would be required but resource would be

8. **Please indicate which of the following forms of support and/or services you think should be provided for people in prostitution and exiting prostitution (place an x into the brackets of as many options as you agree with):**

- Exiting support workers
- Drop in services
- Outreach visits to brothels, saunas and other similar premises
- Specialist medical consultations
- Access to drug and alcohol services
- Access to counselling and psychological treatment services
- Specialist housing schemes for women in crisis
- Support to access education, training or work
- Financial advice, debt support etc
- Other (please give details)

Please explain the reasons for your response and provide examples of best practice.

access to foodbanks, support with childcare, an array of employers willing to take new employees with limited experience and gaps in their cv

9. **Please indicate which of the following ways of raising awareness of the new offence you believe to be most effective (choose as many as you agree with):**

- Internet and social media advertising
- TV advertising
- Print media advertising
- Billboards in public places and transport
- Leaflets to households
- Materials to support and exiting services for people involved in prostitution
- Materials targeted at areas where prostitution is known to occur
- Materials to health and mental health services
- Materials to further education sector
- Inclusion in secondary education (Relationship, Sexual Health, Parenting classes)
- Other (please give details)

Please explain the reasons for your response.

10. **Do you think legislation is required, or are there are other ways in which the Bill's aims could be achieved more effectively?**

Please explain the reasons for your response.

legislation is definitely required to create positive change in our communities in Scotland

Resource implications

11. **Taking into account all those likely to be affected (including public sector bodies, businesses and individuals etc), is the proposed Bill likely to lead to:**

- a significant increase in costs
- some increase in costs
- no overall change in costs
- some reduction in costs
- a significant reduction in costs

[] do not wish to express a view

Please indicate where you would expect the impact identified to fall (including public sector bodies, businesses and individuals etc). You may also wish to suggest ways in which the aims of the Bill could be delivered more cost-effectively.

particularly to start with there will be an increase in costs for police and support service. As one who leads a unique support service for women involved in prostitution within the NHS, we have the capacity to do this (even in the current dire situation of the NHS) however other areas which are essential to support such as housing, benefits, third sector agencies will require secure funding in order to employ additional staff. THird sector agencies such as SACRO, Women's Support Project, Routes out and TARA struggle with insecure funding and the requirement to apply annually for financial support. This makes it very difficult for them to recruit staff to jobs which are insecure and also for them to plan more than one year ahead.

Equalities

12: Any new law can have an impact on different individuals and groups in society, for example as a result of their age, disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership status, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation. What impact could this proposal have on particular people if it became law?

Please explain the reasons for your answer and if there are any ways you think the proposal could avoid negative impacts on particular people.

a number of trans women are involved in prostitution. In the same way that women who are involved are at risk of violence and harm, trans women are also at risk. Some areas have services available for trans people and staff within these require training in issues around transactional sex.

It is EXTREMELY important that transwomen have support services. It is however also EXTREMELY important that these are separate from services for women who have been traumatised and experienced violence from men. Trauma informed care is imperative and women who are involved in prostitution, most of whom have experience rape on multiple occasions, require single sex spaces in order to feel safe. Failure to provide these means that women will simply not attend and receive suport.

Sustainability

13. Any new law can impact on work to protect and enhance the environment, achieve a sustainable economy, and create a strong, healthy, and just society for future generations. Do you think the proposal could impact in any of these areas?

Employing women in mainstream, respectful jobs will benefit the economy and society. Reducing violence against women, changing men's behaviour and removing sexual entertainment venues (where women are prostituted and other women feel unsafe within the area) will have a positive impact on Scottish society