

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(Note: Information entered in this “About You” section may be published with your response (unless it is “not for publication”), except where indicated in **bold**.)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

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- I would like this response to be considered, but not published (“not for publication”)

If you have requested anonymity or asked for your response not to be published, please give a reason. **(Note: your reason will not be published.)**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 **(Note: The name will not be published if you have asked for the response to be anonymous or “not for publication”.)**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.**

Prostitution is the oldest oppression, exploiting poverty and lack of freedom from abuse of women and children. The levels of violence and death that result from this inhumane abuse of women is intolerable. Only by criminalising those who purchase sex acts from vulnerable women and girls will we be able to change the behaviours which drive this degrading and dehumanising industry.

**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 who engage in prostitution are typically the most socially and economically disadvantaged. The rates of poor early experiences, neglect, emotional, physical and sexual abuse as children and adults among this group is statistically much higher than among the general population. Addictions are also a strong driver as are barriers to leaving prostitution. The State punishing women and girls who have endured such levels of violence and abuse is perverse.

**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.**

The case of Fiona Broadfoot, who successfully had her convictions repealed by taking legal action should be the precedent. Soliciting convictions punish women and make employment avenues out of prostitution needlessly difficult.

**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.**

Women and girls need a safe and properly resourced route out of prostitution and protection from those who wish to exploit them, particularly those threatening them with violence.

**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.**

Single sex spaces which can allow access to recovery programmes, housing and training opportunities. Substantial

police training is required to prioritise assisting women and girls to support services and providing protection rather than stigmatising and criminalising them.

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?**

We have ample surveillance technique on the streets. The police need to be actively identifying the men seeking to buy sex and by prosecuting them reduce demand. We have plenty of examples of disincentives driving changes in behaviour. Instead of being a secret indulgence this was rightly reviled as VAWG behaviours would change.

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

The powers are there. What is lacking is a will to prioritise this area. Prostitution is only one part of a societal apathy about abuse, violence, rape and murder against women and children driven by the acceptance and normalisation of the most extreme pornography infesting the internet. Through exposure what was once abhorrent and evil is becoming mundane and our criminal justice system is colluding in this destruction of norms.

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.**

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.**

The laws need to be redrafted to be truly progressive. Buying sex is made criminal with sufficient deterrents. Advertising sexual services should be banned and websites blocked and taken down. Punishment for those gaining financially from sexual exploitation. Penalties for human trafficking to be much more severe.

## **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.**

Third sector spending in Scotland needs to be redistributed from those providing divisive ideological guff with no measurable or meaningful outcomes to organisations delivering for individuals on the ground and providing support and opportunities for the most vulnerable people in Scotland. Far too many lovely offices and plethora of policy manager non-jobs and infantile propaganda and merchandising; plenty of tax payer funding to be reclaimed from there.

## **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.**

The strong prey on the weak. That's why civilisation is laws to protect the weak and vulnerable from egregious harm. Women and girls are abused and exploited sexually by men because of disparities in physical strength and social status. This is also seen in domestic violence and rape culture. Women will never be physically able to fight back successfully so we need robust laws to rebalance this inequality.

## **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?**