

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(Note: Information entered in this “About You” section may be published with your response (unless it is “not for publication”), except where indicated in **bold**.)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- I would like this response to be considered, but not published (“not for publication”)

If you have requested anonymity or asked for your response not to be published, please give a reason. **(Note: your reason will not be published.)**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 **(Note: The name will not be published if you have asked for the response to be anonymous or “not for publication”.)**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

In my view prostitution is violence against women and girls. It is an expression of a hierarchical system that positions men as superior masters and shapers of society and women as inferior commodities to be bought and sold at the whim of men. And as long as it is legal to buy access to some women's bodies, all women and girls in society are commodities – some are just luckier than others in not facing the dire circumstances that drive women and girls into prostitution. Criminalising men who violate the human rights of women to dignity by forcing them to have sex through financial coercion sends a strong signal that Scotland is not a country where women can be bought and sold and where sexual exploitation is fought against rather than condoned.

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.

It is entirely logical, if prostitution is considered to be violence against women and girls, that the victims are

protected in law and not criminalised for being exploited.

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.

Having spoken to women trying to rebuild their lives after exiting prostitution, having a conviction for soliciting is often an insurmountable barrier for women who have already fought so hard to get out of the sex trade. We should help these women rebuild their lives and not put additional barriers up.

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.

The statutory right to support for anyone who is or has been involved in prostitution is incredibly important. It will send a strong signal to all public services that these women are victims and not perpetrators and should be helped.

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.

There is, at least to my knowledge, no other job where nearly 100% who are involved want to leave. That alone would be reason enough to help those who wish to leave. But just as it is terribly difficult for an abused women to leave her abuser, exiting prostitution is, for most of those who are involved in it, a difficult, hard, long and arduous process. The state has an obligation to help make this process easier so that women can leave sooner and get on with recovering and rebuilding their lives.

- 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?**

I have no experience in this area, but it definitely shouldn't be treated like a traffic offence or some other minor issue. It should be treated as the serious violation of women's rights that it is.

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

I do not know.

- 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.

Only a change in the law will tell men and all of society that women are not chattel but are deserving of respect and equal to men.

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.

I think to start with there will be an increase in cost, especially if the law is properly enforced (police resources, courts etc) but eventually I expect there will be a decrease as fewer women will be affected by the trauma and violence. I also think that trafficking will be reduced, as it has in other countries that have followed this legal model. Trafficking causes a lot of damage to society as a whole and the individuals affected, all of which comes at a cost to society.

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.

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?