

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(Note: Information entered in this “About You” section may be published with your response (unless it is “not for publication”), except where indicated in **bold**.)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

We are an anti-trafficking charity based in Glasgow, seeking to make Glasgow inhospitable to traffickers, through awareness-raising, prayer, training and campaigning. Our development manager is an experienced

human rights expert, and our members have practitioner experience of supporting victims of exploitation. These views are shared by the members of the organisation.

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- I would like this response to be considered, but not published (“not for publication”)

If you have requested anonymity or asked for your response not to be published, please give a reason. **(Note: your reason will not be published.)**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 **(Note: The name will not be published if you have asked for the response to be anonymous or “not for publication”.)**

Restore Glasgow

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.

The laws of Scotland must evolve to provide stronger support for individuals facing sexual exploitation, reduce the demand for prostitution, and establish clear, accessible, and well-publicised exit pathways for women involved in prostitution. The current legal framework fails to address the root causes of exploitation and does not offer sufficient or adequate support for those trapped in the cycle of prostitution. By shifting the focus towards reducing demand through criminalising the purchase of sex, and supporting those affected, Scotland can create a safer and more equitable environment that empowers women to escape exploitation and rebuild their lives.

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.

This seems a necessary step in order to support individuals wishing to escape prostitution but fearing prosecution - this would ensure that survivors would have access to vital resources without the risk of criminalisation

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.

To effectively support individuals seeking to escape commercial sexual exploitation and facilitate their reintegration into society, it is crucial to address the barriers posed by prior criminal convictions. These records can hinder access to opportunities and resources necessary for a fresh start, perpetuating the cycle of exploitation. By removing these obstacles and providing targeted assistance, survivors can be empowered to rebuild their lives and fully participate in society.

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.

Prostitution is a form of exploitation, and it fuels human trafficking. There must be an accessible and comprehensive system of support to ensure that victims can escape this cycle and rebuild their lives. A legal right to support (with specific and clear services) is critical to making this possible.

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.

The right to support, without the provision of clear and well-defined services, risks being too vague to hold any real value. Therefore, it is essential that these exiting services are outlined as clearly as possible

- 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?**

There must be robust and transparent prosecution of the proposed offence to send a strong message of deterrence and ensure that offenders are appropriately punished. Only through firm enforcement and public awareness will this effectively reduce demand. Lessons must be learned from Northern Ireland where similar policies haven't yet shown the hoped-for reduction in demand, quite possibly due to a lack of a strong and unified stand within policing/prosecution services.

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

It is crucial that police/first responders receive adequate training on new legislation, ensuring a unified and consistent approach in its implementation

- 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.

Recognising the finite nature of resources, it is crucial to maximise support for individuals exiting prostitution. Early intervention and the provision of adequate services can significantly enhance recovery outcomes for these individuals. Additionally, implementing preventive support measures is essential, as prostitution should never be viewed as a viable solution to poverty.

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.

Again aware that resources will likely be limited, but awareness campaigns can be widespread without being prohibitively expensive - especially given the advancement of social media, and the support of charities and NGOs who would likely play a key role in raising awareness of new and improved policies in this area.

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.

Yes, new legislation is required to effectively reduce demand for commercial sexual exploitation and to protect its victims. To address the root of the issue, it is essential that demand for commercial sexual exploitation is criminalised. This approach has shown promise in reducing demand in various countries

where the Nordic Model has been adopted, while simultaneously shifting societal attitudes.

In addition to criminalising demand, it is crucial to provide victims with robust support systems in order to break the cycles of abuse and poverty that often trap them in sexual exploitation.

Clear, accessible pathways and services offering comprehensive support must be well-publicised and easy to navigate, and victims must be made aware of their legal right to assistance.

However, for this legislation to be effective, it must be clear, transparent, and fully implemented. It is not enough to simply create new laws; there must be a commitment to enforce them rigorously. This includes training law enforcement and social services to handle these cases sensitively and effectively, ensuring that victims are treated with dignity and respect.

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.

This isn't our area of expertise, though where there is will, resources will likely be found, and by reducing the levels of commercial exploitation and costs of this to society, significant savings will be made.

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.

This proposal aims to safeguard and enhance the lives of marginalised individuals in society, while preventing the criminalisation and stigmatisation of those trapped in prostitution. Additionally, it seeks to foster a more just and equitable society by challenging the notion that women's bodies are commodities.

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?**

Given that prostitution is a cause and consequence of the inequality between men and women, a move to reduce prostitution will have a positive effect on moving towards a fairer, more equitable society. Providing sustainable options for women to escape poverty without the need to resort to selling their bodies will contribute to a stronger economy through increased workforce participation, higher incomes, and greater consumption, ultimately fostering improved human development.