

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(Note: Information entered in this “About You” section may be published with your response (unless it is “not for publication”), except where indicated in **bold**.)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

The Evangelical Alliance is the largest and oldest body representing the UK's two million evangelical Christians. Established in 1846, today we work across a diverse constituency of over 23,000 individual members,

as well as over 3,000 churches and 500 organisations.

The Evangelical Alliance is the founding member of the World Evangelical Alliance, which unites evangelical alliances based in different countries around the world, representing anywhere from 300 million to a billion evangelical Christians. This global reach reflects the influence of evangelical faith, which can also be seen in the huge social and ethnic diversity in evangelical churches across the UK.

In Scotland we represent churches from around 12 denominations as well as independent churches, in addition to around 50 organisations and many individuals.

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”.)**

Evangelical Alliance Scotland

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.

Our full support for proposals to introduce a new criminal offence of paying for sexual services comes from, in part, our Christian moral convictions that each human being is made in the image of God and that therefore women and men are of completely equal value. Paying for sexual services is an exploitative practice that reinforces gender inequality.

We agree with the Scottish Government's recognition that prostitution is a "form of violence against women", and not regular work. That is why we have previously called for and now welcome this proposed Bill to realise this in our legislative framework.

The proposed legislation challenges men's demand for sexual services that fuels the sex trade and commercial sexual exploitation in Scotland, importantly punishing the perpetrators rather than the victims of sexual exploitation. This is a vital step in deterring demand for prostitution and holding abusers to account.

The introduction of a criminal offence of paying for sexual services would not only fight against this gender-based violence but also make clear that a woman's body is not an object to be sold or a commodity.

International examples, such as in Sweden, confirm that criminalising demand has the potential to reduce exploitation and human trafficking, and transform the lives of women who are currently being exploited across 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.

We believe that the victims of prostitution should not be punished for their own exploitation. We welcome that this proposed Bill shifts the burden of criminality off victims and on to the men who perpetrate violence against women by paying for sexual services and facilitating this form of gender-based violence.

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.

Similarly, we believe that those who have been criminalised in the past should now be wiped of previous convictions. Such convictions can make these women even more vulnerable through making access to jobs more difficult. Repealing previous convictions under section 46 would recognise the responsibility of the men who purchased sexual services and recognise the abuse of these women. This will allow women to overcome barriers to rebuild their lives.

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.

We believe that women who find themselves in prostitution must be protected. The legal right to support provides a key way of ensuring that these women have a means to seek help. Including this measure will be key to ensuring the legislation works as effectively as 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.

We fully support provisions for exiting services as this would provide victims with the necessary aid to escape prostitution. Exiting services have proved successful in other jurisdictions, including Sweden and France, and in conjunction with the legal right to support will be a key measure in ensuring the legislation works as effectively 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?

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

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.

Legislation is absolutely necessary to achieve the Bill's aims. It must be strongly enforced to ensure effectiveness.

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.

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.

We think that the Bill will have a positive impact with regards to the protected characteristics of sex and race as outlined on pages 45-46 of this document as it will reduce men's demand for commercial sexual exploitation of women and girls, reduce socio-economic inequalities through exit provisions and improve gender equality in Scotland.

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?

