

Dear Justice Committee,

Regarding the The Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Further Provisions and Support for Victims) Bill - Committee Stage Clauses 1-8:

On criminalising the purchase of sexual services (aka The Nordic / Swedish Model)

My name is Anne Johnsen and I live in Norway. We have had the Sex Purchase Law (Nordic Model) for nearly five years now, and it has created a lot of misery and harm for the ones it affects. And one way or another, the law affects all.

In short, there are some points that I urge you to consider:

- Research done by FAFO* suggests that this law enables sex trafficking as it forces the market underground
<http://www.forskning.no/kortnytt/329381> (Norwegian article)
- Sex workers are prone to much more violence and riskier practices after the implementation of this law
- Sex work has not decreased at all - it has merely been force underground
- The police have become the sex worker's enemies instead of a protective and cooperating unit
- Last year The Danish Government turned around and struck down the proposal of implementing the Nordic Model as the majority realized the dire consequences of this law.
(<http://drum.co.za/2012/11/21/denmark-drops-plan-to-criminalise-prostitution/>)
- Some months ago, The Scottish Parliament also turned voted down the proposal to criminalise the purchase of sexual services
- UNAIDS and UN Women strongly urge to decriminalise sex work

(*Fafo is an independent and multidisciplinary research foundation focusing on social welfare and trade policy, labor and living conditions, public health, migration and integration, and transnational security and development issues. Fafo works within both a domestic Norwegian and larger international context)

Good luck with your work!

Kind regards,

Anne Johnsen