

I am writing to say how glad I am that we have this bill before the Assembly and to ardently support it. This piece of legislation seems to me to be a strong robust response to the abuse and exploitation of people who are the weakest and most vulnerable in our society, and if we are to hold our heads up high in this country we need to be looking after precisely these people most of all.

I welcome clause 6 which tackles the root cause of trafficking which is the sex trade, by criminalising paying for sex. This can help the sex workers who are forced into this trade and make men/women who are engaging in this act (many of them married) think again. It is imperative that strong action is needed in a society which has sexualized our children, has a multi-million pound porn industry and enslaved others as sex slaves. Lets send out a strong message that this country defends families and stable relationships and renders slavery obsolete.

Finally this bill will ensure that Northern Ireland meets the directives of the European Directive and European Convention.

Yours Faithfully
Heather Hunter