

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing in a response to the call for evidence on the part of The Justice committee in relation to Lord Morrows Bill against Human Trafficking.

I write this short letter of support to coincide with today's EU Anti-trafficking Day.

I sincerely welcome this Bill and support it. I believe it will make a real difference in the lives of the most vulnerable men, women & children who are exploited in our province. I have met one young girl recently who has been trafficked into the sex trade through no fault of her own and her story is horrid and currently little has been done to counteract such cases.

Surely this Bill is absolutely necessary and will help ensure that Northern Ireland properly fulfils its international obligations as set out in the European Directive and the Council of Europe Convention.

I'm aware that this Bill covers many individuals who are working in Northern Ireland in industry of one kind or another and are victims of forced labour, working, for example, on mushroom or cannabis farms.

However, I recognise that the primary reason for trafficking into Northern Ireland is for sex and I particularly welcome clause 6 of Lord Morrow's Bill which criminalises paying for sex. Clause 6 would thereby directly address the principal source of demand for trafficking and do so more effectively than our current laws.

I feel it would be similar to Sweden's approach to dealing with prostitution and human trafficking and surely that's good, cause right now trafficking is nothing but slavery!

Through my short letter plus the many others you'll receive, I urge the members of the Committee to take on board this serious issue and to act favourably in the passing of this necessary Bill.

Already I'm sure you're aware that Lord Morrow's Bill has strong support throughout Northern Ireland.

Yours sincerely
Hilary Lynas (Mrs)