

Dear Justice Committee,

I very much welcome and support the above Bill and would like to express my support of it as a response to the call for evidence Stage of this Bill's passage through the Assembly.

I believe this Bill will assist greatly in ensuring Northern Ireland properly fulfills its international obligations as set out in the European Directive and the Council of Europe Convention, the directive giving good guidelines but not sufficient legal powers to states to enforce its key principles.

Along with many others I acknowledge that the main reason for trafficking into Northern Ireland is for sex and therefore welcome clause 6 of Lord Morrow's Bill in particular, which criminalises paying for sex. Clause 6 would thereby directly address the primary source of demand for trafficking and do so more effectively than our existing laws.

I believe this Bill is absolutely necessary because it will make a tangible difference in the lives of some of the most vulnerable men, women and children who are exploited in our province.

Sincere regards,

Jason Blean BSc MA (TESOL).