

Response to Justice Committee re Lord Morrow's Private Members Bill on Human Trafficking

Respondees:- North Down ACT (Active Communities against Trafficking)

Flourish (a recently formed charity to support victims of human trafficking)

NORTH DOWN ACT has been active in the local community since March 2012. We take part in awareness events in schools, community groups etc. and work with PSNI,PCSP a local councillors.We are a local expression of the global movement of Stop The Traffick

FLOURISH is a new charity formed to support victims of human trafficking and to help build a new life for them.

Clause 10 We collectively believe this Bill would be a move in the right direction in the fight against human trafficking in Northern Ireland, especially as it gives the potential to bring about more convictions due to the recommended extension of time for PSNI officers to bring cases to court.

We feel that NI lags behind Scotland and England in relation to the after care of rescued victims.

As Clause 6 has caused so much controversy over recent months we feel it has been a drawback in the process of this bill and we would urge you to consider amending the bill by removing clause 6 at present. As this does address the issue of demand we would like this raised as a separate issue for debate.

Clause 11 Article 17 of the EU directive states there should be "access to existing streams of compensation to victims of violent crimes of intent". Compensation to our knowledge has never been awarded to any victims in Northern Ireland and considering how heinous a crime human trafficking is where a human beings dignity and self worth is destroyed it should be considered.

Clause 12 A trafficked child should have a guardian. One who will be with them throughout the long drawn out process.

Clause 15 Strategy is important in the fight against human trafficking and it is vital NGO's are part of this strategy.

Clause 16 A NI Rapporteur would be vital.

We are happy to participate in any further discussions.

Regards

Elizabeth McKee

Jill Robinson

Co Founders of NDACT and FLOURISH

