

31st October 2013

The Justice Committee
N Ireland Assembly
Stormont
Belfast

Dear Members,

In view of the call for evidence in relation to Lord Morrow's Human Trafficking and Exploitation Bill, I wish to state that I warmly welcome this Bill and strongly support its clauses.

Like many others I have been saddened by recent revelations of how human trafficking is affecting victims in N Ireland. I believe there needs to be a very strong deterrent for those perpetrating this evil against the freedom and dignity of others.

The Bill has at its core an ethos of Christian care for the most vulnerable – in practical terms this commends our nation, as well as bringing standards in line with international best practice as set out in the European Directive and the Council of Europe Convention.

In particular, I welcome Clause 6 which seeks to criminalise the purchase of sex. This addresses exploitation apart from trafficking and would do much to address the issues at their principal source. In so doing, it would eradicate much suffering and wrong.

I urge you to give this important Bill careful consideration and not to miss the opportunity which it presents to bring about significant betterment for the most needy.

Yours faithfully
Rosemary Hall (Miss)