

## The Human Trafficking and Exploitation Bill

Dear Sir/Madam

I would like to record my strong support for the above Bill which I warmly welcome as an essential step in protecting some of the most vulnerable people in our society and in preventing their exploitation. I believe that this Bill will ensure that Northern Ireland properly fulfils its obligations as outlined in the European Directive and Council of Europe Convention.

Recognising the sad fact that the primary reason for trafficking into Northern Ireland is for the sexual exploitation of those caught up in this heinous activity, I particularly welcome Clause 6 of Lord Morrow's Bill which criminalises paying for sex. This will allow the principal source of demand for trafficking to be addressed in a more effective manner than is possible under our current legislation.

Thank you for your attention in this important matter.

Yours faithfully

Alistair McNeice