

Dear Sirs,

I am a member of Hampshire Women's Institute. We in Hampshire are particularly concerned about prostitution, the reason for this is the health & safety of the girls concerned.

I have been round the world investigating at the different situations. I would hate to see situations like Amsterdam and Nevada in our Country. However, as I am sure you are aware New Zealand has decriminalised prostitution and while it is not the perfect solution, it is my opinion that this is definitely the right way to go. I understand that you are looking at criminalising the "man", you cannot compare Sweden with our country. I understand that there are approximately 1500 sex workers in Sweden, where over in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland we have 80,000. Not all these people are on drugs, the majority are women have children who are trying to strive for a better life, I feel that by criminalising the man we are forcing it back underground, surely it is so much better to have this topic discussed out in the open. To my knowledge the Scottish & Irish parliaments have discussed what you are going to discuss and the motions have been defeated. Furthermore I have given you some examples of what is happening in Sweden:

Following the murders of two women, Dora Özer and Petite Jasmine, on the 9th and 11th of July, sex workers, their friends, families, and allies are coming together to demand an end to murders and other violence, criminalisation and stigma. Demos, vigils, and protests in front of Swedish and Turkish embassies or other symbolic places have been organised in 25 cities – for more info see: [jasmineanddora.wordpress.com](http://jasmineanddora.wordpress.com).

On 11 July, Petite Jasmine, a sex worker in Sweden, was murdered by her ex-husband. Her good friend and colleague Pye Jakobsson, Rose Alliance, commented:

*“Our board member, fierce activist and friend Petite Jasmine has been brutally murdered. Several years ago she lost custody of her children as she was considered to be an unfit parent due to being a sex worker. The children were placed with their father regardless of him being abusive towards Jasmine.*

*He threatened and stalked her on numerous occasions; she was never offered any protection. She fought the system through four trials and had finally started seeing her children again. Yesterday the father of her children killed her.*

Ms Jakobsson also commented on how the 1999 Swedish Sex Purchase Law which criminalised sex workers' clients, has increased discrimination and stigma against sex workers and led to tragedies of this kind:

*“The law builds on the idea that women who sell sex are weak and exploited. Sex workers have been reduced to “victims” by professionals, politicians and others in authority. Abuse and discrimination has increased as a result, including police raids against sex workers in their own home. More sex workers are being judged as unworthy mothers and losing custody of their children with devastating consequences. Jasmine always said “Even if I can’t get my kids back I will make sure this never happens to any other sex worker”. We will continue her fight. Justice for Jasmine!”*

I do hope you will take some interest in this letter and I am extremely happy to discuss this further at any time.

Yours Sincerely

Jean Johnson