

Clerk to the Committee for Justice,  
C. Darrah.

Dear Ms. Darrah,

Thank you for your letter of 3rd October inviting an input from the Josephine Butler Society.  
We comment thus:

CLAUSE 6  
New Article 64A

1. Criminalising the buyer will ignore the real criminals who are traffickers, coercers and enslavers, who control their victims and benefit from the earnings that their victims make.
2. To combat trafficking for sexual purposes by criminalising the non violent, non coercive buyer is to criminalise the wrong person. Sadly, it is often the case that the Law, when it attempts to help in the problems around prostitution, often impinges elsewhere where criminal activity can be completely absent, [i.e.in](#) this case, the freely prostituting person whose clients are 'friends'. Where consenting adults are concerned, this is surely their own business. Also, criminalising the buyer will make people who are otherwise law abiding, into criminals and this could well result in family breakdown and all the social problems that can follow from that.
3. The Swedish Law which criminalises the buyer has been criticised by a Swedish M.P. Camilla Lindberg, as being ineffective.
4. For the real criminals, the proposed interruptions of their business could well push prostitution further underground and the vulnerable harder to reach by agencies engaged in helping and encouraging exiting from prostitution.

CLAUSE 7 [1] We agree.

We suggest that more and better immigration control at all points of entry into the UK, also abroad especially countries of origin and transit, by those specially trained to seek out trafficked people, would be a better way to stop trafficking. It would then be a preventative measure instead of one of rehabilitation and possible deportation, actions which are expensive monetarily and in suffering.

7 [2] We agree. We also suggest that the victim, if she/he requests, be allowed to return home, if it is safe for her/him to do so, before the trial instead of being kept for the sake of prosecution purposes and the judge.

7 [3] We agree.

CLAUSE 11 Compensating victims. We are concerned about this. Where would the monies come from for this proposal? From monies confiscated by the police and which at present help to pay for the expensive proactive police investigation, or the Common Purse, i.e.the tax payer? Would this monetary compensation encourage people to set up ways to obtain these monies?

IN CONCLUSION:

We are not in favour of criminalising all people who buy sexual services. Where consenting adults are concerned this is surely their own business. Josephine Butler clearly believed that we have a God given free will and as adults should make our own decisions without the Law being involved. Surely equality includes freedom of choice for men and women. Abuse of children and the unwilling is wrong, but there is Law already in place criminalising these two instances.

Please contact me via email if any further clarification is needed. I will be sending you a hard copy of this.

Yours truly,

Valerie Gore, Chairman,

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