

Dear Sir

I would like to put forward the following comments for inclusion in the consultation process.

I very much welcome Lord Morrow's Bill, and support its aims. It has the potential to make a real difference in the lives of some of the most vulnerable men, women and children who are exploited in the province, and for whom very little protection is afforded even when the authorities take action against those responsible.

The primary reason for trafficking into Northern Ireland is in connection with the sex trade. I therefore welcome particularly Clause 6 of the Bill, which criminalises paying for sex. Doing this will address the principal source of demand for trafficking and I believe deal more effectively with the problem than our current laws do.

This Bill will also ensure the Northern Ireland fulfils properly its international obligations under the European Directive and Council of Europe Convention.

I myself do not live in the province but very much hope that the rest of the UK will follow Northern Ireland's lead in putting this much-needed legislation on the Statute book.

Yours faithfully

Judith Willcox