

Justice Committee
Stormont

Dear Sir/Madam

We are writing to you to express our support for Lord Morrow's bill on human trafficking currently before the Justice Committee.

We feel that this bill is sorely needed to combat the horrific crime of human trafficking in Northern Ireland. The knowledge that men, women and children are being brought into Northern Ireland to be exploited in this manner must surely fill every right thinking person with revulsion.

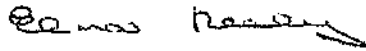
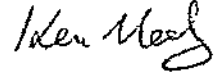
We welcome all aspects of the bill, including clause 6 that criminalises paying for sex. One of the primary reasons for trafficking in Northern Ireland is for sex and we believe clause 6 will address this particular problem at its source.

We know that this clause has caused considerable controversy and is widely debated in the media and in academic circles. People with genuine conviction are on both sides of the argument and it is sometimes hard to judge the various positions. For us, however, we are persuaded that the experience of Sweden is hard evidence that a law that criminalises paying for sex works. This has been further confirmed by an article in the News Letter dated 28th October 2013 which reports an interview with Detective Superintendent Kajsa Wahlberg, the Swedish Rapporteur on Human Trafficking (copy enclosed). To quote from comments made by Ms Wahlberg in the article: *"In fact, very soon it became clear that the law is an excellent tool to hold individuals that purchase a sexual service accountable for their actions. But it also allows us to use it to reach and investigate those who organise prostitution activities in Sweden - whether they are local organised crime elements or cross-border traffickers."*

Comments by Dr Graham Ellison of Queen's University, reported in the same article in the News Letter, that the Swedish ban on men buying sex "reeks of hypocrisy" because "one Swedish champion of the law was jailed for rape and purchasing sex" and other officials have been convicted are very concerning from such a prominent opponent of clause 6. Far from reeking of hypocrisy we see this as the application of the law to all sections of Swedish society and a positive confirmation of the rectitude of the majority of police and judicial authorities in Sweden, even allowing for Dr Ellison's accusation of "patchy" enforcement across Sweden. As Ms Wahlberg, commenting on this in the Article, also states, *"no legislation works 100%. Do you have such a law in Northern Ireland? We have laws regarding fraud and theft too and these laws are being broken all the time. When that happens, no one blames the law."*

This is an important Bill, not only for Northern Ireland but also for its implication for the rest of the UK and Ireland. We believe we will be setting an important precedent that will ensure that we fulfil our obligations under the European Directive and the Council of Europe Convention.

Yours faithfully



Ken & Elma Neely

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

NO PROSTITUTION WOULD MEAN NO SEX TRAFFICKING - CLAIM

Top Swedish police officer defends anti-slavery law proposed by MIA

BY FRANK BRADY FOR THE PRESS

The lead police officer on human trafficking in Sweden has defended criminalising men who buy sex from women in prostitution—a proposal currently being debated by MIAs.

DUP MLA Lord Morrow's bill, intended to tackle sex trafficking, is modelled on a Swedish law introduced in 1998 and is currently being backed by the DUP and Women's Aid.

But it has been challenged by Amnesty International, some MIAs including Justice Minister David Ford and several senior PSNI officers. Nine

investigate those who organise prostitution activities in Sweden — whether they are local organised crime elements or cross-border traffickers.

She refers to the "comprehensive evaluation of the effects of the law" which was led by the Swedish Chancellor of Justice, Anna Skarhed, as evidence that the law is effective.

The report's methodology has been hotly contested internationally by advocates of decriminalised prostitution. Ms Wahlberg's last report as national rapporteur concluded: "When the ban on the purchase of sexual services came into force in 1999, there

was speculation that the police authorities would face difficulties in applying the



district councils and county-level have backed it so far, with cross-party support.

Defective Superintendent Kajsa Wahlberg is the Swedish Rapporteur on human trafficking, and EU appointees responsible for monitoring the implementation of anti-trafficking policy.

The police anthropologist in Sweden has used this legislation for over 15 years, she told the Newsletter. Initially, some police authorities were doubtful about the possibility of effectiveness of the law, and how to enforce it.

She adds: "In fact, very soon it became clear that the law is an excellent tool to hold individuals that purchase a sexual service accountable for their actions, but also allows us to use it to reach and

legislation. That has not been the case.

"The equity concerning the effects of the law on the purchase of sexual services stopped the police and prosecutors believe that its application is working well, but that its effectiveness depends on access to resources and the priorities that exist within the judicial system."

She added: "I would like to underline the importance of basing any conclusions regarding this legislation on the extensive experience and evidence that is available in Sweden through publications as Ms Skarhed's report."

"This is after all a legislation that has become a barrier for the development of a local prostitution market." She particularly predicted



A woman is led away by police, after a human-trafficking call on a house on the Lisbeth Road in south Gothenburg last year.

on claims she has made that prosecuting men who buy sex in Northern Ireland could stretch British resources away from human trafficking investigations.

She responded: "If men don't buy women in prostitution, we will have no human trafficking cases to investigate. Wouldn't that be less resource intensive?"

"I have spent 15 years listening to various police forces at international meetings asking for stronger legislation on human trafficking, more

resources to combat it, more investigations, more etc. If I then ask if we can do something on the demand side, there is either silence or it raises extreme frustration."

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WIRE-TAPS CONFIRM TRAFFICKERS DETERRED

'Statistics can't tell full story'

The Swedish rapporteur on human trafficking says that many factors have made it difficult to measure the effects of the law against the purchase of sexual services was introduced in 1999 and a law against human trafficking in 2002, Ms Wahlberg says.

Around the same time, mobile phone and internet usage became common among the public and Baltic countries

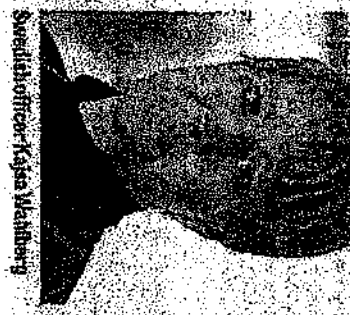
entered the EU, making immigration much easier.

"Around these years, a lot of things happened at the same time and it can be difficult to measure the effect of the law."

Nevertheless, she is clear that outlawing the purchase of sex has a deterrent effect on traffickers. Her force also intervenes informally in many cases "where someone is about to buy sexual services,

Victims of human trafficking for sexual purposes have told the police that traffickers and procurers talk about Sweden as a bad market for prostitution activities," she says.

"The police also have evidence from wire-tapped conversations between members of organised crime networks that these networks prefer members in countries where prostitution activities are legalised or tolerated."



Swedish officer Kajsa Wahlberg

Success rate of 46 per cent

Ms Wahlberg confirms that since police officers, one prosecution and four judges have been convicted of buying sex in Sweden since 1992.

She adds: "The legislation works 100pc, but you have just a few in Norway. It is clear that law enforcement in Finland and Denmark these cases are being handled with care. When that happens, no one blames the law."

About 5,000 police reports have been drawn up since 1999 for buy-

ing sex, almost half of the cases, those are being charged. That is a very good result, compared with other crimes.

She adds: "When you prosecute the spot, they are being fined and then they are prosecuted." She says, maybe more resources should be allocated against buyers. Victims may be given temporary residence or be taken to homes in cooperation with the International Organisation for Migration.

QUB ACADEMICS OUT

Swedish approach 'reeks of hypocrisy'

Dr Graham Ehlsson of Queen's University Belfast, a vocal advocate of strict regulated brothels, says the Swedish ban on street buying sex "reeks of hypocrisy."

One Swedish champion of the law visited for a rape and purchasing sex while a chief prosecutor, judges, police officers and senior government ministers have also been convicted, he says.

"The overwhelming majority of cases are dismissed through lack of evidence, wasting valuable police resources," he says, demanding to see evidence the law works. In fact, he says, "patriarchy" across Sweden, he says. "Patriarchy is a claim that police abuse vulnerable sex workers, while migrant sex workers are unceremoniously deported, he adds.

