

Clauses 1-8 of Human Trafficking Bill

I write as the founder and coordinator of the Outsiders Trust, and founder of the TLC Trust. These provided support and services for disabled individuals with regards to their sexual lives. Many find it very difficult to enjoy sexual expression and find a partner.

They may hire a sex worker in order to learn what their bodies are capable of enjoying, and gain sexual confidence and positive body image. They may only have had their bodies prodded by doctors and experienced pain and embarrassment from them. Sex workers also teach them how to please a partner and gain confidence being with a partner. This is an essential journey for many, even non-disabled people. To criminalise the purchasing of such services is inhumane.

It is been statistically proven that criminalising the buying of sex does nothing to protect those who work in the sex industry, and nothing to reduce trafficking and slavery, which is a criminal activity and will continue to be so even when further criminalised.

Dr Tuppy Owens

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“Organisations such as The Outsiders and TLC (Tender Loving Care) do invaluable work to recognise the sexual needs of disabled people, and do what they can to help - campaigning in a pretty forthright way.”

Bel Mooney in the **Daily Mail** 18th August 2010