

**For the attention of The Committee Clerk**

Dear Sirs,

I am responding in brief to the call for evidence with regard to the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Further Provisions and Support for Victims) Bill.

First of all I want to say that I warmly welcome this Bill and fully support it for the good it will achieve. The Bill is essential because it will make a real difference to the lives of some of the most vulnerable men, women and children who are or would be exploited in the province.

The Bill will also help ensure that Northern Ireland properly fulfils its international obligations as set out in the European Directive and the Council of Europe Convention.

I sadly recognise that the primary reason for trafficking into Northern Ireland is for sex, and thus I particularly welcome clause 6 of Lord Morrow's Bill which criminalises paying for sex.

Clause 6 would thereby directly address the principal source of demand for trafficking and do so more effectively than the current laws.

Yours faithfully,

Philip R Barnett