

Dear Justice Committee,

**Re: The Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Further Provisions and Support for Victims)
Bill introduced by Lord Morrow**

This brief letter is a response to the call for evidence on the part of the Justice Committee in relation to the above Bill.

It is my own personal conviction that effective legislation should be enacted to ensure that perpetrators of the terrible crimes of human trafficking are punished and that appropriate provisions and support become available to human trafficking victims. Therefore, I warmly welcome the Bill introduced by Lord Morrow which I believe rises to the challenge of both putting in place (a) appropriate punitive measures for trafficking perpetrators and (b) support measures for protecting trafficking victims.

I believe that if this Bill were to become legislation in our province it would make a real difference for good in the lives of some of the most vulnerable men, women and children who are exploited. The Bill would also ensure that Northern Ireland is properly fulfilling its international obligation as set out in the European Directive and the Council of Europe Convention.

I realise that the primary reason for trafficking in Northern Ireland is for sex. Consequently, I particularly welcome clause 6 of Lord Morrow's Bill which criminalises paying for sex. This clause strikes at the root of demand for trafficking and does so much more effectively than our current laws.

I urge you, the Justice Committee, to give your full support to this Bill.

Kind Regards,
Rev. Steven Robinson
Drumahoe, Derry-Londonderry