

Dear Mr Gilvan,

I belong to a group, Ardstraw Against Trafficking, which is a Christian group, formed to raise the awareness of the growing crime of Human Trafficking in Northern Ireland. Each of us in this group have decided to write to you, to request your support, for those caught within Human Trafficking.

The true figure of those unfortunate people being trafficked, is impossible to accurately determine, but a staggering estimate of 27 million persons presently being trafficked worldwide, speaks for itself.

The criminal proceeds from Human Trafficking is second only to drug dealing, and these crimes are often interlinked.

In order to effectively combat human trafficking, it is vitally important that all parties act as one, to pass laws which provide strong support for victims of trafficking, and provide a strong deterrent to those in our society who support and engage in the misuse of clearly vulnerable persons.

I urge you to support all clauses within the Bill proposed by Lord Morrow, in particular clause 6.

There is evidence within Sweden and Norway, that laws including clause 6 wording, has had a positive effect in the support and protection of vulnerable persons within society, and in turn sends a clear strong message to those engaged in trafficking persons, particularly within the sex trade.

I would ask you to consider that the effect on **demand** for the sexual exploitation of vulnerable persons, will directly and positively affect the **supply** of persons trapped within this trade.

It is of particular note that the laws within Southern Ireland, are moving forward to make a positive stand against this plight within our world and society. Should we be lagging behind in our support for those unfortunate people caught within Human Trafficking?

Northern Ireland may become a safe environment to traffic people. Do we want that to be the case?

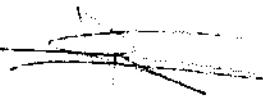
There are still those in our society who dismiss prostitution as something which will always be within our society, and therefore to be disregarded and swept under the carpet. Without prostitution, to provide a hidden cover, within which human trafficking thrives, vulnerable girls and children will continue to have their freedom and basic human rights stripped away from them.

Please ask yourself, is this the society, is this the world, we would want our children to grow up into, and perhaps become actual victims of trafficking themselves.

By supporting Lord Morrows bill a strong message will be sent to those engaged in the exploitation of vulnerable people within our world and society, and will provide a realistic and effective support for victims caught within this situation through slavery and through wider social deprivation and despair.

Please consider Lord Morrows bill carefully and support all clauses, particularly clause 6.

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sharon Smyth', with several overlapping strokes.

Sharon Smyth