

I wish to register my support for the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Further Provisions & Support for Victims) Bill in its entirety.

In particular I wish to commend the following clauses:

Clause 6: Paying for sexual services

Criminalising paying for sex will simplify the current law & make it effective so that a clear message will be sent to traffickers. The biggest single driver of trafficking to N Ireland is the demand for paid sex. The Bill will provide for a more effective approach to tackling demand than current legislation and addresses exploitation where there is no trafficking aspect. This has worked in other countries such as Norway and Sweden without driving prostitution underground (Kafsa Wahlberg, Swedish National Rapporteur on Human Trafficking). Initial police concerns (as in Sweden) can be overcome and the law properly enforced.

Clause 8: Non-prosecution of victims of human trafficking

No victims should be charged as a result of being forced into illegal activity by their traffickers. That this is the case currently is demonstrated by the GRETA Report. The clause will only apply to offences committed as a direct consequence of having been trafficked and so does not provide blanket immunity.

Clause 10: Requirements for assistance and support

Support for victims is critical and this clause would make secure such assistance as recommended by GRETA.

Clause 11: Compensation for victims of trafficking

As GRETA confirms, current measures have proved inadequate for the compensation of victims and so clear procedures are essential.

Clause 12: Child Trafficking Guardian

This would provide effective support for vulnerable children in line with the "Still at Risk" Report of 2013.

Clause 15: Prevention

This Clause would mean that the Department of Justice would be clearly focused on dealing with human trafficking and indeed slavery and held to account. The Minister of Justice's recently introduced voluntary annual action plan should be required by law in accord with one of GRETA's key themes - raising awareness.

Clause 16: N Ireland Rapporteur

The requirement on the Department of Justice to set up a new body, independent of government, to report on the Act's outworking to the Assembly is important in providing effective scrutiny.

Many thanks.

[Stephen Moore](#)