



01 November 2013

The Committee Clerk
Room 242
Parliament Buildings
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

Dear Committee Clerk,

RE: HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION (FURTHER PROVISIONS AND SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS) BILL

I am writing to outline The Rainbow Projects opposition to Clause Six of the Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation (further provisions and support for victims) Bill currently being considered by the Committee.

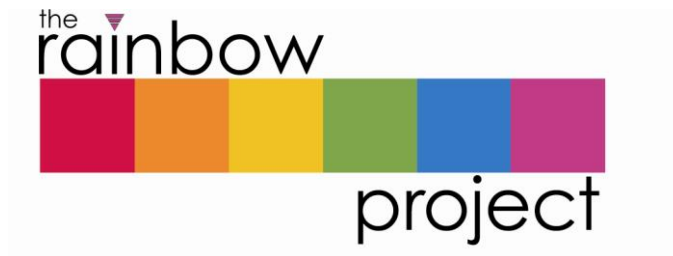
The Rainbow Project has previously carried out research around the needs of male sex workers in Northern Ireland and these are varied and complex. We believe that Clause Six of the Bill is a coercive citation and works on the basis that all sex workers are trafficked seeking therefore to criminalise them in Northern Ireland.

In reality the needs and experiences of male sex workers are complex and varied and research carried out by The Rainbow Project has identified that approaches taken to meet the needs of sex workers must be cognisant of these complexities and work across areas of 'prevention' 'stabilisation' and 'exiting' support, which includes support around:

- STI & HIV prevention & sexual health promotion,
- Policy campaigns,
- Life skills, business & commercial skills education & learning,
- Housing, benefit & immigration advice; and
- Industry standards/ Codes of practice

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A company limited by guarantee No. NI30101 Rainbow Health Ltd
Registered company office: 9-13 Waring Street, Belfast BT1 2DX



Cont'd....

We oppose Clause Six of the Bill as drafted and would be happy to provide oral evidence to the Committee around this issue and our research.

Yours Sincerely,

John O'Doherty

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Director

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Paying for sexual services of a person

6. – (1) The Sexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order 2008 is amended as follows.

(2) For Article 64A (Paying for sexual services of a prostitute subjected to force etc.) substitute –

“64A Paying for sexual services of a person

(1) A person (A) commits an offence if A obtains sexual services from a person (B) over the age of 18 in exchange for payment –

(a) if the payment is made or promised by A; or

(b) if the payment is made or promised by a third party.

(2) Person A guilty of an offence under this article is liable –

(a) on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale;

(b) to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum, or both.

(3) In paragraph (1), “payment” means any financial advantage, including the discharge of an obligation to pay or the provision of goods or services (including sexual services) gratuitously or at a discount.