



22<sup>nd</sup> October 2019

Dear Women and Equalities Committee,

I am writing to you on behalf of Welsh Women's Aid in response to your inquiry on prostitution.

We welcome this inquiry into prostitution and hope it will lead to essential changes, better protection for women and children exploited through the sex industry and penalties for the men who buy and traffic women and children.

As a member of the End Violence Against Women Coalition, we support their full and detailed response to this inquiry. In particular, we make the following observations;

- We place prostitution and the selling and buying of sex within a violence against women and girls and exploitation of inequality framework - As EAWW states in their response; *'We consider the understanding that the prostitution system comprises 'the selling and buying of consensual sex between two adults' to be a flawed premise. Prostitution is not a myriad of individual acts of transactional sex. It is a highly organised industry, and the reality of that industry globally is that men are overwhelmingly the majority of those who buy sexual acts, and women and girls those whose bodies are bought. It is not an exchange between 'similarly situated individuals who are making complementary choices: one to buy sex and the other to sell it'*
- We support an 'end demand' legislative framework, or Nordic Model approach to prostitution
- We want the selling of sex to be decriminalised and more robust prosecutions of buyers, pimps and those who exploit in the context of prostitution
- We support the Brussel's Call, for an end to prostitution across Europe and the Equality Model, which recognises the inequality of power and privilege at the core of the sex trade, to be implemented across Europe.

These points have been informed by Welsh Women's Aid members who work directly with women exploited through the sex industry.

We welcome the opportunity to feed into this important review and are available to discuss the points raised here or more generally about exploitation through the sex-industry, if that would be helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Elinor Crouch-Puzey

Policy and Research Officer