



Motion to Midlothian Council

28 March 2017

Midlothian Council agrees with the Scottish Government's NHS guidelines on Commercial Sexual Exploitation which outlines the harmful effects on prostituted women: that a majority suffer high levels of physical violence, rape and post traumatic stress; that there is a significant effect on mental health; and that there is a significant link with drug abuse. Conference further acknowledges that in countries where prostitution is legalised there is an associated increase in human trafficking, child prostitution and other forms of criminality.

Midlothian Council recognises the successful legislative approach to prostitution pioneered in Sweden over the last sixteen years, also now adopted in Norway, Finland, Iceland and more recently in Canada, Northern Ireland and France, which focuses on reducing demand for commercial sexual exploitation.

Midlothian Council therefore supports the development of a Scottish model of legislation that (1) decriminalises the sale of sex, (2) criminalises the purchase of sex and (3) offers appropriate support for those wishing to exit commercial sexual exploitation.

Midlothian Council further agrees that such actions are in accordance with the Scottish Government's Equally Safe strategy regarding violence against women and in particular that commercial sexual exploitation, including prostitution and human trafficking, is a form of violence against women.

Proposed By:



Councillor Lisa Beattie

Seconded By:



Councillor Kelly Parry