

Justice Committee

Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill

Written submission from the Salvation Army

The Salvation Army appreciates the opportunity to respond to the Government's *Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill*. The Salvation Army is a Christian Church and one of the largest charities in the UK, helping thousands of vulnerable people each day. Our mission statement says that we will 'meet human needs ... without discrimination'. Our services are freely on offer to all, regardless of gender, race or sexual orientation. We have an Equality and Diversity Policy which covers all protected characteristics under equality law and which applies to every of our service provision.

Whilst having no aspect substantive comment to make on the whole of the Bill, we would however wish to respond in support of Part 6, Chapter 1, Sections 83-85 of the proposed Bill. The Salvation Army is pleased to be associated with the comments submitted separately on behalf of the Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS) Anti-Human Trafficking Group, and for ease of identification have appended a copy. However, because of our own work, internationally and within the United Kingdom, we would like to make some additional comments.

Since its inception, the Salvation Army has sought to reduce the worldwide phenomenon of abuse of individuals or groups of people for personal gain, now defined by the United Nations as human trafficking. It has established places of refuge for victims, sought legal challenges that would both prevent trafficking and punish those involved, and it has created alternatives for those vulnerable to trafficking. In particular within the United Kingdom we have made provision for a place of refuge as well as undertaken work with the Ministry of Justice Department United Kingdom Government in the delivery of specialist support services to adult victims of human trafficking in England and Wales since July 2011. It is against this background and from the perspective of direct service provision that we wish to encourage the Scottish Government to ensure a robust enactment of the proposal to introduce a statutory aggravation of people trafficked.

The Salvation Army would welcome the opportunity to continue discussing this and related matters with the Scottish Government and look forward to any such engagement.

26 August 2013
Salvation Army

Appendix 1

Copy of response from the ACTS Anti-Human Trafficking Group (submitted 29th August 2013, on behalf of the group by Revd Lindsey Sanderson)

Submission to the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill Consultation
by the Scottish Churches Anti-Human Trafficking Group.

As Convener of the Scottish Churches Anti-Human Trafficking Group (membership listed below) I write on behalf of the Group to offer our support for the proposal to make human trafficking a statutory aggravation in law. Specifically we wish to support Part 6, Chapter 1, Sections 83-85 of the proposed Bill.

The Group believes that there is a need to strengthen the legislation concerning human trafficking as part of a package of measures to reduce and prevent human trafficking in Scotland. We see the introduction of the statutory aggravation as a useful and important step in doing so.

The Group welcomes the decision of the Scottish Government to implement the recommendation of the EHRC that human trafficking become a statutory aggravation and we encourage the Government to do all it can to stop the trade in human beings.

Convener, Scottish Churches Anti-Human Trafficking Group
29 August 2013