

Justice Committee

Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Bill

Written submission from the Association of Licensed Adult Entertainment Venues

This submission is made on behalf of the Association of Licensed Adult Entertainment Venues (ALAEV) in response to the Committee's call for evidence in relation to the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Bill.

The ALAEV welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Justice Committee's consultation on the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Bill.

Our organisation represents establishments where the Scottish Government have stated that there is a risk of human trafficking. This, in spite of the fact there has never been a single piece of evidence produced to support this assertion. Indeed, the recent National Crime Agency year-long study into human trafficking failed to identify a single case of this abhorrent crime in any Adult Entertainment Venue in the whole of the UK.

As an organisation which takes seriously the responsibilities it has to our employees, we have produced a Human Trafficking and Migrant Worker Toolkit. This document is intended to help our members prevent any trafficking victims being employed in any of our establishments. I enclose a copy of the document for your interest. The Toolkit is written in such a way that it could be used by any employer in any field of employment.

We warmly welcome the introduction of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Bill and congratulate the Scottish Government for having the foresight and commitment to do so. We support wholeheartedly the broad aims of this ground breaking piece of legislation and will be commenting in more detail at each stage of the Parliamentary process. We have already offered to give oral evidence to the Committee and repeat this offer here.

As responsible and conscientious employers we are particularly pleased to note the intended penalties against any employer involved in perpetrating this heinous crime. This is an approach which we fully endorse.

Steve McDonald
Association of Licensed Adult Entertainment Venues
24 February 2015