

Written evidence submitted by a UK-based sex worker: Miss Y

Executive Summary

- I'm a sex worker in the UK, and these proposed changes to the law would directly harm me and the people I work alongside.
 - Criminalising clients doesn't stop sex work, it just makes it scarier. You can't "protect" me by making it harder for me to do my job safely.
 - Shutting down adult services websites takes away the safest way I have to work — and it won't stop exploitation, it will make it worse.
 - I don't need rescuing. I need legal protection, support without judgment, and the freedom to take care of myself in the ways that work for me.
 - I'm asking the Committee to reject these proposals and back full decriminalisation instead, because that's what will actually reduce harm.
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1. Who I Am

1. I'm a sex worker living and working in the UK. I work independently. I don't have a manager, a pimp, or an agency. Just me, a phone, and a website.
 2. I got into this work because it was flexible and paid better than the string of zero-hours jobs I had before. I stayed because I can take care of myself, and because I'm good at it.
 3. I'm not here to argue about whether sex work is empowering or not. For me, right now, it's what keeps a roof over my head. That should be enough to take my safety seriously.
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2. What's Being Proposed Will Make Things Worse

4. The idea that you can criminalise the people who pay for sex without hurting the people who sell it just doesn't make sense.
5. If my clients are scared of getting arrested, they won't give their real names. They won't let me screen them. They'll want to meet faster, in sketchier places, with less communication.
6. That doesn't make me safer. It makes me disposable.
7. And shutting down adult services websites? That's cutting off the safest option I have.
8. When I advertise online, I can work from home. I can say no. I can block someone if I get a bad vibe.
9. If those websites go, what's left? Working through strangers? Taking risks I'd normally never consider?
10. This isn't a thought experiment. We've seen what happens.
 - In the US, after FOSTA/SESTA, sex workers lost access to safety tools overnight. Violence went up. People died.

- In France, Médecins du Monde found 63% of sex workers felt less safe after criminalising clients.
 - In Northern Ireland, research from Queen’s University Belfast found no drop in demand — but more violence and more stigma.
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3. You Can’t Help Me If You Won’t Listen To Me

11. The people pushing these laws say they want to protect us. But I’ve never been asked what I need.
 12. Do you know what would actually help?
 - Being able to work with someone else in the same flat without it being called a brothel.
 - Not worrying that I can’t renew my mortgage because the job i do is shamed and de facto criminalised.
 - Knowing that if someone hurts me, I can go to the police without risking arrest myself.
 13. Those are things that would make my life safer. This bill doesn’t do any of that. It does the opposite.
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4. I’m Not a Victim, and I’m Not Your Morality Project

14. I don’t think sex work is glamorous. But it’s honest work.
 15. And I am not a victim. I am not traumatised. I am not waiting for the state to “liberate” me.
 16. I know exploitation exists. And I believe in tackling it - but you can’t fight trafficking by criminalising the very people who are best placed to spot it.
 17. I am a person doing a job. And I want the same thing everyone wants: to be safe, to be respected, to have choices.
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5. What The Experts Say - and What You Should Do

18. I’m not the only one saying this. You don’t have to take my word for it.
 - [Amnesty International](#), [Human Rights Watch](#), [UNAIDS](#), and [the World Health Organization](#) all say the same thing:
 - Full decriminalisation is the best legal model for keeping sex workers safe.
19. Decriminalisation doesn’t mean no rules. It means getting rid of the laws that stop us from protecting ourselves — and replacing them with real support, if and when we want it.

6. My Ask

20. Please don't pass laws that will make my life harder and more dangerous.
21. Don't criminalise my clients. Don't shut down the websites I rely on.
22. Decriminalise sex work. Let us work safely. Let us work together. Let us report abuse without fear.
23. And most of all - listen to us. We are not hard to find. You just have to be willing to hear what we've been saying for years.

Submitted in a personal capacity

Miss Y