Written evidence submitted by the Outsiders Trust

~ The TLC-Trust website was set up for disabled men and women to find responsible sexual services
~ The site is being redesigned and will soon be accepting sexological bodyworkers (who do not engage in sex with their clients but touch their bodies in a sexual way) and Tantric practitioners who rarely have sex with clients but teach goal – free sex (essential for disabled people who maybe don’t experience erections or intercourse).

• We are aware that some disabled people want to use sexual services in order to:-
  1) Reclaim their bodies from the medical profession
  2) Learn what pleasures their bodies are capable of feeling and how to give pleasure to a partner, so that they can start dating with confidence
  3) Enjoy an orgasm when they are unable to masturbate because of short or inactive arms.
  4) Feel like a human being
  5) Enjoy the rest of their lives when their condition has deteriorated to such an extent that they have very little quality of life.
  6) Since they became disabled, their partner no longer wants to have intimate relations with them
  7) Engage in a sexual act which a lover might reject them for – eg adult baby play
  8) Have a wonderful time

• Disabled People call me on the Sex and Disability Helpline in tears, worried, with threats of buying sex becoming illegal, that their sexual lives will finish. When you are in care, care works cannot break the law, so you cannot go underground like other people.

• The government should be aware that it is illegal not to support disabled people to enjoy the same pleasures as others enjoy in the privacy of their own homes. Banning them from buying sex would actually be illegal.

• This was written by one of the TLC service providers for a feature on us in the valentine's edition of the Huffington Post:

'you cannot be closed emotionally to clients with life limiting impairment, when you spend a whole year watching the decline of a person. My time with the one and only client that I lost to motor neurones disease declined rapid into a world with no speech and you feel their frustration and feeling of hopelessness. The only thing I could do was to show him that I was more than just a working girl and he was more than just a client. In the end, he became a person I could share my personal life with. When the time came and he passed away, and even now as I write this, I shed tears for him. To watch a human life ebb away knowing there
was nothing I could do was a painful heart wrenching episode in my life. 18 months on, I still miss him. I have a picture of us together I treasure it and will never forget him. He was a kind and gentle soul, my love for him could never be replaced ...I attended his funeral he left me a small reminder of the fun we had by ordering drum and base to be played as his parting music. '

Dr Tuppy Owens who runs the TLC-Trust website, part of the Outsiders Trust,

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