1. **Executive summary:** Given the evidence on the impact of prostitution, I support a Nordic model which criminalises the purchase of sex and shifts the burden of criminality away from those in prostitution. I believe that the only way to tackle the problems associated with prostitution is to address its causes (demand).

2. I am a lecturer in Criminology, researching violence against women and girls. I have also been a team leader in a charity that supports women and girls in prostitution.

**Evidence relating to the inquiry’s terms of reference**

**Whether criminal sanction in relation to prostitution should continue to fall more heavily on those who sell sex, rather than those who buy it.**

- Parliament should adopt the Sex Buyer Law in order shift the burden of criminality from those who are exploited through prostitution to those who exploit them. This entails decriminalising being paid for sex (removing laws against soliciting/loitering), making it a criminal offence to pay for sex, and providing support services to enable those exploited through prostitution to exit.

**What the implications are for prostitution-related offences of the Crown Prosecution Service’s recognition of prostitution as violence against women.**

- It is right that the Crown Prosecution Service recognises prostitution as violence against women. This is consistent with the policy of the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime and the Scottish Government.
- Our laws do not currently reflect Crown Prosecution Service recognition of prostitution as violence against women. Women can face criminal sanction for their sexual exploitation, while those who exploit - the sex buyers - are permitted to do so by the law, because paying for sex is legal.
- The Sex Buyer Law needs to be adopted in order for prostitution-related offences to reflect the fact that, as the Crown Prosecution Service states, prostitution is violence against women.

**Whether further measures are necessary, including legal reforms, to:**

- **Assist those involved in prostitution to exit from it**
  
  - Adopting the Sex Buyer Law would send a clear message to local authorities and agencies that prostitution is a form of violence against women and they have a duty to support women to exit commercial sexual exploitation. The government should also produce a national strategy for the delivery of comprehensive exiting services for people exploited through prostitution.

- **Increase the extent to which exploiters are held to account**
  
  - Adopting the Sex Buyer Law would give police the powers to hold sex buyers to account for exploiting women in prostitution. At present, police are unable to do this because paying for sex is legal.