Written evidence submitted by Hannah Swanson

The problem here is sexual exploitation of sex workers. However, if sex work was decriminalized entirely, there would be no problem for someone to report perceived trafficking to the police, surely. There would be no retribution for the one forced or a client who is paying for a service that might notice they were being forced into it.

In addition, lawful monitoring of sex work would indeed make it harder for illegal operators to emerge and exploit children. For example, making it common practice for sex workers to obtain a simple license (remember, these people are most likely poor, so the cheaper this license is to obtain, the better chance that there are not illegal practitioners).

The Swedish model has done nothing to improve the lives or safety of sex workers, and indeed makes it impossible for them to practice safely. Sex work is not inherently evil and the decriminalization of sex work would inevitably most likely stem the flow of trafficking.

I put forth the New Zealand model instead. They have, successfully, decriminalized prostitution. It has improved safety and working conditions, allowing those who want to work to work and those who want to get out to get out. This is vital for a healthy sex work attitude.

Treat the work neutrally. The people who extort workers unfairly for money, pimps, traffickers, they can be stopped if you approach this in a healthy manner. Allow the workers easier access to the police by not criminalizing them, offering them a safe place to get out if they choose to. But also allow those who participate willingly to make money legally and SAFELY.