My name is Elana. I am doing this submission as an individual. I am doing this submission because I used to work as an escort and I think it’s absolutely wrong that anyone in this industry is still criminalised.

1) It seems to be quite wrong to criminalise either party. Most civilised societies make some provision for paid sex. It depends on the sophistication of the society involved what the provision is. Obviously prostitution should not involve any coercion. In our experience as prostitutes it’s most civilised when it’s organised by those involved, in consultation with local communities concerning provisions against any form of public nuisance. Decriminalise it so it goes behind doors where there is accountability in the form of a licence of the property.

2) Prostitution isn’t violence against women. The military is violence against women and against men and the military isn’t criminalised. Prostitution probably works better off the streets now people can communicate so easily.

3) We do know there is trafficking and we don’t approve of women being forced into prostitution but it wouldn’t happen if prostitution was decriminalised and women were able to run small businesses. If they found someone working for them was being forced or had been trafficked they would be able to report anything like this to the police and make sure the woman was taken care of and helped.

4) - ‘If you want to assist people leave prostitution, bring down the price of housing, put up wages. People struggle like nobody’s business to keep a roof over their heads and single mothers most particularly. There are a lot of married women on the game because their husbands can’t earn enough to pay rent or mortgage.

   - Men working around women who work on the street are often in the same boat - they’re broke, and they’re often boyfriend or partners and
this is the way of them keeping it together, they’re not mostly brutes. Women have a lot of independence and are only kept down by poverty.

- Prostitution is to do with money for women and sex for men. If you lift people out of poverty and get a good grip on the cost of housing then prostitutes could get out of it if they want to. Men are prone to loneliness and need close relationships but often can’t get them. So what’s wrong with that.