I have worked as a sex worker for many years, on the street in London, in massage parlours and as an independent escort. I have also worked as a stripper. I strongly object to the way this Inquiry is presented in that I don’t think it gives people a fair chance to present their views. It appears to me that the Committee has made up its mind that men who buy sex should be criminalised and are asking questions in a way to justify and confirm that view. I don’t believe, based on the way the questions are phrased, that my point of view that I have come to as a result of my experience will get a fair hearing. This is very serious. The public is fed up of politicians manipulating information and evidence to suit their beliefs or justify their policies. It is a key reason that politicians are not trusted. For the Home Affairs Committee to engage in such a dishonest process discredits it.

Whether criminal sanction in relation to prostitution should continue to fall more heavily on those who sell sex, rather than those who buy it.
Legal reform should be the full decriminalisation of sex work, which allows sex workers to self organise to exit and gain good working standards. If criminalisation continues our human rights are undermined.
The way the Inquiry questions are worded makes it look like the inquiry has a foregone conclusion. This question along with others has an inherent bias. The question assumes that criminalisation will continue in some form. Why is this inevitable? It's a leading question not to ask about decriminalisation in this question. My friend is a hypnotist and said that these questions give a hypnotic false choice. The agenda has already been set. It totally diverts away from any concept of decriminalisation.

What the implications are for prostitution-related offences of the Crown Prosecution Service’s recognition of prostitution as violence against women.
What it means for me as a sex worker is that the CPS wouldn't distinguish between when I report violence as a victim and when I am working to earn an income. That is unbelievable. It is also unbelievable that the CPS can have a policy on this. Who on earth said that the CPS should ever have a policy on this. Has this ever gone through Parliament? Isn't it supposed to be able to prosecute without being judgemental. The CPS is being used to legitimate this abolitionist perspective. It's an insult to judicial impartiality. My lawyer friends object to being used as political tools.

What impact the Modern Slavery Act 2015 has had to date on trafficking for purposes of prostitution, what further action is planned, and how effectively the impact is being measured.

I don’t know what has changed since the MSA passed but I have seen that trafficking is used in a that discriminates against sex workers from other countries. I was working in a flat and we were raided but the girls next door who were from Thailand were treated much worse. Whilst the police were asking them if they were trafficked they were also insulting them, tore down the signs outside their flat. With me they just told me to go home.
• Whether further measures are necessary, including legal reforms, to:

  o Assist those involved in prostitution to exit from it
    • Prostitution is an income-generating activity. That is the whole story. The only way for me to exit prostitution is to find a job that pays the same as I get as a sex worker for working the same hours as I do now. What other jobs for woman are there that do that. I can’t cover my rent and have any money to eat and live on if I work in other jobs. I discussed this with friends who said the things that would help them get out of sex work are help with housing, getting rid of their student debt, a universal basic income and for their volunteer and other work that they don’t get paid for to be recognised and reimbursed.

  o Increase the extent to which exploiters are held to account
    • My first response is to get rid of the trafficking myth model in the first place which labels sex workers from other countries as exploiters. The exploitation I suffer from comes from the State. I sometimes wonder if the government wants to keep the controlling laws and trafficking laws to put the blame for sex workers exploitation on individual men as a way of hiding how we suffer from exploitation as a result of government policies. Those policies and laws have taken money from our pockets and made us work harder for less and to take more risks. That is our first grievance. But governments want us to turn our attention onto individual men and blame them. Undocumented workers and migrant workers face even greater exploitation because they are escaping poverty in their home country and don’t have legal status in the UK so they are forced to take the worst jobs. My advice to the Committee is “look at all the exploitation in all the industries, not just sex work, and then come back to us and tell us how it compares”.
    • The best way to deal with any form of coercion or trafficking is to decriminalise sex work so that it stands in contrast with those who are doing this work of their own accord. That is the only way you are going to expose it. To criminalise the clients or the sex worker makes it more difficult for clients or for sex workers working together to say, actually I think that girl is trafficked or working under duress.

  o Discourage demand which drives commercial sexual exploitation
    • The sexual demand is there. The question is whether it will happen in line with the human rights act or not.
    • The Nordic system exists already in the UK in Northern Ireland. 98% of sex workers were against this legislation and sex workers have reported. Both sex workers and clients are criminalised in Northern Ireland. Sex workers have spoken out about how the law has put them in danger.
    • If you criminalise the client, you criminalise the work and therefore criminalise the person who is doing it.