I have served as a Labour Member of the European Parliament for London since 2000 and am a member of both the Women's Rights and Gender Equality committee (FEMM) and the Legal Affairs committee (JURI). I was the rapporteur on the European Parliament resolution of 26 February 2014 entitled 'Sexual exploitation and prostitution and its impact on gender equality'. I am currently the rapporteur on the FEMM report on the situation of women refugees and asylum seekers in the EU and the shadow rapporteur, for the Socialists and Democrats group, on the FEMM report on the implementation of the 2011 EU Directive on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings.

The European Parliament adopted its official position on the legal regulation of prostitution in the aforementioned non-legislative resolution of 26 February 2014. The recommendations included:

- Those who sell sexual services should never be criminalised.
- The purchase of sexual services from those under the age of 21 should be a criminal offence.
- One way of combating the trafficking of women and minors for the purpose of sexual exploitation and improving gender equality is the model implemented in Sweden, Iceland and Norway (the so-called Nordic model), where the purchase of sexual services constitutes a criminal act. This approach is also in line with the 2011 EU Directive on combating trafficking in human beings which explicitly aims to reduce demand.
- Member States should fund organisations working on the ground, support exit strategies and provide innovative social services for victims of trafficking or sexual exploitation, including migrant and undocumented persons.

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