

CPG Commercial Sexual Exploitation Meeting

Scottish Parliament

September 26th 2017

1.00-3.30

Minutes

Apologies

Billie Wealleans	Women's Equality Party
Kerri Todd	NHS Lanarkshire
Roseann Cameron	Routes Out
Rachel Adamson	Zero Tolerance
Catriona Graham	Immigrant Council
Trish Godman	Individual

Attendance

Ruth McGuire	MSP
Ann Fehilly	Community Safety Glasgow
Kirsti Hay	Community Safety Glasgow
Tony Martin	Not For Sale in Scotland
Jules Sheridan	Cre8te Opportunities
Ann Hall	Not For Sale in Scotland
Chris Hall	Not For Sale in Scotland
Lesley Orr	Edinburgh University
Susan Moffat	Individual
Janet Warren	Graduate Women Scotland
Shari Bowes	Scottish Women's Convention
Carol Ford	ACTS Anti-Human Trafficking Group
Kathy Betteridge	Salvation Army
Pam Cairns	Soroptimist International
Abi Lawson	Staff to Ash Denham MSP
Linda Thomson	Women's Support Project
Kirsty Dunbar	Final Year Law student: Observer

Alison Scott	NHS Lothian Consultant Gynaecologist
Samantha Ferrell-Schwepperstedde	Equality Now
Ivan McKee	MSP
Erika Grant	Project Turnkey
Gordon MacDonald	CARE
Sabrina Valisce	Space International
Gunilla Ekberg	University of Glasgow
Rhoda Grant	MSP (Co-Chair)
Ash Denham	MSP (Co-Chair)
Jacci Stoye	ACTS (Secretariat)
Bronagh Andrew	Community Safety Glasgow (CSG)TARA
Frankie O'Rourke	CSG Routes Out
Carolann Nesbitt	CSG TARA
John Mason	MSP
Rosanna Dobbin	Rhoda's Office
Kate Fry	Rhoda's Office

Minutes

Rhoda opened the meeting and asked to conduct the business aspects of the agenda first as all business must be completed before the parliament convenes.

Jacci Stoye was asked to summarise the points on the agenda:

1. To create a Steering Committee with members taken from the CPG to decide on action for the campaign. The membership of the Steering Committee would not be exclusive, and decisions and strategies would be shared on the googlepage.
2. To seek funding for a commission for a Campaign Co-ordinator rather than finding a host organisation that would take responsibility for line management of an employee and the pension commitments.
3. Consideration of vetting procedures for the entry to the CPG.

The group agreed to the formation of a Steering Committee; the members who volunteered were as follows: Frankie O'Rourke, Linda Thompson, Tony Martin, Jules Sheridan, Kathy Betteridge, Gordon MacDonald and Jacci Stoye

The group decided the issues on the agenda such as naming the campaign and the funding of the co-ordinator should be discussed by the steering committee.

Rhoda introduced the first speaker: Ms Gunilla Ekberg.

Ms Ekberg spoke about the history of how the iconic legislation known as the Nordic model, or Swedish approach, was introduced in Sweden and how prostitution was the keystone of patriarchy.

She then discussed the legislation itself and described the six easy steps of creating the right context. She emphasised the importance of underpinning every part of it with principles of equality.

She moved on to its implementation post legislation and the importance of involving every part of government in the process.

Finally, she talked about the current situation in Sweden and the importance of having a historical perspective.

Rhoda then introduced the second speaker: Ms Sabrina Valisce.

Ms Valisce was an Australian citizen who was a sex worker in New Zealand both before and after the Prostitution Reform Act 2003 and had lobbied for decriminalisation from the age of 16.

She outlined to us how the legislation has made things very much worse for the women involved in prostitution in every way. How they are now worse off financially, legally and in terms of their own personal mental, emotional and physical health and safety.

She explained how the legislation had changed the whole cultural landscape with regard to attitudes to women; citing pornographic advertising on buses and sex acts taking place in night clubs as examples.

She expressed the need for international pressure to change things in New Zealand.

There was a question and answer session which followed both speakers.

Rhoda closed the meeting and reminded the group that the next meeting was on the 28th November and that this would be the AGM.