

Response to an article by The Times: “Ban on buying sex ‘a danger to women’”

To clarify our principles on sex work and prostitution:

We at SWA do not support the legalisation of sex work/prostitution. Nor do we agree it should be treated as other work and “regulated”.

These are areas of consensus that we would urge everyone involved in this debate to prioritise:

1. ALL women, men, and young people who have sold sex/experienced prostitution have the right to be treated with dignity and respect and to enjoy the full range of their human rights.
2. Criminalisation of individuals selling sex is wrong and needs to be eliminated immediately.
3. Policing interventions and responses to individuals selling sex (like other potentially vulnerable witnesses) must prioritise the well-being, support, autonomy, and safety of the women, young people, and men involved in sex work/prostitution.
4. Community-based supports must be available for the women and young people who would choose to leave prostitution/sex work, given viable alternatives.

Our priority has been and continues to be supporting survivors of violence against women and girls and advocating for the rights and equalities of women and girls in Scotland and beyond.”

- Dr. Marsha Scott, Scottish Women’s Aid

If you feel scared of your partner or ex-partner, or if you are worried about someone you know, get in touch with Scotland’s 24-hour Domestic Abuse and Forced Marriage Helpline on 0800 027 1234 for support and information. You can also email and web chat from www.sdafmh.org.uk. There are translation and interpreting services available.

For any media enquiries please contact Eilis Slater, External Affairs Officer via email: media@womensaid.scot.

For free, ethical stock photos to illustrate your story use [one thousand words](http://one-thousand-words.com) free of charge, by [Laura Dodsworth](http://lauradodsworth.com), created with [Zero Tolerance](http://zerotolerance.org).