

Cross-Party Group on Commercial Sexual Exploitation

Tuesday 18th March 2025 from 18.00-20.00

This was an online meeting.

Minutes

Present

MSPs

Rhoda Grant MSP Scottish Labour	Co-convenor
John Mason MSP Independent	CPG MSP Member
Katy Clark MSP Labour	CPG MSP Member

Non-MSPs

Anna	Nordic Model Now (Speakers and members)
Sarah	Nordic Model Now
Esther	Nordic Model Now
Arlene	Nordic Model Now
Julia Robinson	Nordic Model Now
Ann Hall	Not for Sale Scotland
Sasha Rakoff	Not Buying It
Linda Thomson	Women Support Project
Teresa Little	Individual
Janice Wilson	Soroptimist (Scotland North)
Sally Jackson	FiLiA
Ali Morris	FiLiA
Agnes Martony	individual
Janet Warren	Individual
Emily McLean	Individual (Scot gov staff)
Steve Rawbone	Individual
Maren Schroeder	Researcher to Ash Denham
Zara Wynn	Another Way
Diane Martin	A Model for Scotland
Bronagh Andrew	TARA
Aileen Fleming	SOHTIS
Sophie Reymbaut	Individual
Jacci Stoye	Secretary

Agenda item 1

Welcome and apologies for absence

Anne Martin	Individual
Ann Hayne	Individual
Michael Conroy	Men at Work
Agnes Tolmie	Scottish Women's Convention
Susan McKellar	Scottish Women's Convention
Lynn Benevento	PA to Ruth Maguire MSP
Susan Smith	For Women Scotland
Marion Calder	For Women Scotland
Angela Maxfield	Restore Glasgow
Michael Veitch	CARE
Claire Jones	You my Sister

Agenda item 2

We were delighted to welcome Anna, Sarah, Esther and Arlene from Nordic Model Now! (NMN), who gave a presentation based on their report, *The Social & Economic Costs of Prostitution & Other Forms of Sexual Exploitation: The Case for Investing in Equality*, which makes an economic case for the Nordic Model. Their presentation included three case studies of survivors in the NMN group, illustrating the massive costs to both themselves as individuals and the state.

Each survivor spoke of their lived experience and the personal impact, as well as how the normalisation of pornography and the sale of women's bodies is impacting children, young people's sexual self-concept, along with wives and partners. Anna went on to summarise some of the other wider costs to society.

We highly recommend this report and encourage everyone to download and study it.

<https://nordicmodelnow.org/2025/02/11/the-social-economic-costs-of-prostitution/>

We were honoured, and deeply moved, by the courageous survivors who spoke and thank them profusely for sharing their stories.

Agenda item 3

There were several comments from members thanking the NMN team and commending the survivors for their courage and fortitude.

Agenda item 4

Parliamentary and CPG Updates from the MSPs present

Rhoda Grant MSP asked **Maren Schroeder** if she had any updates on **Ash Regan's** prospective Bill.

Maren said that the official launch would take place on Tuesday 20th May 2025. **Ash Regan** will be holding a press conference in the morning, followed by an MSP drop-in session of colleagues at lunch time, finishing off with a Roundtable Event in the evening. The Roundtable Event will be inviting survivors to give their testimonies and to support the premise that the only thing to address demand is to criminalise the buyers. Maren said that members could help by sending material to go on the website, such as, case studies, videos, myth-busters.

John Mason MSP asked how we could get the NMN report out, as this would be very useful. Anna said it was on their website and pdf copies and booklets were available.

Rhoda said she was intending to have a members debate on the bill.

Jacci Stoye gave a couple of CPG updates. Unfortunately, CPG members were not able this year to support a Festival of Politics application as they currently have very full diaries. Equally, members were not able to support a CPG contingent at FiLiA, but we may be showcasing our Festival of Politics cartoon there. Unfortunately, Jacci is on holiday on the 20th May, but she would encourage members to take part in the Unbuyable Bill launch. AMFS will be lobbying MSPs for Ash Regan's bill, and Scottish members could help with this. We have access to both constituent and regional MSPs and can ask to see them individually in their constituency offices. It would be useful if we could do that and swap our findings. Finally, Rhoda has kindly sponsored me and Sasha from No Not Buying It to apply for the Parliamentary Garden Room display area. Unfortunately, it is booked up till the summer recess of 2026, but we have been told we may get a slot in the autumn of 2026, and we are on the waiting list for any cancellations.

Bronagh Andrew asked if we could do something similar with a Scottish example.

Anna said you can check publicly available data on prostitution, sex trafficking and other relevant information. With the testimonies of survivors, look up the costs of what happened to them, for example, the cost of NHS treatment and add them all up.

Sarah suggested that what might be helpful for Scotland would be to consider that the more prolonged that women are in prostitution, the more damage is done, and the costs reflect this.

Agenda item 5

AOB

There were no AOB comments.

Date of next meeting

As agreed previously, and by popular demand, there will be a joint meeting after Easter with the CPGMVAWG on pornography. The date is not available yet. Following that, our next meeting will be in September. Please do send any suggestions you may have for topics.