

# Cross-Party Group on Commercial Sexual Exploitation

Wednesday 8th November 2023 from 18.00-20.00

This was an in-person meeting.

## Minutes

### Present

### MSPs

Ruth Maguire MSP SNP Co-convener

Rhoda Grant MSP Scottish Labour Co-convener

### Non-MSP Group Members

Jacci Stoye	Secretary
Claire Jones	You My Sister
Chris Hall	Not for Sale
Ann Henderson	Individual
Susan McKellar	Scottish Women's Convention
Agnes Martony	Individual
Aileen Fleming	SOTHIS
Chris Ringland	Evangelical Alliance
Thomas Dubberley	Evangelical Alliance
Susan Smith	For Women Scotland
Marne Schroeder	Researcher for Ash Regan
Janet Warren	Individual
Teresa Little	Individual
Bryan Little	Individual
Linda Thompson	Women's Support Project
Claire Cooke	Women's Support Project
Laura Nacyte	Women's Support Project
Natalia Euihua	Women's Support Project
Emily McLean	Scottish government observer
Stacey Reid	Scottish government observer
Jeff Gibbons	Scottish government observer
Mary Lynch	Scottish government observer
Natasha Blick	Scottish government observer
Lynn Benevento	Individual

Sophie Cameron	Individual
Issac Hulse	Individual

## Agenda item 1

Welcome and apologies for absence

### Apologies

John Mason	MSP SNP
Michael Conroy	Men At Work C.I.C.
Zara Wynn	Individual
Elaine Miller	Individual
Steve Rawbone	Individual
Elaine Smith	Individual
Anne Martin	Individual
Sophie Reymbaut	Individual
Bronagh Andrew	Community Safety Glasgow (TARA)
Ann Hall	Not For Sale
Ann Hayne	NHS Lanarkshire
Pam Hunter	Say-Women
Alison Raybould	Salvation Army
Agnes Tolmie	Scottish Women's Convention
Michael Veitch	CARE for Scotland
Ali Morris	FiLiA

## Agenda item 2

We were delighted to launch the CPG CSE presentation “***Imagine a world without commercial sexual exploitation***” in its animated format. The animation was received with very favourable and appreciative comments from the members at how effective and compelling it was. There were several constructive suggestions about how best to use it with a variety of groups. Members were keen to offer it to young people, although it was generally acknowledged that there would be work required to produce a range of guidance instructions and accompanying materials. It was also suggested that it could be broken into smaller sections for discussion work. The animation length is 20 minutes long. Jacci Stoye led the congratulations to Ruth Maguire and her staff team, who put so much work into creating the animation themselves, particularly Sophie Cameron who worked on the animation itself. There was an acknowledgement to the women who had given their testimonies to the Women's Support Project (WSP) and Nordic Model Now (NMN) which were used in the making of this video and Ruth Maguire acknowledged Jacci Stoye for the original script.

## Agenda item 3

Linda Thompson from the WSP presented their amazing exhibition, which was on display at the parliament. Following her talk members were taken to the exhibition, where WSP colleagues were on hand to take them through the posters and answer questions.

The exhibition was in recognition, and celebration, of the WSP's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Recognition of 40 years of tireless, and often, unacknowledged work. There will be staff retirements soon and colleagues felt it was important to record this important work, creating a timeline to capture what they had covered, challenged, and achieved over those 40 years. It was hard to find documents before the internet, which made the task even more vital. Through workshops and spreadsheets, it was valuable to look at the flow, both strategically and legislatively. It was also important to name and acknowledge the women who were killed and those whose resilience made them survivors, giving their pivotal stories to help others. Watching their truth being ignored was hard.

Strategy and policy were also important to help accountability, and questioning the culture, asking why we have misogyny and joining the dots. It could be daunting and feel a little hopeless at times, but it is important to acknowledge just how far we've come. We are on the way to creating a model of choice, consent, and empowerment. Moving forward we are asking, 'Can we see Scotland without prostitution?' 'Yes, of course we can! Women have done that for years.'

Rhoda thanked Linda for all her work on this and over the past week on the exhibition. She said that a member of the CPG had been working with young people on their understanding of CSE and had shared cards that participants had written. The content of these cards was moving and showed that the young people involved demonstrated a deep understanding of CSE. She said she would copy the cards and show them to CPG members.

## Agenda item 4

### AOB and date of next meeting

There was no AOB and the next meeting will be in February. A 'save the date' email will follow in due course.

## Agenda item 5

Members were able to enjoy informal networking and take the opportunity to visit the Women's Support Project's exhibition.