

CSE Cross Party Group

23 November 2016

Scottish Parliament, Committee Room 3, 1-2pm

Inaugural meeting of the CSE CPG.

Attendees

Rhoda Grant MSP
Kate Fry
Janet Warren
Ash Denham MSP
Chris Hall
Ann Hall
Brandi Lee Lough Dennell
Ashley Douglas
Billie Wealleans
Anna Zobnina
Frankie O'Rourke
Linda Thompson
Jacci Stoye
Kathy Betteridge
Lorna Kettles
Kate Nevens
Katherine Gilmour
John Mason MSP
Sonali Seth

Appointment of office bearers will be confirmed at the next meeting once a full list of MSP members is confirmed but for now, Rhoda Grant MSP and Ash Denham MSP have agreed to be co-conveners. Jacci Stoye offered to be secretariat support.

Action Point – Members to confirm if they are attending as individuals or representatives of organisations.

Meetings were agreed to be Tuesday lunchtimes, and held quarterly.

Future meeting dates will be: 21 February, 23 May, 26 September and 28 November 2017.

Future programme ideas include:

- A speaker from the Turn Off The Red Light Campaign from Ireland to advise on campaign strategy
- The upcoming report on Trafficking expected from the Scottish Government – ensuring the recommendations are not overlooked
- Looking at ways to raise awareness of the CSE issues
- How to engage with the media on this issue
- Forming links with Westminster and Republic of Ireland equivalents of the CSE CPG.

The Terms of Reference of the CPG were agreed to be:

- 1) We understand CSE to be a function of gender inequality, and a form of gender-based violence. We work to the Scottish Government's National Violence Against Women and Girls Approach, *Equally Safe*, and their definition of Violence Against Women, which includes prostitution, pornography, trafficking, lap-dancing, stripping, pole-dancing and table-dancing as forms of commercial sexual exploitation. We believe that these activities have been shown to be harmful for individuals involved and can have a negative impact on the position of all women through the objectification of women's bodies. It is essential to separate sexual activity from exploitative sexual activity.
- 2) We promote the pursuit of legislation which prevents and challenges demand for commercial sexual exploitation.
- 3) Therefore, we support a change in the current legislative balance of criminalisation, from prosecuting/penalising/criminalising those individuals who have been exploited in prostitution towards a challenge demand approach: penalising those who create the demand (purchasers).
- 4) We believe the law should support those involved in selling sexual activity in exiting/planning to exit prostitution.