

Amendment 1

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Report**A7-0071/2014**

Mary Honeyball

Sexual exploitation and prostitution and its impact on gender equality
2013/2103(INI)

Motion for a resolution (Rule 157(4) of the Rules of Procedure) replacing non-legislative motion for a resolution A7-0071/2014

European Parliament resolution on sexual exploitation and prostitution and its impact on gender equality

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2011 on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA¹,
- A. whereas different approaches have been adopted across Europe in response to prostitution, ranging from the acceptance of voluntary prostitution as labour and the introduction of labour rights for sex workers through to the criminalisation of a wide range of practices associated with prostitution;
- B. whereas in some Member States voluntary prostitution is legal and recognised as self-employment and consequently subject to tax and social security contributions;
- C. whereas forced prostitution and sexual exploitation are violations of human dignity and therefore are contrary to the principles of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union;
 1. Notes that the responsibility for addressing adult prostitution resulting from individual decision is a competence of the Member States;
 2. Calls on the Member States to differentiate between forced prostitution – which is a criminal offence linked to human trafficking, sexual exploitation and severe poverty,

¹ OJ L 101, 15.4.2011, p. 1.

- where ‘pimps’ and ‘loverboys’ exploit vulnerable girls and women – and prostitution which is voluntary, resulting from individual decision;
3. Underlines the fact that child prostitution can never be voluntary, as children do not have the capacity to ‘consent’ to prostitution; urges the Member States to combat child prostitution (involving persons under the age of 18) as energetically as possible;
 4. Urges the Member States to work with organisations operating on the ground with support and exit strategies – work which may include, where appropriate, funding, the provision of safe houses and the establishment of educational programmes –, to provide innovative social services for both sex workers and victims of trafficking or sexual exploitation, including migrant and undocumented persons, and to implement policies – using a holistic approach and through the various police, immigration, health and education services – aimed at protecting sex workers and helping vulnerable women and minors leave prostitution, while ensuring that such programmes have a legal basis and the requisite funding to achieve this aim; stresses the importance of psychological counselling and the need for victims of sexual exploitation to be reintegrated into society; points out that this process takes time and requires the development of a life plan that represents a credible and viable alternative for those wishing to leave prostitution;
 5. Calls on the Member States to transpose Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims into national law as rapidly as possible;
 6. Calls on the Member States to design and implement policies to deal with trafficking in human beings, including trafficking for sexual exploitation, and to ensure that all relevant parties, such as NGOs – including sex worker-led organisations –, the police and other law enforcement agencies, as well as social and medical services, are supported and involved in decision-making processes, and that they work in cooperation;
 7. Points out that both forced prostitution and trafficking in human beings are cross-border problems that none of the Member States are able to solve on their own; calls on Member States to collaborate closely in order to fight forced prostitution, trafficking in human beings and organised crime;
 8. Underlines the fact that more analysis and statistical evidence is needed to judge what model is most effective to combat the trafficking of women and girls for sexual exploitation;
 9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.

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