

TEMPLATE POLICY PAGE

Category:	Prostitution and Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation
Country:	United Kingdom
Year:	/

Main Policy page:	<p>The five key themes of our strategy on prostitution are:</p> <p><u>Prevention</u> – including awareness raising about the realities of prostitution, as well as prevention and early intervention measures to stop individuals, particularly children and young people, from being drawn into prostitution.</p> <p><u>Tackling demand</u> – responding to community concerns by deterring those who create the demand and remove the opportunity for street prostitution to take place.</p> <p><u>Developing routes out</u> – engaging with those involved in prostitution to provide a range of support and advocacy services to help them leave prostitution.</p> <p><u>Ensuring justice</u> – bringing to justice those who exploit individuals through prostitution, and those who commit violent and sexual offences against those involved in prostitution</p> <p><u>Tackling off-street prostitution</u> – targeting commercial sexual exploitation, in particular where victims are young or have been trafficked.</p>
Relevant legislation:	<p>The offences principally directed against those who exploit others through prostitution include controlling prostitution for gain and causing or inciting prostitution for gain (Sexual Offences Act 2003).</p> <p>The main offence relating to brothels is keeping a brothel used for prostitution (Section 33A of the Sexual Offences Act 2003).</p> <p>The Sexual Offences Act 2003 introduced the offences of trafficking into, within and out of the UK for sexual exploitation.</p> <p>The Sexual Offences Act 2003 also introduced offences specifically in respect of the exploitation of children and young people. These are causing or inciting child prostitution, controlling a child involved in prostitution, and arranging or facilitating child prostitution or pornography. The same Act also introduced an offence of paying for the sexual services of a child.</p> <p>The Sexual Offences Act 2003 has been amended by the Policing and Crime Act 2009 to introduce a new offence which makes it illegal to pay for the sexual services of a prostitute subjected to force, threats (whether or not relating to violence) or any other form of coercion or any form of deception of a kind likely to induce or encourage the prostitute to provide those services.</p>

The Sexual Offences Act 2003 has been amended by Section 19 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 to create an offence of soliciting a person in a street or public place for the purpose of obtaining sexual services from a prostitute. This can include a person soliciting from a vehicle in a street or public place and replaces the offences of kerb crawling and persistent soliciting found in the Sexual Offences Act 1985.

The Street Offences Act 1959 (as amended by the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and the Policing and Crime Act 2009) criminalises loitering or soliciting for the purposes of prostitution. It is an offence for a person persistently to solicit or loiter in a street or public place for the purposes of prostitution

Prostitution is not illegal, however activities associated with it are. The key pieces of legislation covering England and Wales are:

Sexual Offences Act 2003 which includes the offences of causing, inciting or controlling prostitution for gain, trafficking (into, within or out of the UK) for sexual exploitation, and offences to protect children, up to the age of 18, from sexual exploitation.

Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 criminalised advertising the services of a prostitute by way of cards in public telephone boxes.

Sexual Offences Act 1985 introduced the offence of kerb crawling or persistent soliciting for the purposes of prostitution to deter those who create the demand for street-based sex markets.

Street Offences Act 1959 includes the offence of loitering or soliciting for the purposes of prostitution.

Sexual Offences Act 1956 (as amended by the 2003 Act) includes the offence of keeping a brothel, as well as other offences relating to landlords and tenants allowing their premises to be used as a brothel.

A summary of the criminal law in relation to prostitution (including details of available penalties for the offences above) is included in the Government's consultation paper Paying the Price ([Annex A](#))

In 2008 the Government launched a review to consider the issue of tackling the demand for prostitution. This review made a number of recommendations. The key recommendation was to create a new criminal offence which will make it illegal to pay for sex with someone who has been exploited (forced, coerced, threatened or deceived) into prostitution. This has recently passed into legislation in the Policing and Crime Act 2009, and is due to come into force next year.

The Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004 includes the creation of the offence of arranging or facilitating the arrival, departure,

	<p>or movement within the UK, of a person who it is intended to exploit or who it is believed will be exploited by another person. This legislation is aimed at non sexual exploitation, such as trafficking for labour exploitation.</p> <p>All legislation aimed at the prevention, detection and conviction of those involved in trafficking will be kept under review and amended where necessary.</p> <p>Section 54 of the Border and Immigration Act 2009 expanded the definition of exploitation in the trafficking context in order to capture situations where a person brings in a child or vulnerable adult for the purpose of obtaining benefit, where the role of the child or vulnerable adult is entirely passive.</p>
<p>Trends:</p>	<p><u>Prostitution</u></p> <p>So much is hidden from view that it is difficult to be precise about the scale of prostitution in the UK. We know that it exists in most towns and cities, sometimes on the street, but also in commercial premises and private residential properties. It is most associated with women and young girls, but there is also a significant market involving men and young boys.</p> <p>Criminal statistics show a decline in the number of cautions and prosecutions for some offences in recent years (loitering or soliciting and brothel-keeping), however, these statistics are more indicative of police activity as opposed to the extent of activity. The Government’s coordinated strategy on prostitution shifts the focus of enforcement to the demand side of the market where there is considered to be a greater element of choice involved.</p> <p>Robust figures on the numbers involved in prostitution in the UK are not available. The often-quoted figure of 80,000 comes from a 1999 Europap UK Survey of 17 well-established projects in larger conurbations. Typically, these types of projects were in touch with around 665 women. Around 120 such projects were known to be operating at the time which would bring the total number of those involved to around 79,800.</p> <p><u>Trafficking</u></p> <p>The nature of trafficking makes it difficult to be precise about the scope and scale of the crime into and within the UK. There is no robust estimate of scale trafficking beyond that previously stated figure that at any one time in 2003 there were 4,000 victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation. We are on course to produce a more up to date estimate of the scale and nature of human trafficking into and within the United Kingdom in early 2010.</p> <p>Latest indications are that the main source regions of victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation into the UK are East and South East Europe, the Far East, and Africa.</p>
<p>Contacts:</p>	<p>National organisations:</p> <p>UK Network of Sex Work Projects</p>

www.uknswp.org

Prostitution

CROP (Coalition for the Removal of Pimping) www.crop1.org.uk

Eaves Housing for Women www.eaves.ik.com

National Christian Alliance on Prostitution www.ncapuk.org

UK Network of Sex Work Projects www.uknswp.org

Trafficking

United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) www.ukhtc.org.

Poppy Project www.poppyproject.org

CHASTE www.chaste.org.uk

A list of organisations that responded to the Government's consultation paper on prostitution in 2004 can be found at Annex A of the Government's Coordinated Strategy on Prostitution

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-paying-the-price/ProstitutionStrategy.pdf?view=Binary>

A list of organisations that responded to the consultation paper on human trafficking can be found at www.crimereduction.gov.uk

Completed template to be sent to the EUCPN Secretariat at eucpn@ibz.eu.