

18 February 2018

To:
The Joint Multi-Party Women's Caucus
Chair: Hon RMS Morutoa

Attention:
Bryan Mantyi
Tel: 021 403 3796
Per Email: bmantyi@parliament.gov.za

RE: Response to the South African Law Reform Commission's Report on 'Sexual Offences: Adult Prostitution'

From:
Dr Tlaleng Mofokeng (MBChB), Medical doctor and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights activist.
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The concerns regarding the particular Report are stated below;

- The two decades that SALRC and government have delayed, postponed and waived on dealing with sex work and the law have resulted in hundreds of avoidable sex worker deaths; a scourge of sex worker human rights violations by police, clients and the general public; and an HIV/AIDS epidemic that has not been brought under control.
- The evidence of the on-going harm that is associated with the current criminalisation of adult consensual sex work is staggering and widely documented.
- The fact that the SALRC report recommends the status quo in the face of this evidence is deplorable and is evidence that SALRC, and all the Commissioners who signed off on the report, are out-of-touch with the realities of South African society

In conclusion, we recommend that;

- The sex worker sector, made up of service providers, rights organisations and the sex worker movement, continue to support the Multi Party Women's Caucus' position and the ANC policy decision that supports the full decriminalisation of sex work
- The Department of Justice sets aside the Report due to its poor quality
- The Department of Justice provides clarity on the law reform process going forward as well as a timeline for this process
- Government take sex workers seriously in the drafting of legislation

I would like the opportunity, at the time when oral submissions are made, to address the Committee in person.

Regards,



Dr Tlaleng Mofokeng