



Building Community Heart

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19th February 2017

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'

Lifeline Durban is a Non-Profit Organization founded in 1970. It is a service organization that responds to emotional and individual crises, with a view to providing emotional support.

We operate in eThekweni, iLembe and uGu districts of Kwa Zulu Natal. Our current portfolio of programs focus on EMOTIONAL WELLNESS and includes the 24/7 Crisis Line, HIV/Aids and Counselling Training, Interventions in Gender Based Violence and HCT and Health services for the prevention and management of HIV,STI and TB.

In 2002 we designed the Ithubalethu (Our Chance) Program to reach sex workers in the streets of eThekweni and actively engage in bringing Health Services to this sector of our community. Since 2013 to date our reach extended to sex workers in UGu and iLembe districts. The main objectives of our program are:

- Reduce social and structural barriers to HIV, STI and TB prevention, care and impact among sex workers
- Reduce the sexual transmission of HIV among sex workers their clients and sexual partners by at least 50% using combination prevention approaches
- To sustain sex workers' health and wellness
- To strengthen the health system for the implementation of the National Sex Work Plan (NSWP)

Concerns Regarding the SALRC Report

Failure to reflect the research on HIV/Aids

- Wealth of peer-reviewed, academically published research showing the far-reaching harms of criminalisation of sex work (e.g. Lancet Journal)
- Commission's conclusion:

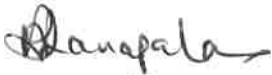
"One of the most vocal lobby arguments in favour of non-criminalising adult prostitution stems from the need to curtail the spread of HIV and other STIs and to provide access to adequate health care. The argument is that non-criminalising prostitution would enhance the health and safety of women who sell sex by enhancing their access to health care and increasing their practice of safe sex.

LifeLine Durban – Chairperson: S Heath
Director: P Dhanapalan

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Conclusion

The sex worker sector, made up of service providers, rights organizations and the sex worker movement, continue to support the Multi Party Women's Caucus' position and the ANC policy decision that supports the full decriminalization of sex work and that the Government take sex workers seriously in the drafting of legislation.



Pravisha Dhanapalan
Director
LIFELINE DURBAN



Jan Thathiah
Program Manager – Key Population
LIFELINE DURBAN

Insert Centre Name
Insert Centre Chairperson and Director
Insert FR# or NPO#

