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Redhill Surrey  
RHI 2QB  
14<sup>th</sup> September 2007

Ms J Smith MP  
Home Secretary  
Home Office  
Queen Anne's Gate  
London SW1

Dear fellow Labour Party member,

### PROSTITUTION

I am a member of the Society of Labour Lawyers and have acted for prostitutes. I am concerned about reports that you may introduce criminalisation of men who pay for sex ( through the forthcoming Criminal Justice Bill). I urge you not to, for the following reasons:

Prostitution is lawful and therefore so also should be its clientele.

English prostitutes could blackmail clients if only what the latter do is unlawful

English prostitutes will themselves be criminalised if they can be accused of aiding and abetting men to pay for sex. That would drive the "oldest profession"

underground into the hands of racketeers. It would encourage the use of pimps to receive and thus launder payments to prostitutes

Prevention of recourse to prostitutes will increase rape.

Sex tourism to licensed brothels in Germany and Netherlands will be generated by a ban in England.

Men who give presents to their mistresses could be criminalised.

Ethnic Asians have financially arranged marriages. This could be caught by outlawing payments.

If the proposed ban is gender neutral, it will criminalise gay men who use rentboys and also women who use toyboys. Otherwise the prohibition would be gender discriminatory.

Male Members of Parliament who live away from home during sessions use the services of prostitutes. Criminalising them will cause problems. ( Joe Ashton, Lord Gowrie, Lord Jellicoe, Lord Lambton, Mark Outen and John Profumo all faced criticism when exposed as users of prostitutes, but not imprisonment !)

Yours fraternally,

E Goodman.