Dear Minister Grapperhaus,

The Dutch government proposes the Sex Work Regulation Act. I share your concern about human trafficking and violence against sex workers. We are on the same side! Still, I think this law is a bad idea. I am convinced that it will lead to more violence against sex workers. I therefore ask you to retract the proposal for this law.

I think the law is bad because it will lead to more sex workers working illegally than presently. Illegal sex workers are more likely to be victims of human trafficking and violence. I do not want the sex workers I visit to be more likely to become victims! Neither do you.

I fear that more sex workers will work illegally because the law imposes requirements on sex workers that some of them will not be able to meet:

* Sex workers between 18 and 21 have no choice but to work illegally
* Migrant sex workers without a valid residence permit can only work illegally
* Sex workers who are found not to be 'self-reliant' enough can only work illegally.

All of them will be punishable and will no longer be able to go to the police safely without the risk of being fined heavily themselves. They will also avoid assistance and health care.

In addition, I am concerned about the registration of sex workers. All kinds of personal information about them will be recorded in a register. Despite the fact that the law provides guarantees for the security of these data, I fear that they will still become public due to abuse of civil servants and/or security that turns out to be inadequate. In order to avoid this risk, more sex workers will choose to work illegally. And run a greater risk of abuse and violence.

The proposed law deprives me of the opportunity to report abuses. If I accidentally use the services of a sex worker without a license and I suspect that there is human trafficking and violence, I cannot go to the police to report it. In that situation I run the risk of being sentenced to a one-year prison term!

Additionally, it is well known that criminalising clients encourages violence against sex workers. We always see this in those countries where clients have been criminalised.

You and I do not want violence against and exploitation of sex workers to exist, and certainly not for them to increase further. The Sex Work Regulation Act increases the risk of violence and exploitation of sex workers. It also infringes on the privacy of sex workers. I therefore ask you to retract the proposed Sex Work Regulation Act.