



House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Sarah Champion
Member of Parliament for Rotherham

Immediate release
29 March 2014

Removing the term 'child prostitute' from law is a great victory for vulnerable children, says Sarah Champion MP

Following a cross-party parliamentary inquiry chaired by Sarah Champion MP into the effectiveness of the law relating to child sexual exploitation, Sarah Champion MP has continued challenging the Government to act on her recommendations.

Using Parliament's Home Office Questions to push Norman Baker MP, the Minister of State for Crime Prevention, on how effective he found the law relating to child sexual exploitation, she went on to state: "there are currently 16 pieces of legislation that use the term 'child prostitute'. I have spoken to young people who have been victims of child sexual exploitation, and they say the expression makes them feel dirty and complicit. Will the Minister commit to introducing a process to remove this term from the law?"

Norman Baker MP replied: "I am very sympathetic to that suggestion. Children who are sexually exploited, whether for commercial or other reasons, should not be referred to as prostitutes. They are victims. We will consider references in all legislation and guidance as opportunities arise, as well as considering carefully the wording used in any new legislation or guidance."

Sarah commented: "I am delighted that the Minister of State for Crime Prevention has committed to remove the term 'child prostitution' from all legislation. It should never be used again. It is distressing enough for a child go through sexual abuse; to then be termed a 'child prostitute' implies they had free will. It is important for society to acknowledge that any child being sexually exploited is a victim; not a willing participant. This change in the law goes a long way to help shift that damaging cultural perception.

Changing the law from opposition is difficult but I am proud that my recent inquiry into child sexual exploitation has put aside party political differences, to achieve real change for vulnerable young people."

ENDS NR024

Notes to Editors

The parliamentary inquiry was a collaboration with the children's charity, Barnardo's.

To see the full report and recommendations, follow this link:

http://www.barnardos.org.uk/cse_parliamentary_inquiry_report.pdf

For further information about this press release please contact:

Dawn Elliott

Senior Parliamentary Assistant to Sarah Champion MP

Moorgate Crofts Business Centre

South Grove

Rotherham

S60 2DH

Telephone: 01709 331038

Email: dawn.elliott@parliament.uk

Website: www.sarahchampionmp.com