



Israel takes a historic step towards the elimination of the economic and sexual exploitation of women and girls in prostitution

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The Coalition for the Abolition of Prostitution (CAP international) strongly welcomes the Israeli Government's decision to approve two parliamentary bills aimed at criminalising the purchase of sex and at increasing social support and exit options for victims of prostitution.

CAP international commends the outstanding and cross-party work of female Members of the Knesset, and in particular of MKs Zehava Galon (Meretz), Shuli Moalem-Refaeli (Habayit Hayehudi), and Aliza Lavie (Yesh Atid).

« For almost 10 years, remarkable female Members of the Knesset, like Zehava Galon, have persistently exposed the realities of prostitution and advocated for this radically progressive reform », commented Grégoire Théry, director of CAP international, « it is extremely encouraging and important to note that these visionary Parliamentarians from across the whole spectrum of Israeli politics are being heard and supported by the Israeli Government ».

« After Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Canada, Northern Ireland, and most recently France and Ireland, Israel is about to recognise prostitution for what it is: a form of sexual violence, a fundamental obstacle to gender equality, a violation of human rights and dignity, but also a highly lucrative and exploitative criminal market » added Rita Hernandez, vice-president of CAP international.

CAP international is a coalition of twenty-two frontline NGOs providing direct assistance to victims of prostitution and trafficking for sexual exploitation in 17 countries (Europe, North and Latin America, Africa, Asia and the Middle-East).

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Background documents

<http://www.cap-international.org/activity/publication-the-french-law-of-13-april-2016/>

<http://www.cap-international.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/ProstitutionUnderIntlHumanRightsLawEN.pdf>