

Related information to help you prepare your letter about prostitution law:

- Find your MP's contact info www.ourcommons.ca/Parliamentarians/en/members
- Read more details on the issue at www.evangelicalfellowship.ca/prostitution

Sample letter

[date]

[first name, last name], MP
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear [MP's name],

I am writing to ask you to support the *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act* (PCEPA) that is being reviewed by the Justice Committee. I am very concerned that there are groups asking for the laws prohibiting sex buying, pimping and brothel owning to be removed.

Paid sexual access to women's bodies is not legitimate business. Prostitution is inherently violent and exploitative. It is a system that profits from the abuse of women, girls and boys.

PCEPA recognizes that prostitution is a form of exploitation and systemic violence against women, and a significant barrier to equality between the sexes. It recognizes that most individuals in prostitution are not there by way of choice, but rather as a result of poverty, marginalization, racialization, abuse or coercion.

I support PCEPA's approach, which makes the *purchase* of sex illegal in Canada, while those who are being prostituted are not subject to criminal charges.

Buying sex is not and should not be inevitable in our society. Research shows the most effective way to curb sexual exploitation is to target the demand for paid sex. PCEPA is an effective and essential tool in fighting sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

Please work to ensure that PCEPA is upheld and enforced across the country. When it is reviewed, I ask you to speak in support of the law, because it is an essential step forward in the fight against commercial sexual exploitation.

It is also essential that those who are prostituted be provided with viable options and alternatives. Prostitution must never be accepted as a solution to female poverty. Canada must address the social conditions that drive individuals to prostitution or make them vulnerable to it. One of these conditions is economic vulnerability – which has been heightened during the current pandemic. As such, we strongly recommend the government take steps to support and provide viable options for economically vulnerable Canadians.

As Canadians, we must also ensure renewed and ongoing support for programs and services to assist individuals in exiting prostitution, such as those provided when PCEPA was enacted. Please commit to long-term sustained federal funding so that every individual who wants to exit prostitution has access to the resources and supports they need.

Sincerely,
[your name]
[your address]