

Dear Senate,

Transform is a social justice and advocacy group (an initiative through Baptist World Aid Australia) at Ipswich Baptist Church. We advocate on behalf of the poor, marginalised and the oppressed.

Thank you for putting forward the *Crime Legislation Amendment (Slavery, Slavery-Like Conditions and People Trafficking) Bill 2012*, your proposal to protect Australia's most vulnerable.

We welcome and support any and all efforts and moves by the Government that strengthens the protection of exploited people through slavery and organ trafficking. Furthermore, we applaud your proposal to include forced and servile marriage as an offence of people trafficking in Australian legislation.

We are concerned there is a discrepancy in the proposed penalties for forced marriages (four years) and organ trafficking (twelve years). Our concern is for young women and girls forced into marriage. Young women and girls who are victims of sex trafficking and forced into marriage experience crimes of sexual assault and abuse. However, unlike unmarried young women and girls who are victims of trafficking, no penalties exist for the crimes committed against them. We suggest you increase the proposed penalty for the offence of forced marriage in order for these young women and girls to be granted some form of justice.

Sincerely,

Transform

Ipswich Baptist Church

