

# Hookers fury as France makes paying for sex illegal.

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- ~ **New anti-vice bill proposes fines of up to £1,200 for clients of prostitutes**
- ~ **French government says law aimed at preventing violence against women**
- ~ **But sex workers claim numerous 'hypocritical MPs' are their main clients**
- ~ **Prostitutes' rights group: Measure will drive practice further underground**

A draft version of the law was voted through by the Socialist-led parliament today, and its final version will be voted on again on June 12.

But the bill has provoked widespread opposition from sex workers, who said numerous 'hypocritical MPs' were their main clients.

Prostitutes' rights group Strass argues the measure will hurt prostitutes by driving the practice further underground.

Women's rights minister Najat Vallaud-Belkacem, who proposed the law, said: 'My aim, and that of the socialist party, is to see prostitution disappear.

'But I am not naive, I know this is a long-term project.

'And without any moral judgement, it is a matter of protecting the vast majority of prostitutes who are the victims of pimps and vice networks.'

Under current French laws, it is legal to 'seek or offer money for sexual services' as long as it is done without advertising.

Only soliciting and pimping – living off the earnings of a prostitute – are criminal offences.

In Britain, prostitution and paying for sex are legal if the girl is over 18 and not acting under duress.

But related activities including public soliciting, kerb crawling, keeping a brothel and pimping are all outlawed.

In Europe, only Sweden and Norway have made it illegal to pay for sex.

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3109799/Men-pay-sex-fined-1-200-new-rules-brought-France.html#ixzz3c8JD50X4>