

4 February 2020

To whom it may concern,

**Response to the Department of Justice, Renaming sexual offences**

Engender Equality is pleased to see the Proposal Paper, Renaming sexual offences and commends the Unit on a clear description and rationale of the proposed changes. Engender Equality highlights the role of the law as an educative and guiding tool that sets and reinforces community standards. As such Engender Equality fully supports the modernisation of the language and concepts in the Act and have little to add to the consideration that is described in the proposal paper.

We offer the following comments;

CHAPTER XIV - CRIMES AGAINST MORALITY

We would use 'offence's before 'crimes' because sexual assault victims may not recognise their experience as a crime and therefore not feel the law represents their experience.

SECTION 124. SEXUAL INTERCOURSE WITH YOUNG PERSON

We feel that 'sexual abuse of a child or young person' is more inclusive.

SECTION 125B. INDECENT ACT WITH YOUNG PERSON

We prefer 'engaging a child or young person in a sexual act' to be consistent with Section 124

SECTION 125C. PROCURING UNLAWFUL SEXUAL INTERCOURSE WITH PERSON UNDER 17 YEARS

We prefer 'Procuring a child (or young person) in a sexual act'.

SECTION 125D. COMMUNICATIONS WITH INTENT TO PROCURE PERSON UNDER 17 YEARS, &C.

We prefer 'sexual material'.

SECTION 126. SEXUAL INTERCOURSE WITH PERSON WITH MENTAL IMPAIRMENT

We prefer 'sexual abuse of a person with mental impairment' but would support the recommendation from neuro-atypical people and people with intellectual disabilities.

Yours sincerely,



Alina Thomas  
CEO