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Notification No. B 29 — The Women’s Charter (Amendment) Bill is published for general information. It was introduced in Parliament on 7 October 2019.

Women's Charter (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 29/2019.

Read the first time on 7 October 2019.

A BILL

intituled

An Act to amend the Women's Charter (Chapter 353 of the 2009 Revised Edition).

Be it enacted by the President with the advice and consent of the Parliament of Singapore, as follows:

Short title and commencement

1. This Act is the Women’s Charter (Amendment) Act 2019 and comes into operation on a date that the Minister appoints by notification in the *Gazette*.

5 Amendment of section 2

2. Section 2 of the Women’s Charter (called in this Act the principal Act) is amended —

(a) by deleting the definition of “brothel” and substituting the following definition:

10 ““brothel” means any place —

(a) habitually used by any 2 or more women or girls (whether or not at the same time or at different times) for the purpose of prostitution;

15 (b) that has been used by any 2 or more women or girls (whether or not at the same time or at different times) for the purpose of prostitution and is likely to be used again for that purpose; or

20 (c) that —

25 (i) has been expressly or implicitly advertised (whether by advertisements in or on the place, newspapers, the Internet or by other means) or represented as being used for the purpose of prostitution; and

30 (ii) is likely to be used for the purpose of prostitution;” and

(b) by renumbering the section as subsection (1) of that section, and by inserting immediately thereafter the following subsection:

“(2) In criminal proceedings for an offence under Part XI in relation to any place —

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(a) a court may rely on circumstantial evidence to find that the particular place is used as a brothel; and

(b) a court may make such a finding without direct evidence that the particular place is used as a brothel.

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Examples of circumstantial evidence

1. Evidence relating to persons entering and leaving premises (including number, gender and frequency) that is consistent with the use of the premises for prostitution.

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2. Evidence of appointments with persons for the purpose of prostitution that are made through the use of telephone numbers or other contact details that are publicly advertised.

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3. Evidence of the arrangement of, or other matters relating to, the place or the furniture, equipment or articles in the place, that is consistent with the use of the place for prostitution.”

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Amendment of section 140

3. Section 140 of the principal Act is amended —

(a) by deleting paragraph (d) of subsection (1) and substituting the following paragraph:

“(d) brings into Singapore, receives or harbours any woman or girl knowing or having reason to believe that she seeks entry into, or has entered, Singapore or has been procured for the purpose —

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