

# STUDENTS AND SEX WORK

**University is expensive: fees, food, accommodation and nights out soon rack up a hefty bill. For various reasons, some students turn to different forms of sex work to cover these costs. We are not here to promote or condemn sex work but we want to help students make informed decisions and know where to turn for advice and support.**

## What is sex work?

Sex work is the exchange of sexual services, both involving direct physical contact and indirect sexual stimulation, for money or goods. We use the term 'sex workers' which can include:

- Webcam performers and subscription content creators
- Dancers in strip clubs
- Escorts and those selling sex from indoor and outside premises
- Sugar babies

## Your rights to your online intimate content

It is against the law for someone to share private sexual images without your consent, with the intent to cause distress. What does this mean for sex workers?

### Webcam performers and subscription content creators

Intimate images uploaded by the creator to a public forum (such as OnlyFans) would not be defined under UK law as 'private'.

Depending on the situation, and *how* and *who* shared the images, this may be in breach of **copyright** or **harassment** laws.

### Escorts and those selling sex from indoor and outside premises

Regardless of whether you are being paid, sharing intimate content without consent to cause distress is against the law. It is a sexual offence called **Voyeurism** to record sexual content without knowledge or consent.



Home Office



REPORT  
HARMFUL  
CONTENT



Revenge Porn  
Helpline



SWGfL

## Privacy tips and advice

### The work/life separation is essential for privacy

- Use a work persona, never your real name.
- Keep all social media, email addresses, everything separate from personal accounts.
- If you can, use separate devices for work and personal use.
- Don't use your face or visible tattoos in advertising for services, use face blur apps.

### Read T&Cs before signing up to platforms. Things to look for:

- Who owns the copyright of content uploaded to the platform?
- Do they have a policy on what happens if content is stolen and shared?

### Where to find more help and support

- Your student union or student wellbeing services
- Police, SARC unit or a local outreach support service
- Report Harmful Content provides advice about how to report harmful content on social networking platforms
- Revenge Porn Helpline can support you with the removal of private sexual content which has been shared without consent.
- Find out more information and online privacy advice for sex workers: [revengepornhelpline.org.uk/how-we-can-help/who-we-can-help/sex-workers/](https://revengepornhelpline.org.uk/how-we-can-help/who-we-can-help/sex-workers/)

Use unique photos in your adverts and work social media: all it takes is a reverse image search of the photo to bring up your personal social media accounts.

Be mindful of where you store content: back up all intimate images for work on a memory stick or hard drive, or you could use a secure password protected place such as Dropbox.

Stay vigilant: trust your gut - if something doesn't feel right, it probably isn't.

