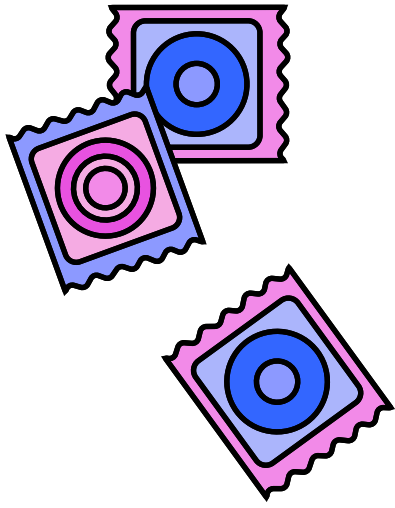


Safety Toolkit for Student Sex Workers



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Your Surrey Life.



Acknowledgement

This toolkit borrows from the original Toolkit published by Leicester University. "Toolkit for Student Sex Workers – Keeping Safe and Access to Support" Gaynor Trueman, Grace Sumner, Teela Sanders, and Camille Waring. 2017 Our thanks go to them for their invaluable work undertaken in this area.

Introduction



Oriana Savvidi
VP Support
2022-23

Surrey Students' Union is aware that some students engage in sex work during their studies, and the VP Support, Oriana Savvidi, wanted to remove any barriers or stigma that students may feel if they wish to access

support services. She developed this Toolkit, not to encourage students to engage in sex work but to help and support the students who do and to provide them the best guidance to keep them safe.

The information here applies to all genders who are engaged in, or considering, sex work. Students become involved in sex work for numerous reasons. Those reasons can be complex and relate to their financial situation, for example paying for their studies, accommodation, and expenses, or they could also be engaging because they like sex work, whether as an escort, in webcam work or online. We will never judge a student for the work that they choose to engage in.

- You can contact the Union to discuss issues you face as a student sex worker by emailing your current VP Support at - ussu.vpsupport@surrey.ac.uk
- If you need academic advice, you can email ussu.advice@surrey.ac.uk
- If you have been assaulted whilst being a sex worker (or independently of your profession), you can contact a Sexual Violence Liaison Officer who is trained to support and advise you at svlo@surrey.ac.uk

You will find in this toolkit support and guidance on the legal framework regarding sex work and the resources available to keep you safe and well.

England and Wales Law relating to Sex Work

In England and Wales, the act of buying and selling sex is legal, but other acts associated are illegal. As a sex worker, if you know which acts are illegal you can ensure you are working within the law.

Under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and the Policing and Crime Act 2009 the following activities are illegal:

- **Soliciting**, the action of trying to sell sex on a street or a public place (including a vehicle)
- **Kerb Crawling**, the action of driving by slowly looking for a prostitute. It is illegal for a person to buy sex in a public place from another.
- **Brothel keeping**, the action of keeping a place where people go to engage in sex with others in exchange for money. Sex workers can be prosecuted if more than one person is selling sex from the same premises.
- **Other offences** like controlling, inciting, and causing prostitution can be used against anyone who professionally associates with a sex worker. For example, a friend who drives a sex worker to an appointment could be prosecuted by law.

It is important to note that these offenses are considered a less serious offense in the eyes of the law (also known as "summary-only offenses") and only heard in a Magistrates court, which hears less serious crimes. For summary-only offenses, the police can:

- Police do not have to arrest someone suspected of committing an offense. They also do not have to report to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)
- To charge the offence without reference to a Prosecutor, regardless of whether the suspect intends to plead guilty or not guilty;



- To issue a simple caution to a suspect;
- To decide that no further action should be taken; or
- To issue a conditional caution if they consider that the suspect might be suitable.

The police could also arrest and charge an individual for any of those offences.

It is known that the fear of criminalisation has caused those involved in sex work to feel reluctant in coming forward for help. Support is there for students, no matter what they are involved in or the reasons for becoming engaged in sex work.

The University of Surrey will not penalise students who engage in sex work where they require support, advice or guidance. However, it should be known that if you are putting yourself or others at risk of significant harm then this may need to be reported.

Legal Advice and Guidance

Further details regarding the law within England and Wales can be found within the attached:

release.org.uk/publications/sex-workers-and-the-law-booklet

The link below provides access to further information regarding your legal rights from the English Collective of Prostitutes: prostitutescollective.net/rights/

The Crown Prosecution Service's legal guidance on Prostitution and Exploitation of Prostitution:

cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/prostitution-and-exploitation-prostitution.

University Regulations

The University's Conditions of Residence prohibit students from operating any kind of business from University accommodation, and this would include sex work.

You could face disciplinary action for:

- Any type of sex work operated from **University accommodation**, whether in-person or online
- **Brothel-keeping** in University accommodation: This situation could arise if two or more students were collaborating to undertake sex work within the same University accommodation.
- **Online work:**
 - In which any link with the University of Surrey is identifiable, e.g., by wearing university merch. This could have the potential to cause reputational damage, in breach of the Student Disciplinary Regulations.
 - If the production of the content disturbed other students in the accommodation.



Your Safety

General Safety Tips

- Never haggle on prices: the client may be testing if they can push you on your boundaries.
- Don't breach your boundaries and do things you don't want to, no matter what is offered in terms of money. Show that you are firm on what you want to do and not do, you're in charge and it is your body.
- If you're feeling unsure or unsafe with a client, always follow your gut instinct. Don't risk an unsafe situation for money, it is not worth the risk.
- Stay in control; be firm but friendly.
- Stop working when you say you will, set boundaries for yourself. Treat sex work like any employment and ensure you have a life outside of it.
- Try to appear confident, even if you do not feel it. If you appear insecure, the client might think it would be easier, for example, to convince you to breach boundaries. Remember that normally your client will be more nervous than you.
- Don't over-exert yourself – being tired makes you less vigilant.
- Don't delete texts – it reminds you of regulars.
- Save clients under something distinctive otherwise you will never remember them.
- Pay attention to clients who text “postcode now” vs “Hello, I am X and I would like...”. Demanding information from you rather than politely asking could potentially mean an assertive client that will not listen to your boundaries. You deserve to be respected.

Indoor Safety Tips

- Tell someone when and where you are working and make a plan if you do not reply.
- Never wear anything around your neck as this could be used to choke you.
- Try to always ring the client as how they talk to you gives you a good screening tool. The way they speak to you could help indicate whether they are demanding and would breach your boundaries e.g., see how they respond to you saying ‘no’ to something.
- Don't tell them your full address until they arrive to your street.
- Get as much information out of the client as possible -job, age, family etc, accent, where they come from, where they live. They are less likely to exploit you if you have information about them. Try to get this information in a conversational manner by showing interest in them, without sharing identifiable information about you.
- Keep a personal safety alarm close by. They are occasionally given by the Students' Union and email - ussu.vpsupport@surrey.ac.uk
- Remove/hide personal and identifiable items from your home. For example, hide any photos of your family.
- Put the TV on in another room and tell them a friend is watching it.
- Tell the client you have booked a cab, so they think someone is expecting you.
- Avoid drinks that you have not seen someone open to minimise the risk of spiking and avoid alcohol as this will help you to stay vigilant.
- Use a different phone for sex work, don't mix private and personal data.
- Be cautious of clients who text you when you're not working.
- Always take the money first, never after and try to count it in front of client.
- Put your money out of eyesight of clients, ideally in another room and split the hiding places in case you are robbed.



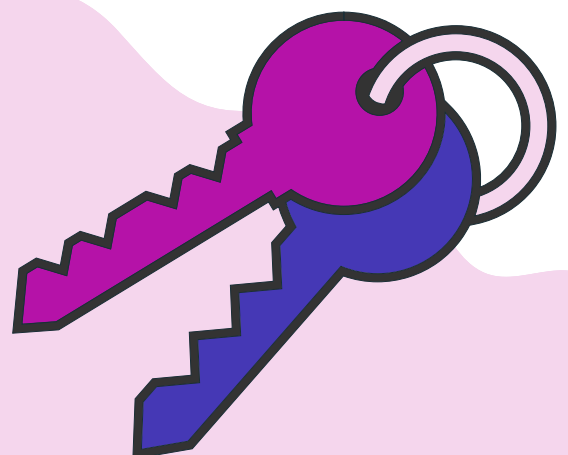
- Have a small sum nearby in case a client needs change but without showing them where you keep your money
- Always use a peep hole if you have one in the door before opening it.
- Safest sex position is on top as it keeps you in control.
- Doggy/Behind is a dangerous sex position. It can lead to you losing control and being unsafe, for example, there is the risk of being choked, and the client might also remove the condom without you knowing.
- Clients asking about children and saying things like “do you want children?” during sex. Some clients may have a breeding kink and provide you with tampered condoms so that they can get you pregnant. We recommend you provide your own condoms, you can find them for free at the Students’ Union, Centre for Wellbeing and Direct Pharmacy under the C-Card scheme.
- Client wants credit and will pay you when they get paid. You should be very cautious about this.

RED FLAGS - Things to be cautious of :

- Clients asking to be the last booking of the day, they are more likely to steal from you as they know you will have a lot of money if you have been working all day.
- Turn down bookings when clients ask to bring a friend, even if just in a car, so as few people as possible know your address. It is also easier to be overpowered by multiple people.
- Calls from private numbers should be avoided and ignored, you can’t trace the number and they potentially have something to hide.
- Client asking for your real name, or personal and identifiable information.
- Client asking for your full address before arriving.
- Asking if you have a boyfriend or girlfriend, or to be your boyfriend/girlfriend/marry you. This could mean a problematic client who falls in love with you and do not respect your profession or sees your actions as a way of returning his affection. This could lead to your boundaries being pushed or stalker-like acts from the client.
- Clients asking for unprotected sex and saying things like “We don’t need a condom I only have sex with my partner”. You should never accept this excuse or reason.
- Asking if they will get a better deal if they are a regular as this may be them trying to push your boundaries.
- If a client pushes your head down during oral or restrains your hands. Some clients may offer to pay more for these services, but they restrict your control over the situation and might expose you to dangerous outcomes.
- Simple texts like “£40 bareback 15 mins”. You are in control of the conversation and you should not be negotiating with someone who demands sexual acts from you.
- If a client says “I won’t do anal, I’ll just put the tip in.” This is a test of your boundaries and should be declined.
- Asking to do a free photoshoot as this could

How to deal with difficult clients:

respectqld.org.au/dealing-with-difficult-clients/



lead to exploitation of your photos and opportunities for blackmail/coercion.

- Someone offering a service in exchange for sex – such as cab driver. Sex work, like with any other employment, should be compensated with money. Getting money up front also means you avoid accepting services for which you might end up having to chase the client to perform.

Agency Work

Sex workers may choose to work via an Agency, which can appear safer and more profitable, as well as easier for the sex worker to find clients without needing to source them independently. Clients are aware you are traceable through the agency and are less likely to avoid paying as they know the agency will not rebook them.

If you want to work via an Agency, always:

- Meet the agency owner,
- Have an interview,
- Inspect the flat where you will be working,
- Never give personal details such as Passport, Driving Licence, address, or your real name,
- Let the agency know if you have a difficult client. If it becomes unsafe or breaches your boundaries, they should not rebook them with you.
- Do not feel trapped by an Agency – if you are not happy, leave.

In-call and Out-call work

In-call: where they provide you a flat to work from (and they might require you to change the bedding, towels and have a shower between clients)

Out-call: when you get a job and attend the client's address and the agency will often have "drivers" who will wait for you and pick you up. They will charge for this service.

- Text the agency when the client arrives/ departures or when you arrive/depart from the client's address.
- Pay your commission and respect the rules – Agency Owners are not your friends and you don't want to cause their anger,
- If you are being threatened or blackmailed by the Agency Owner, speak to National Ugly Mugs (NUM). They are a UK charity aiming to end all forms of violence against sex workers.

In-call and Out-call work Tips

- Out calls necessitate additional safety measures.
- Pay attention to exit routes and quickest ways out.
- If the agency does not offer a driver, and you don't drive, try to find another safe way, for example by asking someone to drive you or getting an Uber.
- If you are commuting to the client, avoid wearing revealing clothes that might put you in danger in the street or public transport.
- Avoid wearing clothes that are difficult to wear, such as jeans, in case you need to leave quickly from the client's address.
- Avoid tight fitting skirts or dresses in case you have to run.
- Be aware of open laptop screens or if there is a camera running.
- Do not take many personal possessions with you in case of robbery.
- Try to hide where you put the money from the client.
- Don't drink the client's drink – ask for water from a tap and watch it being obtained.
- Wave to a driver – even if pretending to make it look as if you are accompanied.
- Check number of cars on driveway. If it is more than expected – leave.
- If attacked – leave something behind, something that you can be identified with.
- Leave immediately if client is drunk or aggressive.



- Take a charged “work phone” with you and have key help numbers on speed dial.

Ask the Agency questions before signing up to see how working with them will be like. Here are some examples of questions to ask:

- How much commission do you take?
- What is the turnaround time between clients?
- Is there an expected number of hours I have to work?
- What is the stance on drug taking?
- Will I be expected to perform certain services such as unprotected oral sex?
- Can I charge more for Anal sex?
- Can I refuse a client?
- Are there drivers to take me to a job?
- What help do they give around minimising risk?
- Can I have my own NUM (National Ugly Mug) membership?
- Is the agency signed up to NUM?

Talk to other escorts if you can who already work at the agency so you can get answers to these questions from a sex workers perspective.

Many sex workers do not stay in an Agency long as once they have learned the rules and gained confidence they work as independent sex workers.

Online Work

Working online including webcamming is most common amongst students, such as with Only Fans. Working online can have significant safety concerns that if not managed well, can be detrimental to your daily life.

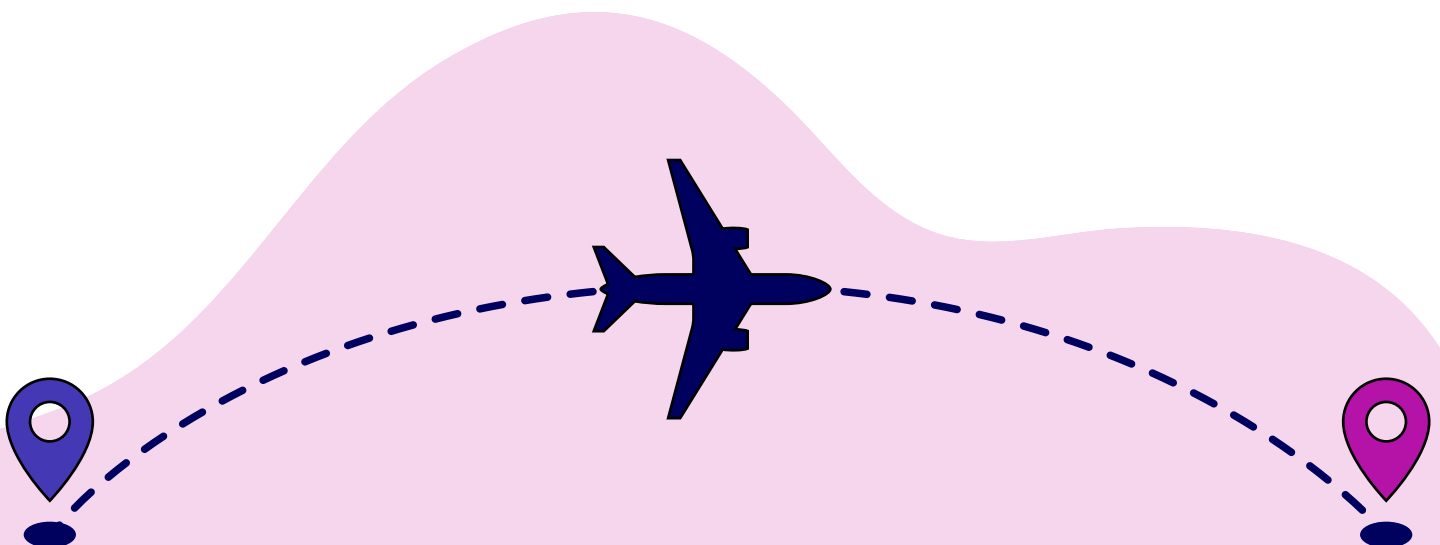
The wider audience in online sex work makes it easier for you to be recognised and ‘outed’ as a sex worker in your personal life. You could be added on Instagram, Snapchat, stalked in real life and your address identified and placed in the public domain- which is known as doxing.

Remember that if your face is exposed during performances or on social media, you can be filmed on a mobile and distributed online. In addition, your IP address can be linked to your address so avoid saying you are a student. If you live in student accommodation, it can be more easily identified to be university halls rather than regular housing.

Make sure to take anything down that could suggest what university you go to, such as if you have the Students’ Union calendar on your wall.

Safety and Privacy for online sex workers:

www.beyond-the-gaze.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/theGazeSafetyandPrivacyFOSWCopyrightBtG.pdf



Personal Care

Sex work as with a lot of physical jobs can be both physically and mentally challenging. In addition, there can be added pressure for some people to keep it hidden, (especially students) due to fears regarding their universities or peers finding out. This can often create anxiety.

Here are some ideas to keep your health a priority:

- Look after yourself, not just sexually and physically but ensuring your mental health is a priority. Reach out to the [Centre for Wellbeing](#) if you need to talk. They are confidential and will not disclose your work to anyone.
- Seek support if you feel sex work is detrimental to your mental/physical health.
- Don't be ashamed of what you do, or let anyone criticise you, it is no one else's business.
- Be careful who you tell.
- Seek support in the Sex worker community if you cannot talk to anyone else. There are forums you can join such as Support and Advice for Escorts' "[Warning & Wasters Board](#)"
- If outed, seek support, you are not alone.
- Don't buy condoms/lube – these can be obtained for free from sexual health services or support agencies. As mentioned above, the Students' Union offers condoms throughout the year, as well as lube, pregnancy tests and STI tests. We also offer Personal Safety Alarms;
- Stick to regulars if you can as it is safer.
- Know your limits and when to stop.
- Help other sex workers – that was you once.
- Always try to tell a friend where and when you are working. Have a buddy who will make sure to call the police if they don't hear from you or if you send them an emergency 'code word'.

- Don't let clients manipulate you, you are in charge, and they are there to see you.
- Make your safety your priority – no amount of money is worth getting hurt.

International Students

International students who engage with sex work may have complications with their visa requirements as they have a different "right to work" requirement than students who are UK citizens. It is therefore important that if you are on a Tier4, or other visa with the University, that you are not in breach of these conditions.

Below are some points to help you remain in the law and ensure your visa is not curtailed:

- As an overseas student you may well be contravening employment rights if you do any work and if found sex working, you may well be subject to legal action including deportation; your student visa will state the restrictions and can be qualified here.
- ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Working/Student-work
- If you struggle with language issues this can put you off from accessing services; but most sex work organisations, or those that offer services to sex workers, can help with language barriers through resources in different languages or access to translators.
- Students from other countries can access services such as health care contraception and sexual health services. This is true in the majority of cases; and local sex work projects will advise where best to go in your local area. Many of these services can be accessed anonymously.



Intimate Image Abuse

Intimate image abuse, often referred to as “Revenge Porn”, non-consensual pornography or image-based sexual abuse, is the act of sharing intimate images or videos with someone, either on or offline without their consent.

- It is a criminal offence, within the UK for a person to disclose a private sexual photograph or film with the intention of causing distress.
- It can be committed by anyone, sometimes an aggrieved partner or in the case of a sex worker, an aggrieved client or potential client. You do not have to be in a relationship for it to be considered intimate image abuse.
- Anyone can be a victim regardless of gender, sexuality, or age.
- Although sometimes an image is shared to embarrass or humiliate, it is not always about revenge. Content can be shared as a form of financial extortion or blackmail sometimes known as sextortion; sex workers can be very vulnerable to this, being “outed” regarding their activity. This is often seen as an element of wider cases of stalking, harassment, or domestic abuse.

For more information:

- revengepornhelpline.org.uk/how-can-we-help/who-can-we-help/sex-workers
- revengepornhelpline.org.uk/resources/university-student-advice/

National Ugly Mugs

National Ugly Mugs (NUM) is a reporting scheme to help protect people involved in Sex Work from violent and abusive individuals. Ugly Mugs is a safety and reporting organisation for sex workers; reports can be anonymous, or you can use your work name, or even report via an organisation so as to allow you distance. Reports to them have included aggression, racism, robbery and rape.

Every sex worker who reports to NUM is provided with follow-up support from their case work team that can include an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) or other trained professionals to access resources to help with healing and recovery.

To become a member of NUM:

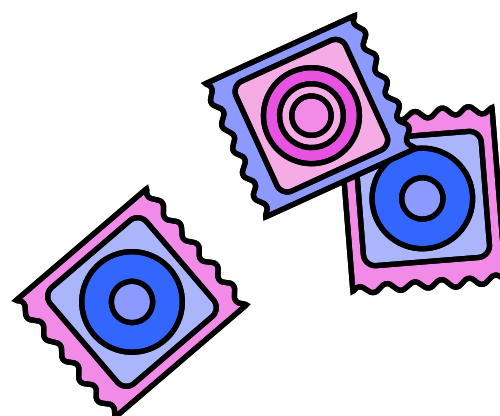
Visit: uglymugs.org/um/wp-login.php?action=register

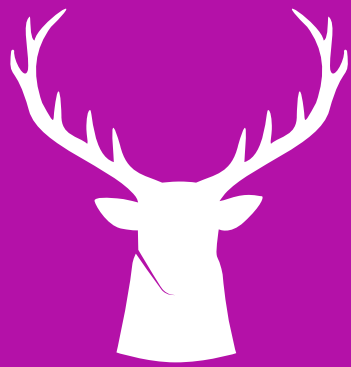
For more information regarding NUM nationaluglymugs.org/

Seeking Help and Support

Below are some national help and support services for those engaged as sex workers:

- Support for student sex workers – An organisation run by former and current sex workers offering support to individuals involved in all aspects of the sex industry.
www.supportforstudentsexworkers.org
- ECP (English Collective of Prostitutes) – An organisation of sex workers working on the street and in premises with a national network throughout the UK.
prostitutescollective.net
- National Ugly Mugs – Reporting scheme to help protect people involved in sex work from violent and abusive individuals.
uglymugs.org
- Pineapple Support Society – Free and subsidised emotional support and professional therapy for adult industry performers.
pineapplesupport.org
- Revenge Porn Helpline – service supporting adults (18 +) experiencing intimate image abuse aka Revenge Porn.
revengepornhelpline.org.uk
- SAAFE (Support and advice for Escorts) - a collective of independent escorts offering advice and support to all adult industry performers.
saafe.info
- SWARM (Sex Worker Advocacy and Resistance Movement) – A collective founded and led by sex workers who campaign for the rights and safety of all who sell sexual services.
swarmcollective.org/





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