
NATIONAL UGLY MUGS



COVID-19 Emergency Response Project for UK Sex Workers





NUM'S CORE WORK

NUM is a national victim support and crime prevention organisation for diverse sex industry workers. We provide *victim-centred*, trauma-informed support services and aim to end all forms of violence against sex workers.

We value people in and from sex industries and work with them to design services, develop community education and inform public policy and the practices of professionals who have influence over the quality of their lives.



MORE ABOUT US

The NUM Case Work Team provides in-depth **victim support** to sex workers to aid them in their healing and recovery, alongside resources and information to **every sex worker** who contacts us.

6000+

SEX WORKERS

and almost 1000 frontline practitioners representing community groups and service providers.

80-100

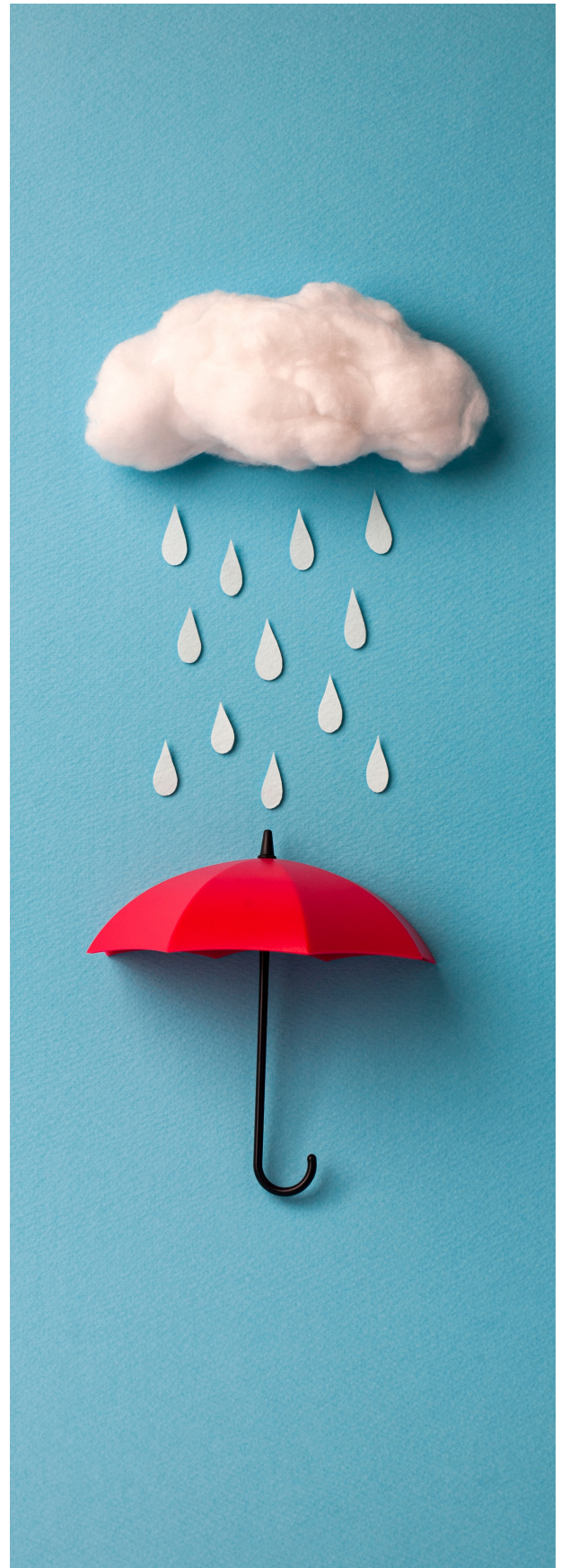
REPORTS OF HARM

are received by NUM from sex workers every month.

360,000

ALERTS SENT TO SEX WORKERS

In 2019, sex workers and groups sent 922 reports and over 360k alerts to sex workers to prevent crime and warn them about dangerous people and conditions.



We are here for you!

Covid-19 First Wave

Since the Covid-19 pandemic took hold, sex workers have been suffering as a result of an immediate loss in income. There are limited resources and financial support to this diverse population.

In order to design an effective national response to support sex workers, we conducted a survey in March 2020 and here's what they told us they needed:

MONEY & FINANCIAL ADVICE



*GENUINE SURVEY RESPONSES

HEALTH & WELLBEING SUPPORT INCLUDING MENTAL HEALTH



*GENUINE SURVEY RESPONSES

WORK ADVICE J



*BASED ON GENUINE SURVEY RESPONSES

Covid-19 Emergency Response for UK Sex Workers

NUM secured funding and important information and resources from several generous Trusts and Foundations who are invested in safety, security and support for sex workers. They include:



**The London
Community
Foundation**



Sex Workers Asked for Help With...



Food,
& Basic Needs



Financial Support
& Housing



Mental Health
& Support



Safety
& Work advice

Food & Basic Needs

Secured funding for emergency food and hygiene supplies, with provision for **19,400 meals** to sex workers and their children.

Set up a food vouchers scheme for sex workers to access either directly or through community groups so they could purchase their own food to cook a meal.

NUM registered as a charity referrer with local food banks around the country



Financial support & Housing

Case workers sourced and facilitated sex workers in accessing community resources for housing, health and food and supported applications to Universal Credit and Covid-19 financial support for the self-employed

Mapped community resources and sex worker support services around the country to ensure up-to-date referral information



Mental Health & Support

Hired a therapist to work with sex workers to develop a range of mental health support services and materials to support those experiencing grief and loss as a result of the pandemic.

Partnered to provide online group therapy to sex workers with a sex worker led group for therapists.

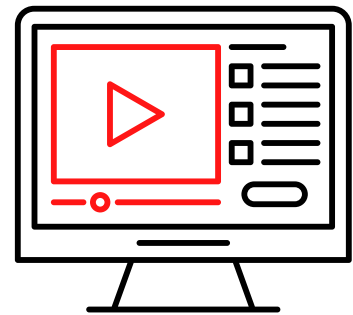
Designed therapy packages and created materials to support those experiencing isolation, anxiety and depression.

Sourced additional online therapy services to help sex workers manage their specific needs through digital tools for those not wanting direct person interactions.



Safety & Work Advice

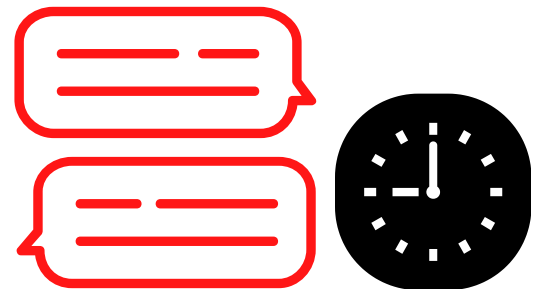
'Experts by experience' on our Research and Development R&D Team developed and delivered a series of webinars about priority issues for sex working communities. View their latest webinars on YouTube at National Ugly Mugs



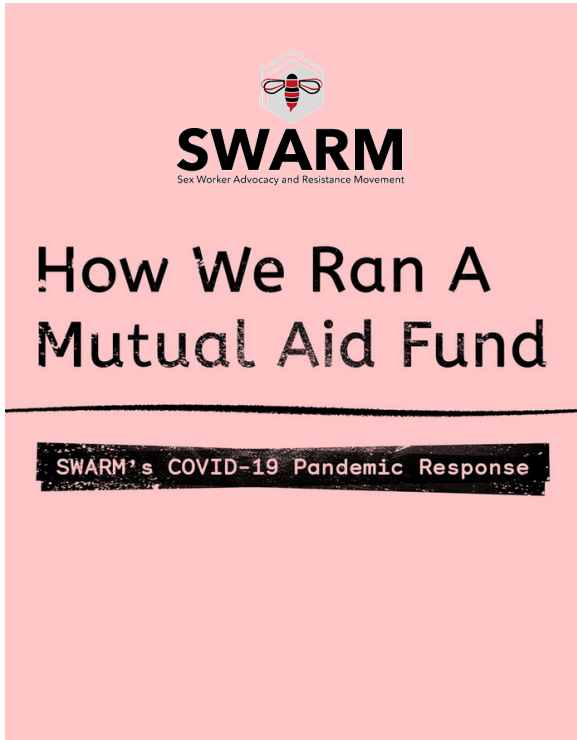
Contacted
all 43 police forces
to map their Covid-19 related
practices and policies



Testing and soft launching
online chat and expanded Case
Work Team hours to include
some evenings and weekend for
emergency voucher distribution
and to respond to quick queries

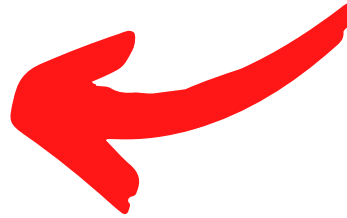


HARDSHIP FUNDS



SWARM raised £251,000 and gave £200 pounds to 1,255 in-person sex workers based in the UK

Click here to see more



As part of VivaStreet's Corporate Social Responsibility programme, they offered £100,000 in match funding for NUM to administer to SWARM's Hardship fund.



MP Support

We wrote to several MPs informing them of the plight of sex workers during the pandemic and requesting their help.

We contacted:



Rishi Sunak (Chancellor of the Exchequer)

Therese Coffey (Secretary of State for Work and Pensions)

Liz Truss (Minister for Women and Equalities)

Priti Patel (Home Secretary)

Dominic Raab (Foreign Secretary)

Victoria Atkins (Minister for Women)

Keir Starmer (Leader of the Opposition)

Anneliese Dodds (Shadow Chancellor)

Nick Thomas-Symonds (Shadow Home Secretary)

Marsha De Cordova (Shadow Minister for Women and Equalities)

Jonathan Reynold (Shadow Secretary for Work and Pensions)

**We only received one
response which
acknowledged our letter.**

COVID-19 SECOND WAVE

With the 2nd wave of the pandemic in full swing and the lives of impoverished people in our communities weighing in the balance, NUM surveyed its members once again to hear about priority issues and to help inform and shape our services.



TAKE SURVEY



INCREASED RISK & WIDENING DIVIDES

The pandemic has increased risk in a multitude of ways for sex workers, from the worry of catching the virus to an increase in unsafe working practice.

This has also caused a widening divide in the industry between those who should be shielding due to disability and pre-existing conditions and those less at risk, who choose to see clients face to face. Many were impacted by regional tiered lockdowns and some are unable to work online.

We heard from some of you but we're interested in what more people have to say, so please fill in the survey to let us know how you've been impacted during the second wave.

"Tech savvy sex workers and those with adequate digital skills continue or start-up online ventures and some are successful in this endeavour, while others are not able to make enough money to stay housed, buy food and pay bills."

MONEY ISSUES

90%

OF RESPONDERS

Say that loss of income has been the number 1 impact of Covid-19

42%

ABLE TO ACCESS GOV. SUPPORT

Less than half of respondents have been able to access government support such as Universal Credit.



MENTAL HEALTH STRUGGLES

71%

STRUGGLING

The vast majority of respondents to the second wave survey are struggling with their mental health.

65%

FEEL ISOLATED

Over half of those who are answered are feeling isolated from others.





At the heart of our Covid-19 pandemic response project is the provision of £25 emergency vouchers for food and hygiene supplies to UK-based sex workers. As part of our National Ugly Mug Meals campaign we want to raise enough funds to provide an extra 100,000 meals so no one is left hungry.

Click the mug to see how you can be involved by being a NUM chef and supporting sex workers.



#NUMMeals



Ending Violence Against Sex Workers

tel: 0161 629 9861

Email: admin@uglymugs.org

Website: uglymugs.org

Thank you for reading our COVID-19 Impact report