



**“I DON'T REALLY  
CARE ABOUT  
THE TERMS, I  
CARE MORE  
ABOUT THEIR  
ACTIONS—**

**EXCEPT OF COURSE ‘WHORE’”**

CONSULTATION  
SUBMISSION (NPCC)  
SEX WORK NATIONAL  
POLICE GUIDANCE

**19th July 2024**



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### ***Acknowledgements***

*National Ugly Mugs (NUM) and the English Collective of Prostitutes (ECP) thank the 113 sex workers who completed the NPCC consultation survey and shared their experiences and insights to inform how their industry is policed. Hearing from sex workers directly about policy issues affecting their safety and treatment is at the core of addressing state violence.*

*In solidarity!*

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## Evidence Summary

In late April 2024, the NPCC announced that they were leading a consultation to update the Sex Work National Police Guidance. We believe that this consultation was inspired by criticism about NUM's participation in the Sex Work Working Group (SWWG) and shaping NPCC Guidance on policing sex work over the years, in addition to our approach of insisting that sex workers are partners in the reduction of violence and exploitation in their industries. For NUM and the ECP, sex workers are the principal stakeholders in violence prevention and respecting how they define themselves and their economic activities, and how they define harm and remedies, must be privileged. This standpoint of including victims and survivors in shaping police policy is fundamental among almost all other proponents of victims' rights, and opportunities to influence policing ought to be extended to sex workers, even if doing so poses a challenge for some.

We appreciate that there are several different approaches to understanding sex work and society, policing, and regulation; however, we argue that those with active lived experience, most affected by police action and inaction, be centred.

National Ugly Mugs (NUM) and the ECP reviewed the NPCC consultation document that contained three core questions to inform approaches to policing sex industries, specifically: 1. *'Use of the term 'sex work' for the working group'*; 2. *'Should police continue to work with Adult Services Websites'*; and 3. *'In regard to brothel keeping legislation, is the current focus on exploitation rather than prosecuting individuals operating out of the same premises the right approach.'* Based on these lines of enquiry, we developed a survey to share with our communities and gain their insights, thus ensuring that active UK-based sex workers could safely share their thoughts.

Please note that the proceeding document is a summary of findings and not a full analysis. Our aim is to provide the NPCC with commentary from sex workers in an organised yet raw form, to foreground their experiences, and open dialogue about policing sex work. We ask that NUM and the ECP be included in the development of NPCC guidance as well as in any evaluation of its implementation.

We submit these survey findings to the NPCC for their consideration.

## NPCC Consultation Survey Methodology

In May 2024, after review of the NPCC consultation questions, NUM and the ECP developed a survey capturing information related to demographics, health, and sex industry work experience, along with questions related to terminology, experiences of policing in premises, law and policy, and the impact of Adult Services Websites (ASWs) on working conditions in sex industries.

The survey was then directly provided to sex worker-led organisations for dissemination within their networks of active UK sex workers and held on the Member's Only section of NUM's platform, only accessible to registered sex worker members. NUM shared information about the survey in the [NUM News area](#) and on social media as part of our recruitment strategy. The survey was live for 3 weeks, from 20 June to 5 July 2024.

Utilising resources from core funders, we offered a £20 high street voucher to survey participants as a thank-you.

We budgeted for 100 responses, and we received 146 responses that were then evaluated for authenticity. The following is a summary of a final sample (n=113). Please note that not all participants answered all questions.

***Nothing About Us Without Us!***

## About the Sample

Adult sex workers provided demographical, health and sex work experience information summarised below.

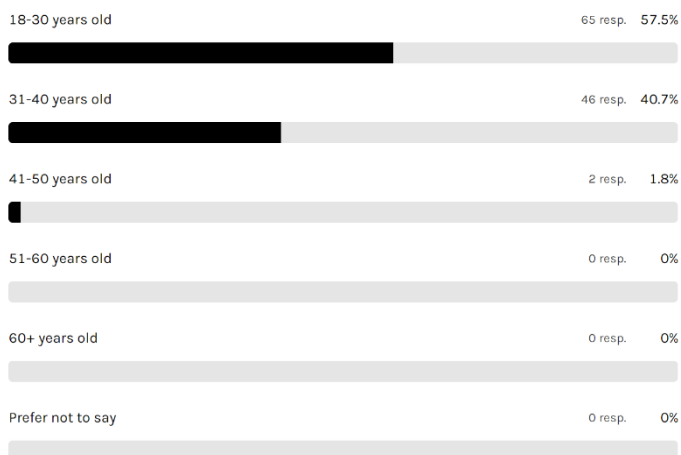
### Demographics

#### Age

Respondents (N=113) ranged in age from 18 to 50, with most of the sample being between 18 and 30 years of age.

#### Which age group do you belong to?

113 out of 113 answered

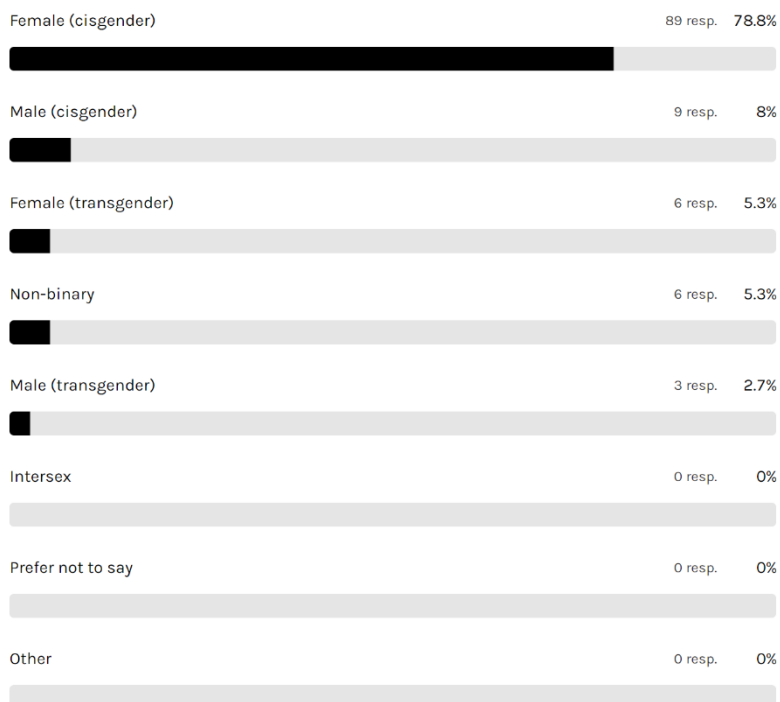


#### Gender Identity

79% respondents identified as women (n=89), 8% were men (n=9), and 19% of the sample identified as trans woman, trans men, and non-binary (n=15).

#### Which gender identity do you most identify with?

113 out of 113 answered

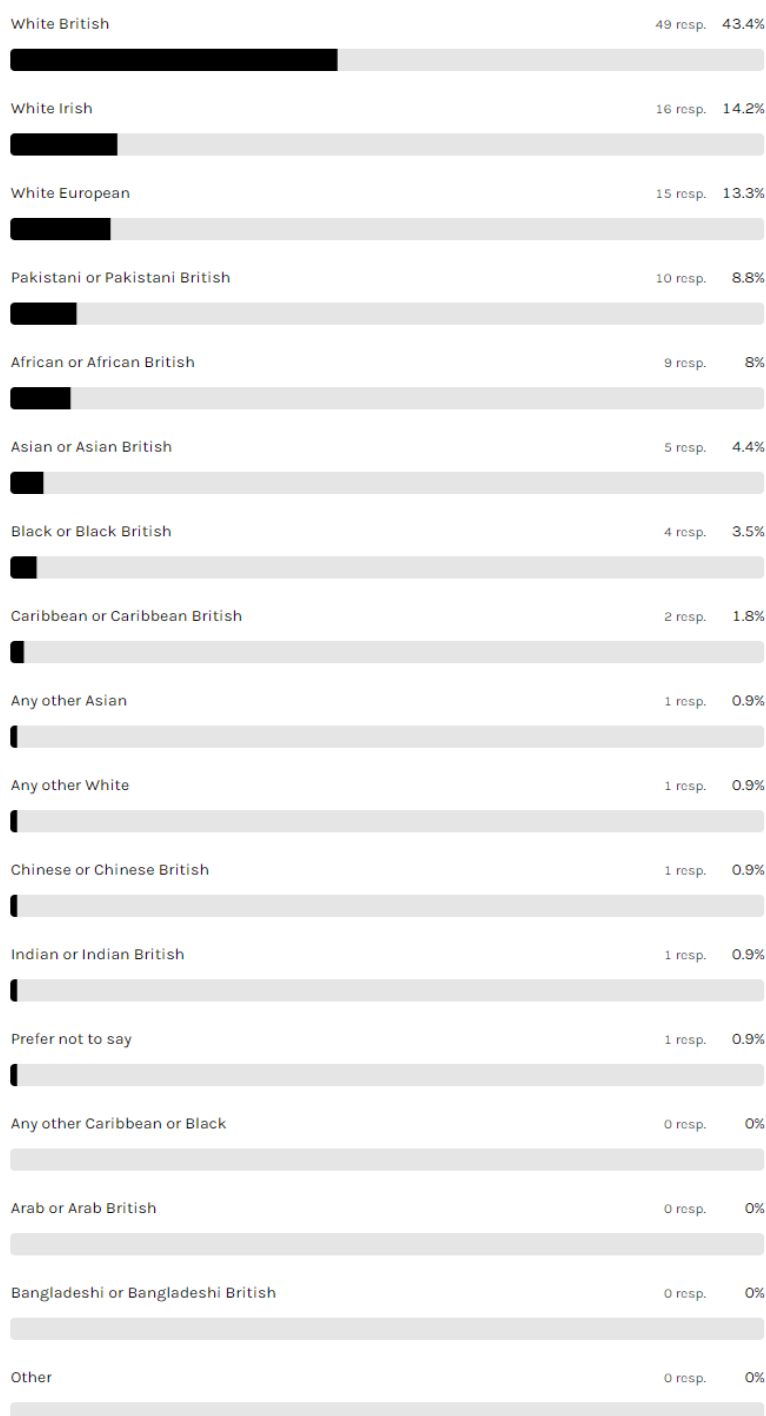


## Race and Culture

With respect to race and culture, 43% of the sample identifying as White British, 14% White Irish, 13% Black British, African and Caribbean; 13% White European; 9% Pakistani British, among other identities.

### Which ethnic background do you most identify with?

113 out of 113 answered

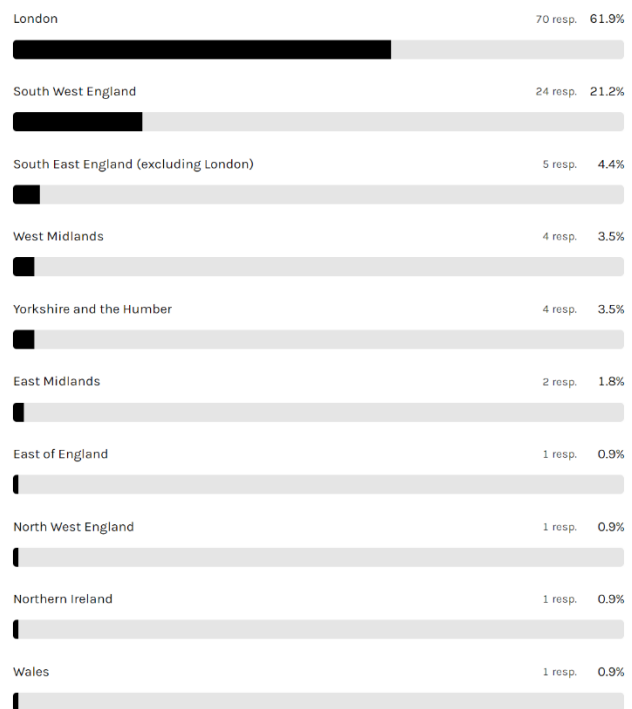


### Geographical Location

62% (n=70) of the sample lived or were based in London, with significant numbers residing and working in other regions such as the South West and South East of England.

#### Which area of the UK are you based in?

113 out of 113 answered

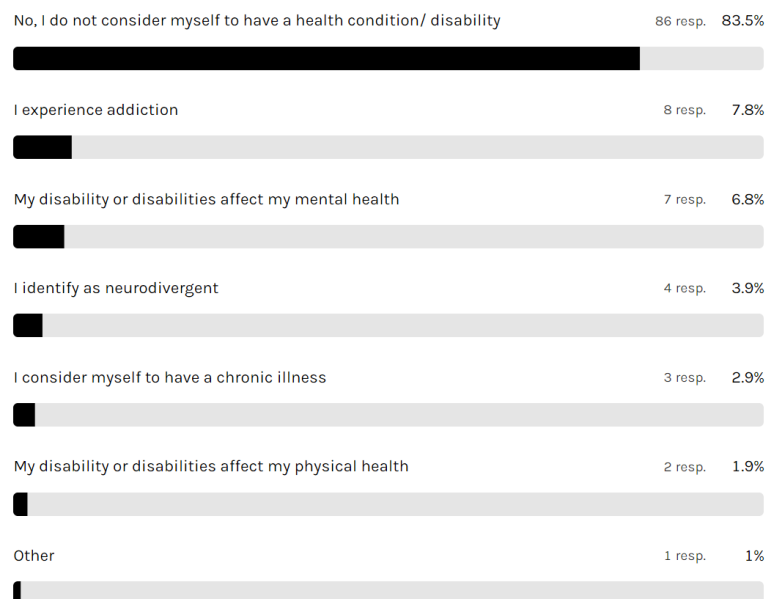


### Health and (Dis)ability

Of the 103 participants who answered this questions, 84% (n=86) did not disclose living with a long-term health condition or (dis)ability. The remaining 14% indicated that they suffered from a combination of addiction, mental health conditions, neurodivergence, and chronic and physical (dis)abilities.

#### Do you have a long-term health condition or disability? Select applicable statements for your health status:

103 out of 113 answered

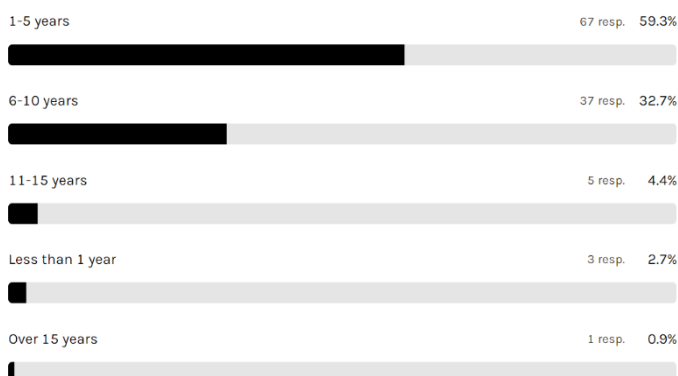


## Sex Industry Work Experience

We asked participants about the length of time they have worked in sex industries and most of the sample, 59% (n=67), had been working in adult industries for 1 to 5 years.

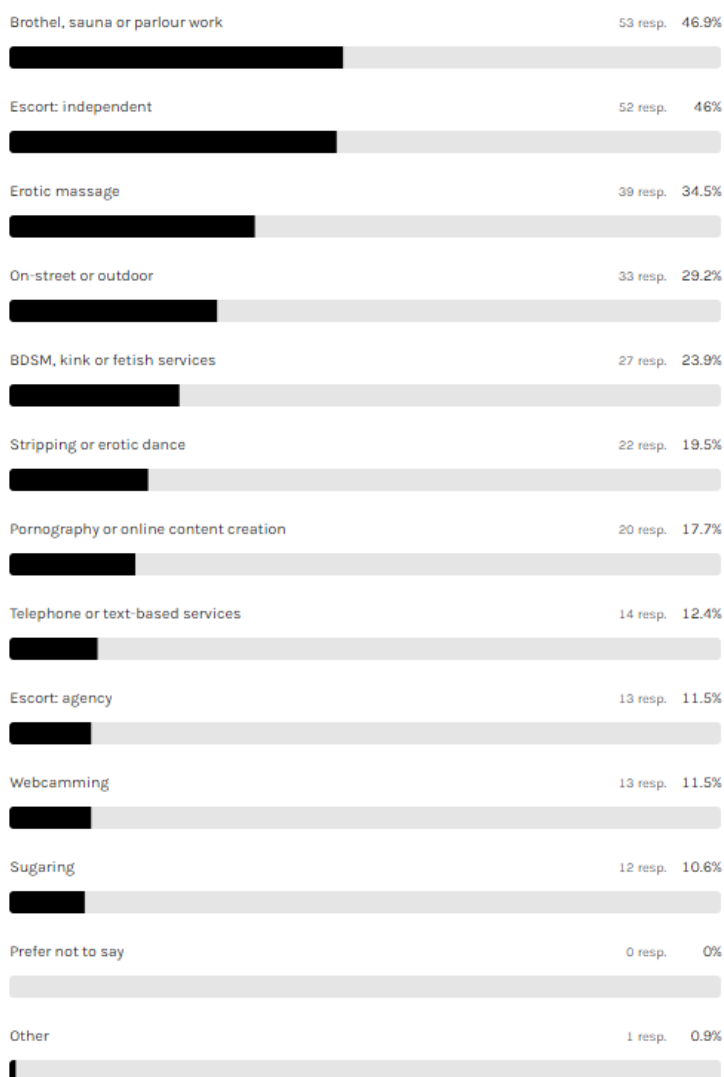
How long have you worked in adult industries?

113 out of 113 answered



Which forms of sex work do you currently participate in?

113 out of 113 answered



Respondents were asked to select all the forms of sex industry work they were currently doing. Most common activities were Brothel, Sauna or Parlour work; Independent Escorting; and Erotic Massage.

The following subsections summarise the contributions from the sample related to the three core questions asked as part of the NPCC consultation, followed by quotes from participants.

## Sex Industry Terms and Phrases

We provided survey participants with a list of sex industry terminology and asked whether they felt the use of various terms were 'appropriate for police to use', 'neutral/ no opinion' or not appropriate. As you can see from the image, the responses from the sample about most terms had a relatively equal distribution, with few strong opinions about terms that should not be used by law enforcement. Terms and phrases most appropriate for law enforcement use in reference to sex workers was 'providing sexual services' and 'sex work' and 'sex worker'. The sample was heavily neutral on police use of the terms such as 'Sex Worker', 'Prostitute', 'Traffickers', 'Punters', 'Girls' 'bought and sold'; and 'Prostitute'. Terms and phrases for law enforcement to avoid included 'Johns' in reference to clients, and 'Forced to provide sexual services' in cases of exploitation.

|   | This is an appropriate term for police to use | Neutral/no opinion | This is not an appropriate term for police to use |
|---|---|--------------------|---|
| Prostitute  | 18.1%   | 47.6%              | 34.3%   |
| Prostitution  | 30.4%   | 24.5%              | 45.1%   |
| Sex work  | 39.0%   | 28.6%              | 32.4%   |
| Sex worker  | 39.0%   | 49.0%              | 12.0%   |
| Human trafficking for sexual exploitation                       | 43.1%   | 32.4%              | 24.5%   |
| Girls (referring to adult female sex workers)                   | 29.4%   | 52.9%              | 17.6%   |
| Johns   | 13.7%   | 34.3%              | 52.0%   |
| Sex buyers  | 22.5%   | 47.1%              | 30.4%   |
| Punters   | 14.9%   | 58.4%              | 26.7%   |
| Pimping websites  | 35.3%   | 37.3%              | 27.5%   |
| Adult services websites   | 36.6%   | 35.6%              | 27.7%   |
| Pimps   | 20.6%   | 47.1%              | 32.4%   |
| Traffickers   | 7.6%  | 58.7%              | 33.7%   |
| Prostituted women   | 26.5%   | 41.2%              | 32.4%   |
| Punting websites  | 17.8%   | 49.5%              | 32.7%   |
| Sex buyer forums  | 19.6%   | 46.1%              | 34.3%   |
| "Bought and sold for sex"                                       | 22.2%   | 53.5%              | 24.2%   |
| Providing sexual services (in cases not involving exploitation) | 54.9%   | 35.3%              | 9.8%  |
| Forced to provide sexual services (in cases of exploitation)    | 25.3%   | 33.3%              | 41.4%   |

We asked sex workers for additional information about if there were any terms that police should or should not be used when engaging with their community. In an open text area of the survey, they listed terms that they did

not want used, including: 'Hooker', 'Girls', 'Harlots', 'Bitch', 'Whore', 'Ho', 'Slut', 'Strumpet', 'Nymphos' and 'Streetwalker'. Some sex workers were not opposed to being called 'Girls' while others were.

Terms that the sample preferred included: 'Sex Professional', 'Erotic Performer', 'Adult Entertainer', 'Sensual Companion', 'Erotic Service Worker/Provider', 'Pleasure Provider/Artist', 'Intimate Specialist/Service Provider', 'Adult/Professional Companion', 'Independent Contractor', 'Sex Trade Worker', 'Courtesan', 'Call Girl', 'Hustler', 'Escort', etc.

One sex worker remarked: *'I don't really care about the terms, I care more about their actions, except of course 'whore'...'*

Another participant stated: *'Avoid stigmatising and discriminatory language. Using respectful and non-discriminatory language is important for any group.'*

## Brothel Keeping and Criminalisation in Premises

We asked sex workers a series of questions about their interactions with police, brothel keeping and criminalisation.

We asked if they had experienced policing while working on the street or in premises. Of the 110 respondents, 54% (n= 59) indicated that they have had positive experiences with police; 29% (n=32) disclosed negative experiences; 9% (n=10) had not had any contact with police while working; and 8% (n=9) were online workers who were not currently working on-street or in premises.

Have you experienced policing whilst working on the street or in premises? If so, was it positive or negative?

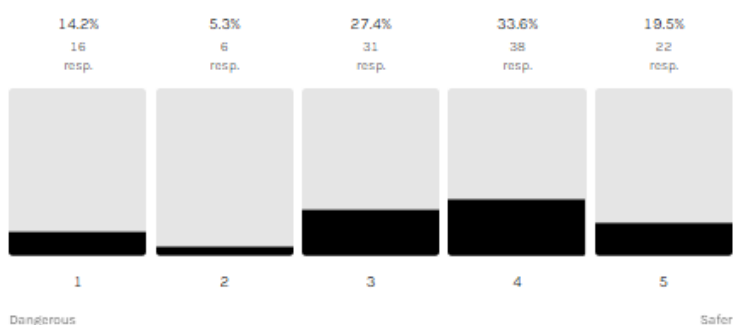
110 out of 113 answered



Do you believe that the existence of brothels makes sex work dangerous or safer than if they did not exist?

113 out of 113 answered

3.4 Average rating



We asked participants to rate if they believed that the existence of brothels had made sex work more dangerous or safer. As depicted in the Likert Scale to the left, 53% (n=60) of the sample believed that existence of brothels made the work they do safer, 27% (n=31) were neutral and 20% (n=22) felt that brothels were dangerous.

We then asked participants to elaborate on their responses and they coalesced in the following themes:

### Safety, Security and a Sense of Community

Several participants noted that brothels can be both safer or more dangerous depending on how they are run. Some made comments such as: *'Multiple girls working together in case something goes wrong, help is available for them straight away'*. Some respondents mentioned that brothels provide a sense of community and solidarity among sex workers, having *'a specific environment with vetted security and having others like you working the same job adds so much security. Being around your peers to warn each other of certain people, what to look out for, tips on keeping safe'*; however, most responses here were mixed or negative.

A respondent stated: *'It is not completely true that brothels ensure complete safety but relatively it is safer here than in the streets'* (sic). Respondents noted that brothels are safer in terms of seeing clients but they are subjected to increased risks of criminalisation by police: *'It's safer for the workers when in a group as they can look out for each other and doesn't involve moving out to another location where it's just you and the client, but it does feel that it's easier to be targeted by police when working in a brothel'*. Another respondent stated that brothels *'increased vulnerability to law enforcement harassment or arrest'* and one shared that *'police do come there too often for harassment'*.

Some responses indicated that brothels were a place to live or rest: *'brothels help for some who don't have a place to rest after working and it provides room for a person'* and *'sex workers living and working under the same roof can look out for each other's safety.'*

### Risky and Dangerous

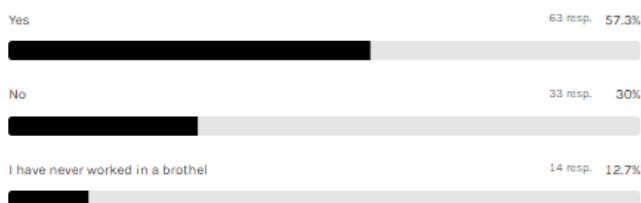
Some respondents felt that brothels were not safer. One worker stated: *'Brothels expose workers to a lot of harmful people because most of them are without proper regulation'*. Another worker said: *'I say is not safer because sex work isn't inherently degrading, though it can be (y'know, fetishes and desires and all that), but in a brothel most time workers are not allowed to refuse work'*.

We asked if sex workers had experienced police intervention while working at a brothel and 57% (n=63) said 'yes'; 30% (n=33) said 'no' and 13% (n=14) had never worked in a brothel.

We then asked participants to elaborate on their responses in an open text area, and 31 participants shared their experiences with police at brothels. As we would expect, sex workers' experiences of police were varied and ranged from protective to terrifying.

Have you faced police intervention while working in a brothel?

110 out of 113 answered



### Positive Experiences

Some respondents stated that the police protected them, and they experienced greater safety. One participant noted that they *'protect sex workers and help resolve any violence or fight.'* Another shared that *'[the police] assisted in emergency or violence situation in the brothel'* (sic). Another respondent described a positive police response: *'I called the police due to the dreadful behaviour of a client and the police response was swift and I was saved.'* A sex worker surveyed spoke about police as deterring harm: *'Police presence can deter violent clients and traffickers.'*

## Negative Experiences

Survey participants also disclosed experiences of poor treatment by police during raid. One person stated, *'I have been arrested a couple of times due to shootings in my working environment and each time, I get discriminated and questioned longer because I'm a sex worker.'* Others mentioned, *'Surprise entries to arrest sex workers, clients, and staff, often resulting in confiscation of property and assets.'* Some participants wrote about police investigations and their covert operations: *'Undercover officers pose as clients to gather evidence and arrest sex workers,'* one respondent mentioned, while another said, *'Surveillance and informants came to gather information on suspected human trafficking or exploitation.'*

Participants also wrote about experiencing fear and intimidation when police attended brothels: *'My experience was very dangerous and scary,'* one said, while another shared, *'It was very terrible and quite intimidating.'*

One respondent spoke about the impact that raids have upon sex workers: *'Raids and arrests can create fear, mistrust, and reluctance to report crimes or cooperate with police.'*

## Laws and Police Practice (Brothels)

We asked sex workers to reflect upon the benefits and risks of current laws and policies related to brothel-keeping. We received 96 written responses summarised below.

### **Benefits**

In terms of benefits, participants were supportive of laws and practices aimed at preventing youth from engaging in sex industries. One participant stated: *'The benefit I like mostly like is not letting an underage do sex work.'* Others commented about stemming exploitation: *'a reduction in sex trafficking and exploitation'* and that *'Police practices can prioritise the protection of sex workers over criminalisation.'*

Some respondents spoke about the clarity that laws can bring: *'Brothel-keeping laws can provide clarity for both sex workers and law enforcement.'* Participants commented about regulation leading to safety: *'The benefits is that the workers have a safe working environment'* and *'I feel there's definitely a benefit on cutting down on crimes against sex workers'* and *'The benefits include the safety and overall well-being of workers'.* Workers also commented about stigma stating that *'more needs to be done to change the negative stigmas around our jobs.'*

The sample also wrote about how laws can help control who can access brothel workers as regulations can ensure that *'Appointments without consent is forbidden'*, and that regulation can keep them safe from bad actors in police forces: *'Maybe being safe from police harassment.'*

One sex worker wrote about both benefits and risks: *'The risk of current laws is that we cannot work together in a brothel, but the benefits is that forceful sexual activities are reduced'*, also that *'One of the benefits is suppressing brothels and raising the age of consent for young women from 12 to 16 but the police also don't let us work well.'*

### **Risks**

Survey respondents shared a series of risks and harms associated with policing and the regulation or legalisation of brothels.

Some viewed police and the laws as affecting their abilities to earn money: *'We don't have much clients anymore because of the late night rules. [The laws] are too protective,'* and *'Our working hours has reduced so much.'* Others saw police interventions are harmful: *'Some of the actions of police may drive sex worker away from reach because they need privacy. This will increase exploitation. Police actions can sometimes instil stigma.'*

Several participants spoke about the regulation of brothels and the impacts this may have if the focus is *'targeting of sex workers rather than exploiters'.*

Others stated that regulation or legalisation may not protect them from harms perpetrated by police: *'Police may still target and harass sex workers despite laws against it,'* and that *'Strict laws and enforcement can push*

*sex work into unregulated, hidden environments, increasing vulnerability.'* Participants noted that *'There is a risk of corruption and abuse of power within the regulated system.'*

One participant compared the safety needs of sex workers with those of police:

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*Police get to work together for safety, they work in teams to help one another should there be a problem. Working together is a simple, proven way for humans to protect each other. Why would you take that away from sex workers? Sex workers face as much if not more danger than the police do yet they are not allowed to work together or hire security? Brothel keeping laws need to be abolished, they do only harm to sex workers, which may be the reason they exist in the first place, to harm marginalized people, created in a stew of stigma. Police should never be the ones doing "welfare checks" that should be reserved for sex worker orgs or groups not related in any way to the police or religious organisations. The police should have less and less power.*

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We provided open space for survey respondents to comment about whether police interventions in brothels improved safety and trust. Of all participants, 71 offered their thoughts about this and their experiences ranged from those experiencing positive outcomes to those feeling harmed by the experience.

#### Positive Experiences of Police Intervention

Some participants note that police interventions have made them feel safer: *'We have the less violence environment because of their presence'* and *'Yes, as this has safer lives especially when the police has been prompt with response'* (sic). One participant experiences police presence as improving safety: *'I would say yes, cause those clients who come in with bad motives and intentions might get scared when they notice police do come around.'*

#### Mixed Experiences of Police Intervention

Others were quite mixed about police monitoring brothels, noting that it could be positive but ultimately there are negative effects: *'Sometimes it is because illegal sexual activity are avoided but most times it is not because it disrupts our work'* and *'raids and arrests can create fear, mistrust, and reluctance to report crimes or cooperate with police'*.

#### Negative Experiences of Police Intervention

Participants also discussed the negative interactions with police such as their money being taken: *'I don't think it's for safety nowadays because it's obvious that they collect our money'* and an uneasiness around police: *'It could be quite uncomfortable sometimes.'* A participant noted that police intervention affected business: *'it keeps chasing potential customers away from the brothel and spoiling the reputation of the place for people to come visit.'*

A participant shared that police involvement in brothels also disrupts relationships between workers: *'It's very chaotic and workers are often told to rat each other out. If women don't know their rights, it can be even scarier.'* Participants also shared that *'Police presence in these areas currently feels threatening.'* and that *'They are more interested in prosecuting us than our safety.'*

Some sex workers did not want police presence at brothels at all due to their carceral function. One participant summarised this position by stating the following:

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*Police should not be involved in anything related to checking the welfare of others especially a highly stigmatised group like sex workers. They are only trained to harm people. Having police involved in "checking on sex workers" is just a way for police to do harm to vulnerable*

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*people. Police may not even think they are doing harm but just by being police and coming from a carceral system they are doing harm.*

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## Adult Services Websites (ASWs)

To gain insights from sex workers about police relations with Adult Services Websites (ASWs), we asked a series of questions about use of ASWs, whether they improve safety, risks and benefits, and police use of these sites, as well as what they would recommend for monitoring police engagement.

Of the 110 responses, over 60% (n=69) of our sample utilised ASWs.

Do you use adult services websites in the course of your work?

110 out of 113 answered

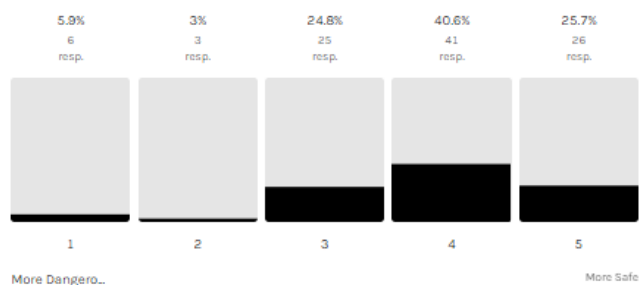


Of the 101 responses here, 66% (n=67) of participants believed that ASWs contributed to their safety, while 25% were neutral and 9% of sex workers believed that they make working conditions more dangerous.

Do adult services websites increase or decrease sex worker safety?

101 out of 113 answered

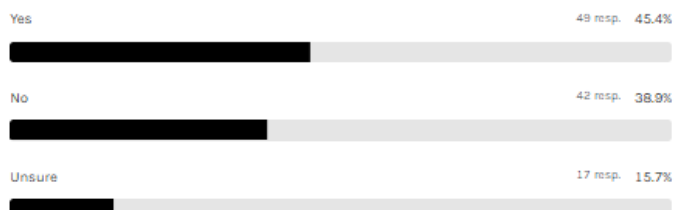
3.8 Average rating



Sex workers were asked if ASWs were doing enough to prevent violence and of the 108 responses. 45% (n=49) of those survey believed that they were doing enough; 39% (n=42) stated that they were not; and 16% (n=17) were unsure.

Are online platforms doing enough to prevent harms against sex workers?

108 out of 113 answered



### Benefits of Using Adult Service Websites (ASWs)

We asked what the benefits of using ASWs were, and 106 sex workers provided comments. Participants stated that *'There is an increased pool of potential clients'* for them to access and that this leads to higher income: *'It pays more'*; *'You meet a lot of people that want service'*; *'It helps me get high-profile clients'*; and *'I can sell different content and earn a lot of money.'*

Participants commented that they felt safer accessing client through these platforms and that they were better able to screen potential clients: *'It's easier to assess clients and it's safer'*; *'I can screen clients'*; *'Safer to meet for the first time'*; and *'Less chance of being scammed. Able to read reviews on potential customers for safety reasons.'*

Participants also stated that working through ASWs was *'safer compared to working on the street'*, *'no physical contact with people, unless you agree to meet'*, and *'no one is directly harmed, except for online trolls and stalking.'*

Advertising was also a benefit: *'I don't want to advertise in the paper; therefore, options are limited. ASW's are the best way to advertise our services in my view.'*

Sex workers are concerned about youth involvement and noted the ASWs prevent child exploitation because: *'It can only be accessed by adult and not children'*.

Participants also noted that ASWs supported them in setting boundaries and managing engagement: *'Vetting, setting expectations of pricing, a barrier between you vs someone you may not wish to communicate with'* and *'Ability to set boundaries and communicate expectations clearly.'*

Respondents also shared that working through some ASWs provided them with admin support and resources: *'Availability of customer support for assistance and guidance.'*

### Negative Impacts of Using Adult Service Websites (ASWs)

We then asked about the negative impacts of using ASWs were, and 100 sex workers shared their experiences noting that there is a risk of contact with dangerous people: *'Sometimes we met bad people and get hurt, sometimes we don't get what we are expecting'* and *'Meeting strangers who may pose a threat to your life.'*

Respondents discussed risks associated with the platforms themselves: *'They rip you off'*; *'high fees'*; that *'Your image and profile is mostly not safe'*; and that putting pictures up online *'might lead to face casting.'*

Some discussed competing with fake or unrealistic profiles: *'A lot of unreal sex workers'* and *'Fees, fake accounts, people looking to harm sex workers.'*

Sex workers also shared other harms they experienced: *'Sometimes I get bullied online and curse words from people'*, and also risks associated with overexposure online: *'Going more viral and being known by people you don't even know'*.

### Sex Workers' Thoughts on Police Working with ASWs to Look for Signs of Exploitation

Survey participants were asked about what they thought of police working with ASWs to look for signs of potential exploitation and 94 participants offered comment. Some respondents felt that it is inappropriate for police to use ASWs for these purposes: *'I feel like it's very inappropriate'* and *'It is very improper, they do that a lot.'*

Several sex workers felt that this violated their privacy: *'My thoughts is that it's not good to view people's profiles without consent'*; *'Police is invading people's privacy'*; and *'the confidentiality of sex workers' profile should not be compromised on this sites'*.

One worker felt that police intervention would *'...push sex workers to use more hidden and unsafe platforms.'*

One respondent was quite outraged by police working with ASWs in this way: *'Police wouldn't know exploitation if it bit them on the face. Saying they are looking for potential exploitation is just an excuse to try to use the law to take advantage of marginalised people.'*

Conversely, some were okay with police involvement with ASWs if their intentions were to improve safety: *'If this ensures our safety then it's fine by me'* and *'I just think if they are doing it truthfully for our safety then it's an applaudable thing to do.'*

We asked what laws, policies or rules should apply to police use of ASWs and 94 sex workers also responded to this question highlighting that safety should be the focus: *'The police should treat this as a legal and civil business and site and ensure more safety of all users'* and that *'the confidentiality of sex workers profile should not be compromised on these sites.'* Sex workers were against *'forced verification that reveals our personal information'*, and stated that there should be *'No use of AI for screening' of sex workers'* content and profiles by police. Also, they noted that the focus should be to *'provide officers with training on the ethical use of adult service websites'*, *'require supervision'* and *'limit use to investigations of exploitation and trafficking only'*.

We then asked participants what their recommendations for laws, policies and police practices that would improve their safety. Core themes were:

*'Regulate sex work as a legitimate profession with labour rights and protections.'*

*'Allow sex workers to work together under safety rules that reduce the risk of exploitation and abuse.'*

*'Educate more sex workers on their rights.'*

*'Establish relationships with sex workers, listening to their concerns and needs.'*

## Comments and Insights for the NPCC from Sex Workers

To close the survey, we made space for final comments and thoughts that they wanted us to communicate to the NPCC.

### Final thoughts and messages to police

**‘I’m pleased to see that a more friendly and supportive attitude and policing guidelines are being used. I think brothels should be closed down only if there are complaints. Discretion is key and nobody wants to live by a property that isn’t [discreet].’**

‘Police guidelines don’t mean much. I’m glad if some police are saying that safety should be the priority, but they aren’t saying that working on the street and in premises should be decriminalised even though they know that is what would make the difference and that is because they like the power in my view.’

**‘I just feel more thought should be put into making it safe for us’.**

‘Police should focus on protecting sex workers from violence.’



**‘I’d like to emphasise the importance of prioritising sex workers’ safety, dignity, and human rights in police guidelines and practices.’**

**‘I love the police because they give security to workers.’**





**‘Police guidelines on sex work should prioritise the safety, rights, and dignity of sex workers, fostering trust and cooperation rather than fear of criminalisation.’**

**‘Sex workers should be addressed appropriately by the police with respect.’**

**‘The attitude of the police towards sex workers should change.’**

**‘Police are a danger, they are a dangerous boys club that should be abolished. Police should have very limited powers. Any type of welfare or "good will" toward marginalised people should just not be done by police. Use the money that goes to police to give to trained counsellors or organisations that know more about sex workers than police do. Police should go after dangerous clients that have committed crimes but nothing else.’**



**‘Police should do more to ensure our safety.’**

**‘Thank you for looking out for us.’**

*(Responses from surveyed sex workers)*

## About NUM

[National Ugly Mugs \(NUM\)](#) is the largest sex worker-serving violence prevention and survivor support service in the UK with a mandate to 'end all forms of violence against sex workers.' The charity: provides victim support and access to support and resources via Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs); curates the national database of violence against sex workers; processes hundreds of reports of violence against this population; sends hundreds of thousands of alerts and warnings to prevent violence each year; runs [NUMbrella Lane](#) (Scotland); [Mental Health Support Services](#); a [Racial Justice Project](#); and is building [Vocational Support Services](#) for those desiring to change their levels of involvement in adult industries. We support over 9,800 members, 85% of whom are active adult industry workers, with the remainder comprising of a range of frontline practitioners and delivery partners.

## About Our Partner

The [English Collective of Prostitutes \(ECP\)](#) was founded in 1975 and is a network of sex workers working both on the streets and indoors campaigning for decriminalisation and safety. They fight against sex workers being treated like criminals. They have helped sex workers win against charges of soliciting, brothel-keeping and controlling – the last two most often used against women who are working together for safety. They campaign against austerity cuts and for housing and other survival resources so that anyone can leave prostitution, if and when they want.