

PROTECTING STUDENT SEX WORKERS POLICY

Title:	Protecting Student Sex Workers	Date of Group Chat:	April 2019
Proposer name:	Amanda Campbell White	Role:	Vice President (Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences)
Seconder name:	Laura Douds	Role:	President

Union Notes:

1. NUS research shows that 5% of students are, or have been, involved in sex work. [1] [Note that 'sex work' is a term that encompasses a lot of different acts, including prostitution, 'glamour modelling', stripping, being a sugar baby and more]
 - a. More than half of the NUS respondents were engaging in sex work to fund their living expenses (67%), rent (53%) or to fund things such as books or clothes (51%).
 - b. 47% of respondents experienced sexual assault at work, and 30% experienced physical assault, but 82% of sex workers never spoke to the police about a crime at work.
 - c. The majority of respondents identified as female (71%). 11% identify as male and the remainder (18%) identified 'in another way.'
 - d. 16% of the respondents were trans, 65% of the respondents identified as something other than straight, and 55% said they had a disability, impairment or long-term health condition.
 - e. Importantly, 75% of the respondents said that they would support decriminalising sex work.
 - f. Over 60% of respondents felt that their university didn't offer enough support, and another 60% felt their SU didn't offer enough support to them.
2. In a recent survey of ARU students, we found that 67% of respondents wanted to support decriminalising efforts and enable sex workers to get access to other resources to help them, such as counselling and sexual health clinics.

[1] <https://www.nusconnect.org.uk/resources/student-sex-worker-research>

Union Believes:

1. That sex work is a legitimate form of work and it should be decriminalised the same way that most occupations are decriminalised.
2. That there is an ongoing stigma around this kind of work which is unwarranted.
3. That sex work is not a legitimate reason to call someone in to a fitness to study or fitness to practice investigation, particularly given that prostitution itself is not illegal.
4. That significant numbers of sex workers identify into liberation groups, and as such may not only be bearing the stigma of engaging in sex work, but also bearing the brunt of societal discrimination in other ways.

Union Resolves:

1. To provide resources to help student sex workers find support, such as but not limited to identifying local sexual health clinics.
2. To continue our ongoing work around safe sex, such as free condoms and STD testing.
3. To support decriminalisation efforts whenever it is feasible to.
4. To ensure that relevant staff members (such as counsellors and the Sexual Violence Liaison Officers) are trained and have up-to-date knowledge about sex work.

Policy Summary:

We are aiming to provide a safer environment for student sex workers.

Please e-mail to Megan Bennett, Democracy Coordinator at m.bennett@angliastudent.com