

# Protecting Student Sex workers POLICY

Title:	Protecting Student Sex Workers	Date of Group Chat:	DD/MM/YY
Proposer name:	Amanda Campbell White	Role:	Vice President Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
Seconder name:	Emma Scriven	Role:	Disabled Students rep (Cambridge)

## Union Notes:

List the facts related to the areas your policy is focussed on. For example 'The Union has a responsibility to protect the welfare and security of all of its members.'

It's important at this point you include any research you've conducted, or links to research, that will help make a case for your policy.

1. In February 2019, in a 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.
2. 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.
3. Increase in young people engaging in Only fans and having active accounts [2].
4. Due to austerity, cuts to services and support have disproportionately affected people who participate in this form of work.
5. Whilst sex work is not illegal in the UK, sex workers who work on the street can be picked up on soliciting or anti-social behavioural order charges, and sex workers who work together indoors for safety can be charged with brothel keeping
6. Many sex workers engage in this form of work for various such as class barriers and discrimination, financial difficulties, which leads or keeps them into sex work.

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

[2] <https://www.dazeddigital.com/science-tech/article/38717/1/onlyfans-is-the-site-where-porn-is-more-intimate-than-ever>

[3] [https://wonkhe.com/blogs/sex-work-some-students-voices-are-more-uncomfortable-than-others/?fbclid=IwAR3kDhIbMx6O8RP93364G\\_mgt6aiBEfTAoTKCkKqjX22Qb9Yn3C9RPuLe8](https://wonkhe.com/blogs/sex-work-some-students-voices-are-more-uncomfortable-than-others/?fbclid=IwAR3kDhIbMx6O8RP93364G_mgt6aiBEfTAoTKCkKqjX22Qb9Yn3C9RPuLe8)

## Union Believes:

List what you think the Union should believe as a result of your policy. For example: 'That freedom of speech is an important right and should be respected.'

1. Sex work is work. Sex work is the exchange of money for labour, like any other job.
2. People should be free to choose what they do with their time, their labour and their bodies.
3. With the rise in living costs, the increase in tuition fees, and the slashing of benefits for disabled people, it is highly likely that some students at ARU do sex work alongside their studies in order to survive month to month.
4. Stigma against sex work means that sex workers are less likely to seek out help and support if and when they need it [1].
5. To provide resources to help student sex workers find support, such as but not limited to identifying local sexual health clinics.
6. We should support sex workers regardless of their gender, race, sexuality or economic situation.
7. That student sex workers accessing services at ARU or within our local communities should be treated with respect and dignity, sex workers of all backgrounds deserve to have their rights protected and to be able to do their jobs safely.
8. To continue our ongoing work around safe sex, such as free condoms and STD testing.
9. To support decriminalisation efforts whenever it is feasible to.
10. 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.

[1] [https://wonkhe.com/blogs/sex-work-some-students-voices-are-more-uncomfortable-than-others/?fbclid=IwAR3kDhIbMx6O8RP93364G\\_mgt6aiBEfTAoTKCkKqjX22Qb9Yn3C9RPuLe8](https://wonkhe.com/blogs/sex-work-some-students-voices-are-more-uncomfortable-than-others/?fbclid=IwAR3kDhIbMx6O8RP93364G_mgt6aiBEfTAoTKCkKqjX22Qb9Yn3C9RPuLe8)

#### Union Resolves:

List the actions the Union should carry out to deliver the policy. For example: 'To create a list of organisations that will be campaigned against and not allowed to take part in Union events.'

1. To provide resources to help student sex workers find support, such as but not limited to identifying local sexual health clinics (DHiverse, Kite trust and so forth).
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:

In one or two sentences, what is the aim of your policy?

We are aiming to provide a safer environment for student sex workers. We understand that discrimination, stigma, and a level of isolation can exist due to engaging in sex work. Therefore, we aim to support and provide advice through educating others. We are here to support sex workers regardless of their gender, race, sexuality or economic situation. Student sex workers accessing services at ARU or within our local communities should be treated with respect and dignity.

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