

## Normalizing Prostitution and Disrespecting Victims

### ***Cover Page: National Center on Sexual Exploitation's Policy on Sharing Proof***

**WARNING:** *The material in this document may contain graphic text, blurred images, and survivor quotes that may trigger the viewer.*

#### **Why do we post proof in the first place?**

NCOSE researchers have collected this proof as evidence of the material that is made, contained, and/or distributed by the corporations and institutions NCOSE is confronting.

Proof is shared with corporate executives, shareholders, and/or board members, as well as with policymakers, law enforcement, journalists, and the general public to **give witness to the sexual exploitation and abuse that is often rampant, yet sometimes hidden, on these platforms.**

#### **Why do you blur out images, including faces, if they're publicly available?**

While we believe it is important to provide ample evidence of wrong-doing to support our claims and inspire change, **we also strongly believe that no one – neither adult, nor child – should be exposed to the type of material our researchers collect:** either for their own well-being, or out of respect for those being exploited. It is for this reason we pixelate/blur/block not only nudity or sexually graphic content, but also the faces of those being exploited.

We also want to limit access to this material (unfortunately, a luxury not afforded to children and adults using many of the platforms and products made by these companies). Therefore, we add several layers before someone can access the proof, and also don't include all the proof that we have obtained. If someone feels they need to see more evidence to understand the extent of the problem or the type of exploitation that is happening, they may request it of NCOSE by writing to [public@ncose.com](mailto:public@ncose.com).

#### **Did you receive people's permission to post?**

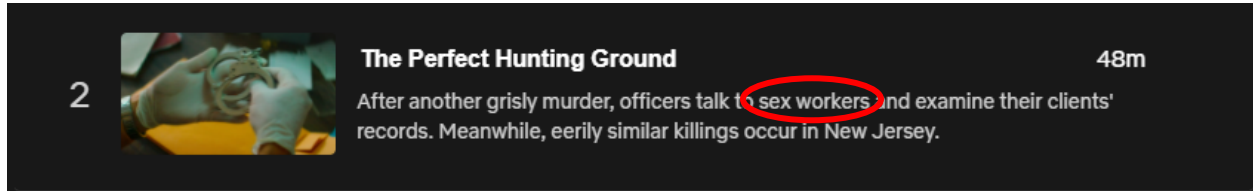
Any personal testimony shared to NCOSE directly is posted only with the affected parties approval.

For material that is publicly available, we do not seek permission to post. However, we redact names and usernames of survivors from articles, social media, etc. even when publicly available. To read more about our commitment to ethical engagement with survivors, please go [here](#). We do not redact names or usernames of exploiters who have posted publicly.

*Disclaimer: while we do collect information on those who request access to more proof, that information will only be used for our own, internal analysis. It will not be distributed, shared, or posted publicly or with outside parties.*

## Normalizing Prostitution and Disrespecting Victims

A 2021 Netflix original documentary *Crime Scene: The Times Square Killer* examines the case of Richard Cottingham who [claimed to have raped, mutilated, and murdered over 100 women](#). In particular, Cottingham targeted prostituted women. While exploring this tragedy, Netflix normalizes the commercial sex industry and disrespects the victimized prostituted women by referring to them as “sex workers.”



The 2021 Netflix original *Madame Claude* is a biographical film about an infamous female pimp and the women she exploits. While [the film communicates some truths about the violence, exploitation, and trauma prostituted women endure](#), it does so in a highly voyeuristic and objectifying fashion which is exploitative of the actresses and disrespectful of the victims and survivors portrayed.

[REVIEW: 'Madame Claude' is evocative of the male gaze](#), April 2021, Daily Trojan

- “There’s a strong element of the male gaze throughout “Madame Claude.”... Women are always portrayed in voyeuristic terms, their bodies magnified and put on display.”
- “In fact, it’s worth asking if the film ends up conforming to a male gaze even as it seeks to show how women are affected by the sexualization of their bodies and professions.”
- “If the goal of the film was to provide a darker rendering of the challenges associated with sex work, it does an effective job at that. At one point, one of Madame Claude’s workers, Virginie (Liah O’Prey), is physically abused by her clients for \$200,000. It leaves Virginie tearfully fearful about the nature of her profession. Other workers are similarly forced to endure degrading, dehumanizing treatment.

However, “Madame Claude” doesn’t really explain any of these scenes and their implied connections to gender-based violence; instead, it chooses to repeatedly showcase the eroticism of women’s bodies. This becomes exhausting for those who want to view women as more than the sexualized objects they’re presented as.”


[Stream It Or Skip It: 'Madame Claude' On Netflix, A Steamy French Biopic About An Infamous Brothel Keeper](#), April 2021, Decider

- “In *Madame Claude*, the nudity starts only a few minutes in and doesn’t really stop. Sex, stripteases, and everything in between fill most of this drama’s runtime. Lots of naked bodies.”
- “... the camerawork so frequently male gaze-y...”



## Sex


Lots of nudity, many sex scenes, and an overabundance of lingering shots on women, their buttocks, breasts, and full bodies. The sex scenes aren't more explicit than the general overall degree of nudity and open discussion of sex work, clients (or "friends"), and various sexual acts, but there are plenty of them. A woman demands a younger woman show her how she washes her genitals, then does it for her. Lots of bare breasts, a few flaccid penises, and some female frontal nudity.

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## Violence

Multiple scenes of women sex workers being hit, slapped, headbutted, kicked, whipped, choked, and chased. Many women are seen bruised, cut, bleeding, and scared. Women sex workers are sent to dangerous places to meet dangerous people. Sometimes they get beaten, raped, and assaulted. One dies and doesn't come back. Other stories of child abuse and child sexual abuse occur somewhat frequently. Discussion about killing former abusers. A man is shot in the head. A woman is shot in the arm, and then shot at more as she runs away. Men are beaten, tied up, and tortured. Talk of people being "taken care of," quick scenes of "hits" happening, some ordered by police, some ordered by organized crime.

 **Did you know you can flag iffy stuff with Plus?** Adjust limits for Violence in your kid's entertainment guide. [Join now](#)

## [IMDB Reviews of Madame Claude](#)

★ 4/10

### **Soft Porn**

Horror\_Flick\_Fanatic 5 April 2021

Predominantly, soft porn with a weak screenplay to legitimize it as a movie.

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6 out of 17 found this helpful. Was this review helpful? [Sign in](#) to vote.

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