

Facilitating and Fueling Prostitution

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.

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.

OnlyFans facilitates and fuels in-person prostitution. Individuals who start out on OnlyFans are often drawn into in-person prostitution when they realize they can't make enough money on OnlyFans. Individuals who are already involved in in-person prostitution may also use the OnlyFans platform to advertise their "services" and/or supplement their income. Sex buyers also use OnlyFans as a complement to in-person transactions.

- [OnlyFans: A Case Study of Exploitation in the Digital Age](#), The Avery Center, December 2021
 - This report came from a research collaboration project between The Avery Center and Human Trafficking Detective Joseph Scarammuci. It included a survey of past or current OnlyFans creators. 38% of the survey respondents had previously been arrested for prostitution-related offenses. 43% had experience with sugaring ([another term for prostitution](#)).
 - "Some content creators shared how OnlyFans was a platform that buyers used to find individuals willing to meet in-person for sex transactions: "It [led] me to start in-person work. I realized I was already doing online [sexual content for pay] and I knew I could make more doing in person." Sex buyers on hobby boards repeatedly confirmed the fact that digital content did not replace in-person transactions but were complimentary to them: "When you have met her in person and anticipate seeing her again the vids are quite an enhancer! And they are also a quick and cheap screening aid if you have not met her yet." Indeed, numerous "411" threads (threads created by sex buyers seeking information about the legitimacy and types of sex acts available from a person selling sex) contained links to the individuals' OnlyFans page as evidence they were in fact not law enforcement and were willing to provide the largely unprotected sex acts demanded by the buyer. Buyers have incorporated OnlyFans into their research for people to pay for: "That \$10-\$20 would be [a] great spend to see if there's something 'there' for a meet-up." OnlyFans is now integrated into the sex buyer practices that keep them in a position of power and safety. Sex buyers were also hopeful that the policy changes OnlyFans announced in August 2021 would result in an increase of in-person sex transactions: "Hopefully that will reflect really good on the hobby and increase talent availability. I would rather 'do it than see it.'" OnlyFans has created a significant increase in supply of individuals selling sex in person"
- ["OnlyFans: How it handles illegal sex videos - BBC investigation"](#), August 2021, BBC
 - "Christof, and a second person who has moderated content for the site, say some creators offer competitions to meet and have sex with a fan, as a way of increasing tip payments."
 - "One of the documents we obtained detailing moderation guidelines in 2020, states that adverts for sex are an issue for the site. It says the "most popular places for escort promo" on the site are in creators' usernames, bios, content descriptions and "tips menus" which advertise customized videos. The document says "examples" of this promotion include references to "PPM (pay per meet)", "CashMeets", "Book me", "IRL Meet", "scort" and others. Despite this, BBC News was able to find more than 30 active accounts using those keywords in bios, profiles and posts, on one day."

- “One creator's profile described them as an “[e]scort - sex partner”. A different account asked: “Anyone want to book me for a weekend?” Only two of the accounts we found had been removed 10 days later.”
- [Swedish Police Label Onlyfans as 'Gateway to Prostitution'](#), June 2021, Sputnik International
 - “Writer and police officer Simon Häggström, who is known for his books on human trafficking and vice crime, which he specializes in, has warned that Onlyfans can lead to minors, especially girls, being drawn into prostitution.

“We notice that on these platforms the number of children, young people and young adults who have been drawn into the world of prostitution has soared if we compare with ten years ago,” Häggström told national broadcaster SVT.