Survivor Testimonies

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.*

The following are personal testimonies shared on public forums by survivors who were adversely affected through their involvement on OnlyFans.

I am quitting OnlyFans because it's destoying me (and is also harmful to my subscribers)

Date: Sept 2021

Source: Reddit

1.2k

I am quitting OnlyFans because it's destoying me (and is also harmful to my subscribers)

After doing OF for over half a year and having good success for a woman in my 40s, it is time to quit.

Although my partner supported it, it was exciting and I loved exploring/sharing my sexuality, there are many harmful and addictive elements to it (for both me and my subscribers) that I did not consider when starting. I'm writing this mainly for those who are considering starting an OnlyFans or those thinking about quitting. I want to be clear that this is my personal experience, and I'm sure it's different from other creators on the site having positive experiences. I believe that sex work is real work.

1. Even if you have firm boundaries, people will push you. People will be unkind. People will say things that you can not imagine. You will also see more dicks than you can ever imagine (many unsolicited).

2. From all the dicks, comments, requests etc., you may get desensitized to sex and develop mental health challenges. I found that the longer I did OF, my sex drive dropped lower and lower. I used to have an incredibly strong libido when starting OF, and months later it's down in the dumps. The last thing I want to do is have sex, and that has been challenging for both me and my partner. Overall, I just started to feel depressed, disconnected from my body and unlike myself (I've never experienced anything quite like it). I couldn't shake the feeling and lost interest in previous activities that I loved (not only sex).

3. You will spend too much time on your phone/computer. You will develop headaches and neck pain from looking at a screen so much. I personally got so tired of promoting my OF on social media, I started to also let go of my personal social media (which honestly, wasn't a bad choice). I look forward to not being on social media as much as getting outside as much as I can!

4. You may start to feel validated/invalidated by what people think/say about you. This is dangerous, and can happen to anyone whether on OF or not. I've come to the realization that letting others dictate how I feel about myself is not healthy.

5. I didn't think it was the best thing for my subscribers to spend their money on. I do feel like I produced quality content and never scammed anyone, but when people were telling me they'd have to wait until after their rent was due/payday for a custom video or to pay for their kids' clothes/food/activities first, it became too much. Those are real prioities and my OF (or frankly any OF, imo) should not be competing with that. They may have been dealing with an addiction and it started to make me feel like a shit human to be taking their money.

6. I started to feel like I could do something much better for the world and myself with the time I was spending as a creator on OF. So that's what I will be pursuing when I'm done.

Thanks to everyone who read this far, and for the space to get my thoughts down.

153 Comments   Share   Save   Hide   Report   96% Upvoted

Yes!! THANK YOU for posting this! I just had a very similar experience but with Phrendly (an app and a website). Sex work is not just real work, it's *hard*, it's *thankless,* it's sometimes *traumatic,* and quite often *abusive*. You rock for coming to these conclusions and for sharing them with the world. Good for you for making yourself the priority in getting out of the toxic OF environment. Certain sex worker environments can be like having "golden handcuffs" -- the incentive to stay is more alluring than getting out. You've inspired me to write about my own experience, too. I wonder if there are support groups for sex workers? I'd be interested in joining one. Otherwise, I wish you the best of luck in healing from this experience and in in your future pursuits. <3

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Honestly I am 21, and have done only fans for 2 years now and I've never felt something I related to so much.. it took my HIGH sex drive away.. and it just takes WAYYY too much out of your day if you actually be successful at it. I made a little over 50k in 2 years. But the time, energy that was put into the 50k, was just not worth it for me. I feel you 100% and am in the process of switching my income. Lots of love, thanks for sharing.

⬆ 2 ⬇ 💬 Reply Share Report Save Follow

[I was an OnlyFans model for six months. It made me realize that I'm anti-sex work.](#)

Date: Dec 2020

Source: Reddit

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This is gonna be really long, but it's something that I've wanted to get off my chest for a while now, and this sub seems like a good place to do so.

A little bit about me for context: I'm a 21-year-old female college student who has always enjoyed a safe, comfortable life. I had a pleasant middle-class upbringing. I have good friends and a wonderful boyfriend. My choice to create an OnlyFans was not out of necessity, but mostly out of curiosity and a desire to make a little extra cash during Covid so I could pay off some bills and save enough to move out of my parents' house. My circumstances aren't very unique in that a lot of girls with backgrounds similar to mine seem to be dabbling in online sex work, particularly on OnlyFans.

Anyway, I created my account this past February. Got active during March at the beginning of lockdown. I was staying with my boyfriend at the time and he was very supportive of it, basically had a "get your bag" attitude and thought it was funny that guys would pay $6 a month to view my nudes and talk to me. My content was very softcore for the most part. I did end up doing some more explicit videos that I'd sell as 'pay-

per-view' (PPV) messages, and I had some money shots in there. But in the greater scheme of things, it was all pretty tame. I showed my face. I wasn't totally worried about the long-term consequences of my nudes being online forever (which, spoiler alert, they are - everything on OnlyFans gets leaked), mostly because this type of thing has been fairly "normalized" (gross, I know) and I knew for a fact that they would never affect my career prospects based on what I want to do.

Things were slow in the beginning. I made $60 my first month. It was whatever, but I was determined to earn more. I'm fairly attractive and have kind of a nerdy look, and I'm very natural on camera (my feed consisted mostly of pictures but I made some videos of me doing mundane shit in lingerie while talking to the camera, which my small audience dug).

Gradually, my account grew in popularity. From the compliments to the cash, I was loving it. I made $300 the next month. $1000 after that. Then $1500. At my peak, I earned $2500 in a month. I had enough to move into my own place (my parents assumed the money was coming from other jobs that I had been doing on the side, which wasn't entirely false). It was great.

But eventually, the hype wore off. I hated making content in the thick summer heat. I started to get migraines from looking at a screen for hours on end (**2/3 of the job consisted of promoting on Twitter and Reddit**). I started to hate the attention; it made me sort of narcissistic and hyper-aware of my appearance at all times, which had never been typical for me. I hated that I had an obligation to be posting and networking with other creators constantly. **I got tired of reading all the creepy DMs from both randos on Twitter and paying subscribers. The worst part, though, was that I could no longer look at my naked body in the mirror without thinking about it as something to be consumed by other people, even if only in photographs and videos. I felt alienated from my own sexuality. It was draining. I felt gross. I wasn't happy.**

After a few mental breakdowns and several long discussions with my boyfriend, I realized I had to quit. And I was so happy when I did.

In the months since then, I've reconnected with my body and sexuality and become staunchly anti-sex work and anti-porn. I have nothing against sex workers themselves, but I don't think sex work of any kind (online or in-person) would exist as we know it without economic precarity. Because it does exist on such a massive scale, though, there's this narrative that we should support and defend sex work at all costs. It's bullshit. People like to talk about OnlyFans as if it's this ethical alternative to free porn sites (i.e. Pornhub) when the reality is that so many things about it are fundamentally the same. Sure, creators are (ostensibly) working independently and not under the discretion of predatory producers and contracts (though this is not entirely true). Sure, it does not host a plethora of readily-available rape and child abuse videos. But there's still a lot of sketchy shit going on. Here are a few examples:

- There are no real safeguards in place to ensure that all models are of age.
    - I'm sorry, but a single ID picture doesn't cut it. IDs can be convincingly altered with fucking Facetune. Plus, even if an adult signs up with a valid ID, they can upload all sorts of content featuring other people who are not age verified on the platform. I have no doubt that there's a decent amount of CP on OnlyFans.
- There are tons of "promoters" and "managers" (online pimps) who actively prey upon new girls (the younger the better).
    - **They usually approach the model on Twitter and groom her so that she will agree to let them help "manage" her online presence in exchange for a cut. People are desperate**

naive and they fall for it. This naturally creates a perfect opportunity for blackmail and other types of emotional manipulation. It happens all. the. time. And it isn't talked about nearly enough in the online sex work community.

- There are tons of models peddling the idea that it's "empowering" and should be "normalized".
    - To their credit, many OnlyFans models have spoken out against this notion, but there are toooons of them who talk like this. There is nothing empowering about showing your body to people for money. It's a *job,* for Christ's sake - it's no more empowering than working at a grocery store. And the idea that it should be *normalized* because "sex work is work!" is beyond harmful. Online sex work is no joke. It can have all sorts of serious consequences, ranging from reputation damage to doxxing and stalking to general trauma caused by any number of factors. **It is absolutely fucking insane to think that 18-year-olds are allowed to consent to this.**
- It encourages the **societal grooming of underage girls.**
    - I have seen SO many 16, 17-year-old girls on Twitter and TikTok talking about how they "can't wait until they turn 18" to create an OnlyFans. It's really depressing, but far more disturbing is the fact that you look at their replies and see a ton of **adults** encouraging them to do so because, again, "sex work is work!". It's fucking sick.

As seems to be the case across the adult industry, OnlyFans creators by-and-large claim to love what they do. I have no doubt that this is true in many cases. But I also have no doubt that many creators are just saying that because they have to in order to retain their subscribers.

I guess what I'm trying to say is that **I really really really hate the casual enthusiasm surrounding OnlyFans and sex work discourse as a whole.** The appeal of the "do-it-yourself" approach to porn (or lingerie pictures, or whatever) overshadows the dark reality of sex work that many women encounter through these types of platforms.

I'm anti-sex work because I think that the vast majority of sex work is inherently exploitative. For every woman funding her dream life on OnlyFans, there are thousands on the platform who struggle to make ends meet, who do it to cope with trauma, who dabble in it without recognizing the long-term consequences of having their intimate photos online forever. "Ethical porn" will always exist in the same sphere as "unethical porn". Predators will always try to take advantage of new/young/naive models and performers, and experienced and successful creators will not use their platforms to speak out against it because they're so far removed from it. It's all a load of garbage, and I can't wait for everyone else to realize that.

Fuck OnlyFans.

[I quit OnlyFans because it was harming me, my relationship and my subscribers](#)

Date: Oct 2021

Source: Reddit

months ago 🧑 2 🙂 🥇 🏅

I quit OnlyFans because it was harming me, my relationship and my subscribers

Journey

Hello all, although I did detail my journey/decision in another subreddit, I thought it could help here as well - especially for those who are considering starting sex work with or quitting OnlyFans or on another content creation site.

This is just my experience and is not a judgement on sex work or sex workers in general. I'm sure many others have had great experiences with the work and yes, sex work is work.

I'm a woman in my 40s and had reasonable success with Onlyfans over the past 6 months, especially considering I don't show my face. At first I enjoyed expressing myself sexually and connecting with my subscribers. But I needed to quit for the following reasons:

My boundaries keep getting pushed, and it became exhausting. People will always want more, no matter what you provide. Some will be upset and treat you poorly if you decline their request. You will face harrassment. It's challenging not to let it get to you.

I lost my sex drive. Turning this fun, expressive element of my life into work, based on the needs of others rather than myself, was harmful to me and my connection with my partner (who supported me/captured content with me throughout this journey). I went from having a very high libido to having none and feeling disconnected from my body and unlike myself. I've never experienced this before.

I was attached to my phone. Not only with creating and posting content and interacting with subscribers, but the incredible amount of social media/promotion that needs to be done to keep new potential subscribers interested. This takes a toll in time, some days 8-12 hours (on top of other work, family responsibilities), it became way too much. I also wasn't spending as much time with my partner, friends and family, which was impacting my life. When I worked out the time for income, I was making minimum wage off OF. It honestly made me understand the issues with all social media, and I have also stepped away from my personal accounts (which is not a bad thing). Time is such a valuable and finite resource we have, we can't squander it.

Another major reason for leaving is seeing how it was impacting my subscribers. Many would want to purchase customs or needed to take a break from my page momentarily because they needed to pay for food, rent, clothing for kids. Although I did produce quality content and never scammed anyone, I do not feel that OF content is a priority. I would be urging my subscribers to take care of those priority things in their life rather than giving me their money. I started to feel like a shit human for taking their money.

There were some very positive things I got out of it too - mainly the interactions with subscribers where they were coming to terms with their fetishes or facing a darker time in their life, and just needed someone to talk to. I was honored they trusted me enough to open up.

But I think I can take these elements I loved and start something new that's outside of sex work.

Thank you all for reading, and I'm happy to answer questions and especially help others who have been in my shoes.

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