

Threats to Safety and Well-being of “Creators”

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.

While some claim OnlyFans is safe and harmless because it doesn't require physical contact with sex buyers, this is far from true. Numerous creators have testified to the harms they experienced – including doxing, stalking, and physical threats from subscribers; financial exploitation by subscribers and the OnlyFans business itself; mental health harms; and more. One survivor was tragically murdered by a subscriber.

- [Popular OnlyFans Creator Mercedes Morr Killed in Murder-Suicide \[VIDEO\]](#), September 2021, Eurweb
 - “Instagram model and popular OnlyFans creator Miss Mercedes Morr (born Jenae Gagnier) was murdered over the weekend by a crazed fan.”
 - “Gagnier was strangled and suffered a traumatic concussion, the Fort Bend County Medical Examiner confirmed. Her death has been ruled a homicide.”
 - “Mark found his daughter dead at the bottom of the staircase, and her killer upstairs in the kitchen with a knife in his neck. Investigators say he stabbed himself and scribbled rambling messages on the wall... According to reports, the writings were confessions and apologies and love notes for Jenae — who he did not know personally.”
- [“Under the Skin of OnlyFans”](#), July 2021, BBC
 - “She says that last summer, a male subscriber threatened violence after she declined to have sex with him - and sent messages to her OnlyFans account, including:
"I know where you live.
"I'm going to hunt you down.
"I'm going to kill your children.
"I'm going to rape you.
"I'm going to make your husband watch me as I hurt you, then I'm going to kill you.
"I hope all of your family get Covid and die."
When Victoria-May reported these threats, OnlyFans said "rude messages" did not violate its guidelines and the subscribers' account would not be removed. But as the company takes 20% of earnings, she feels it has a duty to take action.”
 - “This was the experience of Bell, a 23-year-old model from Manchester, who says she was harassed by a fan last year who was requesting extreme content in return for tips.
"It got very intense, so I decided to cut it off after six months," she recalls. "And they reacted quite badly to that - it was obsessive, obsessive behaviour.
"They were stalking me over multiple accounts, watching me through my friends' stories on Instagram, they had quite a lot of me, so I was worried that they could use this against me."
Bell reported the fan to OnlyFans three times and she says the site later advised blocking him. But he continued to sign-up to her page using multiple new accounts.”

- “Some told the BBC their photos had been maliciously sent to family members, or that they had been blackmailed into sharing nudes for free or told they would be made public.”
- [“OnlyFans Isn’t Just Porn ;\)”](#), May 2021, New York Times
 - OF creators are at increased risk of being doxed or facing consequences IRL for their work on the platform
 - “Non-sex workers tend to see online work as categorically safer than in-person work, but it’s more accurate to say that online work entails different types of threats. The New York Post’s December outing of a local paramedic as an OnlyFans creator is one example of how senselessly cruel (and high-profile) consequences can be; the woman was a private citizen whose actions were of no discernible public interest, yet the paper elected to devote an entire article to her legal name, pictures and social media handles. Stigma against sex workers remains an injurious force, and being already out doesn’t inure one from familial strife or social conflicts. One sex worker I spoke with who lives alone had a “fan” show up at her front door. Another said her family was “destroyed” after a member took issue with something she posted on OnlyFans. “To be visible in an online ecosystem that wants your erasure opens you up to a whole host of risks,” said Blunt, who is troubled by the ways sex workers are losing “the ability to stay anonymous.”
 - “Given that creators have to acquire and convert their own audience while producing their own material, exactly what service does OnlyFans provide? “OnlyFans is a glorified payment processor,” said the researcher, organizer and sex worker who goes by Danielle Blunt. “It’s being celebrated for putting more money back into performers’ hands and creating a space where performers can own and distribute their own content, but they’re taking a predatory cut. This isn’t a typical civilian processor that takes between 3 and 7 percent. OnlyFans takes 20 percent.” For sex workers, any payment processing is elusive, so they can’t afford to be picky.”
- [“OnlyFans is sex work and pornography — stop calling it ‘empowering’”](#), September 2020, Julie Bindel writing for Evening Standard
 - “Some of the women who provide content end up scared and traumatised. One woman told me she still can’t sleep after a stalking incident two years ago. “My biggest fan,” said Lisa*, laughing bitterly at the irony, “managed to trace me to my place of work and actually waited outside for me one day. I was appalled and terrified.”
- [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. The research included a survey of past and current OnlyFans creators.
 - “Thirty-four percent of the respondents said they had experienced negative physical or mental health outcomes as a direct result of content creation on OnlyFans. The negative effects creators experienced included anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, fear and shame.”
 - “Content creators have identified that the platforms as well as the subscribers create unsafe and exploitative experiences for them. Only eleven percent of the survey respondents said they felt OnlyFans was a safe platform for content creators. When

asked about what could be done to make the platform safer, responses focused on subscribers. Respondents were concerned about being doxed (60%). They were also aware that while OnlyFans has the money and technology to keep their content safe, there were no protections in place to stop customers from stealing it: “Some system to prevent distributing screen recordings.” Other respondents suggested having requirements not just for content creators at registration but subscribers too: “Literally anybody could pay for your page.” Sex sellers are not only concerned for their own safety, but the safety of minors who register on OnlyFans and view explicit content.”

- “OnlyFans does not prevent financial abuse by customers, instead passing on the cost of risk to the content creators, some of whom are being trafficked and do not have access to any of the money being generated on the platform as it is. Sex buyers financially abuse content creators through customer guarantee policies that protect consumers, while content creators suffer the financial penalties twofold.”
- [“Essex family behind OnlyFans profit from pornography boom”](#), May 2021, The Guardian
 - “Although the company likes to boast of the income it delivers to the “creators” who upload the videos, its newly filed accounts suggest the owners are the real winners. The company’s highest-paid director earned a £2m salary last year and it paid £20m in dividends to its backers.

It benefits from the lack of other options for many adult performers, with payment processing companies often making it difficult for them to receive money from the public, enabling OnlyFans to charge a 20% cut for use of the platform.”