



# Be Loved & The Student Union

Collaborating to bring support to university students engaged in or considering the adult sex industry.

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# About Us

Beloved is a Bristol-based charity that has been supporting female indoor sex workers in the area for over a decade. We work with a team of professionals and volunteers to provide emotional, mental, practical, and spiritual support from a nonjudgmental and person-centred perspective.

A 2022 survey by Save The Student found that approximately 5% of UK university students are engaged in sex work, and 20% are considering it, with the primary driver being financial motivation.

This made us wonder...

## What is happening at the local level?

# What We Did



## Engagement

We asked questions about whether students were engaging or would consider it, the factors informing it, and the types of sex professions they would consider.



## Sources of Information, Help, and Support

We asked where students went when they had questions or problems concerning the sex industry.



## Concealment and Motivation

We asked who knew about their consideration or engagement, and why they would or did engage.

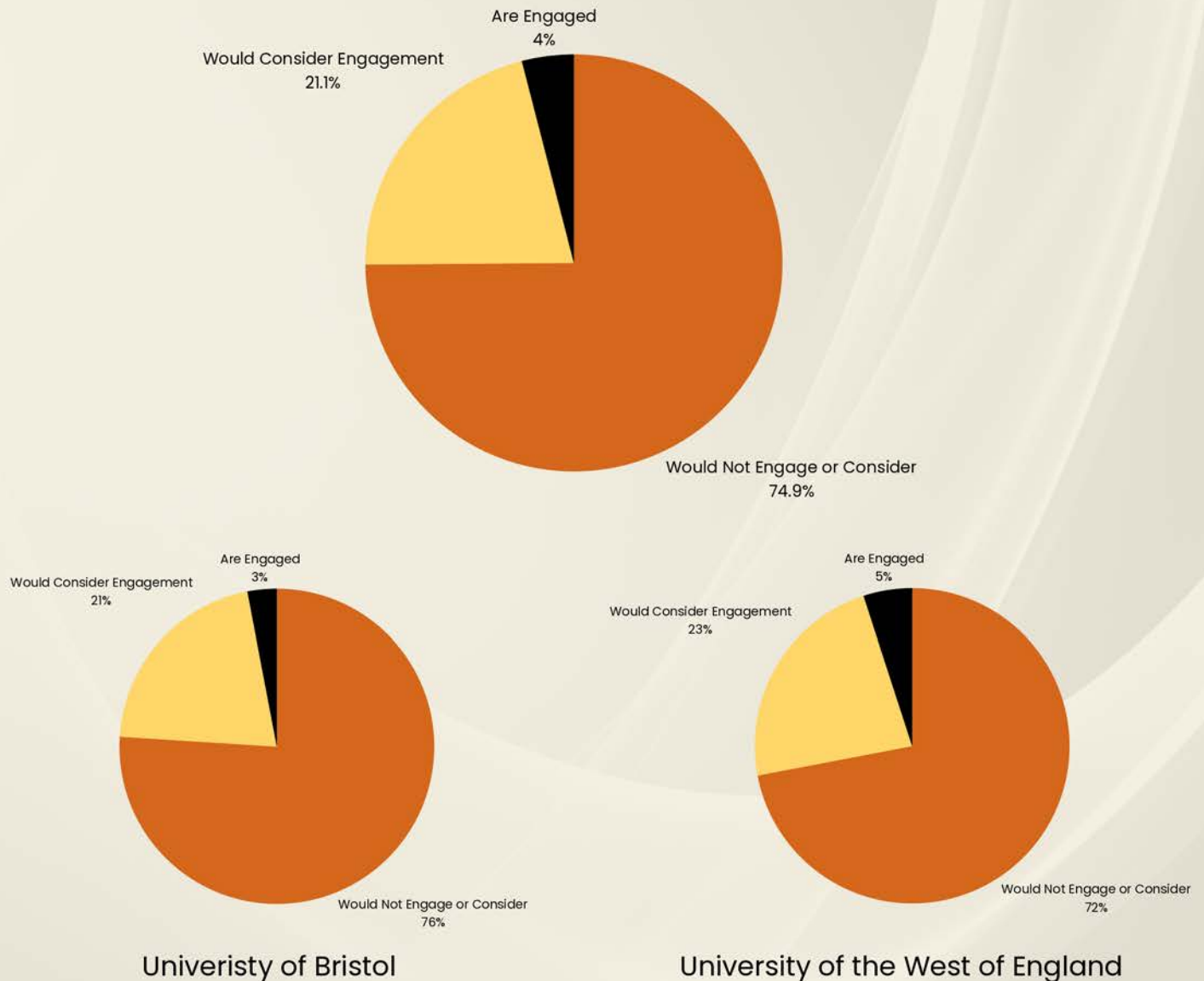


## Need

We asked students what they would want in terms of support and how they would prefer to access it.

We surveyed nearly 300 students in the Bristol area, approximately 130 from the University of Bristol and 150 from the University of the West of England.

# Survey Says

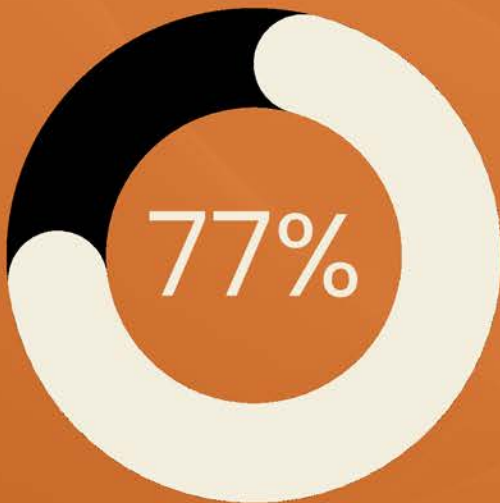
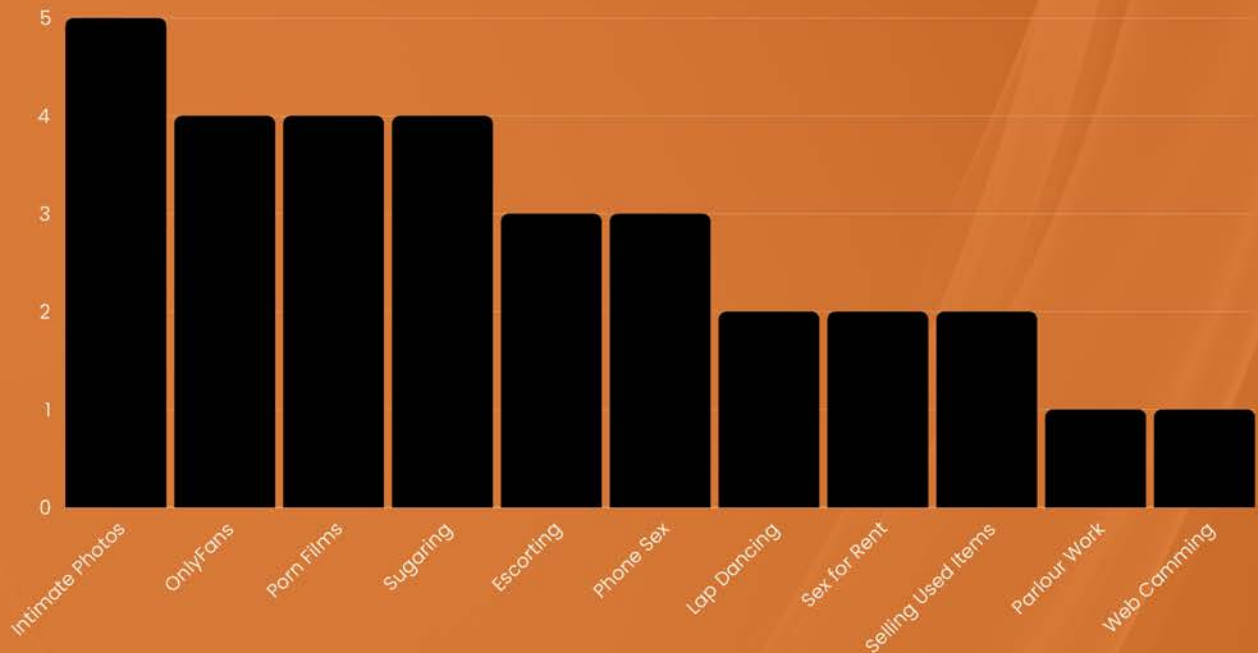


The survey suggested that local students are on trend with national numbers. Considering that concealment is high among student sex professionals, the numbers could skew even higher.

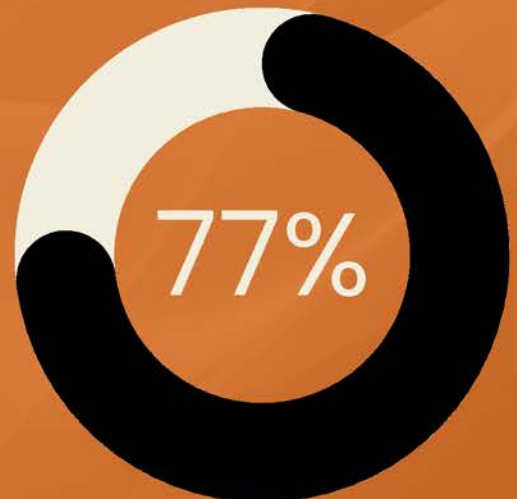


# Survey Says

Types of Sex Work Bristol Students Engage In



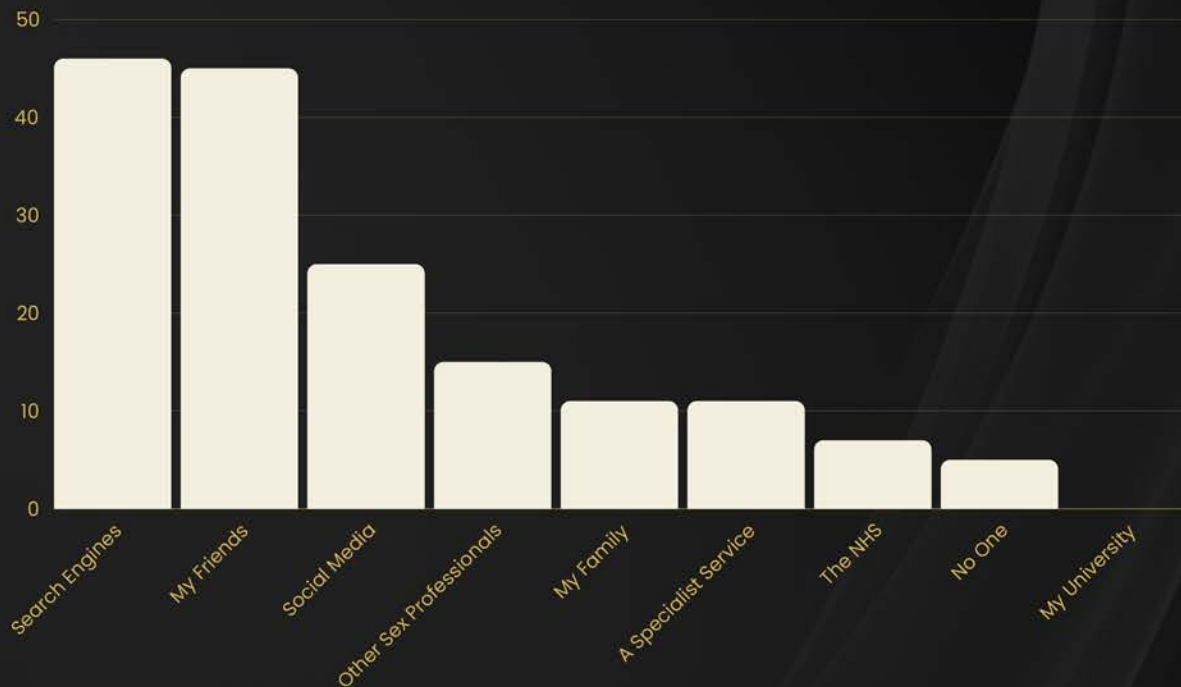
Conceal from  
everyone or almost  
everyone.



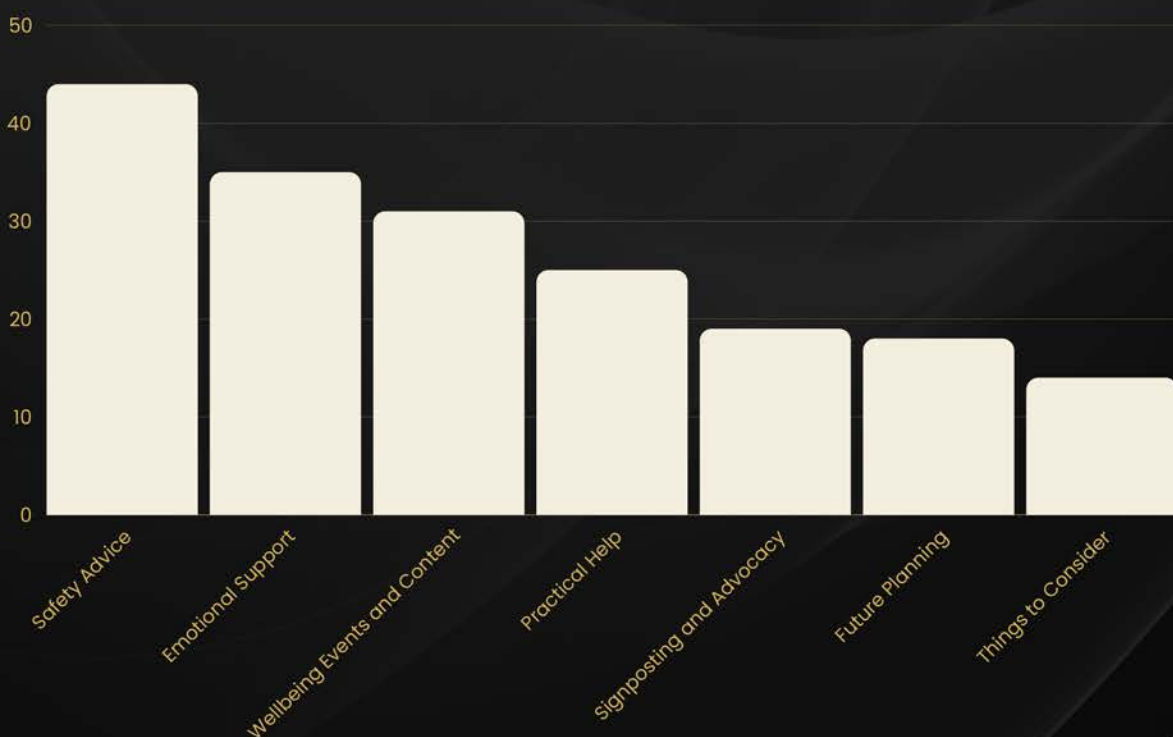
Reported it was  
necessary for financial  
reasons.

# Survey Says

Where Students go for Information or Support concerning the Adult Sex Industry



Types of Information and Support Students want about the Adult Sex Industry



# How We Can Help

In collaboration with the Student Union at the University of the West of England, we have crafted a partnership model to respond to the needs of students who are engaged in or are considering the adult sex industry.



## Monthly Comms Package

Instagram-ready posts (with the option to rebrand), website articles, and handouts that align with national campaigns and awareness days



## On Campus Events

Topical workshops, talks, training, and stalls for students and staff



## Specialist Support

Specialist support for individual students who may not be comfortable disclosing to university health programs



# Upcoming Opportunities



## • **Women's History Month**

March provides an opportunity to look at the history of sex work and how it impacts sex worker stigma today



## • **Global Money Week**

Explore financial literacy and resource signposting to assist students in financial struggle in early March



## • **Sexual Assault Week**

April is a prime time to discuss consent, safety, and support services for student sex workers



## • **Stress Awareness Month**

An opportunity to raise awareness about stress, its causes, and how to manage it. Given the potential stressors associated with sex work, it's a suitable period to share coping strategies and resources

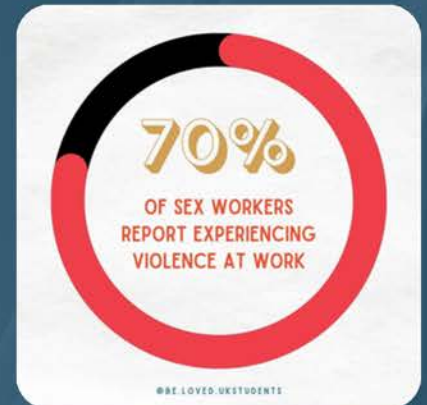


## • **Mental Health Awareness Week**

As many sex workers experience mental health struggles, May provides an excellent time to discuss mental health protection and support

# Sample: Sexual Violence Awareness Week (February)

## Instagram Carousel





# Sample Website Article

## Sex Work and Sexual Violence: Understanding the Risks and Finding Safer Paths

Engagement in the adult sex industry is a complex and often misunderstood topic. While some individuals engage in it out of choice, many find themselves there due to **financial strain, systemic barriers, or limited alternatives**. Understanding the **disproportionate risks of violence**, both physical and digital, is crucial for anyone considering entering into a sex profession and empowers individuals to reflect on safer options and advocate for broader solutions to ensure safety and dignity for all.

Like it or not, the adult sex industry exposes individuals to **unique and significant risks**. Studies reveal that up to **70% of sex workers** experience physical or sexual violence. Assault, harassment, stalking, and exploitation are common, and due to stigma and criminalization, reporting these crimes often results in further harm—workers are ignored, blamed, or criminalized themselves. Additionally, society's judgment of sex work creates **dangerous isolation**. Sex workers are often treated as less deserving of safety or justice, making them easy targets for abuse. This stigma also limits safer employment opportunities by discouraging employers from hiring sex workers, healthcare inequalities by creating barriers to accessing non-judgmental care, and prevents social support opportunities by ostracizing sex workers from their communities.

With work increasingly shifting to online spaces, sex workers face growing **digital harm**, such as **Doxxing**, where personal information like addresses or identities is shared publicly without permission, putting individuals at risk of physical harm; **Revenge porn**, which is non-consensual sharing of intimate photos or videos for blackmail or punishment; **Online Harassment**, where threats, bullying, and hateful messages can cause emotional trauma and real-world consequences; and **Professional and Platform Discrimination**, when workers are fired or their accounts are unfairly banned or deleted, cutting off income and forcing them into riskier situations.

*These harms do not exist in isolation—they intersect, compounding emotional, financial, and physical struggles. Understanding this interconnectedness is crucial in addressing the multifaceted challenges sex workers face.*

While some individuals voluntarily engage in sex work, **many feel they have no other options** due to poverty, systemic inequalities such as lack of access to education or discrimination in the job market, or lack of opportunities. Economic hardship, debt, or societal exclusion often push people into sex work, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation. For others, mental health challenges, unstable housing, or histories of abuse play a role in this decision. It's important to reflect on whether sex work is truly a choice—or a result of limited alternatives. If you're considering entering sex work, understanding the risks is essential—but so is exploring safer options and seeking support.

*Reducing violence and harm isn't just about individual actions—it requires broader societal change.*



There are several things that we, as individuals and as a society, can do to address the challenges sex workers face and provide safer alternatives. We can begin by reducing stigma. Judgment and blame push sex workers into unsafe situations so we can start to challenge harmful stereotypes and treat all individuals with compassion and dignity. We can **Support Economic Opportunities** by seeking to expand access to education, job training, and financial assistance, giving individuals the tools to pursue safer, sustainable employment options. **Combating Digital Violence** can begin by calling for our governments and platforms to take more decisive action against online abuse, doxxing, and non-consensual image sharing to protect those most at risk. Finally, we can support organizations offering harm reduction, emotional support, and pathways out of sex work must be adequately funded and supported.

Sex work comes with serious risks—physical harm, systemic stigma, and increasing digital violence. While some individuals feel sex work is a choice, for many, it stems from limited alternatives. Acknowledging this reality allows us to advocate for safer paths, meaningful support, and greater protections.

Here are steps you can take to prioritize your safety and well-being:

- **Seek Alternative Resources:** Look for organizations or programs that provide job training and career counselling to help you find sustainable employment, Financial support services to manage debts or immediate needs, and Mental health resources to address stress, trauma, or life challenges.
- **Know Your Rights:** If you're already engaged in sex work, it's critical to know what legal protections exist in your area. Connect with harm-reduction groups or legal aid organizations to stay informed about your rights and safety tools. A good place to start is [theredproject.co.uk/sex-workers-rights](https://theredproject.co.uk/sex-workers-rights)
- **Access Supportive Communities:** Isolation increases risks. Connecting with trusted people, support organizations, or advocacy groups can help you find resources and create safer conditions. You are not alone. See below for links and resources.

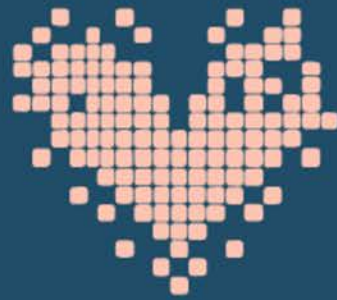
If you are considering sex work, take time to reflect, access available resources, and prioritize your safety. No one deserves violence, stigma, or exploitation, and there are people and organizations ready to help you navigate toward safer, sustainable opportunities.

Your well-being, safety, and future matter.

If you are currently engaged in or are considering sex work and feel unsafe, pressured, or in need of support, please reach out for help immediately.

To report a crime or if you are feeling in danger, you can contact:  
Rose Brown, the Avon and Somerset Sex Work Liaison Officer at +44 7889655590 or [www.avonandsomerset.police.uk](https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk)  
CrimeStoppers at 0800 555 111 or [crimestoppers-uk.org](https://crimestoppers-uk.org)

For practical, safety, or emotional support, you can contact:  
Be Loved on WhatsApp at +44 7493374276, by email at [students@beloved.org.uk](mailto:students@beloved.org.uk), or on Instagram [@be.loved.ukstudents](https://www.instagram.com/be.loved.ukstudents)



**BE LOVED**  
students and the  
sex industry

# Thank You

## Contact Us:

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