

HOW TO STAY SAFE ONLINE: TIPS FOR SEX WORKERS



regardless if online work is your primary form of work or not - having an online presence means there are some key things you can do to keep yourself safe at work

Make a fake or working name for your online presence - regardless of online safety this is a good way to separate work from home life!

Create a separate work email and work number to make bookings and use a pay as you go SIM card and register it to your work name and email


Ensure your home location isn't visible or recognizable in pictures / live streams and don't disclose your address or local area

If more comfortable / possible - crop or blur out your face in photos, and keep identifiable features such as tattoos out of shot


Let a friend know you're working and your whereabouts if you're out meeting clients - implementing safe words/ a time to respond by is a good way to keep safe out and about

Look up a client's number/ personal details on databases such as National Ugly Mugs, or sex worker forums, or download 'client eye' onto your work phone to check details to see if they've been flagged as dangerous or timewasters and to check local alerts


Don't use images from social media or other non work related locations, as someone could reverse search these images and discover your real name and personal details


 If possible, set up a business bank account to take payments if you can and register the bank account as a trading or your business name.

 Also, you can accept anonymous payments through Amazon gift card, which can be linked to a work email.

 Never log on to your personal facebook/instagram on your work device, as websites such as these often have tracking features that can suggest your work account to your friends or family members. You might have seen this when you've been recommended an account saying 'you might know this person' even if their name isn't associated with the account!

 Use incognito mode on a computer/laptop when using online services, and turn off location when posting or download a VPN to cover your IP address (many good ones are free!)
Use encrypted services such as WhatsApp when chatting to prevent tracking.

 It is an offence, within the UK for a person to disclose a private sexual photograph or film with the intention of causing distress - known as 'revenge porn'. If someone is blackmailing you/ threatening to leak images (or dox your identity) get in touch with Ugly Mugs, Basis, or Revenge Porn Helpline (who have a specialist sex work section).

 Finally, know your rights. Online working (including camming, live chat, advertising online and websites such as OnlyFans) in this country is completely legal. If there are ever any clients/situations that don't feel right, the police, Ugly Mugs, the team here at Basis and many others are here to help. If you're in danger, call 999.

USEFUL NUMBERS/ LINKS

 **National Ugly Mugs:** reporting incidents/ searching for clients' details: <https://nationaluglymugs.org/> or call on 01616299861

Basis Yorkshire: 01132430036 or visit:

<https://basisyorkshire.org.uk/about-us/>

 For any queries, our drop in is Tuesdays 12-3 at our offices at 94 North Street, LS2 7PN

 **English Collective of Prostitutes' 'Know Your Rights':**

<https://prostitutescollective.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Know-Your-Rights.pdf>

 **If your images are used without consent:**

<https://revengepornhelpline.org.uk/how-can-we-help/who-can-we-help/sex-workers/>