



CSE Aware bulletin

Issue 9: **EXITING**



Dear reader,

An experience that is often overlooked in the lives of women who sell or exchange sex is the process of leaving the 'sex industry'. Women have shared how complex this can be in a context where their experiences are often misunderstood - with victim blaming and inequality posing further barriers and supports not always as readily available.

In this bulletin, you will find more about what exiting can look like for women, the situations surrounding this decision and above all, how can women be supported in this process, including:

- Our insights article exploring women's experiences when leaving the 'sex industry'
- Interview with Ruhama around supporting women who are leaving the sex industry
- A short video describing a project with women who sell or exchange sex who have been in prison in Scotland
- Details of our recent webinars on Exiting and OnlyFans.

Until next time,

The CSE Aware Information and Resources Officer

“I reached a stage when it all started to just get on top of me and I thought, I can't cope with this anymore. I started really thinking about my security and the danger aspect of the work, like trying to be a bit more realistic about what I was doing and what I was involved in, how bad it was, all the worry and stress, and also not knowing who's coming through your door.”

– Barbie, *Outside*



EXITING INSIGHTS

What happens when a woman needs or wants to stop selling or exchanging sex?



'Exiting' or the process to stop selling or exchanging sex can be a long and complicated path with individual factors affecting women. In this article, we discuss women's reasons for wanting to stop selling sex, the barriers they can encounter and why support can be pivotal for women when they choose to move on.

Keep reading

A WORKER'S PERSPECTIVE

Ruhama: “Every woman who sells sex deserves an opportunity to make a change”

“

I haven't personally worked with somebody who's come in and decided “guess what? I want to exit”... There isn't this big “oh, I exited the sex trade!” Even for myself, that was many years ago and up until recently I thought “maybe I should go back selling again because this isn't working out for me.” It's complex. Exiting is a process. What you can do is start lighting little flames of hope and everything eventually may start to come together.

Trish O'Brien, Education and Development Officer at Ruhama



A worker's perspective

In this interview, Trish O'Brien from Ruhama tells us about the importance of giving women space to consider and pursue their ambitions and dreams, and build a sense of themselves. We also discuss why offering women support with education should look beyond academic achievement and also include the development of life skills.

Keep reading

EXITING RESOURCES

Exiting practice points

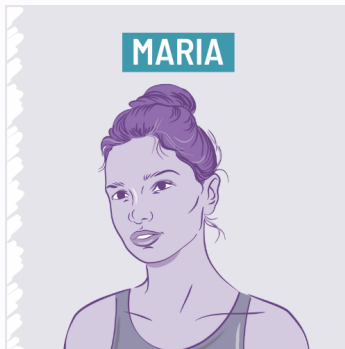
On this page you will find some steps you



can take to responds to women's needs when leaving the 'sex industry'.

[Read more](#)

Case studies



We have gathered some hypothetical case studies based on the experiences of women who have left the 'sex industry', which also include best practice responses.

[Read more](#)

Research, reports and other information

[Pathways to exit: A study of women's journeys out of prostitution and the response to their complex support needs](#)

[Exiting prostitution: what next? - Encompass Network](#)

[VIDEO: The long exit](#)

[Exit closed? Assessing the policy landscape for services seeking to support women to exit prostitution](#)

[Breaking down the barriers: A study of how women exit prostitution](#)

[Exiting Prostitution: Moving through stages of change during a pandemic](#)

[How women manage exiting street prostitution over time](#)

[More resources](#)

EVENTS AND TRAINING

Webinar recording: Exiting and women leaving the 'sex industry' in Scotland



Our latest webinar took place this November and looked at the topic of exiting. We had four fantastic speakers including two women with lived experience of leaving the sex industry as well as experienced workers skilled in supporting women to exit.

If you wish to access the recording, please get in touch.

[Request webinar recording](#)

Webinar recording: OnlyFans: culture, content, consumers

OnlyFans

culture, content, consumers

7 December 2023

3 to 5:30pm

A free webinar for front-line workers and support services in Scotland



The Women's Support Project hosted a webinar to raise awareness of OnlyFans and the risks involved. The event explored content creators' decision to join the platform as well as the dynamics and realities of this platform with the aim to inform staff in services so they can better respond to women involved on OnlyFans who may require support.

To request the recording, please contact the Women's Support Project using the button below.

[Request recording](#)

ON THE BLOG



VIDEO: Freedom to Create

In this video, Linda Thompson discusses an arts-based project she coordinated with women in the justice system, where women got to speak about their life experiences, including for some of them involvement in selling or exchanging sex.

[Watch the video here](#)

INTERESTING READS

NEW: Infographics highlighting the needs of women who sell or exchange sex



We are thrilled to share a series of infographics we created which explore the key needs of women involved in selling or exchanging sex in a bitesize, easy to read format. They cover topics like housing, mental health, criminal justice, among others.

[View and download the infographics here](#)

[REPORT: Preventing domestic homicides and suicides of Black and minoritised women](#)

[Real action needed on child sex dolls after first Scottish conviction](#)

[PRACTITIONER GUIDANCE: criminal exploitation](#)

[REPORT: Young people's relationships with AI chatbots](#)

[NEW FUND: Support to leave an abusive relationship in Scotland](#)

[Man who posed as model agent to sexually exploit teenage girls jailed](#)

[Female drug users at risk of exploitation in mixed-sex treatment groups, study finds](#)

“I want to stay on with my education and then hopefully have a career, working with women at the end of it. Something that actually I could get enjoyment and take things out of. I want my own house, to have my daughter back and really just to know myself and to be settled in my life.”

– Joanne, *Inside Outside*



CSE Aware

is an initiative of the Women's Support
Project

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