

OnlySafety: Global Safety Guideline for OnlyFans Creators

Members of group

Fernanda Peron Perez - literature review + product design

Grace Patrick - literature review + content writing

Mahara Aguiar - technical report writing + content writing

Outline

Our project took an advocacy approach, using available research to create two media products (hand-in folder and website) with accessible, easy to follow safety guidelines that aim to aid content creators on OnlyFans to have a safer digital presence. This is a response to the lack of constructive actions regarding the pornography industry in Section J of the Beijing Platform for Action. In the document, there are only three mentions of “porn”, all in a derogatory manner – with an understanding that “pornographic media products [...] negatively affect women and their participation in society” (paragraph 236).

Pornography, however controversial, exists and will continue to exist regardless of legislative action. Women and other marginalised groups in this industry need to have their rights and needs respected and taken into consideration on documents like the Beijing Platform for Action, once advocating for “anti-porn legislation” without taking different contexts into consideration might be detrimental. Many women produce adult content as a source of income, and simply prohibiting it could have serious financial implications for them. Pornography (especially amateur) can also be part of a healthy identity construction for many marginalized groups, like POC, queer and disabled people.

Contemporary content platforms like OnlyFans gave women in the field certain agency over how their images circulate, in comparison to working with/for industry giants like Pornhub. As of 2024, OnlyFans is the most used social network to promote erotic and sex media, with over 1,5 million content creators and 150 million subscribers (Soneji et al, 2024). It *can* be a way to produce, distribute and earn from pornographic media while adhering to personal ethics, and *can* promote a safer environment for workers and consumers by limiting the involvement of third parties.

For all the aforementioned, our project focused on providing tips and guidelines that are easily reproducible in order to help foster a safer environment.

Evidence from literature and/or existing projects and initiatives on this very topic

There is plenty of existing literature about online sex work, and even specifically regarding OnlyFans. But they focus on the threats that OnlyFans creators face, or feel they face, rather than suggesting steps they can take to be safer. But initiatives like National Ugly Mugs (United Kingdom) offer a safe space for sex workers to report on violent behaviour from clients and subscribers, allowing awareness of these individuals without police involvement. However, this does not offer a response for creators who do not have access to such networks - further marginalizing creators from less well represented backgrounds, who may already have fewer opportunities to

Final Report CPDI 2024/25 | Breaking the Binary

maintain their work reliably and safely. OnlyFans itself also has privacy guidelines and offers safety tips, but it is also often perceived as unreliable due to prior censorship and precarity issues addressing harassment reports (Soneji et al, 2024). Therefore, we aimed to create a centralized body of information drawing together resources to make OnlyFans safety a reality for content creators.

Goal and target

The goal is to offer a response to the portion of Section J which encourages a punitive approach to pornography - instead, offering adult content creators a practical approach to maintaining their safety without necessitating contact with law enforcement, which can be critical when considering prohibitive laws against sex work in many countries around the world. The target audience are OnlyFans creators and people who are considering creating content on the platform, mainly Millennials and Gen Z people (therefore, assuming substantial internet literacy).

Methodology

The first action was to read articles and book chapters related to women's digital protection, sex work ethics and the connection between OnlyFans and sexual violence. In order to gather the body of research, we made particular use of Google Scholar and Sage, with substantial literature taken from the books *The Palgrave Handbook of Sexual Ethics* (2022) and *Navigating Contemporary Sex Work: Gender, Justice, and Policy in the Twenty-First Century* (2024).

We organized four different categories of work: literature review (search available research on the topic, read through and organize the outcomes); content writing (organize the outcomes of the review into identifiable guidelines, write the textual component for the final products); project design (transform textual component into the final products) and report writing (organize literature review, create the outlines of the project and organization of overall presentation material).

The result was a physical hand-in folder with safety tips and its digital version. The light-hearted language relates to the targeted audience: the aim was to make it more accessible and appealing for women who are content creators on OnlyFans. We assumed a certain level of technical, internet and vernacular literacy (e. g. the practicalities of photo filters). The format choice was made for the reproducible aspect: the physical folder can be distributed in NGO's headquarters, sexual health clinics, events with the targeted audience, etc; its digital format makes it easily accessible from anywhere, with the possibility of being referred to in websites, on online safety networks, etc.

Challenges and limits

There is not a large body of prior research in this area, given the novelty of self-promoted adult content in platforms such as OnlyFans; additionally, given the stigma and need for privacy of online sex work, interviewing content creators in the search for more practical tips would have needed time and resources beyond the scope of this project.

References and web resources

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Fourth World Conference on Women, 15 September 1995, A/CONF.177/20 (1995)

Boonin, D. (2022). *The Palgrave handbook of sexual ethics*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Borgogna, N. C., Johnson, D. A., Shegedin, M., & Brasil, K. M. (2023). *Taking Another Look at the Pornography Problems Due to Moral Incongruence Model: Does Gender Play a Role?* Archives of Sexual Behavior. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10508-023-02743-y>

Cooper, E. (n.d.). *Navigating Contemporary Sex Work: Gender, Justice, and Policy in the Twenty-First Century*. Springer Nature.

DiTecco, D., & Karaian, L. (2022). *New Technology, Same Old Stigma: Media Narratives of Sex Robots and Sex Work*. Sexuality & Culture. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12119-022-10027-1>

Kopp, D. M. (2020). *Human resource management in the pornography industry : business practices in a stigmatized trade*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Must-Know Onlyfans Gender Statistics [Latest Report] • Gitnux. (n.d.). Gitnux.org. <https://gitnux.org/onlyfans-gender-statistics/>

McCluskey, M. (2023). *OnlyFans: The Celebrityization of Online Sexual Labour*. Canadian Graduate Journal of Sociology and Criminology, 6(1). <https://doi.org/10.15353/cgjisc-rcessc.v6i1.5029>

Soneji, A., Hamilton, V., McDonald, A., Doupé, A., & Redmiles, E. (2024). *“I feel physically safe but not politically safe”: Understanding the Digital Threats and Safety Practices of OnlyFans Creators*. The Advanced Computing Systems Association <https://www.usenix.org/system/files/usenixsecurity24-soneji.pdf>

Villena-Moya, A., Ballester, L., María Dosil-Santamaria, & Gutiérrez, A. (2024). *Pornography Consumption As A Form Of Exploitation And Digital Prostitution Of Women And Girls - A Human Rights Issue*. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/378035298_PORNOGRAPHY_CONSUMPTION_AS_A_FORM_OF_EXPLOITATION_AND_DIGITAL_PROSTITUTION_OF_WOMEN_AND_GIRLS_-_A_HUMAN_RIGHTS_ISSUE