

Commercial sexual exploitation (CSE)



What it is and how
you can get support





This is an easy read booklet.



It will tell you about commercial sexual exploitation and where to get help. **Commercial sexual exploitation** is sometimes called **CSE** for short.



You can read this booklet on your own or with someone you feel safe with.



This booklet was written by a project called CSE Aware. This project shares information about **commercial sexual exploitation**.



You can find out more about CSE Aware by visiting: www.cseaware.org



Thank you to members of People First (Scotland) for their contribution to making this information more accessible.

You can find more about them by visiting: www.peoplefirstscotland.org

1. What is commercial sexual exploitation?



Commercial sexual exploitation is when people offer to pay you to do sexual things for them.

This is sometimes called **selling sex**.



They might offer to pay you with:

- Money
- Food
- Drugs
- Travel
- Cigarettes
- Alcohol
- Somewhere to live
- Something else



It is not always obvious that commercial sexual exploitation is happening.



Someone who you think is your friend or partner may promise you company, friendship, love or gifts if you do sexual things for them.



A real friend or partner would not ask you to do sexual things to be your friend, to get gifts or to be loved.

2. What are different types of commercial sexual exploitation?

The letters 'CSE' in a bold, teal, sans-serif font, centered within a light pink, cloud-like shape.

There are many ways in which commercial sexual exploitation can happen. Some examples are:



Standing outside and asking people to pay you to do sexual things for them.

This is called **street prostitution**.



Being asked to dance and take your clothes off in front of people.

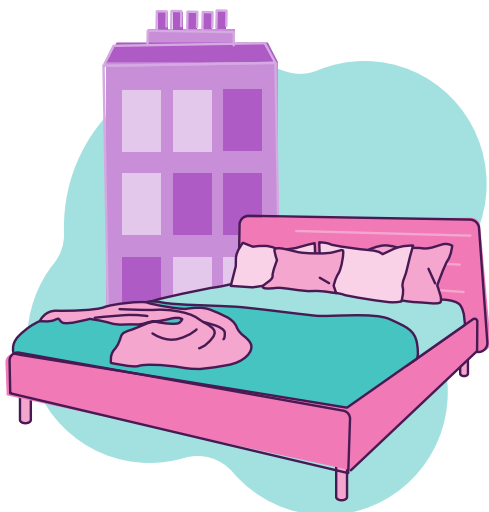
This is called **lap dancing**.

Lap dancing clubs are where people pay to see women dancing and taking their clothes off in front of them.



Putting an advert offering to meet people and do sexual things with them if they pay you.

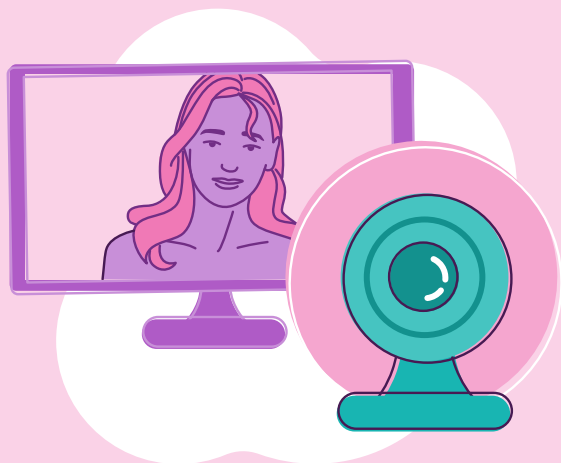
This is called **escorting**.



Some women sell sex in **brothels**.

A brothel is a place where two or more women sell sex to other people.

Brothels exist in Scotland, but they are against the law.

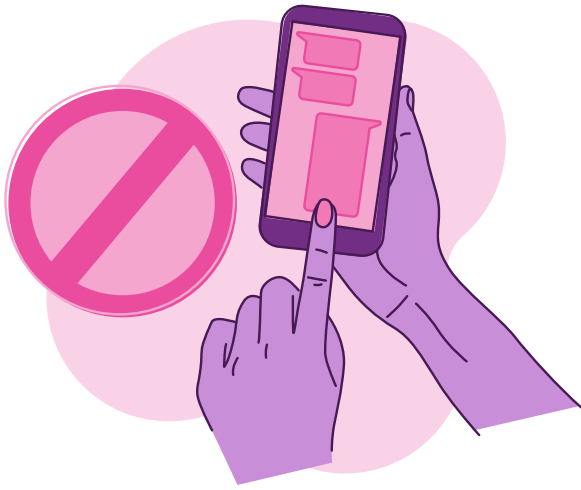


Webcamming is when people pay to watch you do sexual things in front of a video camera that is connected to the internet.



Pornography is when people take photographs or videos of you doing sexual things with another person, then ask people to pay to look at them.

Pornography is sometimes called porn for short.



People offering you money to get photographs or videos of yourself doing sexual things.

These photographs or videos can be given to people in different ways, like:

- In text messages, e-mails or group-chats
- In person
- On websites



Being forced or tricked into having sex with other people.

This is called **sex trafficking**.

Some people are trafficked from one country to another country. Some people can be trafficked in their own community.

3. How does commercial sexual exploitation happen?



Anyone can cause commercial sexual exploitation, but we know that most people who do it are men.

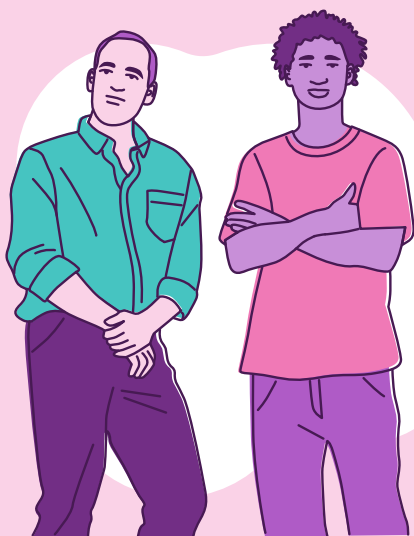
They do this by:



Offering to pay you to do sexual things for them.



Putting pressure on you to send them photos or videos of yourself doing sexual things.



Offering to find men to have sex with you.



OR forcing you to have sex with others and taking payment for it.

Men who cause commercial sexual exploitation might be anybody, you cannot always tell who.

They could be:

- Friends
- Family members
- Boyfriends
- People pretending to be your boyfriend
- People you meet on the internet
- Support staff
- Scammers
- People who own brothels



Friends



Family members



Boyfriends



People pretending to be your boyfriend



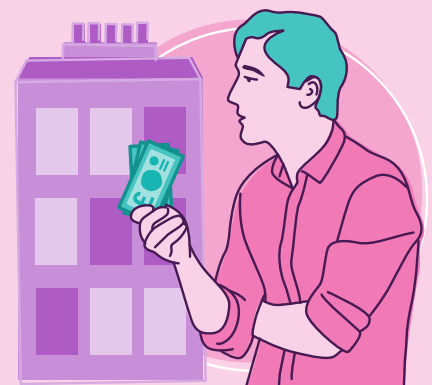
People you meet on the internet



Support staff



Scammers



People who own brothels



Most of the people affected by commercial sexual exploitation are women.



Women sell sex for different reasons.

They maybe needed the money, or they were tricked by someone who wanted to take advantage of their situation.



Many women sell sex because they have no choice.

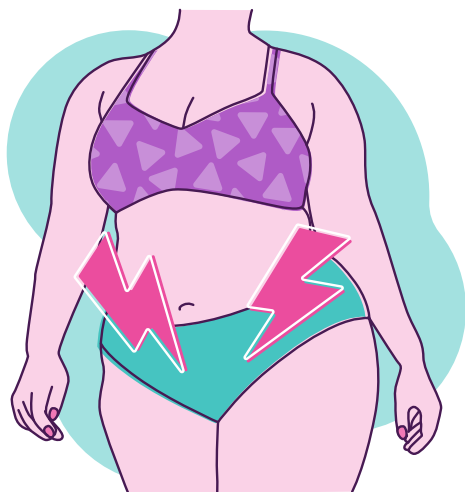
4. What are the risks of commercial sexual exploitation?



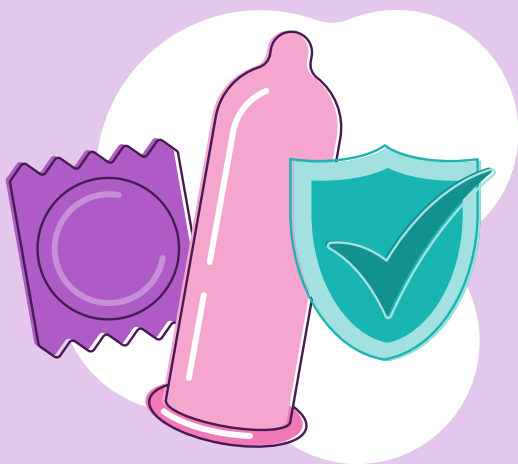
Selling sex is never safe and there can be many risks.



People who buy sex can become violent. They can hurt your body or force you to do sexual things you don't want to.



Having sex with lots of different people can be risky. It can make it easier to get infections.



People who buy sex can make you have sex without a condom. Sex without a condom has many risks. You could get infected with a sexual disease or become pregnant.



Selling sex can also affect your mental health.



It can make you feel lonely.

It can be hard to talk to people about what is going on.



It can make you feel ashamed or make you think about the bad experiences you had.



And it can be hard to know how to stop selling sex or where to get support.

5. How to get support



Women sell sex for different reasons and no one should be judged for this experience.

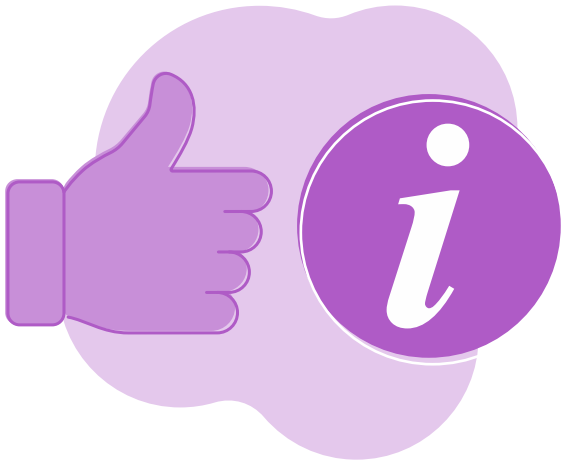


No one should force you to sell sex, sexual photos or videos.

It is against the law to force someone to sell sex.



You have a right to say no to having sex with someone, even if they paid to have sex with you.



It is not always easy to talk about your experiences. But there are services that can listen and give you support:



POLICE
SCOTLAND
POILEAS ALBA

If you are in danger, call the Police on **101**.

If it's an emergency, dial **999**.



Rape Crisis Scotland supports anyone who has been sexually abused or raped.

Call: 08088 01 03 02

Text: 07537 410 027

Email: support@rapecrisisscotland.org.uk

Webchat: www.rapecrisisscotland.org.uk



Scottish Women's Aid supports people who have been abused or hurt by a partner.

Call: 0800 027 1234

Text/WhatsApp: 07401 288 595

Email: helpline@sdafmh.org.uk

Chat: www.sdafmh.org.uk



Encompass Network are a group of services that have a lot of experience supporting women who sell sex.

Call: 07523 269 985

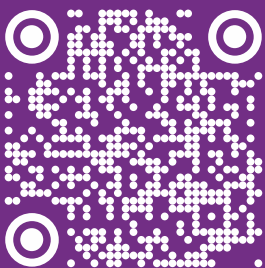
Email:

encompass@womenssupportproject.org.uk

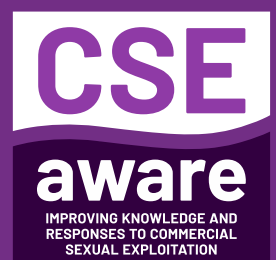
Website: www.encompassnetwork.info



Watch the video version
of this leaflet:



**WOMEN'S
SUPPORT
PROJECT**



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registration number SC323918 and a Scottish charity SC021846