

The Problem with Strip Clubs - In Brief

The strip industry, like the rest of the sex trade, is inherently harmful and anti-equalities. It is harmful for performers, it is harmful for women in the vicinity and it is harmful to women in wider society.

Harm to Women in the Industry

It is harmful because of the way the industry is set up. Exploitative work and pay with clubs cultivating the illusion that sex is on offer to drunken, sexually aroused punters ensures a high level of 'rule breaching', harassment, abuse and assault ¹.

Don't forget, this is an industry where CCTV, 'house mums' and chaperones are recommended in an attempt to protect dancers. Where punters are told to 'sit on their hands' in an attempt to stop them groping performers. Where one leading academic even suggested 'panic buttons' in private booths in an attempt to keep women safe.

All to no avail as club after club is shut own because of the sex acts, assaults, prostitution and trafficking taking place ².

There's a lot of crime .. drugs and drug dealing, prostitution, fraud, money laundering and trafficking

Sammy

Harm to Women in the Vicinity

It is harmful because of the 'no go' zones created outside clubs with women, and many others, having to avoid the street they are on and no longer being able to use the surrounding area. This is because of the harassment and intimidation that a great many women experience when walking past strip clubs. It is because of the fear of being harassed and threatened. It is because their mere presence cultivates feelings of intimidation and is a blatant reminder of what society thinks of women ³.



Harm to Women in Wider Society

And it is harmful because of the messages the industry sends out to wider society – that men have the absolute right and entitlement to buy women. Research and international treaties have recognised for decades that this form of objectification of women underpins male violence against women.

It is a nonsense to talk about 'Times Up' or to be shocked by the President's Club in a society that legitimises, normalises and glorifies men buying women ⁴.

With all this sexual harassment stuff going around these days, men need somewhere to go where they can act like they want

Punter

Find Out More

¹ Strip Clubs- Unfit, Unsafe <http://notbuyingit.org.uk/UnfitUnsafe>

² Recent Incidences in Clubs:

<http://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/sites/default/files/Strip%20Sleaze%20Recent.pdf>

³ Strip Clubs Create 'No Go Zones': www.notbuyingit.org.uk/NoGoZones

⁴ <https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/presidents-club-sexual-harassment-business-lap-dance-vip-exploitation-a8177691.html>

Testimonies from Sammy and others: <http://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/strip-publications#performers>