

Statement Against the Licensing of the Strip Industry

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I have researched, and written extensively about, the harms of porn and objectification for over 30 years and am recognised as a leading expert on how pornography shapes our identities, culture, and sexuality. As such, I am routinely featured on leading media discussing this issue and am a consultant for governmental agencies across the globe. I am co-editor of the best-selling textbook 'Gender, Race and Class in Media' whilst my book 'Pornland: How Porn has Hijacked our Sexuality' has been translated into 5 languages and adapted into a documentary.

I strongly oppose the licensing of strip clubs and call for zero tolerance of the industry and its associated activities (prostitution, sex trafficking, pornography).

Strip clubs facilitate access to women's bodies as 'sexual entertainment' and provide a forum for the purchase of sexual services. Women who work in strip clubs, often those who have few options, are routinely harmed and abused by patrons and management.

Strip clubs not only adversely affect the women who work in them, but impact the neighborhood, with women who live or work in their vicinity reporting sexual harassment and assault – or the fear of it. And they affect attitudes in wider society towards *all* women and girls by promoting the exploitation and abuse of some.

Women will never achieve full humanity while the licensed strip industry exists.