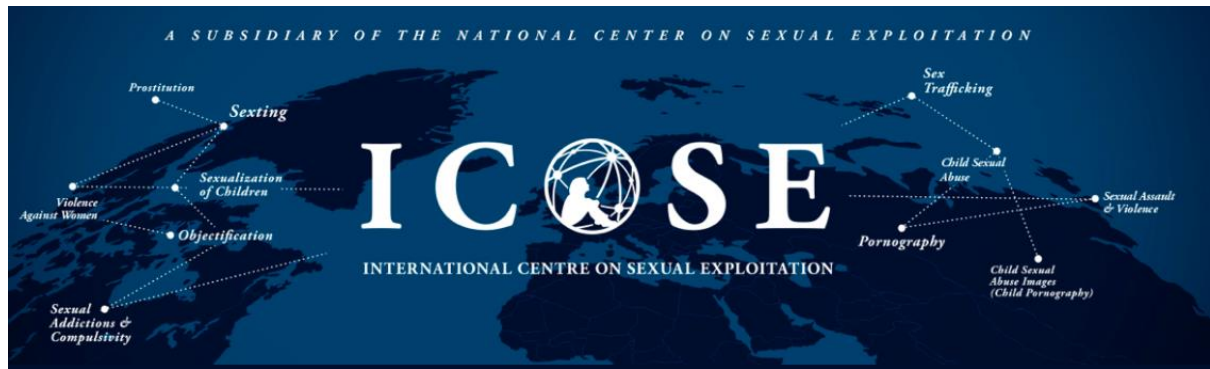


Statement on Strip Clubs from the International Centre on Sexual Exploitation



The term “strip club” is a euphemism used to conceal the nature of the activity which happens within such premises—that is the commodification of women for the sexual gratification of men. Strip clubs are zones of sexual exploitation permeated with sexual harassment, violence, prostitution and sex trafficking. Like men who purchase sex from persons in prostitution, men who visit strip clubs believe that their patronage confers on them the right to touch, grab, slap, pinch, smack, penetrate and abuse those they “purchase.”

Such establishments are rife with sexual violence and are breeding grounds for sexual trafficking. They prey on socioeconomically disadvantaged women, inflicting deep psychological harms on performers including disassociation and post-traumatic stress disorder. Any society that purports to support women’s rights and equality cannot simultaneously endorse or allow the sexually exploitive conditions of so-called strip clubs to continue to exist.

Haley McNamara

Director, International Centre on Sexual Exploitation

<https://endsexualexploitation.org/icose/>