

Statement Against Strip Clubs

I am a Professor of Ethics and Culture of Robotics and AI. Because of my concerns over the likely harmful impact of so-called 'sex robots' on human relations and equality between women and men I have launched an awareness-raising campaign on this issue. I advocate for compassionate and violence-free technology based on freedom ethics and I critique coercive and violent models of humanity that are transferred to the making of new technologies. As such, I am developing a theory of robotics inspired by anti-slavery abolitionist feminism. This is why I oppose the sex industry in all its guises, including the strip trade.

It is impossible to live in a society that values women's humanity and still allows strip clubs. Strip clubs make up yet another stream of a global commercial sex trade that thrives on the abuse of women and girls, and their legal operation across our cities and towns allows porn culture to operate openly.

This has profound implications for those in the industry and for wider society and show a sexist culture in full operation. This leads to a mega industry where the sexual objectification & sexual exchange of women, in turn lead to subordinate representations of women & girls in media, video games, robotics, AI & science fiction. We cannot simultaneously advocate for the civil rights of women while we allow a commercial and often illegal sex culture to thrive. We must work together to defend the rights of women and see the connections between one and the rest.

Professor Kathleen Richardson

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