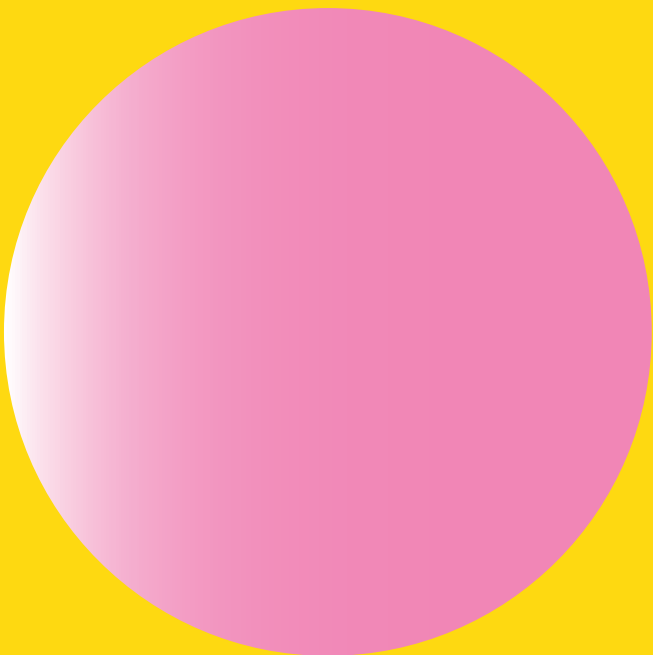
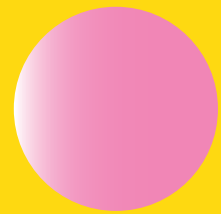


# STUDENT SEX WORKER SUPPORT

GUIDEBOOK

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# INTRODUCTION

This guidebook, compiled by Arts Students' Union (Arts SU), sets out in clear terms where students at University of the Arts London (UAL) who are involved in sex work can seek support.

Support is divided into several key sections for ease of reference:

- **Knowing your legal rights**
- **External organisations supporting sex workers**
- **Support provided by UAL**
- **Support provided by Arts SU**
- **Sexual and reproductive rights**



# KNOWING YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS

**Although prostitution is technically legal in England and Wales, many of the activities surrounding the exchange of sex for money or other goods are criminal offences. This information is accurate at the time of publication, but always seek proper legal advice.**

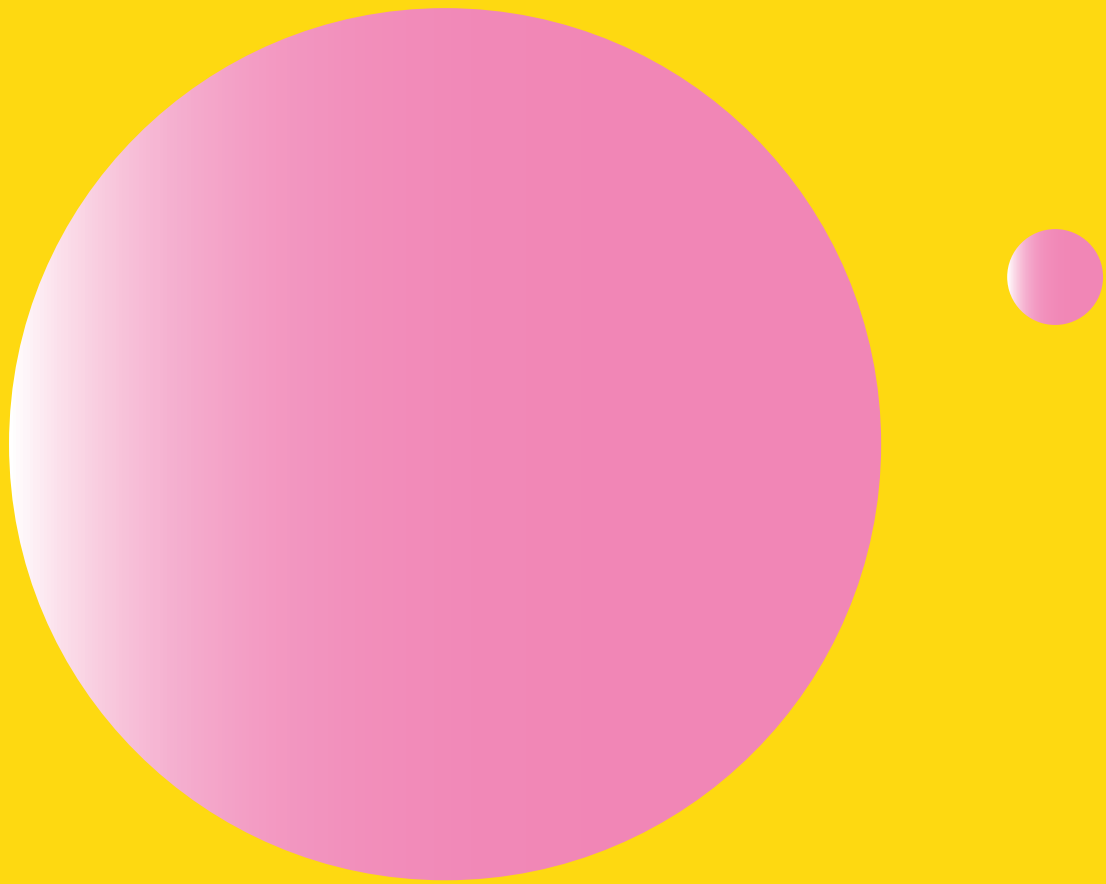
## ***SOLICITING***

In England and Wales, it is an offence for a person persistently to loiter or solicit in a street or public place for the purpose of prostitution. The penalty is a fine, although you may end up spending time in custody if you refuse to pay without good reason. "Persistently" is defined as behaviour that takes place on two or more occasions in any three-month period. The first two times that you are stopped the police will probably give you a Prostitute's Caution – they might go straight to charging you, but this is unlikely as they would have problems proving that you were persistently loitering or soliciting. These cautions are different from ordinary police cautions because the behaviour leading to the caution might not itself be evidence of a criminal offence, and there is no requirement for someone to admit guilt before being given a Prostitute's Caution.

## **ADVERTISING SEX WORK**

It is an offence to:

- **Place an advertisement which is obscene – the test is that it is likely to “deprave or corrupt” people who might see it. The penalty is a fine and/or up to 3 years in prison.**
- **Place on, or in the immediate vicinity of, a public telephone an advertisement relating to prostitution. This does not apply in relation to telephones in places where under 16-year-olds are not allowed. The penalty is a fine and/or up to 6 months in prison.**
- **Place unauthorised adverts. The penalty is a fine.**



## ***SELF DEFENCE***

You are allowed to use reasonable force to defend yourself against an attack. It is not necessary for you actually to be attacked first before defending yourself, but you must have acted in response to an immediate threat. There is a risk of being charged with an offence such as assault; however, it is a defence to show that you used only reasonable force.

If you are considering carrying a weapon, remember that this is an offence. The penalty is a fine and/or up to 4 years in prison. Consider carrying a torch and a whistle to raise the alarm in the event you are in danger.

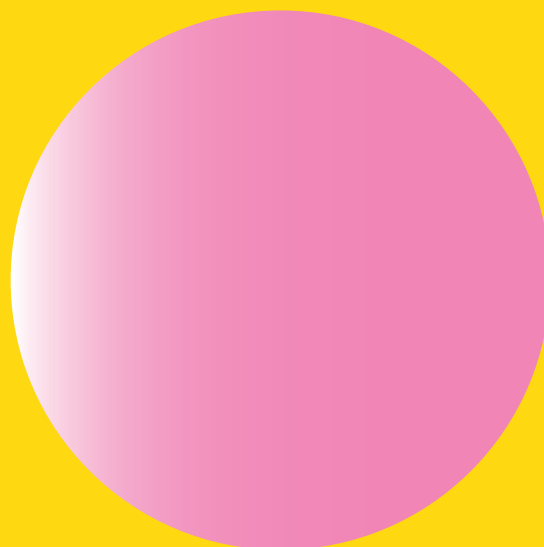


# KNOWING YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS

## *YOUR RIGHTS IF YOU ARE ARRESTED*

You have the right to be treated fairly and with respect by the police. You do not have to say anything to the police, but if you are later charged with a crime and you have not mentioned, when questioned, something that you later rely on in court, then this may be taken into account when deciding if you are guilty.

Do not discuss any aspect of the case with the police until you have consulted privately with a solicitor. Inform the custody officer at the earliest opportunity if you feel unwell or if you are on prescribed medication.



## **SEARCHING PREMISES**

The police can search premises with the consent of the occupier, with a warrant or in certain other circumstances. These include following an arrest, to arrest a person for an indictable offence or certain public order offences, or to protect life or to stop serious damage to property. Police can use reasonable force to gain entry. You are entitled to see a copy of any search warrant. A record of the search must be kept by the police. You or a friend should be allowed to be present during the search but this right can be refused if it is thought it might hinder investigations.

## **STOP AND SEARCH**

The police can fingerprint you on the spot if they suspect you have committed an offence, and search you on the street if they suspect you are likely to commit an offence or, for example, are carrying illegal drugs.

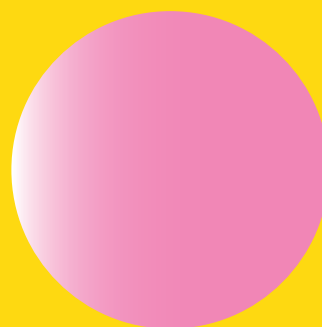
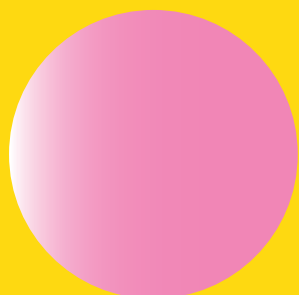
You don't have to give your name and address unless suspected of anti-social behaviour, if you are driving, or if they want to summons you to court for an offence. You can use any name you want unless it is for an illegal purpose. You do not have to answer police questions. Get the name and number of the officers – you will need them if you want to make a complaint.

# KNOWING YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS

## ***POLICE IDENTIFICATION***

If someone tells you they are a police officer, **always** ask to see ID. Never assume they really are police.

If a police officer sees you as a client, this is not against the law but they can be reported for “professional misconduct” as they are in a position of power.



## ***SEEKING LEGAL SUPPORT***

To find out more about your legal rights as a sex worker, contact.

**Release at:**

<https://www.release.org.uk/>

# EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTING SEX WORKERS

## ***NATIONAL UGLY MUGS (NUM)***

National Ugly Mugs helps sex workers to report crimes committed against them. NUM aims to improve the safety of sex workers, and to bring more offenders who target sex workers to justice. They support sex workers in accessing frontline services.

**Please click here:**

<https://nationaluglymugs.org/>



## ***SEX WORKER ADVOCACY AND RESISTANCE MOVEMENT (SWARM)***

A collective founded and led by sex workers who campaign for the rights and safety of all who sell sexual services.

**Please click here:**

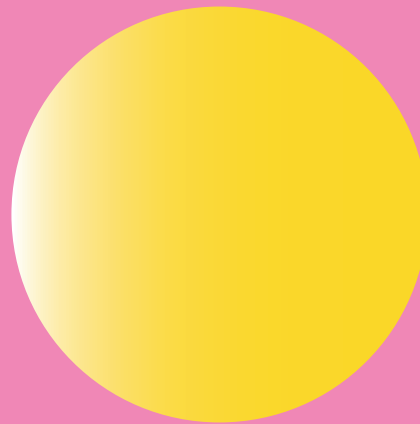
<https://www.swarmcollective.org/>

## ***ENGLISH COLLECTIVE OF PROSTITUTES (ECP)***

An organisation of sex workers working on the street and in premises with a national network throughout the UK.

**Please click here:**

<https://prostitutescollective.net/>



## ***REVENGE PORN HELPLINE***

A UK service supporting adults (aged 18+) who are experiencing intimate image abuse, also known as, revenge porn.

**Please click here:**

[www.revengepornhelpline.org.uk](http://www.revengepornhelpline.org.uk)

# SUPPORT PROVIDED BY UAL

**All UAL services seek to provide non-judgemental support to all students.**

## ***UAL STUDENT SUPPORT***

UAL provides a range of support, including counselling, health advice and financial advice. These are confidential services, which means that UAL will not tell anyone you have used them.

**For more information, take a look at:**

<https://www.arts.ac.uk/students/student-services/student-advice-service>

## ***UAL COUNSELLING SERVICE***

The Counselling Service at UAL has experience of working with student sex workers, and will provide support in a non-judgmental manner.

## ***EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES***

If you are experiencing anything that is impacting your studies, such as an episode of ill health, then you can submit extenuating circumstances or request some time out, depending on the time of year. You can find more details, including information about the evidence you need to obtain.

**Please click here:**

<https://www.arts.ac.uk/study-at-ual/academic-regulations/course-regulations/extenuating-circumstances-and-time-out>

## ***TELL SOMEONE***

If you have experienced harassment, bullying or sexual violence you can report this to UAL using their Tell Someone online form.

**Please click here:**

<https://www.arts.ac.uk/students/student-diversity/tell-someone>

You can report incidents anonymously and there is no pressure to inform the police. UAL take all reports seriously.

## **UAL CHAPLAINCY**

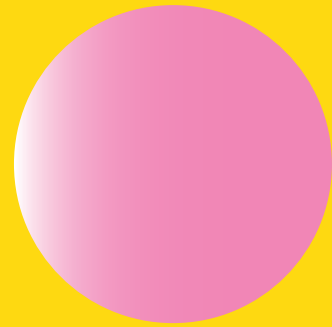
UAL chaplains work as part of the Counselling, Health Advice & Chaplaincy service; they are a multi-disciplinary team focusing on a holistic approach to supporting students. Chaplains offer pastoral and spiritual care regardless of religious affiliation, and specialise in bereavement support.

**You can find more information here:**

<https://www.arts.ac.uk/students/student-services/counselling-health-advice-and-chaplaincy/chaplaincy>



# SUPPORT PROVIDED BY UAL



## ***UAL CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY***

Careers and Employability offer a range of free support including online resource guides, events and workshops, awards and mentoring, freelance and business advice, and one-to-one services. Their specialist Graduate Employability Team also offer free advice and support for up to five years after you graduate.

While Careers and Employability can't provide information on how to get into sex work, they are committed to supporting all students in a non-judgemental way.

You can find out more about all the support on offer on their webpages.

**Please click here:**

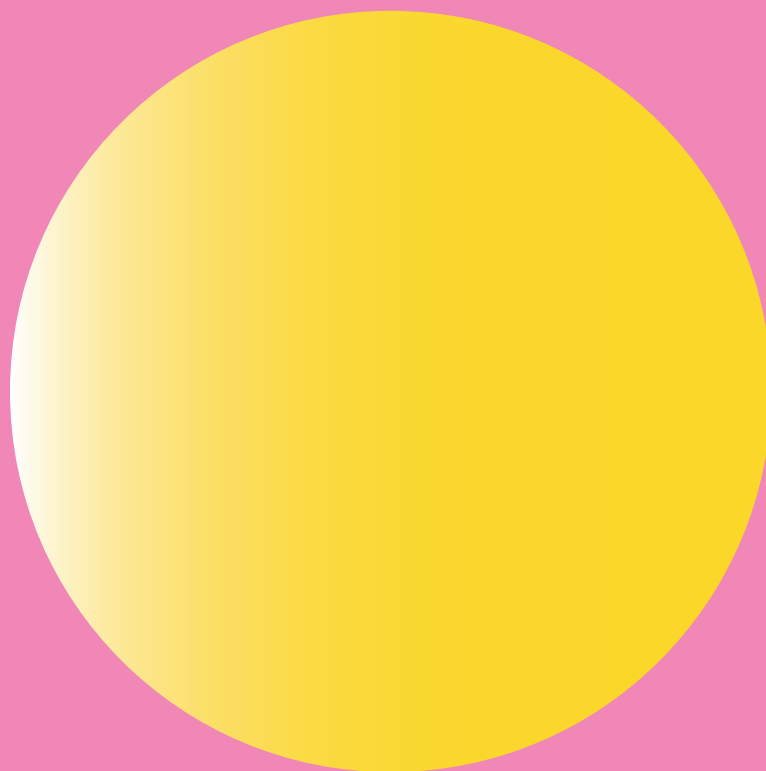
<https://www.arts.ac.uk/students/student-careers>

# SUPPORT PROVIDED BY ARTS SU

## *ARTS SU ADVICE SERVICE*

The Arts SU Advice Service can also provide free, confidential advice on UAL procedures.

**For more information, visit:**  
<https://www.arts-su.com/advice/>





## **WHAT SUPPORT CAN THE ARTS SU ADVICE SERVICE PROVIDE**

The Arts SU Advice Service can take several actions to support students involved in sex work at UAL:

**Help you identify appropriate services and support, both within UAL, and nationally.**

**Liaise with other university stakeholders on your behalf, with your consent.**

**Provided dedicated casework support, taking you through each stage of an issue you experiencing until it has been concluded.**

**Review documentation and evidence, and advise you on evidence required for university procedures, before you submit it.**

# SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

## **REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS**

Terminating a pregnancy (also referred to as having an abortion) is legal in England, Scotland and Wales up until 23 weeks and 6 days of the pregnancy. This means that, regardless of the law in the country you're from, if you become pregnant while studying in London and choose not continue with the pregnancy, abortion is an available option for you.

The following organisations offer information and support:

**The NHS:**

[www.nhs.uk/conditions/abortion](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/abortion)

**British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS):**

[www.bpas.org/abortion-care](http://www.bpas.org/abortion-care)

**Abortion Rights UK:**

[www.abortionrights.org.uk/pregnant](http://www.abortionrights.org.uk/pregnant)

**Marie Stopes:**

[www.mariestopes.org.uk](http://www.mariestopes.org.uk)

## ***YOUR RIGHTS AT UAL***

While pregnancy and abortion are currently not listed as extenuating circumstances, you can still submit a claim as long as you can provide evidence of the impact on your studies. You can find more details, including information about the evidence you need to obtain.

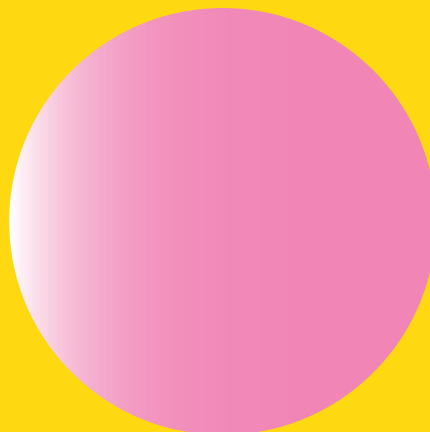
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The Arts SU Advice Service can also provide free, confidential advice on UAL procedures.

**Please click here:**

<https://www.arts-su.com/advice/>



## **SEXUAL HEALTH SCREENING IN LONDON**

The NHS provides sexual health clinics across London.

Sexual health services are free and available to everyone, regardless of sex, age, nationality, ethnic origin and sexual orientation.

If you have a disability and have special requirements, or if English is not your first language, speaking to staff at the clinic before visiting is recommended.

Sexual health clinics provide a range of confidential services, including:

- **Advice on STIs and how to protect yourself tested for STIs.**
- **Information on different types of contraception.**
- **Any type of contraception, including emergency contraception.**

# SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

For some kinds of contraception, such as an implant or intrauterine device (IUD), you may need to return for a second appointment.

Some, but not all, sexual health clinics may provide additional services, such as:

- **Special services for people who have been sexually assaulted.**
- **Hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccination cervical screening.**
- **Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) – a short course of anti-HIV drugs for people who may have recently come into contact with HIV.**

You can find a sexual health clinic near you.

**Please click here:**

<https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/sexual-health/find-a-sexual-health-clinic>

