

## **Tools for the digital safety of sex workers**

### **Risk factors:**

- Clients with whom sex workers are in direct contact and who have bad intentions.
- Stalking, outing, cyber-bullying.
- Pressure against sex workers without a residence or work permit.

### **Safety concepts:**

- Create a professional identity, separate from your civil identity. Your professional and civil identities must not have any connection with each other (e.g. not being friends on Instagram etc.).
- Two cell phones: one for work, one for leisure. Only ever access professional accounts, e.g. your professional Instagram account, via your work cell phone.
- Create different digital identities (meaning different social media accounts etc.) for work, family, close friends, colleagues, etc.
- Choose wisely on which accounts erotic content can be shared and to what extent.
- Due to censorship: Post content on multiple platforms and “channel” customers via social media to platforms where erotic content is allowed (e.g. Onlyfans, manyvids).

### **Communication:**

- Use one phone for sex work only. Buy a new phone and sim card anonymously. Only meet and chat with clients via your work cell phone.
- Anonymous SIM card: try to buy a prepaid card at kiosks without showing your identity card. Otherwise: in Germany, France, Portugal etc. you can simply buy anonymous prepaid cards that also work in Switzerland (a foreign number can, however, deter potential customers).
- Have some disposable email addresses (e.g. if you only need the email to open an account): yopmail.com; temp-mail.com (you only need your name and password to log in later).
- Secure email services are for example tutanoata.com; protonmail.com.
- Insecure email services are: Yahoo, Hotmail or Gmail
- Secure chat services: WhatsApp, Wickr, Signal, Telegram, Wire, Element (the last two also work without a SIM card on a phone).

### **Meta data:**

- Photos: Metadata is information about the image, such as time, location (GPS), name of the phone/computer, etc. If you edit an image with Photoshop, the metadata is still available. It is also becoming easier and easier to reconstruct faces with software.
- Cyberstalking: is becoming easier and easier as more and more people become digitally savvy. Metadata can be used to link different images together, e.g. a picture of a cat on Facebook and a picture of a sex worker on a platform if they were taken with the same cell phone. Use your different phones to make different pictures.
- Tools for deleting metadata: ScrambledExif, EXIF Purge, Metadata.systemli.org

### **Payments:**

If no connection to your own account should be established:

- Cash is always the best option. It is not traceable.
- You can also use prepaid credit cards (Ok-card) or gift cards (Amazon) as payment (problem: you don't know how much money is actually on the cards).

- Anonymous payment services: Wishlist, TransfertWise (needs an email address, you can pay or get paid anonymously), Horizontl (platform for sex workers).

#### **Passwords and a secure use of the Internet:**

- Secure passwords: Different password for each account, at least 10 randomly selected words or characters.
- Password manager: For smartphones KeepassDC (Android) or Keepassium (iphone), KeepassXC for computers (they are not on the cloud → less potential for attack). Keepass also creates passwords itself. You simply need a very secure password for Keepass.
- For two-factor authentication: Free OTP
- Secure internet use:
  - Only visit websites with https (connection encrypted)
  - Install VPN: iPhone: Orbot; Android: Riseup; Laptop: Riseup (all are free)
  - Use Tor Browser (torproject.org). On iPhone it is called onionbrowser, you also need to install Orbot. It is important to use TOR right from the start, i.e. to create all accounts for advertisements etc. with TOR Browser.

#### **Build your own secure website**

- Domain name: njal.la (can be made anonymous).
- Hosting: redumbrella.ch (by sex workers); abelohost.com (by sex workers); orangewebsite.com (sexwork-friendly).
- Redumbrella also offers to design websites and profiles.

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