

Dancers

Safety tips shared by women who have experience of the industry:

TRUST YOUR GUTS – if you feel uncertain about a situation, there is probably a good reason. Listen to your instincts and act, whether that means saying no to a potential client.

KNOW YOUR BOUNDARIES– Think through what you will tell a client who propositions you. The club should stick to clear boundaries set out by law and so you can know your rights.

COMMUNICATE YOUR BOUNDARIES – Remember you have the right to consent and decline. You are in control of the situation. Be clear from the start about prices, and what you are and aren't prepared to do.

SAFETY FIRST – Ensure you have a mobile phone on you and don't accept drinks from clients unless passed directly to you by the bartender.

KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON YOUR MONEY AND PHONE

CONSUME WITH CARE – It is safer to avoid being under the influence of drugs or alcohol to enable you to stay more alert when with a client.

BUDDY UP – Let a trusted friend or relative know where you are and what time you are leaving the club. Leave all this information in an open notebook in your home where it can be found. Agree on a code word that you can use to discretely alert them of danger.

THINK ABOUT GETTING HOME – At the end of the shift, get a taxi or a lift or leave with others. In the event of a client waiting outside, be ready to call a trusted friend or if you sense danger, call 999.

SAFETY APP – Hollie Guard – Protect yourself from violence and accidents, record evidence and alert emergency services of your whereabouts quickly and easily.

What if there is an incident?

National Ugly Mugs (NUM) is a free service that allows you to anonymously report incidents and receive warnings about dangerous individuals. NUM can support you with report making and enables to keep others in the sex industry safe.

Sign up here: www.uknswp.org/um.

If you are in danger, escape, shout for help, do not worry about making a scene. In an emergency, always call 999.

PROTECTING YOUR PRIVACY:

Privacy plays a big part in your overall safety. For example, separate identities are a common and effective way to protect your privacy. Below are some effective and most used practices to protect your privacy:

Have a separate work name

Have separate work and personal emails

Keep an eye on friend and follow requests. Keep social media accounts private.

Images, numbers, social accounts, and names can be searched by anyone on the web.

Our **Vista team** are here to talk and help with safety planning as well as for advocacy and emotional support. If you would like to arrange a call or a meet up, please call us.

oTel: 07869 258165 (Mon-Thurs 9-5)

oWe also run a weekly confidential safe space for women – Haven. Call us for details. We are here to support you.

SEXUAL HEALTH:

You are worth keeping healthy:

Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) or sexually transmitted infections (STIs) can have a range of signs and symptoms, including no symptoms. That's why they may go unnoticed until complications occur, or a partner is diagnosed.

Signs and symptoms which might indicate an STI include:

Sores or bumps on the genitals or in the oral or rectal area, Painful or burning urination, Unusual or odd-smelling vaginal discharge, Unusual vaginal bleeding, Pain during sex, Sore, swollen lymph nodes, particularly in the groin, but sometimes more widespread, Lower abdominal pain, Fever, Rash over the trunk, hands or feet
Signs and symptoms may appear a few days after exposure, or it may take years before you have any noticeable problems, depending on the organism.

Possible complications of not treating an STI early enough include:

Pelvic pain, Pregnancy complications, Eye inflammation, Arthritis, Pelvic inflammatory disease, Infertility, Heart disease, certain cancers such as HPV-associated cervical and rectal cancers

Options for STI testing:

You can choose to visit a Sexual Health Clinic. The TULIP Clinic (in St Mary's Hospital Sexual Health Clinic) Thursdays 1 pm -2.30 pm

A confidential, non-judgmental walk-in service for those in the commercial sex industry and escorts. You can get additional checks and treatment such as: Hep B vaccinations, HPV vaccination, throat swabs/rectal swabs and cervical smears.

Tel: 0300 300 2016

OTHER SERVICES

Beyond the Gaze - Safety and Privacy resources - www.beyond-the-gaze.com

Life Centre - Counselling support for survivors of rape and sexual abuse - 01243 786349 - <https://lifecentre.uk.com>

Release - Legal resources for women in the sex industry - www.release.org.uk

The Treetops Centre (SARC) - Emergency response and practical help for anyone who has been sexually assaulted - 0300 123 6616 <https://www.solent.nhs.uk/sarc/>

Laws and your rights:

The law states that there must be no audience participation in strip clubs and lap dancing clubs, and no physical contact between dancers or between customers and dancers. No one under 18 is allowed on the premises or be allowed to be employed by the venue.

Customers cannot throw money at dancers, and there must be no use of sex toys or any form of penetration.

A clearly displayed customer code of conduct and pricing list for drinks and dances must be available at the door and at tables.

Secure dressing rooms for dancers are required. In VIP areas/Booths, these areas must be directly supervised by security staff or someone in direct contact with security staff.

Soliciting, earning money from another person's prostitution, trafficking, having sex with a woman who has been forced into prostitution, paying for sex with someone under the age of 18, having sex in a public place, and sexually assaulting and/or being violent against a woman, including against a woman selling sexual services, are all illegal activities.



You're Worth Keeping Safe