



**Yada**  
TO BE KNOWN

Supporting Women at Risk  
of Sexual Exploitation and  
Women in the Sex Industry





**Kath**

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## Yada's Vision

“Our vision is to see a world with no place for sexual exploitation, one where women can live a life free from abuse, stigma and violence.”

- We are a charity working to raise awareness and prevent the sexual exploitation of self-identifying women through outreach, partnership and training.
- We work across the Adur, Worthing, Arun and Chichester Districts of West Sussex, particularly supporting those in the sex industry, who are selling or exchanging sex for any form of remuneration.





# The Esther Project

- increasing safety
- decreasing isolation
- increasing wellbeing

## We offer trauma informed support through:

- tailored practical and emotional outreach
- goal setting and safety planning
- counselling
- support and advocacy
- signposting

Web: [esther-project.org](https://esther-project.org)

Email: [hello@esther-project.org](mailto:hello@esther-project.org)

# Making Connections

Online outreach (Netreach)

Partnership Work

- Referrals
- Drop-ins
- Workshops

Training

Language - the language we use builds connections with the women we support



“

I felt now they know I'm an escort,  
I'm left feeling I deserve to suffer.

”

The Esther Project 

# WELLBEING WORKSHOPS

At The Esther Project, we offer a free 6-week course of women only well-being workshops.



“ Really helpful as it helps me to  
move forward with my recovery ”

“Very much enjoyed the session, the content has really given me something to think about”



# Improving Connections

We are always looking to improve our connections with women through:

- our existing partnership work
- connecting with new partnership organisations
- raising awareness of the stigma, judgement, risks and issues faced by women
- raising awareness of the support we offer





# LANGUAGE

There are ethical implications surrounding the language used when talking about the sex industry.

Are we building bridges, or tearing them down?

## ‘Sex Worker’

- Used by some escorts to describe their work - positively embrace this term.
- Women exchanging sex for a place to sleep may not identify with this term and feel it is relevant to them, therefore they don't engage with support.
- It may be offensive to someone who has been or is currently being sexually exploited, trafficked or coerced into selling sex by a partner.





# THE FOUR MAIN FRAMEWORKS

- 1 Labour
- 2 Violence against Women and Girls
- 3 Slavery/Trafficking
- 4 Public Nuisance





# Potential risks or issues when selling or exchanging sex

# Risks and Issues

- Physical Violence/Abuse
- Sexual Health - STI's
- Mental health effects
- Arrest; Criminal record
- Unplanned Pregnancy
- Addiction
- Rape
- Outing to friends/family
- Blackmail
- Stalking/Harassment
- Judgement/Stigma
- Suspension/expulsion (students)
- Exploitation; Trafficking
- Murder (x18 more likely)
- Breakdown of relationships
- Removal of children
- Reputation
- Grooming
- Gap on CV
- Isolation
- Discrimination
- Eviction
- Long term trauma
- Theft

“

There is not a way of doing it (selling sex) that is not dangerous [...] There is every kind of risk. I want to tell other women involved that “it’s not worth it. It’s not safe. It doesn’t matter how brave you are, you will come across trouble.”

”



# Trauma Informed Approach



**NOT**

“What’s wrong with you?”

**BUT**

“What happened to you?”

“ I think during this time I have learned the magnitude that trauma can have on someone and that this is not to be taken lightly. It can trickle down into relationships and affect them. ”

Beyond Support Review  
*[beyondthestreets.org.uk](http://beyondthestreets.org.uk)*

# Some Resources/Organisations

## Sussex

**Turning Tides** - homeless support services

**My Sisters' House Women's Centre** - support for women in difficulty or crisis

**Safe in Sussex** - help and support for people affected by domestic abuse

**Stonepillow** - homeless support services

**WORTH** - specialist domestic abuse service

**The Saturn Centre** - Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) based in Crawley

**Emerging Futures** - housing and substance misuse support

# Some Resources/Organisations

**SWOP** - confidential and non-judgemental service for women who live or work in Brighton & Hove

**PRO(TECT)** - Sex workers outreach project for men in Brighton & Hove (Terrence Higgins Trust)

**MSAS** - Male Sexual Assault Support Kent/Surrey/Sussex (part of SARC)

## National

**Beyond Support** – confidential, free call back service for women in the sex industry

**Release** - expertise on the sex industry and the law and drugs and drugs law

**Beyond the Gaze** - guidance and safety for Internet-based sex work in the UK



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