

Ugly Mugs is a scheme that aims to improve the safety of sex workers in the UK and reduce crimes committed against them, by bringing sex workers together to share information about potential dangers.

The features for sex workers include:

- Full web-based service available 24/7 on your computer or smartphone
- Confidentially report bad clients or other dangers
- Each report is reviewed and then a warning to all sex workers is published
- Option to subscribe to receive new reports by email and/or SMS alerts
- Search and browse all reports
- Check any phone number against the Ugly Mugs database
- [Android app](#) that automatically screens incoming and outgoing calls and text messages, and alerts you if you have contact with a phone number that is in the Ugly Mugs database. App User Guide and Video Demo available [here](#).
- Safety advice, accommodation, health and legal information, and industry news
- Referrals to specialist support services for sex workers
- Service available in 8 languages, English, Chinese, Czech, Hungarian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian and Spanish

Ugly Mugs is a free service and all sex workers are welcome to join up.

Sex work is not inherently violent. Most clients are good clients. But sex workers in the UK all too frequently encounter intimidation, violence and other forms of abuse. All criminal behaviour towards sex workers is unacceptable.

We support the right of sex workers to engage in their work as safely as possible

Ugly Mugs is a FREE service and ALL sex workers in the UK are welcome to join up.

We welcome female, male and trans* sex workers, indoor and outdoor sex workers, independent and agency sex workers.

A large portion of sex workers who are based in or visit the UK, mainly escorts, massage and domination service providers, are already using Ugly Mugs to help stay safe and network with other sex workers.

You can register online for access to UglyMugs.uk [here](#).

(Please note that this service is for sex workers only. In order to prevent non-sex workers obtaining access, all new membership applications are manually checked before being approved.)

Safety app warns UK sex workers of dangerous individuals

Ugly Mugs for Android is a new mobile phone app that automatically screens incoming and outgoing calls and text messages and alerts the phone user if they have contact with a number that is listed in the UglyMugs.uk database of individuals who pose a risk to sex workers.

Sex workers are far more likely to be victims of violence and other crimes and abuses than non sex workers, and sex workers are also far less likely to report crime than non sex workers. Whilst prostitution is legal in the UK, laws criminalising activities around prostitution mean sex workers must work alone and in private in order to work legally. Isolated, partially criminalised, stigmatised, marginalised, and without access to support services in many areas, the vulnerability of sex workers in the UK is obvious. Some offenders deliberately target sex workers because of this vulnerability.

Ugly mug schemes allow sex workers to share information about dangers with each other. When a sex worker encounters a dangerous person, they can report the incident to the ugly mug scheme, and a warning will be made available to all sex workers.

Most sex work in the UK is arranged via the Internet and mobile phones, and UglyMugs.uk integrates with the escort websites, Escort-England.com, Escort-Scotland.com and Escort-Wales.com, making it easy to access for sex workers. The advantage of Ugly Mugs for Android is that sex workers can install it once on their Android phone and from then on it will automatically check each number they have contact with against UglyMugs.uk and warn them if there is a match. It means sex workers don't have to manually check numbers against the UglyMugs.uk database, which many do, but equally many do not always do.

Ugly mug schemes have long been established in many parts of the world as being really useful in warning sex workers about dangerous people and situations. The digital age brings many opportunities to further develop ugly mug schemes. Ugly Mugs for Android will complement the existing UglyMugs.uk service and make the lives of sex workers safer.

Ugly Mugs for Android is free and available to sex workers at UglyMugs.uk