

OnlyFans: Feminis

OnlyFans has been appearing in headlines for a few years now and has caused quite the controversy

By Molly Carr

Imagine an adult site where women are in control of their own image. A platform where pretty much anything goes. The content you post is your choice, from X-rated images to harmless selfies. The people you allow to see your pictures have to pay for the pleasure, at a rate chosen by you.

This platform is known as OnlyFans and allows people to do things they could never do in a different era, even ten years ago.

OnlyFans is a social media platform like the ones we are used to except content is hidden until fans 'subscribe' for a monthly fee. The 'content creator' can choose their fee which varies from £3.90 to £39 per fan, while the site takes 20% commission.

made on the platform is huge. The creator is very much in control on this site as they are able to select a price, they believe their images are worth. The content provided on OnlyFans tends to be sexually explicit and considered too pornographic for other sites. It is fast, simple and the profit made on the platform is huge.

But is the site exploiting women's needs to make money fast leading them into the porn industry? Or empowering women by offering them control of their own body and income?

This platform is British born and bred, created in 2016 by Essex entrepreneur, Tim Stokely. He has been credited for 'revolutionising the adult industry' by bringing sex work into the social media age. However, some creators describe him as a 'virtual pimp' and believe they have been used by the service.

During the Coronavirus lockdown, Love Island's Megan Barton-Hanson revealed she was able to buy her dream home with the money she had earned from her OnlyFans account. The successful singleton makes £80,000 per month from uploading herself in lingerie and posing seductively.

Despite women's success on the platform, OnlyFans has caused chaos within the feminist community.

Sarah Brulee, aged 22 describes herself as a 'feminist activist'. She claims that OnlyFans is "exploitative" and believes it is a "sanitised version of prostitution."

She says "OnlyFans encourages young, poor and often vulnerable women to share personal pornography to the site. The men that subscribe are able to communicate with them and persuade them to perform the sexual acts they desire for tips. This objectifies women and is simply a purified version of prostitution where men can treat women as their real life personalised sex dolls."



st or Anti-Feminist?

JOANIE BROSAS, 28, IS WITHIN THE TOP 1% OF EARNERS ON ONLY-FANS.

Ms Brosas has been using the site since April 2019 and earns thousands per month. Joanie specialises in cosplaying characters and has built up her audience using her niche approach. While she does post proactive images, Joanie does not display certain body parts that she deems too explicit.

She says *“Having people purchase my art is very encouraging, I’m grateful to be so appreciated. I appreciate how easy they’ve made the platform for creators and customers... It’s time women take control of their sexuality and they should be paid for their efforts.”*

Ms Brosas has also noticed downsides of the site with people joining for the wrong reasons she continues to say, *“If it’s not a passion or your creative outlet, if you don’t enjoy this type of work, don’t do it.”*

Regardless of the site’s controversy it has shot up in success during the pandemic, with a 42% increase of new accounts. OnlyFans provides intimacy and a social space that allows for pornography, although it is not exclusive to just porn. What’s clear is women on the site are making significant amounts of money. But are women empowered by the site or just secretly exploited?

Joaine Brosas, posing in costume to please fans.

