

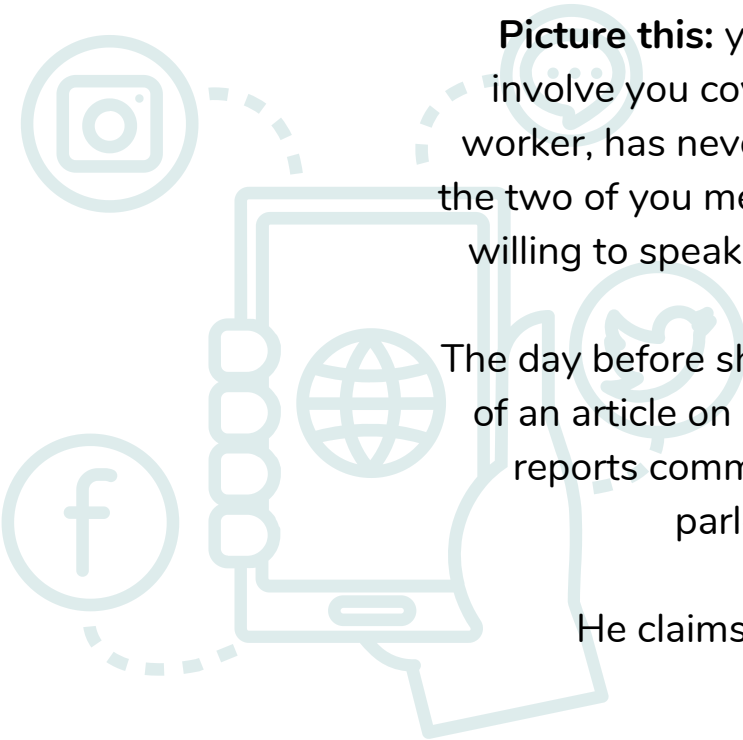
Sharing and Syndicated News Articles

Journalism has undergone some changes in the last decade—and it's becoming more **common to see operations becoming condensed**.

You may notice organizations reposting stories from a wire service. Who is responsible for checking those stories before they are posted?

At SWAN, we understand the pressure journalists are under in this changing landscape, but we look forward to seeing newsrooms play a more active role in ensuring syndicated and re-shared work—whether from your own market or another in your organization—ensures **stories about sex workers are told and shared with dignity and respect**.

Sharing Articles



Picture this: you're a journalist, assigned a story that will involve you covering local sex workers. Su-Lin, a local sex worker, has never talked to a journalist for a story before, but the two of you met through a friend of a friend, and she's finally willing to speak to you after a few months of corresponding.

The day before she's set to speak to you, Su-Lin is made aware of an article on a local news website: in it, another journalist reports comments from a man who says local massage parlours are "dirty" and "disgusting."

He claims his brother became "sick with an STI" after visiting one.

Do you think Su-Lin is going to **want to speak to a journalist** after reading this?

How do you think Su-Lin **feels** when she reads this?

How do you think she'll feel when the article, because of its relatively salacious nature, is **reposted** to other markets?

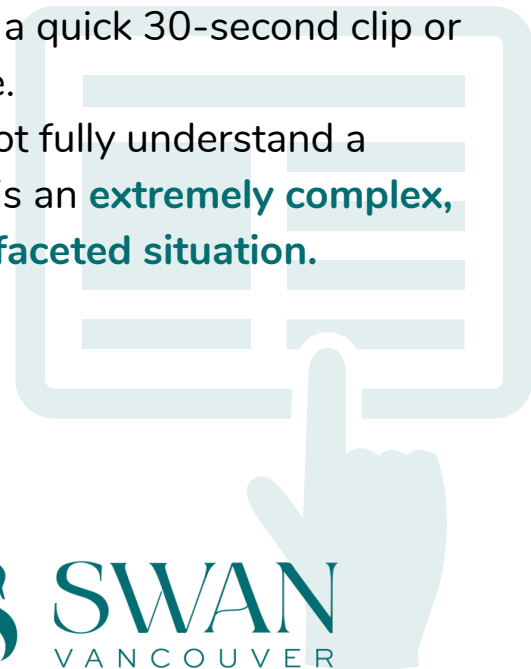
How do you think she'll feel when she finds out the article is going "viral" after being shared **hundreds of times** on social media?

On Social Media



It's becoming commonplace for stories to go viral, but there can be repercussions:

- The person at the subject of the story may be **harassed** online, and in some cases might fear for their safety.
- The audience may take the story **out of context** after seeing a quick 30-second clip or reading a brief quote.
- The audience may not fully understand a story, especially if it is an **extremely complex, nuanced and multi-faceted situation**.



What could these risks mean for im/migrant sex workers?



THE MORE VIRAL A NEWS STORY GOES,
THE MORE SCRUTINY IT IS UNDER.

It is becoming common for people to try and find more details about a person who may have been mentioned in a story, otherwise known as "doxxing." We at SWAN do **not** want to see sex workers doxxed, since their im/migration status can be precarious.

For im/migrant sex workers...

any sort of spotlight on their situation can put them at further risk. It is already a courageous move for sex workers to speak out. How do we strike the balance between ensuring their voices are heard while making sure they are safe?

The context in one media market

may be different from another market, resulting in potential cases of **moral panic**, creating an issue that might not have been an issue to begin with.



On Syndication

WITH CHANGES THANKS IN PART TO THE DIGITAL AGE, IT'S NOT SURPRISING TO SEE MARKETS SHARING THE WORK OF SISTER STATIONS.

We understand that stories can and will be shared across various markets, however...

Are these **stories being checked** to ensure they are factual?

Are they **factual and context appropriate** for the market in question?

We hope newsrooms take the time to ensure the content they share—and/or reshare—is verified for accuracy and fair coverage in the context of the cities and regions they serve.

Please note: Not everyone's primary identity centers around their job. Not all who engage in sex work will self-ID as a sex worker, despite the broad language that is sometimes used to refer to this community.

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