

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 1st, 2021

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*(For local protests, see specific contact information below)*

## **#AcceptanceMatters**

# **Sex Workers Protest MasterCard and Banking Discrimination on September 1st**

[AcceptanceMatters.org](https://AcceptanceMatters.org) - National and local sex worker collectives are planning a series of online actions and offline protests on September 1st to demand an immediate pause on MasterCard's new planned Adult Content policies pending the creation of stakeholder advisory councils and to protest ongoing discrimination from the banking industry.

MasterCard's proposed policies [have numerous serious flaws and will result in a major chilling effect and destruction of many ways of working for sex workers and other impacted parties](#) by denying access to financial infrastructure. We are also protesting debanking like MasterCard's pullout from Pornhub and discrimination from banks (like BNY Mellon) that caused OnlyFans to almost drop adult content. The protests will demand a stop to discrimination against sex work and to policies made without stakeholder input and care for harm.

### **What are we organizing for?**

- For an immediate pause to impending MasterCard policies planned for October 15th pending study with stakeholders
- For a stop to all planned debanking, defunding, or deplatforming until further study
- To protest instability caused by banks such as BNY Mellon on platforms like OnlyFans
- To advocate for the creation of sex worker stakeholder advisory groups and councils as well as commitments that no changes will be made for the safety of workers without workers

### **Where is this happening?**

Our statement is up at [AcceptanceMatters.org](https://AcceptanceMatters.org). The action was created in response to online workers and the primary vehicle is a hashtag campaign planned for wednesday, occupying MasterCard's corporate hashtag [#AcceptanceMatters](https://AcceptanceMatters.org).

Organizers encourage participation everywhere! Sex workers are everywhere and so are banks. We hope to give them something to think about. Even a couple sex workers taking selfies with signs in front of a local bank that discriminated against them helps add to our action. Banks are notoriously PR minded! See below for specific events. Please note that local protests are organized by local groups.

### **Quotes:**

"We're protesting today to ask that banks make sure payments are actually accepted at our businesses, instead of simply creating ad campaigns with terms like #AcceptanceMatters that are mostly directed at a straight audience featuring "respectable gays"."

"The LGBTQ + QTPOC community has a unique stake in sex work, which is both overlooked in banking advertising about LGBTQ+ businesses and directly discriminated against through banking actions defunding and restricting adult industry workers. "

"While every set of statistics show most CSAM and other abuse is on so-called "safe for work" sites, MasterCard's policies are intentionally written to require only adult sites to adhere to new draconian policies. Both survivors of abuse and adult workers – many of whom are the same people – deserve better than policies that sidestep nuanced internet-wide harm reduction in favor of scapegoating a specific category of highly stigmatized labor."

"Our participation in this action is not an endorsement of the #AcceptanceMatters hashtag, which can be seen as a coldly calculating misappropriation of Black Lives Matter by a corporate entity, but a statement that we do not accept these PR campaigns as a substitution for ending discrimination. If MasterCard seeks to roll out a new yearly pride campaign to perform "Acceptance", without taking concrete steps to ensure their card is actually accepted as a way to pay for our labor, we will occupy that tag as well."

"We decided to protest in person outside BNY Mellon because it was revealed in recent reporting that they flagged and blocked every transaction to pay creators through the OnlyFans platform, contributing to instability that almost caused the platform to kick all adult content."

# Online Event Information

**Sign on now and share** [AcceptanceMatters.org](https://AcceptanceMatters.org)!

**Online Protest Time:** September 1st, 10am EDT

**Location:** Everywhere! We'll be trying our hardest to make things trend on Twitter and TikTok, but no reason not to post information anywhere anyone can see it. [See FAQ](#) for more info!

**Hashtags:** Before the first, workers were encouraged to use hashtags from prior campaigns like #VisaVictims and #MasterCensors. On the 1st, we are camping out in MasterCard's #AcceptanceMatters hashtag.

**Organizing Contacts:** [September1stBankingAction@gmail.com](mailto:September1stBankingAction@gmail.com)

# NYC Event Information

**Protest Time:** September 1st, 1:00 PM EDT

**Protest Location:** Bank of NY Mellon HeadQuarters, 240 Greenwich St. NYC

**Organizing Contacts:** SWOP Brooklyn: [@SWOPBrooklyn](https://twitter.com/SWOPBrooklyn) | [brooklyn@swopusa.org](mailto:brooklyn@swopusa.org), Maya Morena: [@themayamorena](https://twitter.com/themayamorena) | [gibsonwaist@gmail.com](mailto:gibsonwaist@gmail.com)

Workers have expressed interest in protesting in Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Philadelphia, and Houston. Visit [september1stbankingaction.com](https://september1stbankingaction.com) for more information.

Press Contact: [September1stBankingAction@gmail.com](mailto:September1stBankingAction@gmail.com).

**Flyers below**

Flyers (pre-event, day of) - [Google drive folder link to uncompressed versions](#)



# STAND UP TO BIG BANKS

## PROTEST AGAINST SEX WORK BANKING DISCRIMINATION

Join us in protesting the instability on platforms like OnlyFans



### how you can help:

#### TODAY:

- make videos tagged with #MasterCensors #VisaVictims
- sign on at [SexWorkSignOn.com](https://SexWorkSignOn.com)
- link, promote and share [SexWorkSignOn.com](https://SexWorkSignOn.com) and [September1stBankingAction.com](https://September1stBankingAction.com)

#### WEDNESDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER:

starting 10AM EST

- reshare videos with #AcceptanceMatters
- link [AcceptanceMatters.org](https://AcceptanceMatters.org)
- post a lot and keep the discussion going!

**DO NOT USE  
THIS HASHTAG  
UNTIL THE 1ST**

to make sure it trends  
on Wednesday

# STAND UP TO BIG BANKS

**PROTEST AGAINST  
SEX WORK  
BANKING DISCRIMINATION**



Join us in protesting the instability on platforms like OnlyFans

**how you can help:**

**FROM 10AM EST**

- Post videos about banking discrimination using #AcceptanceMatters
- Sign and share our statement: [AcceptanceMatters.org](https://AcceptanceMatters.org)
- Post a lot and keep the discussion going!





# STAND UP TO BIG BANKS

No more banking  
discrimination!

SEX  
WORKERS,  
QUEERS,  
AND ALLIES  
GATHER

TRIBECA, NYC  
LOCATION TBA DAY OF  
WEAR A MASK



# SEPTEMBER 1ST:

## DAY OF ACTION AGAINST SEX WORK BANKING DISCRIMINATION



Bank of NY Mellon HQ  
240 Greenwich St, New York, NY  
1 PM

Please bring a mask

Learn more:

[September1stBankingAction.com](http://September1stBankingAction.com)

Sign on to support online:

[SexWorkSignOn.com](http://SexWorkSignOn.com)

Contact for campaign info:

[brooklyn@swopusa.org](mailto:brooklyn@swopusa.org)