

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

## [#AcceptanceMatters](#)

# LGBTQ+ Stakeholders Protest MasterCard's Discriminatory October 15th Adult Policy Plans

[AcceptanceMatters.org](#) - Over 200 LGBTQ+ stakeholders put together a statement protesting MasterCard's upcoming "Adult" website policies, which was signed by over 2500 stakeholders, many of whom linked their businesses that will be impacted or recorded video testimony about banking discrimination.

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.

The policies were also crafted in cooperation with religious anti-LGBTQ organizations NCOSE (previously known as Morality in Media) and Exodus Cry and no input from stakeholders who will be impacted.

### 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 a protest occupying MasterCard's corporate hashtag [#AcceptanceMatters](https://AcceptanceMatters.org) happened on September 1st.

**Quotes - "From the organizers":**

"We are 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."

**Quotes - From the statement:**

"Every major LGBTQ+ advocacy organization has an explicit position supporting the full decriminalization of sex work as a matter of LGBTQ+ rights, including Lambda Legal, the National Center for Trans Equality, The National LGBTQ Task Force, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, and numerous other state and national LGBTQ+ organizations. Sex worker rights to economic security are an LGBTQ+ equity issue.

While your ad campaigns focus on the individuals seen as most respectable to mainstream society, the most marginalized in our communities that are among the workers you spurn."

"MasterCard's proposed policies only apply to "Adult Content Merchants." In the light of widespread issues with non-adult sites and the success modern adult sites have had with successfully removing this content, there seems to be absolutely no need to target adult sites specifically.

Policies supposedly about abuse that intentionally sidestep the majority of abuse are a disservice to survivors of abuse and current victims that need support as much as they are an unfounded attack on innocent creators who use the platforms that are defunded."

“Workers are asked to sign more and more paperwork and give more and more information, but none of that actually improves material conditions for workers.

It simply protects everyone else – photographers, producers, platforms, banks – from liability at the cost of worker freedom and privacy. No performer is at risk of being arrested or sued for sex trafficking, so they gain nothing from this process.

The people who absolve themselves of liability through these processes never had to have their face public as a sex worker and suffer from that stigma, but now sex workers have even more easily leakable records that would make them targets”

## **Graphics**

**#ACCEPTANCE  
MATTERS**



**I STAND IN  
SOLIDARITY AGAINST BIG BANKS**

**BANKING INSTITUTIONS SHOULD  
NOT DICTATE  
A WORKERS AUTONOMY & RIGHT  
TO EARN AN INCOME**



### ***HOW CAN I HELP?***

- ***TRENDING FOR VISIBILITY:  
USE #ACCEPTANCEMATTERS***
- ***RETWEET OR BOOST TESTIMONIALS  
YOU SEE ON SOCIAL MEDIA USING THE HASHTAG***
- ***TELL YOUR BANK YOU DO NOT ACCEPT THEIR DISCRIMINATION  
BASED ON PRESSURED MORALITY***

**HELP STAND IN  
SOLIDARITY WITH  
SEX WORKERS TODAY  
TO PROTEST AGAINST  
DISCRIMINATION FROM  
BIG BANKING**



**TO LEARN MORE VISIT [ACCEPTANCEMATTERS.ORG](https://acceptancematters.org)**