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((Julie Bindel)))

Shame on the men exploiting Lily Phillips

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Lily Phillips in the documentary, I Slept With 100 Men in One Day (Credit: YouTube/Josh Pieters)

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Lily Phillips, who had sex with 101 men in a single day in October, has hit the headlines, but the focus should instead be on the men that exploit her, and the men that queued up to have sex with her. Having appeared in a YouTube film, *I Slept With 100 Men in One Day*, this young, vulnerable woman is now planning her next endeavour: to have sex with 1,000 men in 24 hours, or one minute 44 seconds per sexual encounter, non-stop for a day. Doubtless, this publicity stunt will increase her already substantial annual earnings. But Phillips will pay a heavy price.

I have interviewed women who have been required to have sex with eight, 10, 12 men every day because they were under the control of a pimp in a brothel, and have heard the details of the terrible effects on their mental and physical health. What this involves is too graphic and disturbing to share; but the physical effects on the body of penetrative sex by numerous men in a short space of time is horrific. Our bodies are not made for this type of punishment.

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But what of the men that wish to join in on such a 'competition'? Why would they want to have sex with a woman after so many others? For me, it raises the image of those men queueing to rape Gisèle Pelicot. It is akin to a spectator sport. There are mega brothels in Germany that encourage stag parties, often with a dozen men at a time taking part in a 'gangbang' with one woman. It seems hard to believe that such exploits are allowed to take place in the 21st century.

Lily admitted she effectively dissociated herself during the '101 challenge' in October. The 23-year-old says she can only remember the first five or so encounters, and that after she attempted to blank it out. This is no surprise: dissociation is a coping mechanism due to extreme trauma. The sex was filmed, and the pornography will make those who profit from OnlyFans – where Lily's videos have appeared – a lot of money.

The story of Lily is similar to that of other women I have spoken to on OnlyFans. The middle-class young women who appear on there tend to be those that have not previously been involved in prostitution. Many of the others, from disadvantaged and impoverished backgrounds gravitated to the site during covid, when the brothels were closed. Make no mistake: whatever OnlyFans' intention, the site is prostitution behind a screen, but pimps and predators are never far away.

When women like Lily talk about being driven by a sexual desire, this is all part of the fantasy constructed for men. No woman has a fantasy to end up with the type of injuries that will occur from such extreme activities as having sex with multiple men.

But the sex industry has no scruples, only a desire for profit.

While Lily's picture has been splashed across the newspapers this week, the spotlight should fall instead on the men who create the demand for harmful sexual services. We should not be fooled by the money Lily is supposedly making, but rather need to be aware of the danger she is in and the money being made for OnlyFans.

This site, and others like it, should be shut down; the women caught up in pornography and prostitution, should be supported to get out; and the men that drive the demand for such 'content' condemned and held accountable.

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