

Hydra Café Guidelines

Hydra Café is a space for all people, who have experience as a sex worker, with or without registration under the new law. This includes people who have worked in bars, brothels, on the streets, in massage salons, webcamming, as an escort, sugarbabe, as a dancer, or porn performer.

We would like to provide an encouraging and supportive environment for each other. To make this possible, we collected some points, where we feel they are important to reflect on before we come together as a community. Please take some time to read through them and let us know if questions come up:

Almost all events at Hydra Cafe are for sexworkers and former sexworkers only. If an event is for the general public, it will say so in the advertisement.

All the people you see, the names you hear, the personal information that is exchanged at Hydra-Café is confidential. What happens at Hydra Café stays at Hydra Café. Please be mindful of that when you see someone you have met here, in public. Because you have met someone here does not mean that you should address them in public, especially not while they may be with other people. Please keep in mind that not all sex workers are equally open about their work, some want and/or need to keep it a secret. Do not assume things. As always, when in doubt, it's better to ask.

We believe that there is not "one sex work community", but many different ones, some with more and some with fewer privileges.

Alongside social prejudice, stigmatisation and a number of extra laws, many sex workers have to deal with additional challenges: e.g. because they are trans/inter or non-binary, because they are migrants, because they are not white, because they have little or no knowledge of German and/or because they have no access to the social system or registration under the so called Prostitution Protection Act.

It is quite possible you won't share the same experiences as some people you meet at Hydra Café. Different identities coming together can be a beautiful thing, but sometimes also causes some friction and in the worst case, discrimination. Therefore, we ask you kindly to be sensitive in your wording and reflect upon your behaviour here. **We would like to minimize the reproduction of discrimination based on (dis)ability, age, body, origin, religion, sex or gender, sexual orientation, class or language...**

Behaviour that makes any sex worker feel excluded, unwelcome and embarrassed will not be tolerated. This includes shaming others for how much/little money a person makes, how they work, what clients they have, if they are registered or not, their drug use or non-use and if they are working outdoors or indoors...

We would like to encourage reflections on how much space we may be taking up – in discussions and workshops - who is heard and why - how we address each other and in what way. **Again. we do not assume people's gender, pronouns or sex work experience, rather ask.**

Keep in mind, some people are neurodivergent and/or deal with mental health issues. We would like to encourage everyone to be sensitive and non-judgmental and to rather avoid generalizing individual experiences and to respect peoples' boundaries. This can also sometimes just simply mean to try to be an active listener and avoid interrupting people.

Hydra Café is a drug and alcohol free space. Alcohol may be served on special occasions only and when agreed upon in advance. In addition we appreciate to be sensitive about sharing (unnecessary) drug and party stories.

If you have any doubts, further questions or criticism to offer, please contact us:

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