

Revenge Porn Helpline

2023 Report

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Revenge Porn
Helpline



“It was reassuring to speak to someone about how I wasn’t alone in my experience.”



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Recognition of Funders

The Revenge Porn Helpline is partly funded by the UK Home Office following an acknowledgement that the issues seen by the Helpline sat more appropriately within the Government’s Violence Against Women and Girls strategy. Additional funding has also been received by the Scottish Government under the Delivering Equally Safe Fund. Since 2022, the UK Safer Internet Centre, and therefore the Helpline, has been partly funded by Nominet – the UK-based company providing DNS (Domain Name Service) and funding for social impact organisations.

The Helpline operates within a limited budget from government funding, and relies on additional donations from the public, private sector and other funding grant agreements. We would therefore like to extend our gratitude to any members of the public who have donated and supported our cause to protect individuals from intimate image abuse.

We promise to support any adults affected by intimate image abuse in the UK offering advice, support and help with online content removal for all those affected.

The Revenge Porn Helpline

The Revenge Porn Helpline is operated by South West Grid for Learning (SWGfL), a partner in the UK Safer Internet Centre. The Helpline was founded in 2015 following the criminalisation of the sharing of intimate images without consent and an increase in the number of calls to the Professionals Online Safety Helpline that made it clear that there was a significant issue that demanded this support.

Helpline Practitioners assist adults affected by intimate image abuse by providing practical advice and support. Primarily, the Revenge Porn Helpline provides advice and information regarding:

- the law around intimate image abuse,
- how to report to the police,
- how to collect evidence and the reporting of private sexual images online for removal.

The Helpline also signposts to a variety of support services where appropriate, including emotional and legal support. The Helpline can only support adults living in the UK who are over the age of 18, and can be contacted in a variety of ways, including by telephone, email, anonymous contact form (Whisper), or through the Reiya chatbot.

Executive Summary

Reports to the Revenge Porn Helpline doubled last year reaching nearly

19,000

that's a **106%** increase

Sextortion

Sextortion was the main form of intimate image abuse reported, making up over a third of reports.

93%

of sextortion cases were reported by men.

Sextortion cases have increased by **54%** compared to 2022.

Data indicates that women are disproportionately impacted by both the sharing and the quantity of distributed images, with approximately

x28

more images shared per woman than per man.



The Helpline maintains an exceptionally high removal rate, consistently reaching

90%

take down rates on reported images.

Since 2015, the Helpline has reported approximately

338,000

intimate images



306,000

of them have been successfully removed from the internet.

Almost

60%

of clients were referred to mental health services by the Helpline.

Glossary

IIA: Intimate Image Abuse

Revenge Porn Helpline, also referred to as **'the Helpline'**

SWGfL: South West Grid for Learning

NCII: Non-Consensual Intimate Image

OSA: Online Safety Act

Case: Direct contact with the Helpline through telephone, Whisper, email

Reports: Overall, combining requests received from the chatbot and the Helpline contact points

Reiya: Website chatbot

Whisper: Anonymous reporting tool for the Helpline

Defining Key Terms

Intimate Image Abuse

Despite the Revenge Porn Helpline's name, we choose to avoid using the term 'Revenge Porn' as it does not accurately reflect the complexity of the issue. The sharing of intimate images without consent is not always motivated by 'revenge', and the use of those words suggests that the victim has done something to deserve what has happened. In addition, an individual's private sexual images are not pornography: pornography is commercial and, crucially, consensual. 'Revenge porn' fails to encompass the full spectrum of behaviours involved in intimate image abuse, such as sharing private sexual imagery, threats to share intimate content, sextortion, voyeurism, cyber-flashing, synthetic sexual content and upskirting. Hence, we prefer to use the more inclusive and victim-supportive term 'intimate image abuse'.

Sextortion

Financially motivated sexual extortion (often referred to as 'sextortion'), or webcam blackmail, is a form of blackmail that can intimidate any individual into paying money to an offender who is threatening to share nude or semi-nude images of them. The majority of cases involve individuals meeting via social media or dating websites and forming a relationship. The blackmailer often assumes the identity of a man or woman who, after gaining the victim's trust, will quickly persuade them into sending intimate images or videos or will record sexual content without the victim's knowledge or consent. The images and videos will then be used to blackmail them for money or further sexual content. Typically perpetrated by organised crime groups operating outside of the UK, sextortion scammers can target any individual regardless of their age or gender.

Voyeurism/Upkirting

Voyeurism is a sexual offence where the victim is filmed by someone without their knowledge or consent, typically for the perpetrator's sexual

gratification. This often occurs where one party films sexual activity without the knowledge of the other person but can also include filming up a skirt or down a blouse. Such actions are restricted to private spaces or situations where the body parts or acts would not typically be seen in public. In England and Wales, the corresponding legislation is the Voyeurism (Offences) Act 2019, while in Scotland, it was incorporated into the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009.

Threat to Share

This refers to an implicit or explicit threat to have your intimate or sexually explicit material shared without your consent. This commonly involves situations where the perpetrator is a known person, for example, an ex-partner or family member, and they are making threats with the intent that the individual (or someone who knows them) will believe that it will be carried out or is reckless to the fact that they will fear it will be carried out.

Synthetic Sexual Content

We use 'Synthetic Sexual Content' to refer to sexual or nude imagery created using AI technologies, sometimes referred to as 'deepfakes'. Synthetic imagery can include images created by swapping someone's face onto another's body, 'nudification' apps where a clothed image can be recreated to be nude or completely fake images.

In this context, a person's image can be edited or altered to become an intimate image, or an intimate image can be manufactured of someone. The Helpline has observed a growing trend with the emergence of AI technology in publicly accessible apps, allowing users to create realistic synthetic images quickly and easily. This harmful use of technology presents a fresh risk and form of intimate image abuse, demanding proactive measures to prevent the exploitation of AI technology for such purposes.

Legal Framework

In 2015, spurred by growing public awareness, the Criminal Justice and Courts Act¹ (in England and Wales) introduced an offence concerning the disclosure of private sexual photographs or films. This offence occurs when such images are shared without the consent of the individual depicted and with the intention of causing distress to that individual. Additionally, in 2017, the Sentencing Council included the 'threat to disclose intimate material or sexually explicit images' under the Communications Act 2003.

As part of the Criminal Justice Bill, which continues its passage through Parliament, the Government is also creating a range of new criminal offences to punish those who take or record intimate images without consent – this includes installing equipment to enable someone to film a person in a private place without their knowledge with the intention to cause alarm, distress or humiliation or for sexual gratification.

In Scotland, the Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Act 2016 established an offence for disclosing a private sexual photograph without consent, intending to cause distress, or if the sender is reckless about whether it will cause distress. Similarly, in Northern Ireland, the Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2016 made it an offence to disclose such photographs without consent with the intent to cause distress. When the law refers to 'private', it means the content cannot already be public or created for commercial use. Essentially, a person's content could be shared anywhere, online or offline, including but not limited to, adult sites, social media platforms, chat forums, private messages, shown on a device or as printed copies. In the legal context, 'sexual' encompasses any image depicting genitals, breasts, or sexual acts not typically seen in public.

¹ "<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/2/contents/enacted>" Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015 (legislation.gov.uk)

Intimate Image Abuse Law and the Online Safety Act

The Online Safety Act, which aims to provide the legal framework and enforcement for online safety, has had a significant impact. As of the 31st of January 2024, Section 33 of the Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015 has been replaced by Section 66B of the Sexual Offences Act 2003². In England and Wales, revised laws now categorise sharing intimate images without consent into various offences including: a **basic sharing offence** punishable by up to six months imprisonment, an offence where there is an intention to cause distress with a maximum penalty of two years imprisonment, and an **offence for the purpose of sexual gratification** also carrying a maximum sentence of **two years imprisonment** and subject to registration on the sex offenders register. Additionally, threatening to share an intimate image is also a separate offence, with a maximum penalty of two years imprisonment, if done with the intention of causing fear or distress to the individual or someone who knows them.

The revised laws simplify the process of charging and convicting individuals for sharing or threatening to share intimate images without consent. We believe these amendments will have a real-life impact on the lives of people who have suffered from intimate image abuse.

Synthetic Sexual Content

The UK Government has recently announced new legislation as part of the Criminal Justice Bill to combat intimate image abuse, focusing on criminalising the creation of synthetic sexual content, commonly referred to as 'deepfake' images. However, the Revenge Porn Helpline is

² "<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2023/50/enacted#p01144>" Online Safety Act 2023 (legislation.gov.uk)



concerned that the proposed legislation includes a requirement to demonstrate intent to cause distress in cases involving synthetically created intimate images. Nevertheless, the introduction of synthetically created sexual content in the Criminal Justice Bill is a positive step forward which could potentially prevent a significant rise in intimate synthetic sexual imagery.

International Reach

In 2023, we built upon the achievements of 2022 and expanded the scope of our work internationally. The previous year witnessed a growing awareness of issues such as intimate image abuse and other forms of online abuse disproportionately affecting women worldwide. As the pioneering helpline dedicated to this cause, the Revenge Porn Helpline has emerged as a global leader in providing direct support to people affected by intimate image abuse and facilitating the removal of online intimate content shared without consent.

Collaborations with entities like the White House Task Force to Address Online Harassment and Abuse and the non-profit organisation Panorama Global, on its Image-Based Sexual Abuse Initiative, RECLAIM, have further solidified our position. Our efforts in developing StopNCII.org, as elaborated in subsequent sections, have fostered a global network of NGOs that refer individuals to the platform and offer tailored support. The Helpline was also invited to present at Microsoft offices in New York alongside the UNCSW68, celebrating the inclusion of Photo DNA Technology into StopNCII.org.

We take pride in sharing our expertise and best practices with partners across the globe.

2024

Criminal Justice Bill progresses through parliament, introducing offences around taking or recording intimate images without consent and the creation of synthetic sexual content, referred to as 'deepfakes'.

2024

Revised intimate image laws fall under the Sexual Offences Act 2003

2023

Online Safety Act becomes law.

2021

Domestic Abuse Act 2021. Threats to share intimate images are included as an offence.

2019

Voyeurism (Offences) Act 2019. Upskirting becomes a sexual offence.

2016

Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2016. Sharing intimate images becomes an offence in Northern Ireland.

2016

Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Act 2016. Sharing intimate images becomes an offence in Scotland.

2015

Revenge Porn Helpline established.

2015

Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015. Sharing intimate images without consent becomes an offence.

Report Findings

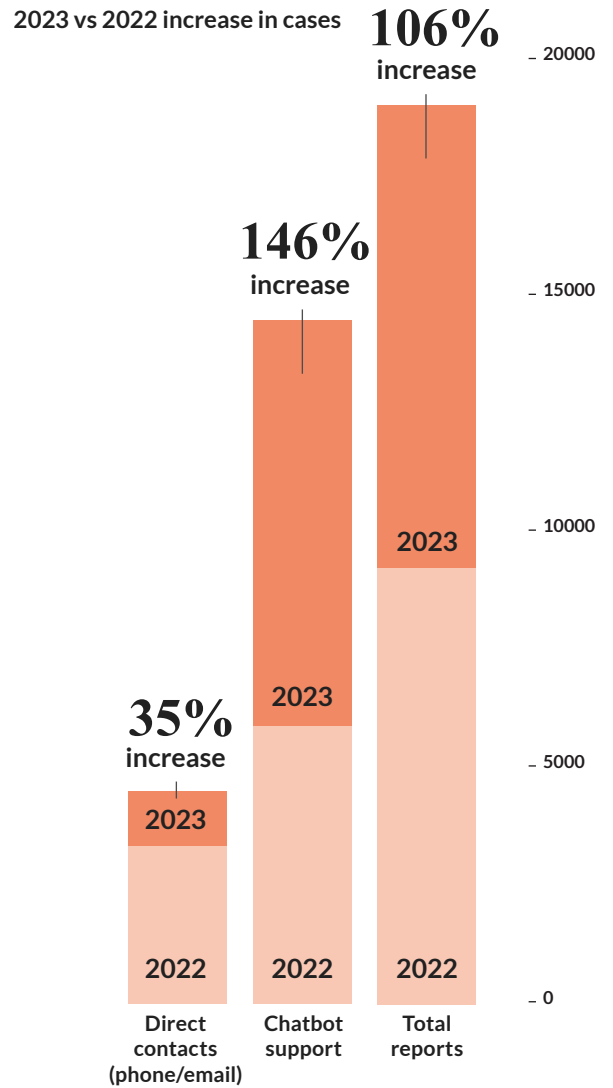
All data outlined in the report was obtained from the internal systems of the Revenge Porn Helpline during the year of 2023 only. For confidentiality, all marks relating to personal details have been removed and aggregated data is used. The analysis of this data is descriptive as no predictions are being made.

Significant Rise in Cases

Overall, the Revenge Porn Helpline saw a notable surge in demand, receiving 18,426 reports, marking a substantial 106% increase in reports compared to 2022 data. This emphasises the urgent need for robust structures to aid those affected by this rapidly escalating issue. A significant portion of these requests, approximately 76%, originated from the online chatbot, Reiya, highlighting its pivotal role in providing immediate assistance.

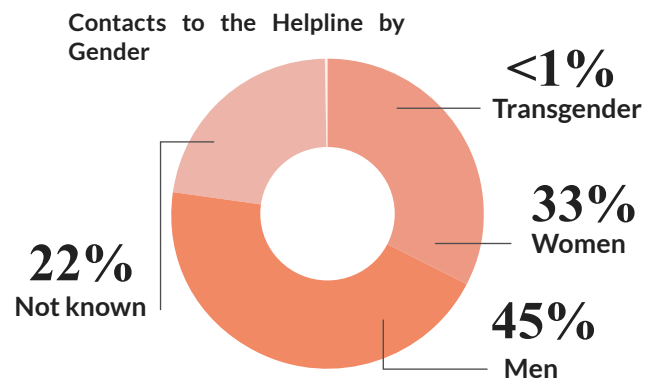
Particularly striking was the increase in users seeking support from Reiya, with a staggering 146% increase in users compared to the previous year, totalling 14,021 reports, compared to 5,692 in 2022. Additionally, cases received via telephone, Whisper, and email, experienced a 35% increase, with the Helpline registering 4,379 contacts through these channels.

In total, analysis of gender data revealed that more men sought assistance from the Helpline than women. This revealed a significant numerical disparity, with 1,967 men reaching out compared to 1,425 women clients, indicating a 38% increase in men seeking support compared to women. However, in 964 cases, the gender of the client was unknown. In addition, what the data does show, is that men and women experience Intimate Image Abuse very differently (see Key Issues).



Victim/Survivor Vs. Perpetrator

	Male perp	Female perp	Criminal gang
Male	6%	4%	90%
Female	82%	6%	12%



Reiya Chatbot

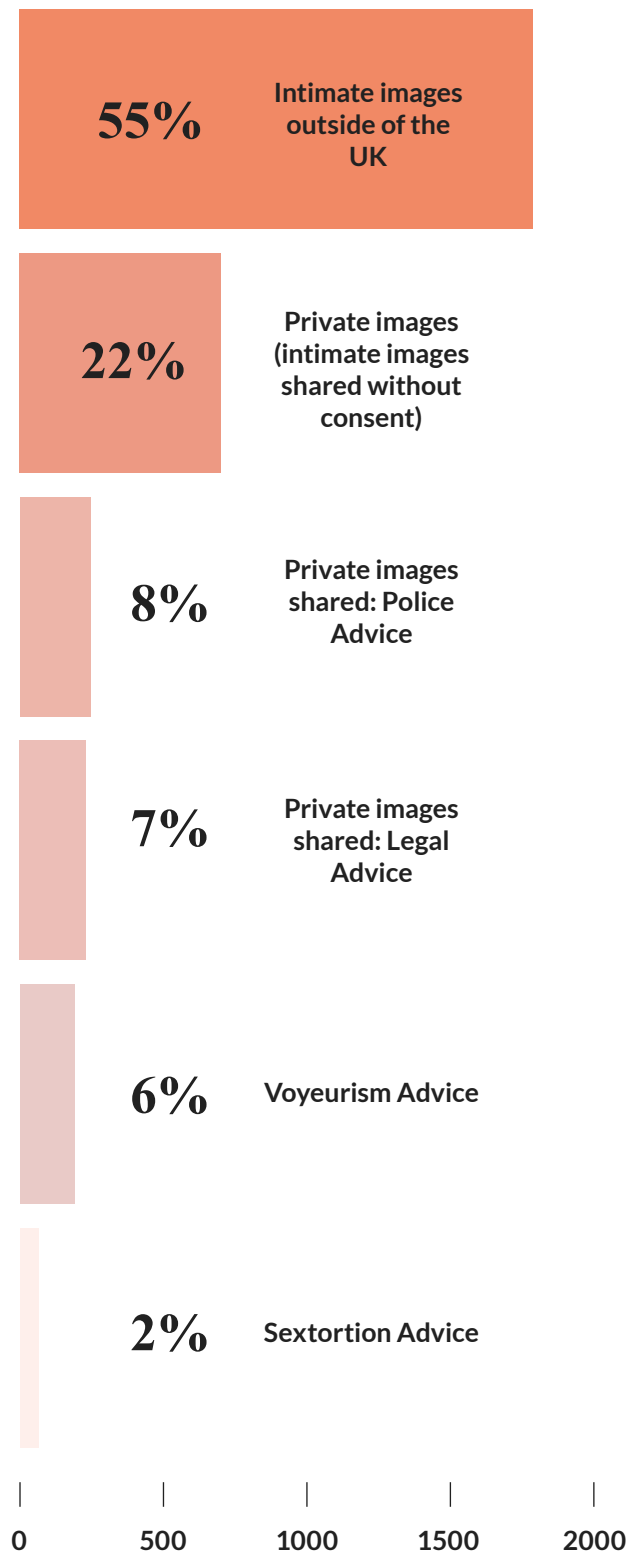
Our chatbot, Reiya, was developed as part of an initiative launched by Comic Relief’s Tech for Good Fund, which has been active since 2016. After the programme concluded, Reiya was launched on both the Revenge Porn Helpline and Report Harmful Content websites in February 2022.

Reiya facilitates access to advice, support and referrals to services regarding online harms whenever individuals require assistance. Both Helplines observed in 2021 that more than 60% of reports were received outside of their regular operating hours, highlighting the importance of providing 24/7 support and advice. Additionally, Reiya offers users the opportunity to share their contact information, allowing the Helplines to follow up with additional information and support.

The implementation of Reiya has significantly boosted the capabilities of the Revenge Porn Helpline, by enabling practitioners to handle cases that are received beyond regular working hours. Approximately 76% of all cases received by the Helpline were initiated through the chatbot, underscoring its vital role. Furthermore, Reiya offers victims/survivors access to a range of resources and advice pages. According to our data, the most frequently accessed advice pages include topics such as Intimate Image Abuse support for outside of the UK (1,788 visits), Private Images (700 visits), and Private Images: Law and Police (476 visits).

It is notable that the overwhelming majority (88%) of chatbot users were 18 or older. However, concerningly there were 825 requests for support from children aged 13-18, as well as the 170 requests from those under 13. This underscores the importance of robust regulations to protect individuals of all ages from online harms. In these cases, Reiya directs individuals to the appropriate services for people under the age of 18, including the Internet Watch Foundation, Report Remove tool and Take it Down.

Advice pages referred to users through Reiya



Key Issues

“I cannot thank the service enough for what they have done for me. The relief they have given me by assisting in the removal of the images is enormous. I will be forever grateful for this act.”

Intimate Images Shared Without Consent

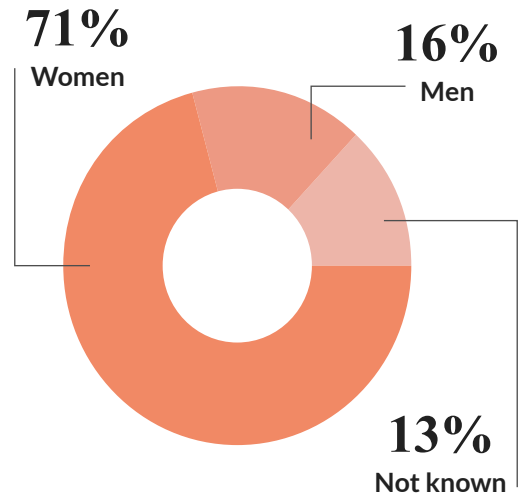
Women have approximately 28 times more images shared than men.

In the past year, the Helpline received 914 cases of intimate images being shared without consent, of which 71% of the clients were women. In fact, intimate images being shared without consent constituted the most widespread offence that women who reached out to the Helpline faced, with 45% of female clients who contacted our service experiencing this form of intimate image abuse.

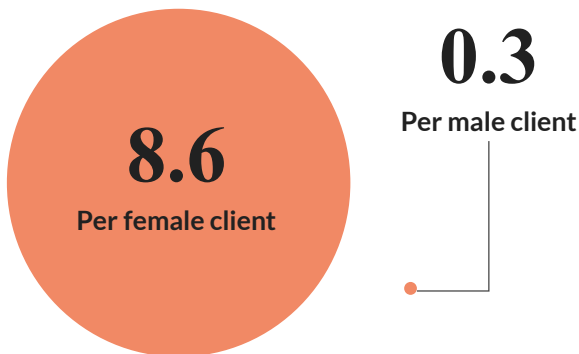
In cases where the gender of the perpetrator is known, over 81% were male, with 67% of the offenders being a current or former partner, 14% a known individual, and 12% associated with a criminal gang.

In 95% of cases that require content to be reported, the clients are female, indicating a gender disparity in the prevalence of intimate image abuse cases. Moreover, on average, women have 8.6 images shared per case, while men have 0.3, revealing a significant discrepancy where women experience over 28 times more image sharing than men.

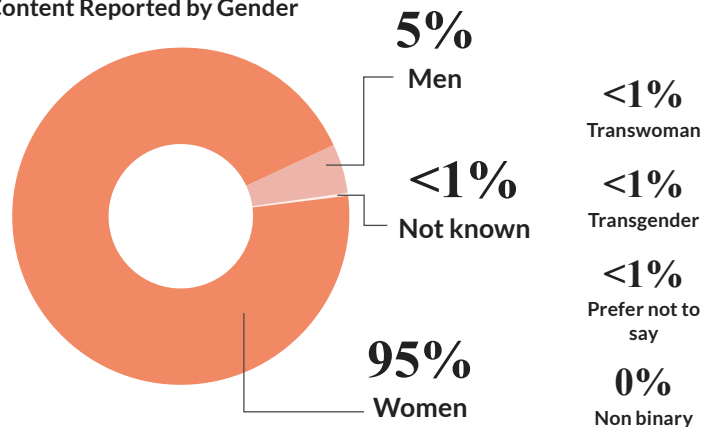
Content Shared Without Consent by Gender



Amount of Images Shared Per Gender



Content Reported by Gender



Sextortion

Sextortion makes up 34% of total cases to the Helpline

Out of the cases the Revenge Porn Helpline supported, sextortion remained a significant form of intimate image abuse reported to the Helpline, totalling 34% of the reports received in 2023. Overall, cases of sextortion were up 54% when compared to 2022, and cases continued to disproportionately affect men.

A significant majority, over 73% of men reaching out to the Helpline, reported instances of online exploitation. Alarming, nearly 93% of all sextortion cases involved male clients, indicative of a nationwide surge in sextortion incidents affecting men and boys. The perpetrators predominantly consisted of organised criminal gangs, who could be based abroad and are operating beyond the reach of law enforcement. This concerning trend underscores the urgent need for awareness campaigns, robust legislative measures, and international collaboration to combat organised criminal activities originating from overseas.

Threats to Share

73% of all threats to share incidents affected women

Threatening to share intimate images without consent was the third most reported concern encountered by our clients online. Out of the cases to the Helpline, 18% of all female clients were seeking support over threats to have their intimate images shared. Out of all reports concerning a threat to share, a striking 73% of incidents affected women.

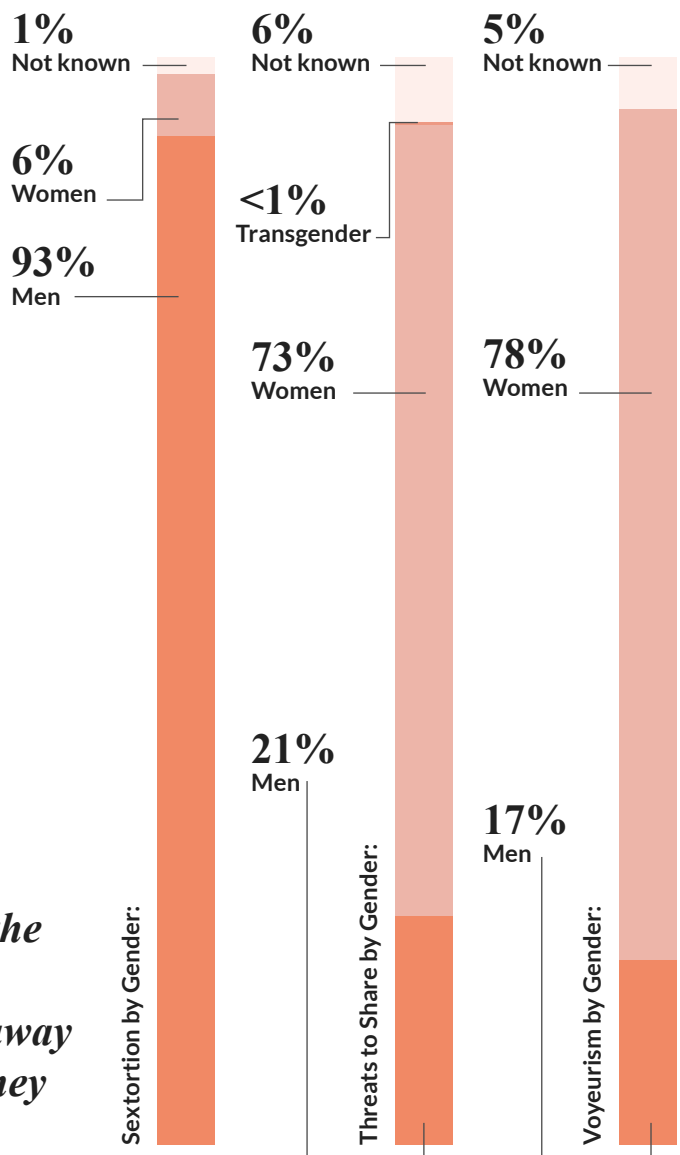
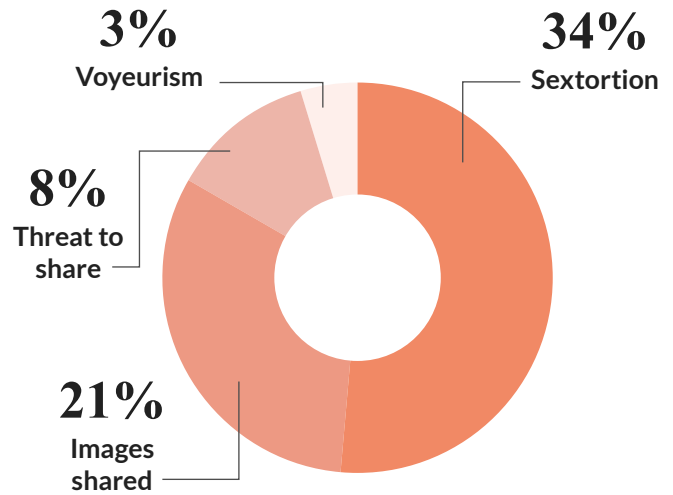
Voyeurism

Voyeurism affected 8% of all women who contacted the Helpline

Voyeurism was the fourth most prevalent offence, affecting approximately 8% of all female clients who contacted the Helpline. Out of all voyeurism cases received last year, 78% involved women, compared to 17% involving men, highlighting the gendered nature of this offence.

“I will forever be appreciative of the charity and think it’s a wonderful thing you do. You take the stress away and really make people feel like they haven’t done anything wrong”.

Sextortion compared to other forms of intimate image abuse



Other Offences

Synthetic Sexual Content

Synthetic sexual content is a prevalent issue that poses a risk of exacerbating intimate image abuse. During 2023, the Helpline received a low number of complaints, an anomaly when compared to the societal and political coverage that the issue has received. At the same time, we recognise that lack of awareness and under-reporting could play a part in the low figure of cases we received. Nevertheless, in the small number of cases (46) we received, we noted a significant increase of 119% compared to last year (21), indicating a concerning increasing trend in synthetic content.

As technology evolves and generative AI becomes more photo realistic, the risk of intimate image abuse increases. We therefore need proactive policies to mitigate the risk and provide a legislative and safety-by-design framework for new and upcoming technological innovations that could pose significant risk to users. The UK Government's proposed new legislation¹ which will criminalise the creation of synthetic sexual content, or 'deepfake' images is a notable step forward. The updated amendments to the Criminal Justice Bill will see anyone found guilty of maliciously creating synthetic sexual content without consent facing a criminal record and unlimited fines.

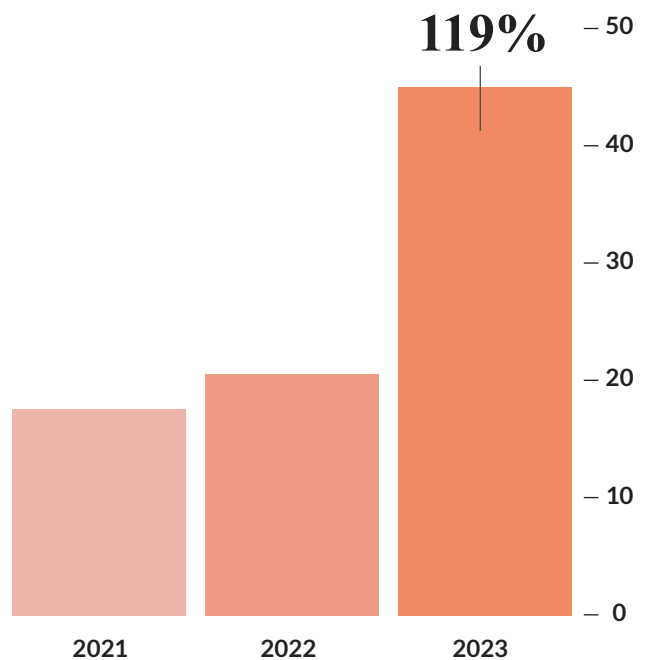
By proactively introducing laws and a safeguarding framework, the Government can minimise the

1 UK GOV, 2024 "<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-cracks-down-on-deepfakes-creation>" Government cracks down on 'deepfakes' creation - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

rapid increase in synthetic content. The findings from Home Security Heroes research², which revealed a worrying trend, underscore the urgency of such measures, particularly in light of the 550% surge in deepfake videos online in 2023, where synthetic sexual content constitutes 98% of all videos and targets 99% women.

2 Home Security Heroes, 2023 HYPERLINK "<https://www.homesecurityheroes.com/state-of-deepfakes/#key-findings>" 2023 State Of Deepfakes: Realities, Threats, And Impact (homesecurityheroes.com)

Growth in Cases Involving Synthetic Sexual Content 2021 to 2023



Harassment

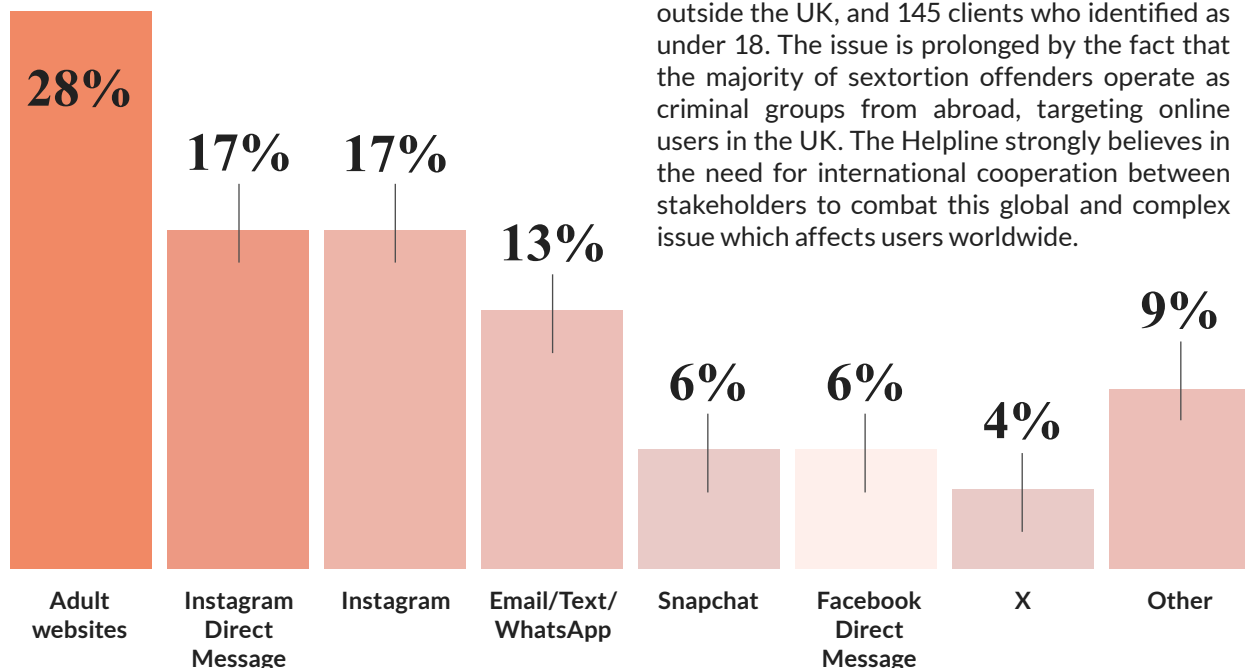
Another issue disproportionately affecting women’s online experiences is harassment. Approximately 63% of our clients who faced harassment online were women, and around 7% of all female clients contacted the Helpline after experiencing online harassment. Examples of such harassment involved women from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds being maliciously impersonated on social media by ex-partners, friends, or family members. This often involved their intimate images, or culturally significant images, being shared or threatened to be shared to damage the woman’s reputation.

In these instances, the Revenge Porn Helpline and Report Harmful Content have worked cohesively to support multifaceted and sensitive cases. This collaboration emphasises the importance of social media companies working to effectively moderate and remove harmful content online.

Location of Content

Intimate image abuse content circulating online was discovered across a wide range of digital platforms, spanning from pornographic websites to email exchanges and private messaging services. The bulk of such content, constituting 36%, was distributed through email or private messages exchanged between two users. Approximately 29% of the content was found on general pornographic websites, including mainstream platforms, while Instagram hosted 10.4% on publicly accessible pages. Snapchat and X accounted for 6.7% and 4.3% of the content, respectively.

Location of Content



Sextortion

The data concerning clients affected by sextortion reflects the distribution patterns of non-consensually shared intimate content. Chat-enabled technologies and services seem to serve as prominent avenues for sextortion scammers, with Instagram Direct Messages being utilised by 43% of perpetrators to contact our clients, while Instagram’s surface platform was only involved in 3% of cases. A notable portion, accounting for 20% of offenders, utilised email and private messaging apps, while Messenger was used in 7.8% of the cases and Snapchat in 10%.

Reporting and Reach

In most instances, Helpline practitioners advised clients to report their cases to the police when appropriate. Of the 170 clients who had already contacted the police, approximately 70% reported having a negative experience. Consequently, the Helpline emphasises the importance of accessible, safe, and victim-centred reporting avenues to facilitate the reporting process for intimate image abuse and other sexual offences.

Intimate image abuse significantly impacts the mental health and wellbeing of our clients, with almost 60% being referred to mental health services by the Helpline. Through our daily interactions with clients, we’ve come to understand the importance of raising awareness about this issue and enforcing effective regulation to address the harm intimate image abuse causes individuals.

Currently, our operation is UK-based and only supports individuals over 18 years old. However, we were saddened to be limited in our ability to provide support to 369 clients who were located outside the UK, and 145 clients who identified as under 18. The issue is prolonged by the fact that the majority of sextortion offenders operate as criminal groups from abroad, targeting online users in the UK. The Helpline strongly believes in the need for international cooperation between stakeholders to combat this global and complex issue which affects users worldwide.

Taking Down Content

The Revenge Porn Helpline maintains an exceptionally high removal rate, consistently reaching up to 90% takedown rates on the reported 12,921 images reported on behalf of clients who reported to us in 2023. This achievement is the result of dedicated effort by our practitioners, who invest significant time and skill into the manual reporting process. They meticulously report, verify, and proactively seek out intimate content on behalf of our clients. This unique approach underscores the team's dedicated commitment to supporting those in need. In addition, the Helpline continues to report on historic cases that pre-date 2023, which include a further 16,993 images reported.

In 95% of instances requiring content reporting, the client is female, highlighting a gender gap in the occurrence of intimate image abuse cases. For instance, women have an average of 8.6 images shared, compared to men's 0.3, underscoring a substantial inequality where women endure more than 28 times the frequency of image sharing than men.

In cases where content removal is unsuccessful, it can be attributed to challenges such as unresponsive platforms or limited reporting capabilities. It is worth noting that a considerable amount of this content is hosted abroad, beyond the team's reach.

The Remaining 10%

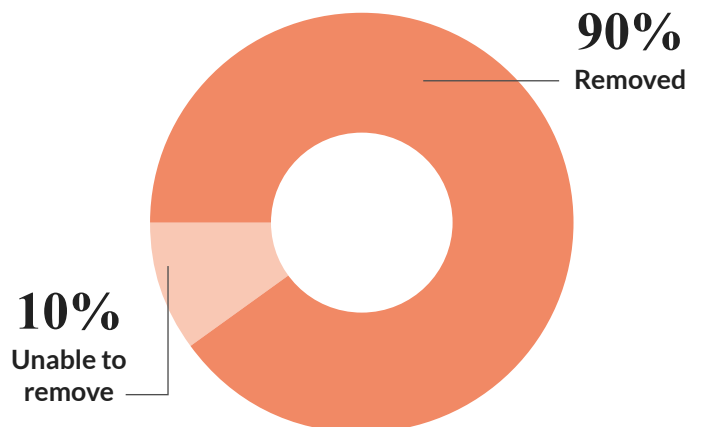
The consequences of content remaining online are profound for victims and survivors, as its virality enables rapid dissemination. While the Revenge Porn Helpline strives to support individuals by reporting and removing as much content as possible, there are instances where this may not be feasible. We know that 10% of reported content remains unremoved, but that is merely the tip of the iceberg. This figure does not encompass content that was undetected or shared directly between

peers; it solely pertains to publicly accessible content. The Helpline remains committed to advocating for victims/survivors of intimate image abuse, advocating for the mandatory removal of their content upon conviction. In the interim, the Helpline diligently reports instances of non-consensual sharing on behalf of clients.

Leaving even a single intimate image online can continually trigger and re-traumatise victims/survivors, as it can be reshared by secondary or primary sharers, causing the individual to relive significant stress. This perpetual vulnerability discourages individuals from engaging in online activities as content may be reported for years due to its ongoing resharing, increasing the likelihood of further dissemination and amplifying their exposure.

Since 2015, the Helpline has received over 20,000 cases contacted by phone, Whisper and email. Overall, approximately 338,000 intimate images have been reported and 306,000 of them have been successfully removed online.

Percentage of Content Successfully Taken Down



StopNCII

StopNCII.org is a project operated by the Revenge Porn Helpline team at SWGfL. StopNCII.org uses world-first, on-device hashing technology. People concerned about intimate image abuse can create unique identifiers of their images, (also known as 'hashes' or digital fingerprints) from their own device.

Hashes are then shared with participating partners including Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Bumble, OnlyFans, Reddit, Aylo, Threads, Snap Inc and Niantic. If an image is uploaded to one of these sites, matches the corresponding hash, and meets partner policy requirements, the image will be sent for moderation. If the image meets the criteria of an intimate image, it will be removed and blocked from being shared further across partner platforms.

Since its launch in 2021, StopNCII.org has supported over 182,000 adults globally to create cases and safeguard their intimate images from being shared by perpetrators of intimate image abuse. Currently, StopNCII.org has received over 434,000 hashes since its inception, marking an exponential increase of nearly 1,000% in 2023 compared to the previous year.

“I will forever be appreciative of the charity and think it’s a wonderful thing you do. You take the stress away and really make people feel like they haven’t done anything wrong. Thank you for everything”

Policy Recommendations


End-to-End Encryption

It is important to note that besides government and the public sector, the private sector and tech platforms also have a significant responsibility to take measures that will protect their users whilst online. The Helpline is concerned with the adoption of End-to-End Encryption (E2EE) services in mainstream platforms, which is identified as a design feature carrying specific risks, particularly concerning its facilitation of perpetrators disseminating intimate image abuse material while minimising the risk of detection. This assertion is strongly supported by a robust evidence base derived from police-recorded crime statistics¹, the firsthand experiences of victims of such crimes and the legal proceedings involving prolific offenders. The prevalence of sextortion, primarily initiated on chat-enabled platforms poses a significant challenge with the introduction of End-to-End Encryption, potentially hindering efforts to apprehend malicious actors online.

¹ NSPCC, 2024 <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/news-opinion/2024/Child-abuse-image-crimes-increase-calling-ofcom-tech-companies-take-action/>

The Remaining 10%

While the sharing of intimate images without consent is illegal in the UK, and platforms are expected to remove such content, individuals affected can still experience significant barriers through complex online reporting processes, requirements for evidence, and the lack of cooperation from some sites hosted abroad that designed to share this content. Despite the extensive experience at the Revenge Porn Helpline, we are unable to remove 10% of this content from online spaces, and the current legal framework does not classify intimate images as illegal post-conviction or following assessment by the Revenge Porn Helpline, hindering the Helpline's ability to remove content, including the option to block Internet Service Providers (ISPs).



The Revenge Porn Helpline acknowledges the advancements made within the Online Safety Act and the new legal provisions to address intimate image abuse and victim safeguarding. However, we also wish to highlight the broader issue of the 10% of content that cannot be removed by platforms due to uncooperative hosting overseas outside Ofcom and law enforcement's jurisdiction. This underscores the importance of international collaboration involving governments, industry and civil society to establish a global regulatory framework aimed at curtailing the proliferation of intimate image abuse online.

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 @rphelpline



Revenge Porn
Helpline