

# Revenge Porn Helpline

# Factsheet

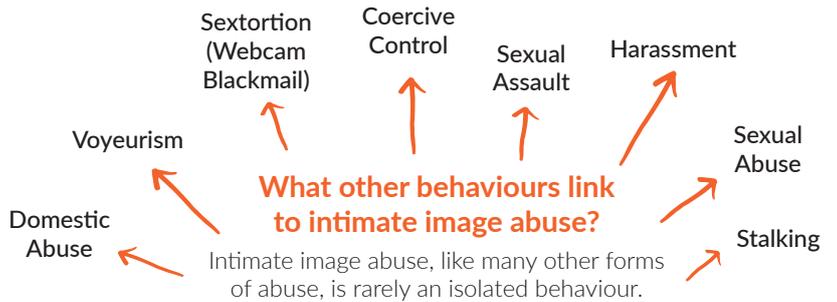
## What is intimate image abuse?

Intimate image abuse is the act of sharing (or threatening to share) intimate images or videos of someone, either on or offline, **without their consent** and in order to cause distress.

## Why don't you call it 'Revenge Porn'?

Intimate image abuse is also referred to as 'revenge porn', non-consensual pornography or image based sexual abuse. We try not to use the term 'revenge porn' as we believe it's misleading; it's not always an act of revenge and the content is not pornography. **It is abuse.**

The Helpline is open **10am – 4pm Monday – Friday** (excluding bank holidays)  
Call on **0345 6000 459**  
Email **help@revengepornhelpline.org.uk**  
Website **www.revengepornhelpline.org.uk**



## THE LAW IN ENGLAND AND WALES



### Sharing intimate images and videos without consent

'It is an offence for a person to disclose a private sexual photograph or film if the disclosure is made without the consent of the individual who appears in the photograph or film, and with the intention of causing distress.'

*(Criminal Justice & Courts Act 2015)*

### Threatening to share intimate images/videos

'It is an offence to send matter that is grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character.'

*(Communications Act 2003)*

'Threats to disclose intimate material or sexual explicit images.'

*(Communications Act 2003 Sentencing Guidelines)*

### Taking intimate images or videos without consent (Voyeurism)

'It is an offence to record another person doing a private act... if they know that the other person does not consent to being observed for their sexual gratification.'

*(Sexual Offences Act 2003)*

### Problem with the law: anonymity

- ❗ It was reported in June 2018 that **1 in 3 allegations were dropped** before making it to court, mostly due to victim's anonymity being denied.
- ❗ In other sexual offences such as rape, the identity of the victim is hidden from media and the general public and their name or any personal information cannot be released.
- ❗ For victims of intimate image abuse, their identity is not hidden. Due to the distress and humiliating nature of the offence, this **often discourages victims** from pursuing their rights to justice.

### What about Scotland and Northern Ireland ?

#### Scotland

Disclosing, or threatening to disclose, an intimate photograph or film is an offence under the Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Act 2016.

#### Northern Ireland

It is an offence to disclose a private sexual photograph or film without consent and with the intention of causing distress (Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2016).



[revengepornhelpline.org.uk](http://revengepornhelpline.org.uk)

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\*Calls cost the same as standard landline numbers that start with '01' or '02'. If your phone tariff offers inclusive calls to landlines, calls to 0345 numbers will also be included.



### What CAN the Revenge Porn Helpline do?

- ✓ Non-judgemental and confidential advice.
- ✓ We can help with reporting and removing content online.
- ✓ Advice and help on a social media platform's community guidelines and policies on how to report and remove content.
- ✓ Advice on how and what evidence you need to gather and when to approach the authorities.



### What CAN'T the Revenge Porn Helpline do?

- ✗ We cannot support anyone under the age of 18: we signpost to the IWF, police and other support services.
- ✗ We are unable to support anyone from outside the UK.
- ✗ We cannot support criminal investigations or report to the police on the victim's behalf. You can report to the police via the non-emergency number 101.
- ✗ We do not have the capacity to provide long term counselling to our clients.

### Signposting to other services

Becoming a victim of intimate image abuse can be a very distressing experience. A wider range of services is available on our website, but here are some key partners:

The National Stalking Helpline:  
0808 802 0300

Samaritans  
(24/7 emotional and mental health helpline):  
116 123

The Mix  
(Emotional support for 16 - 24 year olds):  
0808 808 4994

The National Domestic Abuse Helpline:  
0808 2000 247

Karma Nirvana  
(support for victims of honour based abuse):  
0800 5999 247

Rape Crisis  
(sexual violence support):  
0808 802 9999

### What should you do if you've had your intimate content SHARED without your consent?

- **Stay calm;** preserve all the evidence you can. This would include screenshots of where the content is posted.
- **Report to the police;** call the non-emergency number on 101.
- **Report and request the removal of the content;** we are able to help with this if we're provided with URL links.
- Seek emotional **support** to help cope with what has happened.

### What if they are THREATENING to share my intimate content?

- Do not give them any time or money and **do not negotiate.**
- Collect **evidence,** stop all contact and report to the platform.
- **Report to the police** by calling the non-emergency number 101.
- Seek out emotional **support.**

### FAQs

#### Can the police delete intimate images from someone else's phone?

The simple answer is no.

The police do not have any powers to require a suspect or anyone to delete information. They may well seize a device as evidence, but ultimately the courts are the only legal process that can compel someone to remove or delete items.

#### Should I tell my employer?

Clients often report that threats have been made to share images in their workplace. Advice may vary depending on the nature of your job but good first steps are:

- Tell your manager or HR department. **Honesty is the best policy** and your employer has a duty of care to you.
- Speak to your union, if you have one.
- For independent advice, call the ACAS employment helpline on **0300 123 1100.**

#### My professional intimate content has been shared. What are my rights?

If intimate images or videos are related to professional work in any way, then sharing them will not fall under the law on private images, but **you may be protected by different legislation,** such as contract or copyright.

When professional webcam work is undertaken, models agree to the T&Cs of the website or are asked to read and sign an employment contract. In these agreements, companies typically outline that although you retain copyright, they have a permanent licence to use the content in whatever way they like.

If the intimate images being shared without your consent are private (non-professional), then this is against the law, regardless of what you do for a living.



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