



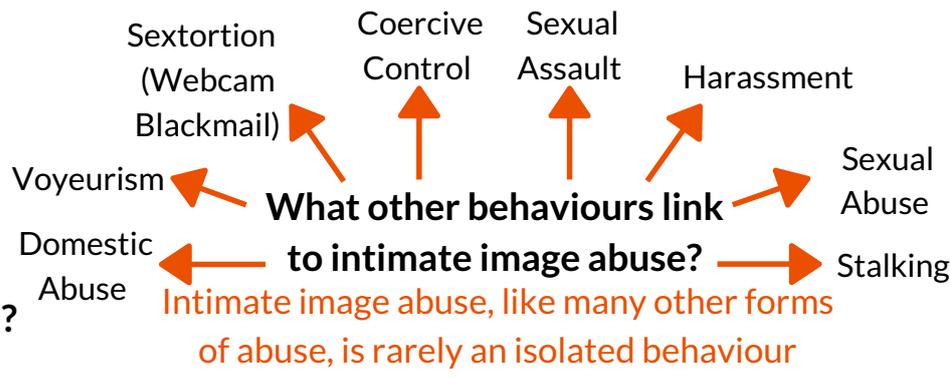
# Revenge Porn Helpline Factsheet

## 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 from **10 am - 4 pm, Monday to Friday** (excluding bank holidays).  
 Call on **0345 6000 459**  
 Email [help@revengepornhelpline.org.uk](mailto:help@revengepornhelpline.org.uk)  
 Website [www.revengepornhelpline.org.uk](http://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).



## 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.



## 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**.

## What about sex workers?

### Revenge porn and street sex workers

The law is the law regardless of occupation or how the images or videos were obtained. It is against the law for someone to film you sexually without your consent and to share intimate images without your consent. It is also against the law for someone to try and blackmail you in this way.

### Revenge porn and webcam sex workers:

- If intimate images or videos are in any way related to professional work, it would not fall under the law on private images but may fall under different legislation, such as DMCA (Digital Millennium Copyright Act) for example if you claim you didn't sign a contract or the contract states the work is yours.
- Typically, when professional webcam/pornographic work is undertaken, individuals agree to the terms and conditions of the website or are asked to read and sign an employment contract. In these agreements, companies typically outline that once you've done the work, it is theirs to share and use in whatever way benefits them most.
- If intimate images being shared are private (non-professional) and being shared without your consent, then this is against the law, regardless of what you do for a living.

## Signposting to other services

**Becoming a victim of intimate image abuse can be a very distressing experience. A wider range of services are available on our website, here's a short list of services:**

**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 Violence Helpline: 0808 2000 247**

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

**Rape Crisis (sexual violence support): 0808 802 9999**