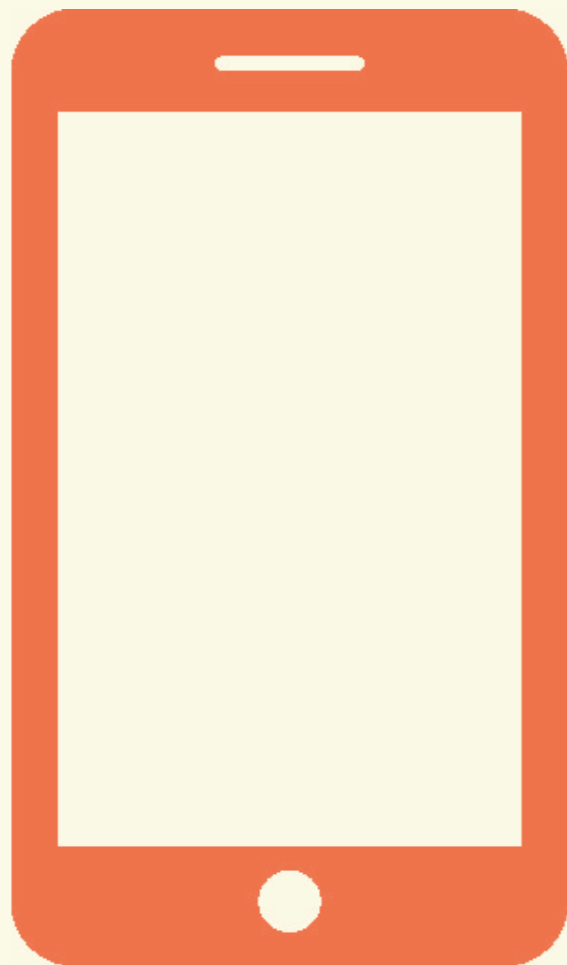


## Image-based Sexual Abuse

We're a digital world now and unfortunately we now encounter digital forms of abuse. Image-based sexual abuse has been on the rise along with more and more cases of sexual images being created and/or distributed without the subject's consent.

You might know this as 'Revenge Porn' but it could also be the distribution of sexual images that have been stolen and then shared.



## Here are some examples:

- Upskirting (non-consensual taking of images or videos up someone's skirt).
- Recording & sharing acts of sexual abuse.
- Threatening somebody with exposure of images. Images could also be used to coerce someone into doing something that they do not want to do because they are afraid of this exposure.
- Pornographic Photoshopping (editing someone's face onto a pornographic image and sharing it online).

Image-based sexual abuse can be a very harmful and damaging act. Currently, we are seeing the new development of laws to address digital-based abuse. The Voyeurism Act now means 'upskirting' offenders can be arrested and sent to prison. In 2021, a new law was created, making threats to share intimate images a crime with perpetrators facing prison if found guilty. However, current laws do not cover all acts and there is no certain guarantee of prosecution. Further to this, image-based sexual abuse can be a difficult thing to recover from, regardless of the consequences for the perpetrator.

Therefore, it should be taken seriously and something that you are aware of.