



# SAFE ON SOCIAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION

## Sextortion - What it is and How to Respond

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### Sextortion - What it is and How to Respond

Sextortion has emerged as a growing threat to personal privacy and security. Sextortion involves the use of sexually explicit images or videos to extort money, sexual favors, or other forms of exploitation from the victim. The consequences of sextortion can be devastating, both emotionally and financially.

#### What is Sextortion?

Sextortion is a form of online blackmail that involves the use of sexually explicit images or videos to extort money or other forms of exploitation from the victim. Typically, the perpetrator will obtain compromising images or videos of the victim through social media or other online platforms, and then threaten to share them with others if the victim does not comply with their demands. The perpetrator may demand money, sexual favours, or other forms of exploitation in exchange for not sharing the images or videos.

Sextortion can occur in a variety of contexts, including online dating sites, social media, and video chat rooms. Perpetrators may use fake profiles or assume false identities to gain the trust of their victims and obtain compromising images or videos. Once they have obtained the material, they will typically use threats or coercion to obtain what they want.

#### How Does Sextortion Happen?

Sextortion can occur in a variety of ways, but there are some common methods that perpetrators use to obtain compromising images or videos.

#### These include:

- Catfishing is when the perpetrator creates a fake profile or assumes a false identity to gain the trust of their victim. Once they have gained the victim's trust, they may ask for compromising images or videos, or they may use other tactics to obtain them.
- Hacking is when a perpetrator may hack into the victim's computer or social media account to obtain compromising images or videos.
- Coercion is when the perpetrator uses threats or other forms of coercion to obtain compromising images or videos from the victim.

## What to do if Sextortion Happens to You?

If you become a victim of sextortion, it is important to act quickly to minimise the damage. Here are some steps you can take:

1. Don't panic even though it is natural to feel scared and overwhelmed if you become a victim of sextortion, but it is important to stay calm and focused. Panicking may lead to poor decision-making and could make the situation worse.
2. Cut off contact immediately if the perpetrator is trying to communicate with you, it is important to cut off contact as soon as possible. Do not respond to their messages or engage with them in any way.
3. Contact the authorities as soon as you can. You will not be in trouble as you are the victim. Even if you have shared an image and you are underage. The Police will support you. Sextortion is a criminal offence, and it is important to report it to the authorities as soon as possible. Contact your local police or crimestoppers to file a report. Be sure to provide as much information as possible, including any messages or images you have received. Take screenshots and get their username if you can.
4. Seek support because Sextortion can be a traumatic experience, and it is important to seek support from friends, family, or a counsellor. There are also organisations that specialise in supporting victims of online abuse in most countries that you will see listed below.
5. Protect your online presence if the perpetrator has obtained compromising images or videos of you change your passwords, and increasing your privacy settings.

### Australia

1800 RESPECT - National Sexual Assault, Domestic and Family Violence Counselling Service: 1800 737 732  
Sexual Assault Support Services (SASS) - Various locations across Australia: (02) 6280 0900  
Men's Referral Service - For men affected by family violence and abuse: 1300 766 491

### New Zealand

Rape Crisis - National helpline for survivors of sexual violence: 0800 883 300  
Shine - Domestic abuse helpline: 0508 744 633  
Mental Health Foundation - Provides a list of helplines for various issues:  
<https://www.mentalhealth.org.nz/get-help/in-crisis/helplines/>

### Hong Kong

RainLily - Crisis support for women: 2770 2777  
Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centres - Provides a list of crisis hotlines for various issues:  
<http://www.women.org.hk/en/hotline.htm>  
Samaritans Hong Kong - Provides emotional support: 2896 0000

## United Kingdom

National Domestic Abuse Helpline - For women experiencing domestic abuse: 0808 2000 247

Rape Crisis England and Wales - Provides support for survivors of sexual violence: 0808 802 9999

The Survivors Trust - Provides support for survivors of rape, sexual abuse, and sexual violence: 0808 801 0818

## Ireland

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre - National helpline for survivors of sexual violence: 1800 778 888

Women's Aid - Provides support for women affected by domestic abuse: 1800 341 900

Samaritans Ireland - Provides emotional support: 116 123

## Europe

European Network of Women's Shelters - Provides a list of helplines for various countries across Europe:

<https://www.womenshelters.org/network>

Victim Support Europe - Provides support and information for victims of crime across Europe:

<https://victimsupport.eu/>

European Sexual Assault Centres Network (ESAC) - Provides a list of sexual assault crisis centers across Europe:

<https://esacnet.eu/>

## Australia

eSafety Commissioner: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/>

Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation <https://www.acce.gov.au>

Australian Federal Police - Child Protection Operations:

<https://www.afp.gov.au/what-we-do/crime-types/child-protection-operations>

Bravehearts: <https://bravehearts.org.au/>

## New Zealand

Netsafe: <https://www.netsafe.org.nz/>

Child Protection: <https://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/being-in-care/reporting-child-abuse-and-neglect/>

Ministry of Justice: <https://www.justice.govt.nz/about/contact-us/contact-an-organisational-unit/victims-information/>

## Hong Kong

Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau: [https://www.police.gov.hk/ppp\\_en/04\\_crime\\_matters/ctiu.html](https://www.police.gov.hk/ppp_en/04_crime_matters/ctiu.html)

Hong Kong Police Force: [https://www.police.gov.hk/ppp\\_en/11\\_useful\\_info/rcp.html](https://www.police.gov.hk/ppp_en/11_useful_info/rcp.html)

The Samaritans Hong Kong: <https://www.samaritans.org.hk/eng/>

## United Kingdom

National Crime Agency: <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/>

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command (CEOP): <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>  
Victim Support: <https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/help-and-support/get-help/support-near-you>

## **Ireland**

Garda National Protective Services Bureau: <https://www.garda.ie/en/about-us/our-departments/office-of-corporate-communications/press-releases/2020/april/garda-national-protective-services-bureau-and-operation-encompass.html>

Childline Ireland: <https://www.childline.ie/>

Samaritans Ireland: <https://www.samaritans.org/ireland/how-we-can-help/contact-samaritan/>

## **Europe**

European Commission: [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/cybercrime/report-illegal-content\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/cybercrime/report-illegal-content_en)

Europol: <https://www.europol.europa.eu/report-a-crime/report-cybercrime-online>

Child Helpline International: <https://www.childhelplineinternational.org/where-we-work/>

[www.safeonsocial.com](http://www.safeonsocial.com)

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