



Image-based abuse

This type of abuse can happen to anyone and is against the law.

It is when intimate, nude, or sexual images are used without your consent (permission).

This includes real, photoshopped and drawn pictures and videos. There are ways to get support if it has happened to you.



Image-based abuse can have damaging effects

People who experience image-based abuse can often experience a range of psychological reactions including the following.

- ▶ Fear for safety
- ▶ Feelings of humiliation and shame
- ▶ Difficulty concentrating
- ▶ Feelings of betrayal and anger
- ▶ Anxiety
- ▶ Depression
- ▶ Physical stress symptoms (e.g. migraines)
- ▶ Difficulty trusting others
- ▶ Fear of going out
- ▶ Difficulties with work and studies

Image-based abuse is not your fault

Key facts

Other names used to describe this type of abuse are 'revenge porn' and 'intimate image abuse'.

In many cases image-based abuse is not about 'revenge' or restricted to 'porn'.

Sometimes the image was taken with permission, but there was no permission given to share the image.

In Western Australia there are laws to punish people who commit image-based abuse.

Examples of image-based abuse

- ▶ Your current partner, or your ex, shares an intimate image on social media without your consent.
- ▶ Another student photoshops an image of you with a porn star and texts it to other students.
- ▶ Someone films you having sex and threatens to share it with your family and friends.
- ▶ A stranger takes an intimate image without your consent and threatens to share it to a porn site unless you pay money.



Image-based abuse can be carried out for a range of reasons and might include someone trying to embarrass, humiliate or control you, or trying to get money or favours. Whatever the reason, this act is not okay and is against the law. It can result in the perpetrator being fined or imprisoned and having a criminal record. Importantly, **it is not your fault.**

What to do

If you fear for your safety

Call Western Australian Police on **131 444**

If you are in immediate danger call Police for emergency help on **triple zero (000)**

To get support

- ▶ Talk it through with someone over the phone at 1800RESPECT by calling 1800 737 732
- ▶ Talk to a trusted adult such as a doctor, student counsellor, parent or youth worker
- ▶ Find a youth support service via yacwa.org.au/ways

To find out more about image-based abuse and the law

Go to the Office of the eSafety Commissioner website: esafety.gov.au/key-issues/image-based-abuse

For advice on online safety

Website: esafety.gov.au/young-people

Technology safety for women

WESNET

techsafety.org.au/resources/resources-women



For legal advice

Youth Legal Service in Western Australia

Telephone: Perth: 9202 1688

Country Areas: 1800 199 006

Website: youthlegalserviceinc.com.au

Legal Aid Western Australia

Telephone: 1300 650 579

Website: legalaid.wa.gov.au

Aboriginal Legal Service of WA

Website: www.als.org.au

Youth Law Australia

Website: yla.org.au

To make a report and remove images

Follow the instructions under 'Take Action' at the Office of the eSafety Commissioner website: esafety.gov.au/key-issues/image-based-abuse/take-action

You can also make a direct request to the platform involved (e.g. Facebook, Google) to have the image removed.

Important points to remember

Image-based abuse is a crime.

If someone has used your image without your permission, it is not your fault.

You have rights. Educate yourself on your rights and what actions you can take.

This doesn't mean your life has been ruined. Over time, it is likely that the effects will lessen. Don't let this act of crime prevent you from reaching your goals.

Seek help with people who understand. You don't have to go through this alone.

Sexual Assault Resource Centre (SARC)



A free 24-hour emergency service providing medical and counselling services for people who have experienced a recent (within 14 days) sexual assault. Counselling for any sexual assault/abuse experienced recently or in the past is also available to people of all genders aged 13 years and above. Call SARC on **(08) 6458 1828** or Freecall **1800 199 888**.