



Legal

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Topic: Covering the impact of non-consensual sharing of intimate images among low-income youth while implementing psychological help as a source of improvement



Committee: The Legal Committee (LEGAL)

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I. Committee Background

The Committee is made up of all IMO Member States. It was founded in 1967 as a subsidiary agency to address the legal issues that arose after the Torrey Canyon disaster. It is also authorized to perform any functions within its scope assigned to it by or by virtue of any other international instrument accepted by the Organization. The Sixth Committee's main function is the examination of legal issues in the Programme of the General Assembly. The Sixth committee of the General Assembly also works on other legal issues referred by the bureau of the assembly once or twice a year. Other parts of the committee's agenda may include the criminal responsibility of officials and experts that are in charge of working for the goals of the United Nations.

II. Topic Information

a. History of the Topic

The non-consensual sharing of intimate images is a severe form of sexual abuse, with teenagers being particularly vulnerable. This age group is often targeted due to the complex social dynamics they face, such as the pressure to conform to peer expectations and the desire to explore intimate relationships. Such behavior is part of a larger issue known as image-based sexual abuse, which is a subset of technology facilitated gender-based



violence. It involves the distribution of intimate photos or videos often depicting nudity or explicit acts without the consent of the individual, typically for the purpose of humiliation, exploitation, or coercion. This form of abuse can have devastating emotional and psychological consequences, as it violates personal privacy and often leads to long-lasting harm to the victim's dignity and well-being.

b. Current Issues

Non-consensual sharing of intimate images represent a growing problem with serious psychological, social, and legal implications for the victims. The psychological impact on victims of non-consensual image sharing is profound and can be long-lasting. Victims may experience feelings of humiliation, shame, and a deep sense of betrayal. The social consequences for victims of non-consensual image sharing are equally devastating. The sharing of intimate images can lead to a public experience of shame that can hurt social relationships and quality of life in general. As most countries have applied such laws criminalizing NCII (Non-Consensual Intimate Images). Technology companies implement detection technologies to remove such content, and also to prevent them to happen. For example, in Japan, iPhone implemented a shutter sound right after you take a picture. This is to prevent any Non-consensual image, since Japan has a really high record of this issue.

c. Bloc Positions

- United States: Lacks a federal law, leading to state-level variations and advocacy for standardized protections.
- Mexico: Has criminalized the distribution of intimate images without consent, though enforcement remains a challenge.
- United Kingdom: Has a strong legal framework but faces enforcement challenges.



- Australia: Has established laws and recently increased penalties for offenders. Canada: Non-consensual Intimate Image (NCII) is addressed in the Criminal Code, but enforcement varies by province, with ongoing public education efforts.
- Germany: Provides robust legal protections and promotes digital literacy. France: actively campaigns for consent and victim support.

Internationally, organizations like the United Nations advocate for global standards and cooperation on privacy protections against NCII, highlighting diverse approaches to combating this issue.

III. Conclusion

The issue of non-consensual intimate images is marked by several key factors: the lack of a clear legal framework in many countries hinders victims' access to justice, digital platforms facilitate the spread of such content, increasing vulnerability, insufficient awareness of consent and the risks of sharing intimate images exacerbates the problem, victim stigmatization deters individuals from seeking help, and the transnational nature of the internet allows offenders to evade justice.

IV. Essential Questions

1. What legal reforms are necessary to protect victims of non-consensual intimate imagery?
2. How can digital platforms enhance accountability in preventing the spread of non-consensual content?
3. What strategies can be implemented to raise awareness about consent and the risks of sharing intimate images?
4. How can laws in different countries or regions help victims overcome stigma and seek help, and what support do they offer?



5. In what ways can we provide psychological support to victims?

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