Summary of Session: Combatting Non Consensual Intimate Image Abuse (NCII)

SWGfL

16th March 2023 09:00

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Often referred to in the media as Revenge Porn, NCII is a catastrophic form of abuse that destroys lives (both sharing or the threat to share).

- Launched in 2015 by SWGfL, the UK Revenge Porn Helpline has supported over 13,000 NCII victims and of these 4% have expressed some form of suicidal ideation. NCII has a significant gender imbalance. Women are around five times more likely to be victims of intimate image abuse whilst conversely predominantly male–perpetrated.

- StopNCII.org is revolutionary. It is the worlds first 'device side hashing technology' that empowers victims to take control of their own images by working with online platforms to both proactively remove these images where they exist online whilst at the same time preventing anyone from posting them onto these platforms.

- The workshop covered the following aspects linked to NCII

  o Victim Blaming. When the photos are leaked without consent, comments such as she should have refrained from sending it or she shouldn't get naked in front of the camera persist, putting the blame on the girl, without addressing the issue that the person who received it had no right to share it with others. Victims often blame themselves too and girls are more likely than boys to face a negative backlash from both male and female peers if their image is shared.

  o Stereotypes: Research has found that gender-based violence is closely linked to power imbalances between women and men and harmful expressions of masculinities (UN Women, 2016). In this regard it is important to look at the roots of gender stereotyping and to understand and raise awareness about the factors influencing such stereotypes which range from cultural traditions, family or domestic practices to broader societal and environmental factors such as the sexual objectification of

women   and   girls   in   media   or   advertising.

- o National Model Responses: As highlighted above, there are many countries across the world now starting to realise the prevalence of violence against women and girls online. This thread discussed examples of existing policy and best practice from those participants.

- o Prevention: When someone else shares their intimate images without consent or is threatening to do so, unless they meet specific demands, it can be catastrophic.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- Gender Imbalance - why women and girls disproportionately experience online abuse, specifically Non Consensual Intimate Image Abuse. What States and organisations should be doing to combat NCII affecting everyone, but especially women and girls. Women are around five times more likely to be victims of intimate image abuse whilst conversely predominantly male–perpetrated.
- StopNCII.org should be signposted as a support to victims of online NCII

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points)

- Stakeholders, Governments should adopt a National Adult Image Based Abuse Model Response | SWGfL
- StopNCII.org is available globally for victims to prevent their intimate images being shared on participating platforms and seeking
  - o Platforms to adopt StopNCII hashes
  - o NGO's providing support to victims of NCII, to partner with StopNCII
  - o Governments to support and encourage the rollout of StopNCII

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

-

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- Tech Facilitated Gender Based Violence