



Local Support for 'Revenge Porn' survivors

The phrases "revenge porn" and "sexting" have been in the public consciousness over the past few years no doubt many deeming it to be only young people who "get themselves in trouble" sharing too much with others. Whilst recent statistics from NCPCC do show that 39% of young people aged 15-18 admitted to sharing an intimate image of themselves, the increase in mobile technology mean more and more of us are sharing images everyday with each other, further recent research points to the rapid rise in older adults finding themselves in the situation where their trust has been breached so cruelly and a private image of them is threatened to be or is shared online or is in fact uploaded without their consent.

Recent amendments to the Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm Act 2016 show that the law in Scotland is finally catching up the reality of this problem. There is now robust legislation to deal with anyone disclosing or threatening to disclose an image or film without the person pictured, consent. In fact the first conviction in Scotland under these new 'revenge porn' laws happened this month.

Here at Argyll and Bute Rape Crisis we recognise that threatening to or sharing images without consent is sexually abusive behaviour which can have devastating results on the individuals who are targeted. Such a violation of trust can leave people feeling scared, ashamed, alone, severely distressed and can lead to serious and long term mental health issues. It is our view that Revenge porn is not in fact about revenge or porn, it is unfortunately used as with any other sexually abusive behaviour : to intimidate and to assert power and control over another individual.

If you or anyone you know have been affected by this or any form of sexual violence at any time in your life no matter when Argyll and Bute Rape Crisis offer a free confidential support service throughout Oban and outlying areas. Advocacy can also be provided throughout the criminal justice process if survivors wish to report to the police. No one deserves to suffer sexual violence and survivors deserve support to be able to recover from it.

Please contact Ailsa or Jean in the Oban office for a chat on 01631 567190 or email oban@ab-rc.org.uk