



INVESTIGATING IMAGE- BASED SEXUAL ABUSE

Detective Carlton Hershman (Ret.)
San Diego Police Department



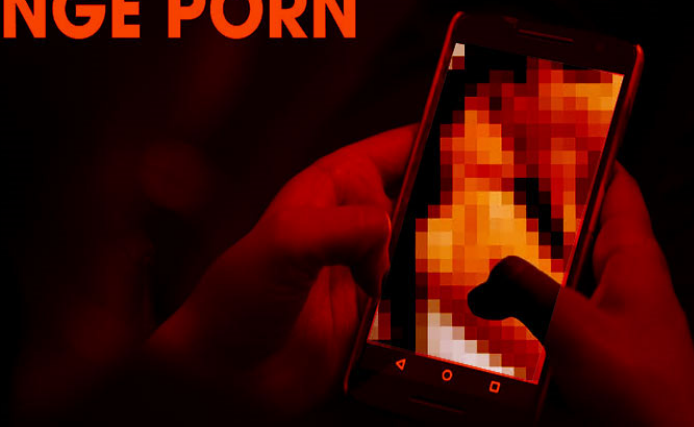
IMAGE-BASED SEXUAL ABUSE

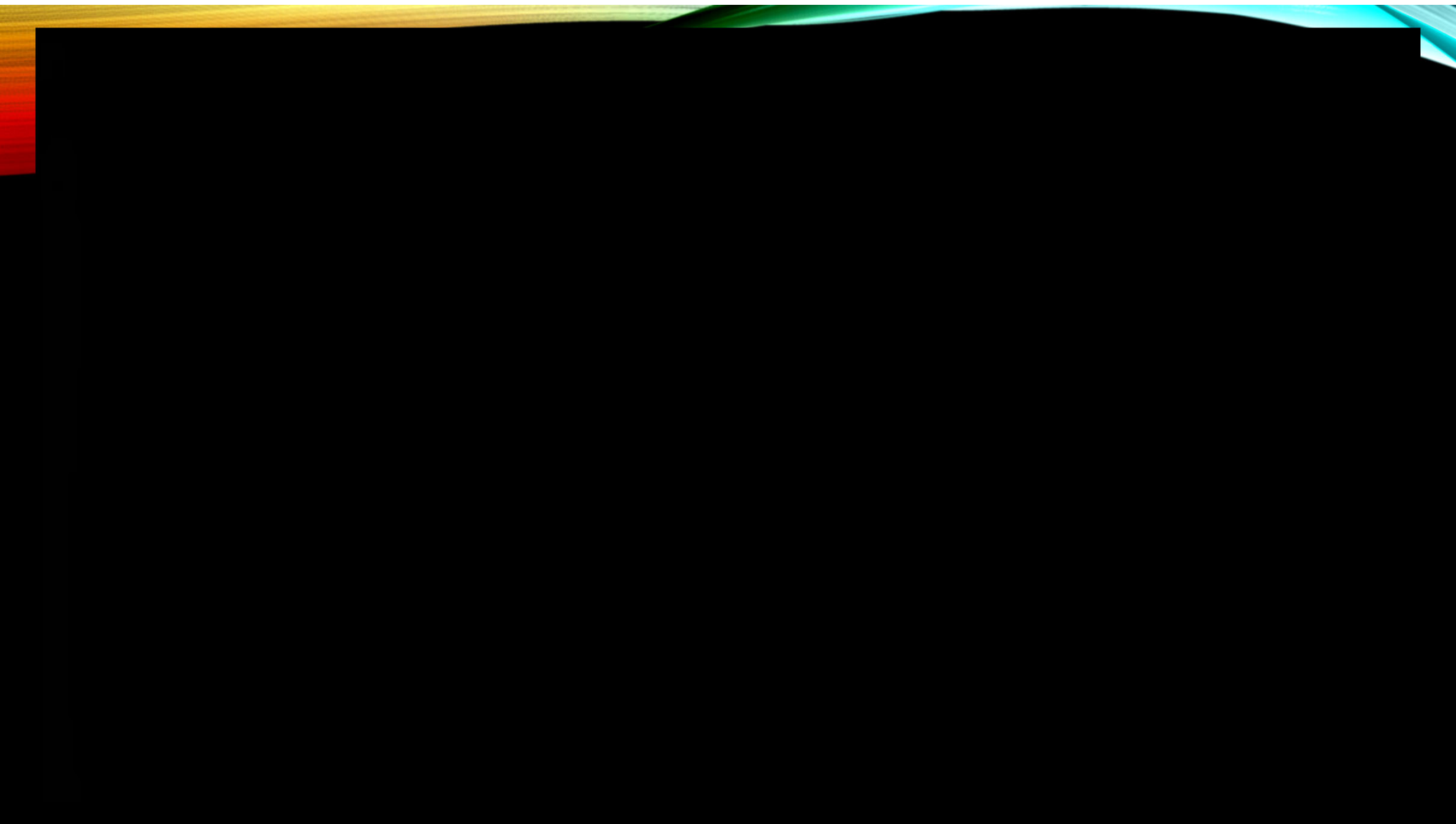
The practice has been described as a form of **psychological abuse** and **domestic violence** as well as a form of **sexual abuse**.

REVENGE PORNOGRAPHY

The term “**revenge porn**” generally refers to the uploading of sexually explicit material to **humiliate** & **intimidate** the subject, who has broken off their relationship.

REVENGE PORN





NONCONSENSUAL PORNOGRAPHY

“**Revenge Pornography**” is also often misused to describe **non-revenge** scenarios, including “**Nonconsensual Pornography**” distributed by **hackers** or by individuals seeking **profit** or **notoriety**.

There is no **personal** relationship with the victim.

NON-CONSENSUAL PORN



...that she was on," says Ruby, 29. "She was
...a direct link to the site itself." When Ruby opened
...was seeing, I couldn't believe that such an
...ing so well organised, so systematic, fed by the

Revenge porn in Australia only as effective as enforcement

One study suggests one in 10
...been victims of image based
...foot in a police station

'There's no end and no escape. You feel so, so exposed': life as a victim of revenge porn

Ruby King (not her real name) can still remember the call coming
through on her mobile. She thinks of that moment as "the start of
hell". "It was four years ago, but I remember it clear as day," she
says. "It was my friend warning that she was being stalked."



HOW DOES NCP WORK?

- **Explicit photo(s)** or **video(s)** are obtained by a person
- The photo(s) or video(s) are **uploaded** via a **website, platform** or **image board**
- This person identifies the victim by **“doxing”** them
- The **victim is notified** of the photo(s) or video(s) in several different ways

VICTIM IS NOTIFIED

- Suspect **contacts** victim **directly**
- Suspect tells a **mutual friend** who in turns contacts the victim
- Victim is sent an **anonymous** Email, Text, Voice Message, Note, RickRoll...

RICKROLL

- On the Internet, a **RickRoll** is a **prank** where a visitor who clicks on a **specific link** is **intentionally** misdirected to a video of pop star Rick Astley's hit "**Never Gonna Give You Up.**"



HOW IMAGES ARE OBTAINED

- Victim **shares** explicit images with another person
- Suspect shares images with others
- Images are taken of victim **who is not aware** of them
- Victim's electronic accounts are **hacked** or **accessed**

PLATFORMS

- There are several different **platforms** which each person can use to post the image or video of their victims.
- The type of platform depends on the **purpose** of the posting.



facebook®



Instagram

PLATFORMS

- Revenge pornography websites
- Image board
- Texting
- Email
- Social media
 - Facebook/Instagram
 - WhatsApp
 - Snapchat
 - Tencent QQ (China)
 - Reddit
 - Etc.

GEORGE ZIMMERMAN



The image displays a screenshot of a tweet from George M. Zimmerman (@TherealGeorgeZ) on the left and a portrait of a man with a beard on the right. The tweet text reads: "This is [REDACTED]. She cheated on me with a dirty Muslim. ([REDACTED]) [REDACTED] She'll sleep with anyone." The portrait on the right is a close-up of a man with a dark beard and mustache, looking directly at the camera.

George M. Zimmerman
@TherealGeorgeZ

This is [REDACTED]. She cheated on me with a dirty Muslim. ([REDACTED]) [REDACTED] She'll sleep with anyone.



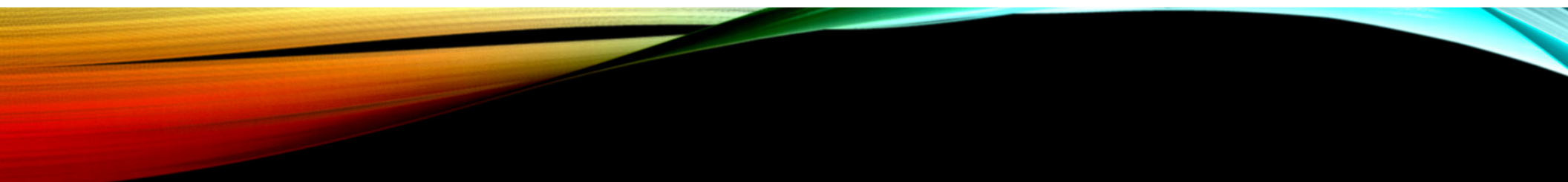
- 
- Zimmerman, who was acquitted in the 2012 murder of Trayvon Martin, was booted from **Twitter** after posting **two topless photos** of his ex-girlfriend in 2015, including her **name, phone number, and email address**. He accused Heather, the ex, of cheating on him *“with a dirty Muslim”* and of stealing money and a gun.
 - *“I’ve never dreamed that anything like this would ever happen to me,” **Heather said**. “I’m from a very small town. I’ve never been in the public eye by any means.”*

IMAGE BOARD



warm

interesting



wedding

fashion



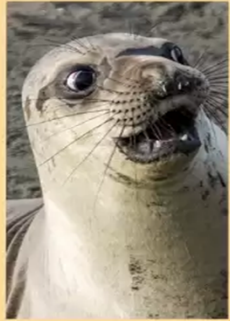
fun



artistic

IMAGE BOARD

- An **image board** is a type of Internet forum that revolves around the posting of **images**, often alongside **text** and discussion
- The first image boards were created in Japan as an extension of the text board concept
- These sites later inspired the creation of a number of English-language image boards, such as **4chan**



[Redacted text block]

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ANONYMOUS IMAGE BOARD



[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]



[Redacted text block]



[Redacted text block]



[Redacted text block]



4chan

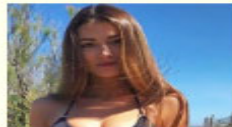


What is 4chan?



4chan is a simple image-based bulletin board where anyone can post comments and share images. There are boards dedicated to a variety of topics, from Japanese animation and culture to videogames, music, and photography. Users do not need to register an account before participating in the community. Feel free to click on a board below that interests you and jump right in!

Be sure to familiarize yourself with the [Rules](#) before posting, and read the [FAQ](#) if you wish to learn more about how to use the site.



18+ Vacation Pics That Are NSFW



The Walk Of Shame (35 Photos)



She Didn't Notice That The Photographer Was Right There

Sponsored Links

Boards

filter ▼

Japanese Culture

- Anime & Manga
- Anime/Cute
- Anime/Wallpapers
- Mecha
- Cosplay & EGL
- Cute/Male
- Flash
- Transportation
- Otaku Culture

Video Games

- Video Games
- Video Game Generals
- Pokémon
- Retro Games

Interests

- Comics & Cartoons
- Technology
- Television & Film
- Weapons
- Auto
- Animals & Nature
- Traditional Games
- Sports
- Alternative Sports
- Science & Math
- History & Humanities
- International
- Outdoors
- Toys

Creative

- Oekaki
- Papercraft & Origami
- Photography
- Food & Cooking
- Artwork/Critique
- Wallpapers/General
- Literature
- Music
- Fashion
- 3DCG
- Graphic Design
- Do-It-Yourself
- Worksafe GIF
- Quests

Other

- Business & Finance
- Travel
- Fitness
- Paranormal
- Advice
- LGBT
- Pony
- Current News
- Worksafe Requests
- Very Important Posts
- Misc. (NSFW)**
- Random
- ROBOT9001
- Politically Incorrect
- International/Random
- Cams & Meetups
- Shit 4chan Says

Adult (NSFW)

- Sexy Beautiful Women
- Hardcore
- Handsome Men
- Hentai
- Ecchi
- Yuri
- Hentai/Alternative
- Yaoi
- Torrents
- High Resolution
- Adult GIF
- Adult Cartoons
- Adult Requests



“NSFW”

Not safe (or suitable) **for work**; i.e., containing inappropriate or adult content (e.g. **pornography** or **profanity**) that might be offensive to employees and co-workers



ANONYMOUS IMAGE BOARD

- One of the world's main online **promoters** of revenge porn
- Intimate photos are uploaded typically by a former sex partner and **without** the subject's **consent**
- Notorious for its use as a repository for **revenge porn**, as well as well-trafficked threads from users who identified the women in the images
- Users trade images back and forth like trading cards

ANONYMOUS IMAGE BOARD

“**Anon-IB**” is where naked pictures of Oscar-winning actress Jennifer Lawrence surfaced in 2014 and where dozens of male Marines posted illicit photos of female comrades.


It's the site where thousands of other women — including underage girls — are exploited daily for twisted reasons ranging from perversion to revenge to financial gain.

“DUTCH POLICE”

- In March 2017 a woman discovered that some of her personal **images** had been **stolen** and **posted online**. She made a complaint to authorities, and the subsequent **investigation** led officers to a **31-year-old male suspect**, who was found to have **hundreds** of other **images** from other women.
- He led them to **several other suspects**, all of whom knew each other through **“Anon-IB.”**

“DUTCH POLICE” (CONT.)

- There, they **sought images** from specific women and used the platform to **share the stolen images**.
- 4 of the suspects had personal **data** from “**a few hundred**” **women** that they targeted, **taken from email, social media, and cloud storage accounts** that they hacked.



Not all **non-consensual image-based sexual abuse** is done via the Internet



WDIV
4

clickondetroit.com



“Revenge” vs. “Nonconsensual Pornography”



TYPES AND MOTIVES

- Revenge
- Profit Pornography
- Blackmail Pornography
- Sextortion
- Slut-Shaming
- Stalking

CYBER DEFAMATION



REVENGE

Usually posted by a **scorned ex-lover or friend**, after a relationship has gone sour

Person feels slighted after being **turned down** by victim

Suspect is upset by something the victim has done

PROFIT PORNOGRAPHY

Image is distributed by individuals seeking **profit through blackmail or extortion.**

Victim is threatened to **pay** or be “**posted**” to a **pornography website** and or **media outlet.**

BLACKMAIL PORNOGRAPHY

The action, treated as a criminal offense, of **demanding payment** or another **benefit** from someone in return for **not revealing compromising** or **damaging** information about them.



for what
to be best in an
point of view.
Blackmail ['blæk
obtain money by
by threats to dis
exposing a crim
what is thou

BLACKMAIL VS. EXTORTION

Blackmail

Blackmail is a crime wherein the blackmailer demands goods, services or money in exchange for **not revealing information** that would be detrimental to the person being blackmailed. The information **may be true** or **untrue**.

Extortion

Extortion is a crime wherein the extortionist demands goods, services or money **through coercion**. Coercion may involve the **threat of violence, use of force, or criminal use of authority**.

SEXTING

Sending **nude, semi-nude, and/or sexually explicit photos, videos or texts** to another person through **electronic means**, most often through text messaging.

"I'm dying to find out if you are as good in real life as you are in my fantasies."

SEXTORTION



The practice of extorting money or **sexual favors** from someone by **threatening** to reveal evidence of their **sexual activity**.

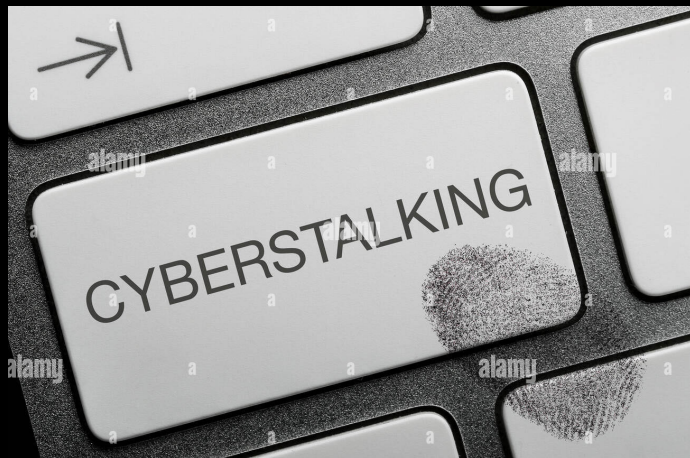
SLUT SHAMING

The practice of criticizing people, especially women and girls, who are perceived to violate expectations of behavior and appearance regarding issues related to sexuality



STALKING

Stalking is a **pattern** of **repeated** and **unwanted** attention, harassment, contact, or **any other** **course of conduct** directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to **feel fear**.



alamy

Image ID: 2488847
www.alamy.com

CONSIDER STALKING CHARGE


- Non-consensual image-based sexual abuse can be used as a stalking tool
- Consider stalking charges
- Suspect posts more than once / after being warned or charged in the past (same victim)

DOXING

The practice of researching and **publicly broadcasting** identifying information for someone

The purpose is to **intimidate** the target and bring the online victimization into their **offline life**





The images are usually accompanied by sufficient information to identify the pictured individual, typically names and locations, and can include links to social media profiles, home addresses and workplaces.



A victim can also be Doxed by **tattoos**, **scars**, or any unique entity associated with the targeted individual.

Vehicle, furniture, workplace, etc.





THE INVESTIGATION

- Determine **what kind** of Image-Based Sexual Abuse case you have
- Is the suspect **known** to the victim?
- What **platform / image board** was used?
- Obtain **digital evidence**
- **Pretext phone call**
- Search warrants
 - Suspect's computer(s)
 - Suspect's cellular phone(s)
 - Social media
 - Website(s)

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- What **type** of image-based sexual abuse investigation do you have?
 - Do you have a crime?
 - Has the suspect already been **identified**?
 - What kind of evidence do you have?
 - Which **platform** or **image board** was used?
 - Which **motive** sparked the abuse?
 - **Relationship** between victim and suspect?

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR VICTIM

- Is the **person in the image you**?
- Did you **give** the image to someone?
- Who could have **posted** the image?
- Were you **aware** of the image?
- Did you give them **consent** to post the image on the internet?
- Did you give them **permission** to show the image to other people?
- How did you **become aware** of the image?
- Do you still **possess** the image? (**need to obtain the image**)
- **Why** would she/he do this to you? (**motive**)
- Who has **access** to your phone / computer / passwords / etc.?

MINDGEEK

- **MindGeek** (formerly Manwin) is a Luxembourg-based, privately held company with **Canada** as its center of operations that **primarily focuses on pornography**
- Owns over **2,500** pornography websites, with over **115 million** visitors everyday
- **Top 4 websites:** RedTube, YouPorn, PornHub, Xtube

The image features a black background with a decorative top border. This border consists of several overlapping, wavy bands of color: a yellow band on the left, a red band below it, a green band on the right, and a cyan band at the top right. The word "IMPACT" is centered in the black area in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

IMPACT



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Parenting.

NEWS DAILY

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CONCERNS

- Images **never** go away
- Will the images **reappear**?
- Who and how many people
“copied” the images / videos?



Typical Juvenile Case



“OUR WORLD IN DATA.ORG”

- The internet has been one of our most **transformative** and **fast-growing technologies**.
- Globally the **number of internet users increased** from only **413 million** in 2000 to over **5.3 billion** in 2022. The one billion barrier was crossed in 2005 (world population today is **8.2 billion**, so that = 63.1%).
- There are **approximately 32,000** new users **every hour**.

MOST INTERNET USERS BY COUNTRY 2022 (STATISTA)

<u>Country</u>	<u>Internet Users</u>	<u>% Total Population</u>
China	1,047,990,000	74.30%
India	932,320,876	61.70%
United States	307,340,119	95.50%
Indonesia	224,354,079	78.30%
Russia	116,410,667	77.40%
Japan	121,063,228	69.50%
Mexico	98,648,559	85.10%
Philippines	084,075,491	63.50%
Nigeria	083,350,111	76.50%



What Can Be Done?

What is a DMCA Takedown?

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dmca.com/FAQ/What-is-a-DMCA-Takedown



BADGES

PROTECTION

TAKEDOWNS

What is a DMCA Takedown?

What is a DMCA Takedown?

DMCA TAKE DOWN NOTICE

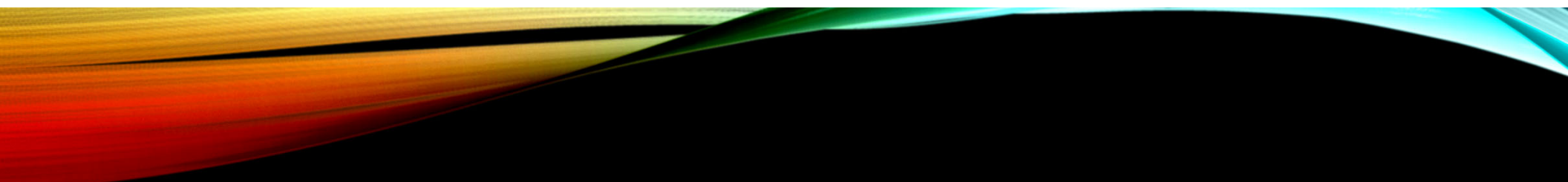
“Digital Millennium Copyright Act” guarantees a person copyright ownership over a photo they have taken themselves. If a person other than the copyright holder uses a person’s photo without the copyright holder’s permission, the copyright holder can send a DMCA takedown notice to the **website administrator** to remove the photo.

If a victim took the naked photo themselves and the photo appears on a revenge porn website, the victim can send a DMCA takedown notice to the **website administrator** claiming copyright infringement.

CYBER CIVIL RIGHTS INITIATIVE

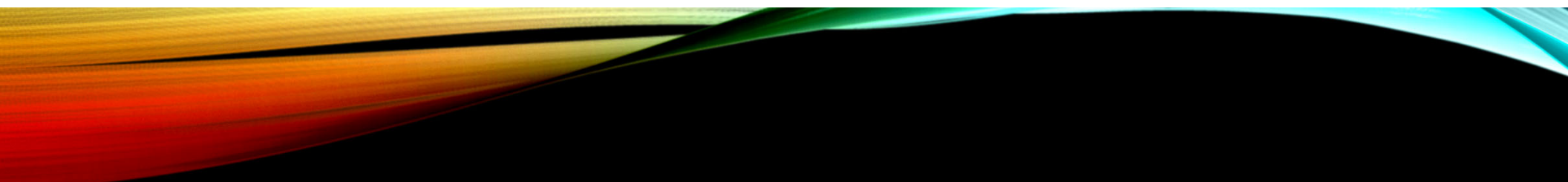
- **Cybercivilrights.org**
 - Roster of attorneys
 - Online removal guide
 - Laws by states
- **Crisis Helpline #**
 - (844) 878-2274

CYBER CIVIL  RIGHTS INITIATIVE

- 
- Fortunately, a survivor of nonconsensual porn has many legal options:
 - Pressing criminal charges
 - Seeking a protection order or another civil remedy
 - Pursuing administrative remedies via an employer or a school pursuant to the institution's own policies and procedures
 - Requesting that the platform where the image was posted (e.g. Facebook) take down the image and suspend the abuser's account pursuant to the corporation's "takedown policies"



There is currently no federal
revenge pornography law



Websites and service providers have no legal obligation to remove nonconsensual pornography unless it otherwise **violates copyright** or **federal criminal laws**.

As of January 2023, **48 states** and **Washington D.C.** had passed laws prohibiting the distribution or production of nonconsensual pornography.

ONLINE REMOVE GUIDE

Using Company Policy to Take Down Nonconsensual Pornography

- It is much easier to take down nonconsensual pornography content than it used to be. A growing number of companies will voluntarily take down nonconsensual pornography on their platforms, regardless of **whether the victim owns the copyright**.
- Use the **Cyber Civil Rights Initiative's** new **Online Removal Guide** for step-by-step instructions on how to report and take down nonconsensual pornography across multiple technology platforms including, Instagram, Twitter, Reddit, Tumblr, Yahoo, Google, Microsoft.

EVIDENCE PRESERVATION

- **Before** you ask anyone to remove content from the internet, be sure to **preserve reliable copies** of the content as it existed before it was removed. Such guidance is provided by Without My Consent (WMC):

<https://withoutmyconsent.org/>

- Among other resources, WMC offers a guide to Evidence Preservation:

<https://withoutmyconsent.org/resources/something-can-be-done-guide/evidence-preservation/>

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

- Finally, if you are curious about how this change came about, the following blog post provides a great summary of the major events of 2007 through 2015:

Danielle Keats Citron, *Online Engagement On Equal Terms*, B.U. L. REV. ANNEX (October 19, 2015)

<http://www.bu.edu/bulawreview/citron-online-engagement-on-equal-terms/> archived at perma.cc/MHQ5-YX9V



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