

## Press Release

**Source:** Hotline.ie, the Irish national centre combatting illegal content online

*Dublin, 02<sup>th</sup> September 2021*

### **New reporting service to help young people and adults who had their intimate images shared without consent online**

Hotline.ie, the Irish national centre combatting illegal content online (est. 1999), has launched today a new online reporting service to help young people and adults, alike, who had their intimate images and videos shared without their consent on the Internet. The service has been developed in conjunction with the Department of Justice and An Garda Síochána.

The Harassment, Harmful Communications and Related Offences Act 2020, enacted on 10 February 2021, creates new offences which criminalise the non-consensual distribution of intimate images, also commonly referred to as intimate image abuse.

If an intimate image or video was shared online without the person's consent, Hotline.ie can help with reporting and removing the content from the Internet and, in some cases, liaising with An Garda Síochána, should the person wish for the matter to be investigated by Gardaí.

Anyone who has had an intimate image shared without their consent online can contact [www.hotline.ie/report](http://www.hotline.ie/report).

To learn more please visit Hotline.ie's [intimate image abuse frequently asked questions](#).

*“We know that people experience a lot of issues online that we unfortunately can't help with, however, where we can, we will. Hotline.ie's work specifically relates to illegal content online – such as child sexual abuse material, activities relating to the sexual exploitation of children, racism and xenophobia, and as of today intimate images shared online without the person's consent. The circumstances in which, a young person, in particular may become a victim of these crimes can vary, however no one deserves to feel unsafe, distressed, lonely, powerless, hopeless...The team at Hotline.ie is honoured to be able to play an active role to break the cycle of abuse and repeat-victimisation, and support those who have suffered from such crimes on their healing journey - their bravery, courage and resilience is nothing less than inspiring.”* Ana Niculescu, Chief Executive Hotline.ie

**About Hotline.ie**

Hotline.ie is the Irish national centre combatting illegal content online. We work to reduce the prevalence of illegal content online, whilst breaking the cycle of abuse, exploitation and preventing repeat-victimisation.

The web-reporting portal that we provide is simultaneously distinct and independent of law enforcement reporting channels and any one online service provider's own reporting channels. As such Hotline.ie handles reports across a wide variety of online services, platforms.

Hotline.ie's highly skilled and internationally (INHOPE/INTERPOL) certified Analysts assess every report that we receive against rigorous standards and by reference to Irish law.

Hotline.ie is also an integral part of the Irish Safer Internet Centre alongside [Webwise](#), [ISPCC - Childline](#) and [National Parents Council Primary](#).

Hotline.ie's work is co-financed by the European Union through Grant Aid under the Connecting Europe Facility: Safer Internet Programme and by [our members](#).

For more information on Hotline.ie, our facts, figures, finding and partnership approach, we invite you to please read our **latest Hotline.ie Annual Report – [Break the Cycle. One report at a time.](#)** or visit [www.hotline.ie](http://www.hotline.ie)

**For other Irish support services** click [here](#)

To learn more about the Department of Justice **No Excuses campaign** click [here](#)

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