

There are now legal consequences in place to deal with this problem. The non-consensual sharing of intimate images can result in up to **7 years imprisonment** or an **unlimited fine**. This includes anyone who helps to share the image further.

What can you do?

If someone you know reports having images shared without their consent, avoid victim blaming. The person at fault is the person who lacked consent and not the individual who took the photo in the first place. This way we can encourage targets of this abuse to come forward and seek help. Remember to practice responsible online behaviour. If you see someone sharing intimate images without consent, block and report the account. You can also help by spreading awareness about coco's law. Share information such as this blog post with your peers to promote awareness on this issue. It is together that we can reclaim our right to privacy and help empower survivors to hold perpetrators accountable.

Image based sexual abuse is serious and cannot not be used for fun, for revenge, to humiliate someone or impress friends. It is important to remember that it is never okay to share private images while you are in a relationship or after that relationship has ended. Thanks to Coco's law, Ireland now has the most serious criminal consequences for online abuse in the EU

If you have been affected by any of the contents within this post, the following helplines are available:

Child Line: Counselling service for children and young people Call: 1800 66 66 66

Pieta: Help for people who are suicidal and/or engaging in self harm Call: 1800 247 247 or 01623 5606

Womens Aid: Information and support for victims of domestic violence: Call 1800 341 900

Samaritans: Provides emotional support for anyone in emotional distress: Call 116 123, text 0872609 090

