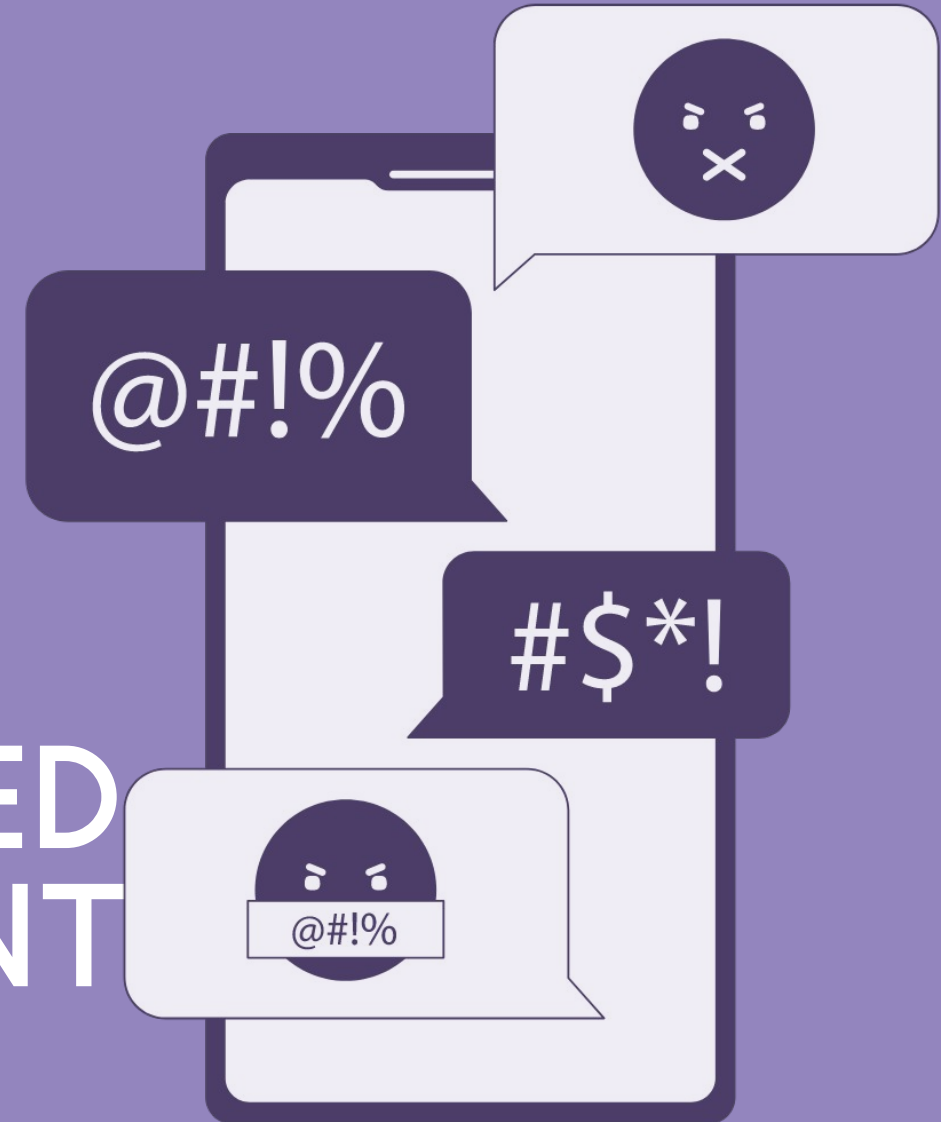Hyb ACE Cymru
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ONLINE GENDER-BASED & SEXUAL HARASSMENT

A REVIEW OF REVIEWS

PRESENTED BY: MORGAN SAVOURY (PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH OFFICER, ACE Hub Wales)

CONTENT/ LANGUAGE WARNING

- Some of the language used in this presentation might be upsetting for some.

- Please feel free to leave this talk at any point and if you are personally impacted by these issues, I will provide links to appropriate support at the end of this presentation.

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

1) Background (Policy Context/ Study aims)

2) Methodology (including search strategy)

3) Current findings (papers identified and terminology)

4) Next Steps

Policy Context

- The Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Act 2015 (VAWDASV) outlined a duty to produce a VAWDASV strategy for 2022-2026.

- To support the delivery of the strategy, the Welsh Government devised a VAWDASV Blueprint high level action plan.

- The blueprint is made up of 6 different workstreams including the Gender-based harassment in all public spaces workstream.

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Commissioning and Aim

- Commissioned by the Gender-based Harassment in all Public Spaces workstream.

- Secondary research piece to the Literature Review of Gender-based harassment in Public Spaces.

- This review of reviews aims to synthesise the findings of existing reviews with the aim of covering all types of sexual and gender-based harassment in online public spaces.

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Project Overview: Methodology

- This **review of reviews** will summarise evidence from academic reviews including literature reviews, systematic reviews and meta-analyses around the issue of online gender-based and sexual harassment. The **research questions** are as follows:

Scale (e.g. Scope/Prevalence)	Causes/Explanations	Exploring whether perpetration exists on a continuum of violence	Identifying existing Prevention and Support

Search Strategy

Databases: PubMed, PsycINFO, Cochrane, AMED, MEDLINE, Social Policy and Justice.

Initial search Terms: ("gender-based harassment" or "sexual harassment") and (digital, or cyber, or internet, technology, or technology-facilitated) and ("online gender-based harassment" or "online sexual harassment").

Supplementary search terms: "online sexual harassment", "online gender-based harassment" "revenge porn", "image-based harassment", "image-based abuse", "unwanted sexual solicitation", "sexual coercion", "non-consensual sexting", "hate speech".

Inclusion: Adult focused citations. Women, transwomen, non-binary individuals focused citations. English language studies. High income countries.

Exclusion: Child/adolescent focused citations. Male (inc. trans male) focused citations. Low-income countries. Non-English language studies.

FINDINGS: CURRENT SAMPLE (*n*=16)

HENRY & POWELL (2018) Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence: A literature Review of Empirical Research

BACKE & LILLESTON (2018) Networked Individuals, Gendered Violence: A Literature Review of Cyberviolence

HENRY, FLYNN & POWELL (2020) Technology-Facilitated Domestic and Sexual Violence: A Review

EATON & MCGLYNN (2020) The Psychology of Nonconsensual Porn: Understanding and Addressing a Growing Form of Sexual Violence

REED, WONG, RAJ (2020) Cyber sexual harassment: A summary of current measures and implications for future research

PAAT AND MARKHAM (2021) Digital crime, trauma, and abuse: Internet safety and cyber risks for adolescents and emerging adults in the 21st century.

FISICO & HARKINS (2021) Technology and Sexual Offending. Literature Review.

PATEL & ROESCH (2022) The Prevalence of Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence: A Meta-Analysis and Systematic Review

FILICE (2022) Sexual violence and abuse in online dating

VERGEL, LA PARRA-CASADO VIVES-CASES (2023) Examining Cybersexism in Online Gaming Communities: A Scoping Review

LEWIS & ANITHA (2023) Upskirting: A systematic literature review

MANIA (2024) Legal Protection of Revenge and Deepfake Porn Victims in the European Union: Findings From a Comparative Legal Study

PARADISCO, ROLLE, TROMBETTA (2023) Image-Based Sexual Abuse Associated Factors: A Systematic Review (and Meta-analysis)

CASTANO-PULGARIN ET AL. (2021) Internet, social media and online hate speech. Systematic review.

CHETTY AND ALANTHUR (2018) Hate speech review in the context of online social networks.

EHMAN & GROSS (2019) Sexual Cyberbullying: Review, Critique and Future Directions

TIMELINE OF THE KEY TERMINOLOGY USED WITHIN PAPERS AROUND ONLINE GENDER-BASED AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT

2019

- **Ehman & Gross (2019)** "sexual cyberbullying", "technologically based coercion", "unwanted sexual attention", "sexual coercion", "revenge porn"

2021

- **Fisico & Harkins (2021)** "technology-facilitated sexual violence", "image-based sexual abuse", "revenge porn", "nonconsensual probography", "video voyerism", "upskirting", "downblousing".

- **Paat & Markham (2021)** "cyber-dating violence", "sextortion", "image-based sexual abuse", "remote sexual assault", "revenge porn", "nonconsensual pornography".

- **Castano-Pulgarín et al. (2021)** "onine hate speech", "gendered hate online"

2023

- **Lewis & Anitha (2023)** "Upskirting", "down-blousing".

- **Vergel, La parra-Casado & Vives-Cases (2023)** "cybersexism", "cyber abuse", "online harassment", "technology-facilitated sexual abuse", "stalking", "revenge porn", "deep fakes", "doxing", "impersonation".

- **Paradiso, Rollè, Trombetta (2023)** "image-based sexual abuse", "upskirting", "deepfaking", "revenge porn", "sextortion".

01   02   03   04   05   06   07

2018

- **Henry & Powell (2018).** "Techology-facilitated sexual violence", "online sexual harassment", "gender and sexuality-based harassment", "cyberstalking", "image-based sexual exploitation", "technology-facilitated unwanted sexual experiences".

- **Backe, Lilleston & McClearly-Sills (2018)** "online harassment", "revenge porn", "cyber gender harassment", "cyberviolence","cyberstalking"

- **Chetty & Alanthur (2018)** "hate speech", "gendered hate speech", "online harassment", "online hate", "rape threats"

2020

- **Henry, Flynn, Powell (2020)** "Technology-facilitated domestic and sexual violence", "technology-facilitated sexual assault", "image-based abuse", "online sexual harassment".

- **Eaton & McGlynn (2020)** "nonconsensual porn*", "revenge porn", "image-based sexual abuse", "upskirting", "sextortion", "deepfakes", "technology-facilitated sexual violence".
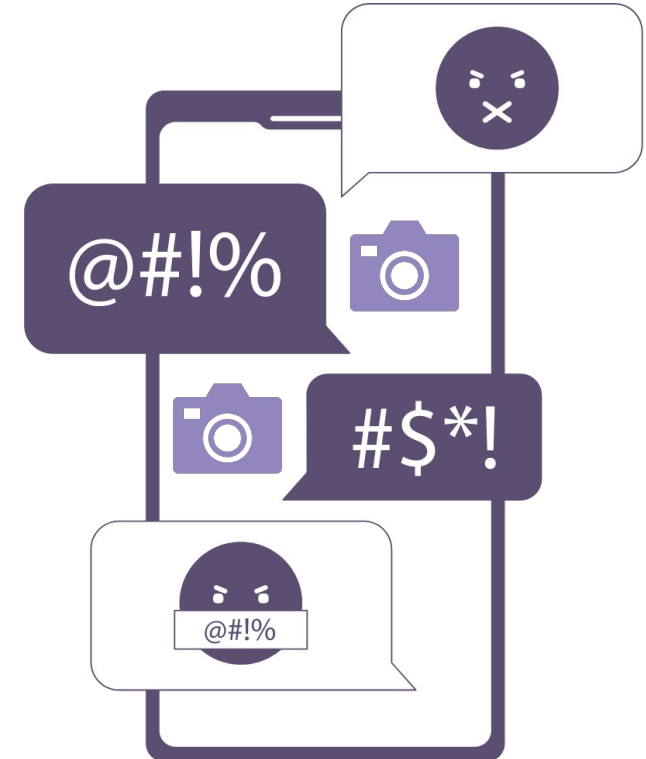
2022

- **Patel & Roesch (2022)** "Technology-facilitated sexual violence", "image, based sexual abuse", "revenge porn", "non-consensual pornography".

- **Reed, Wong, Raj (2022)** "cyber-sexual harassment", "unwanted sexual solicitation", "unwanted sexts", "non-consensual sexting", "revenge porn".

- **Filice et al. (2022)** "Technology-facilitated sexual violence", "digital sexual harassment", "image-based sexual abuse", "revenge porn*", "nonconsensual or coercive sexting", "sexual aggression/ coercion", "gender and sexuality-based harassment"

2024

- **Mania (2024)** "deepfake porn*", "revenge porn", "continuum of image based sexual abuse".
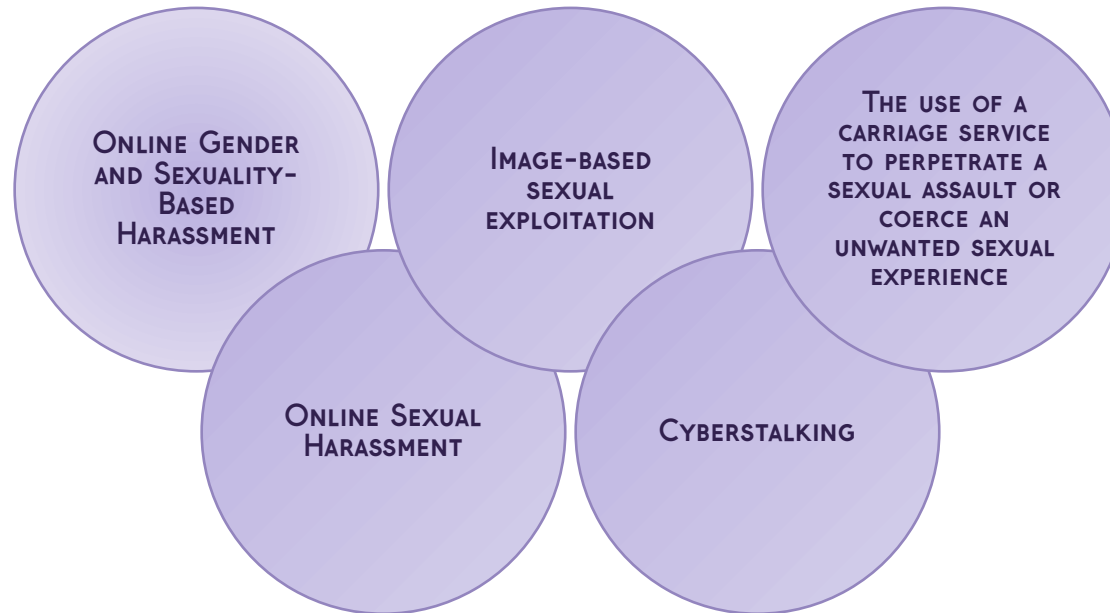
Technology Facilitated Sexual Violence

- Henry & Powell (2018) introduced the term 'Technology-facilitated sexual violence' (TFSV) to describe a "range of criminal, civil, or harmful sexually aggressive and harassing behaviours that are perpetrated with the aid or use of communication technologies."

- Technology-facilitated sexual violence can include: "unwanted sexual attention, speech acts, acts that cause fear or apprehension, image-based violations, or physical/contact offenses".
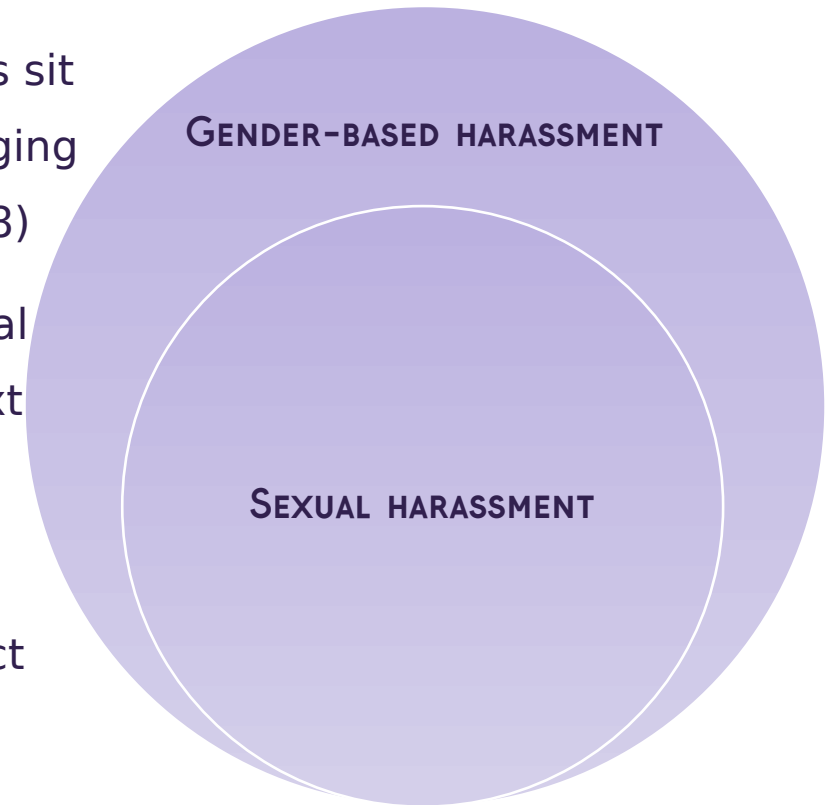
Dimensions of Technology Facilitated Sexual Violence

- Henry & Powell (2018) divided the types of harmful and harassing behaviours under the umbrella term of **TFSV** into **5 intersecting categories**:

Online Gender and Sexuality-Based Harassment

Image-based sexual exploitation

The use of a carriage service to perpetrate a sexual assault or coerce an unwanted sexual experience

Online Sexual Harassment

Cyberstalking

Overlapping Dimensions

- Identifying whether online harmful and abusive behaviours sit within **sexual and gender-based categories** can be challenging due to their overlapping parameters (Henry & Powell, 2018)

- TFSV can be considered as **gender-based** as the behavioural manifestations are influenced by the broader social context of gender-inequality and societal hierarchies (Henry & Powell, 2018).

- Perpetrators do not necessarily have to be motivated to act based on **gender (or sexuality)** when engaging in such behaviours (Henry & Powell, 2018).

Gender-based harassment

Sexual harassment

Gender -based Harassment Online

- **Definition**: 'Gender harassment' encompasses unwelcome verbal and visual insults based on gender, occurring on social media platforms, chatrooms, forums, or via email (Barak, 2005; cited in Henry & Powell, 2018).

- **Incorporation of Sexuality**: Henry & Powell (2018) include sexuality-based harassment within gender-based harassment, indicating that harassment can target individuals based on gender, sexuality, or sexual orientation.

- **Examples**: Gender and sexuality-based harassment involves harmful conduct such as hate speech, rape threats, reputation-damaging lies, false accusations of sexual violence, and virtual rape (Henry & Powell, 2018).

Definitions of Online Sexual Harassment

- Online sexual harassment (OSH) is a multifaceted term which can capture a wide range of harassing behaviours occurring through digital platforms (Henry & Powell, 2018, Henry, Flynn & Powell 2020, Reed, Wong Raj, 2020).

- Narrow Definition: Henry & Powell (2018) define online sexual harassment as *"unwanted sexual attention online"* that is *"uninvited behaviours that explicitly communicate sexual desires or intentions towards another"*.

- Dimensions: OSH can occur in various settings, including "virtual or face-to-face contact in public forums or chat rooms or through private communications via mobile phone, e-mail, or Internet sites using either verbal comments or graphic images."

Definitions of Online Sexual Harassment (Continued)

- **Broader Definition:** Henry, Flynn and Powell (2020) have defined online sexual harassment (OSH) as "*offensive, humiliating, or intimidating conduct that is unwanted or unwelcome and of a sexual nature*".

- **Examples** include unwanted sexual attention or requests for sex, image-based harassment, simulated rape, rape threats, sexual coercion, hate speech, and cyberstalking.

STOP ONLINE SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Next Steps

- Synthesising the findings to address our FIVE PRIMARY RESEARCH QUESTIONS.

- Apply our research findings to a WELSH CONTEXT and capturing UPDATES IN LEGISLATION within our discussion section.

- Identify any further PREVENTION APPROACHES and SUPPORT MECHANISMS for online gender-based and sexual harassment in WALES.

- Provide the workstream with a strong evidence based to SUPPORT with POLICY AND PRACTICE.

END ONLINE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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SUPPORT

- LIVE FEAR FREE HELPLINE – CALL 0808 80 10 800, TEXT 07860077333, EMAIL

  INFO@LIVEFEARFREEHELPLINE.WALES

- Welsh Women's Aid - CALL 02920541551 or EMAIL info@welshwomensaid.org.uk

- New Pathways – CALL 01685 379310 or EMAIL ENQUIRIES@NEWPATHWAYS.ORG.UK

- Revenge Porn Helpline UK - Call 0345 6000 459, ANONYMOUSLY MESSAGE HERE

  HTTPS://SWGFL.ORG.UK/WHISPER/RPH1/ or EMAIL HELP@REVENGEPORNHELPLINE.ORG.UK