

# What You Should Know About... Sextortion



Nearly *two-thirds* of 'gen-z' teens, said they or their friends have been the targets of sextortion.

## What is it?

Sextortion is a 'cyber-enabled crime' in which victims are lured into sharing intimate photos/videos or behaving in a sexual way in front of a camera. Unbeknown to the victims, their actions have been recorded or saved by criminals who blackmail the victim by threatening to release the image or footage.

Come on cutie, we've been flirting all week. You know you wanna

If you send one, i'll send one back

Just for you... don't show anyone

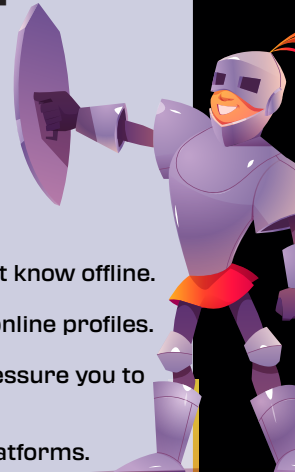
View Photo

PAY ME £500 RIGHT NOW. Or that image is being shared online and all your friends and family will see it.

## How to Protect Yourself

There are steps you can take to avoid becoming a victim of sextortion:

- ❌ **DON'T** share intimate photos or videos on an online platform.
- ❌ **DON'T** agree to requests for nude photos/videos or perform intimate acts over a video call.
- ❌ **DON'T** accept friend requests/messages from people you don't know offline.
- ❌ **DON'T** include sensitive and/or personal information on your online profiles.
- ✅ **DO** remember that anyone who truly cares for you will not pressure you to do something uncomfortable.
- ✅ **DO** be mindful of who you accept as friends on social media platforms.
- ✅ **DO** strengthen your social media privacy settings.
- ✅ **DO** question who it is you are really speaking to online.



**ANYONE** can become a victim of sextortion.

## How does it happen?

Victims are usually targeted in online spaces - such as social media platforms or dating apps.

The offender often uses a fake identity to seem more appealing to potential victims. Once a victim has been targeted, offenders quickly befriend them before the blackmail begins.

During the 'friendship', the offender will introduce the topic of sex and begin encouraging the victim to remove items of clothing while on camera or to send them a nude image.

After the victim has done so, the offender reveals they have recorded the entire interaction and threatens to publicly expose the victim if they do not either send a sum of money or more photos/videos.



It is illegal to create, possess or distribute indecent images of children. In situations where a child has taken and shared a nude image of themselves, the law does not unfairly punish that child and will handle their case sensitively.

**FACT**

## Help and Advice

If you or someone you know has become a victim of sextortion, you are not alone. It is important to stay calm and take the following actions:

- 🚫 **IGNORE** their demands and do not pay up.
- ❌ **END** all communication on every channel.
- 📸 **CAPTURE** evidence of blackmail including usernames.
- 🗣️ **TALK** to a trusted friend or family member, even if it's embarrassing.
- 📞 **CONTACT** the police immediately - time is of the essence!
- 🚫 **BLOCK** the offender on all platforms and change your password.
- 🚩 **REPORT** the individual to the relevant website or app provider.
- 🧠 **CONSIDER** if you or the victim will need a suicide prevention plan.

Never screenshot or capture a copy of material that involves an indecent image of a child.



**Remember!** *Sextortion is a serious crime.*

**You are not at fault**, and it's important to report it promptly to the police to protect yourself and to stop the perpetrator.

## The Impact of Sextortion

Once the victim realises what has happened, panic sets in and they are left feeling violated, afraid, embarrassed, ashamed, alone, or even suicidal.

## Support

If you are feeling overwhelmed, there are people who can support you through this. **There is always hope and help available.**

