

# UNDERSTANDING CYBER SEXUAL & GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN SRI LANKA

Cyber sexual gender-based violence (SGBV) is action conducted using the internet or mobile technology that harms people based on their sexual or gender identity or by enforcing harmful gender norms.



## BLACKMAIL

*Threatening to share negative or private information about an individual, including images or video, online unless a demand is met. This can take place in any online service, website, or app. Blackmailers tend to make threats on private messaging services; however, the information may be shared on public social media platforms.*

## CYBER HARASSMENT

*Targeting individuals or groups to cause emotional distress using online avenues like email, social media, apps, and websites.*



## CYBERSTALKING

*Harassing and intimidating an individual by using the internet and other technology to track their location and monitor their online and real-world activities.*

## CYBERBULLYING

*Sending, posting, or sharing negative, harmful, false, embarrassing, or private information about someone using digital devices. Cyberbullying can occur through SMS, messaging apps, social media, gaming apps, and other online forums.*



## CYBERFLASHING

*Sending obscene photos to someone without their consent.*



# GENDERED ONLINE HATE SPEECH

*Dehumanizing and encouraging violence towards a person or a group of people based on an identifying feature such as their religion, gender, ethnicity, or disability. Intersecting identity factors can increase the likelihood that a woman will be targeted by gendered online hate speech.*



## GROOMING

*Establishing a relationship with a child where the adult has substantial emotional control that allows them to commit physical or virtual sexual abuse, obtain child pornography, or traffic the child. The relationship may start as a romantic connection or something seemingly less harmful.*



## HACKING

*Accessing or controlling a computer network security system without authorization for illicit purposes.*



## IDENTITY THEFT

*Impersonating someone online by using their personal data, creating fake accounts, or hacking existing accounts to threaten, intimidate, or defraud them.*



## IMAGE-BASED SEXUAL ABUSE

*Sharing sexually explicit images or videos of an individual without their consent. The content may be shared with specific individuals or publicly on specialized 'revenge porn' websites, social media, email, or messaging apps. Images shared offline that have been photoshopped or otherwise digitally altered may also be considered image-based sexual abuse.*



## SEXTORTION

*Threatening to disseminate intimate images or videos of someone to obtain information, engage in sexual intercourse, gain sexual gratification or extort money. Perpetrators include individuals who hack into cameras and take images or videos remotely and intimate partners or former partners.*





## CYBER THREAT

*Acting maliciously to damage data, steal data, or generally disrupt digital platforms.*

## TROLLING

*Sending menacing or upsetting messages on social media, chat rooms, gaming apps, or other online platforms.*

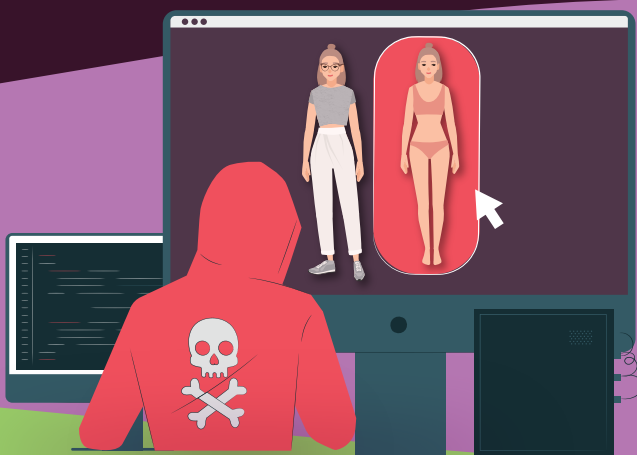


## TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN

*Human trafficking committed using the internet and other technology. Traffickers may use online chat rooms, social media, online employment agencies or fake immigration assistance websites to identify potential victims.*

## DOXING

*Searching for and publishing private or identifying information about someone online, typically with malicious intent to intimidate the victim-survivor by driving online harassment and making them fear in-person harm and harassment.*



## PHOTO MORPHING

*Changing one image to another using computer animation techniques.*

## DEFAMATION

*Spreading negative false information about someone online, typically using a publicly accessible website or social media.*



# FINDINGS FROM DISTRICT DATA COLLECTION THROUGH STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

## RESEARCH FINDINGS ANURADHAPURA

*The most prevalent type of cyber SGBV women face is impersonation through fake accounts on social media. Data indicates that mostly men impersonate women on social media by obtaining personal photos from women's profiles and sharing them with others.*



## RESEARCH FINDINGS BATTICALOA

*The most prevalent type of cyber SGBV women face is blackmailing via WhatsApp. This has been carried out by organized groups mainly through obtaining mobile phone numbers from tuition class groups on Whatsapp.*



## RESEARCH FINDINGS PUTTALAM

*Online sexual harassment is prevalent in the district. It was observed that the victims and perpetrators were often involved in extramarital affairs and teenage love affairs*



## RESEARCH FINDINGS KILINOCHCHI

*Online harassment and blackmail are the types of cyber SGBV that are notably prevalent in the district. Due to such violence, family disputes, attempted suicide, deterioration of mental health and long term trauma was observed.*

