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**SEXTING, REVENGE PORN  
AND OTHER VIOLATIONS  
OF PRIVACY IN THE  
DIGITAL SPACE**

## SOURCES

### Podcast:

*Whose intimacy is it?*

### Websites:

<https://zenskasolidarnost.com/>

<https://mogudanecu.rs/>

<http://kliknibezbedno.rs/sr/seksting-i-sajberseks.1.160.html>

### Manuals:

*Sexting & Sextortion*

*Why and how to go about the topic of gender based violence in the high school curriculum*

*Petition for the introduction of revenge pornography as a criminal offense in the Criminal Code of the Republic of Serbia*

### Article:

*Finland is proposing prison sentences for sending unwanted images of sexual content*

*Criminal Code of the Republic of Serbia*

### Video:

*Tagged*

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## **Incentive for discussion: REVENGE PORN**

**On the very eve of the International Women's Day, the news appeared that there is a group on the Telegram application that gathers 36,000 men from the Balkans, and in which explicit photos, recordings, but also addresses of women from this area are shared, including pornographic photos of children. It is obvious that it was about the so-called "Revenge porn".**

### **Suggested discussion questions:**

What is revenge porn?

Related terms: What are nudes? What is sexting? What is sextortion? How do these phenomena differ from revenge porn?

Have you heard, or do you happen to know that revenge porn happened to someone you know? Do you know someone doing that or someone who was a victim?

What do you think, is such behavior prohibited in Serbia?

What could citizens do to prevent acts of revenge porn? Do you have any suggestions?

What can schools do?

What do you think was the first result of the reactions in Serbia?

## Information to support teachers and students

The expression “*revenge porn*” is most often used to describe situations in which a girl breaks up with her boyfriend, who in turn, without her knowledge and consent, “shares” her (or joint) intimate photos or videos via the Internet.

Revenge pornography is the misuse of private photographs and videos of a sexual nature, which can be made and exchanged in a private context, with or without consent, but are published and distributed on networks without consent. The victim, who is most often a woman, is humiliated, shamed, degraded and hurt in this way, and real damage is inflicted on her in all social contexts and relations with other people - at work, relations with family, friends.

*Photos and video clips* depicting private body parts, or nudes for short, are omnipresent on the Internet. *Sexting* or the so-called “dirty talk” is communication via telephone or computer devices in which sexual and intimate words, photographs or videos are exchanged.

**Is “revenge porn” forbidden in Serbia:** Revenge pornography is not recognized as a criminal offense in the Criminal Code of the Republic of Serbia, although there are articles of the Criminal Code to which the victim, if an adult, can be referred - Article 144 - Unauthorized photography, Article 145 - Unauthorized publication and display of other people’s writings, portraits or footage, then Article 214 - Extortion and Article 215 - Blackmail, which are criminal offenses against property. These acts are prosecuted on a private lawsuit, i.e., the victims in these situations must conduct the entire procedure on their own (or with the help of a proxy they pay for). The Public Prosecutor’s Office does not participate in such proceedings (it does not act *ex officio*). Prosecution in a private lawsuit makes it difficult for the victim to prove that the defendant published the recording.

**You can contact the police or the prosecutor’s office:** In connection with these acts, you should *contact* the Ministry of the Interior (MIA), the specialized Department for High-Tech Crime and / or the Special Prosecutor’s Office for High-Tech Crime, the Higher Public Prosecutor’s Office in Belgrade..

**They can initiate a petition to amend the Criminal Code of the Republic of Serbia:** Revenge porn ought to be a criminal offense - We, the undersigned, consider it necessary to introduce a special article of the Criminal Code, or other relevant law, which recognizes revenge (or non-consensual) pornography as a separate criminal offense due to the gravity of the violation of integrity and additional malicious intent of the offender to blackmail, embarrass and humiliate the person whose photos or videos are distributed, most often the ex-partner, as well as to violate their physical integrity and endanger security. (*petition*)

**You can address the media:** The media could in an appropriate way, without sensationalism, without new exposure of victims to victimization - draw attention to the phenomenon and demand the accountability of the perpetrators, but also institutions that do not act in accordance with obligations to protect the citizens from crime.

**You can organize a street protest:** *A women’s protest* against online sexual harassment in North Macedonia - Several hundred people gathered in Skopje (North Macedonia) in front of the Ministry of Interior (Moi) demanding that the government take action against private groups that share unauthorized and often explicit photos and videos of women and girls, primarily the Public Room group. The protest was held with the banners “The victim is not guilty”, “YOU are a bully” and “Failure to act is violence”.

## Incentive for discussion:

### SENDING/RECEIVING UNWANTED PICTURES OF SEXUAL CONTENT

A survey conducted this year by the organization for the protection of children's rights Plan International showed that 51% of the 14,000 surveyed girls and young women have experienced sexual harassment via the Internet. 35% of them received unwanted sexual or explicit photos.

#### Suggested discussion questions:

In your experience, how much is this phenomenon widespread in our society?

Do you know someone who is being harassed in this way or someone who harasses others in this way?

Why do boys and men harass more often this way than girls and women? Is sending explicit photos of sexual organs equally disturbing for girls and boys?

Should such behavior be punishable? If yes - why? If not - why?

Is such behavior punishable in Serbia?

What should be done if you get photos like this? What advice would you give to a friend who has been harassed in this way?



#### Information to support teachers and students

**Penalty for sending unwanted images of a sexual nature: Men who send unwanted dick pics could serve up to six months in prison under a new law proposed in Finland.**

The issue is amending the law on sexual harassment to include sending photos of explicit content, along with verbal and textual harassment. Under the current law, sexual harassment is considered a criminal offense only if it involves physical touching. Although some perpetrators who submit photographs of sexual content are prosecuted under defamation laws, this law is not satisfactory, as it does not take into account the sexual nature of the crime.

***Criminal code* of the Republic of Serbia: Sexual Harassment, Article 182a is a criminal offense defined as follows:**

(1) Whoever sexually harasses another person shall be punished with a fine or imprisonment for up to six months.

(2) If the act specified in paragraph 1 of this Article has been committed vis-à-vis a minor, the perpetrator shall be punished with imprisonment of three months and three years.

(3) Sexual harassment shall be each instance of verbal, non-verbal or physical behavior that is aimed at or that is a violation of dignity of a person in the domain of his/her sexual life, which causes fear or creates a hostile, degrading or offensive environment.

(4) Prosecution for the offense specified in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be undertaken upon proposition.

### **What to do if you get messages with nudes / dick pics?**

Depending on the content and frequency of messages, different types of protection can be used and different measures can be taken: the possibility of blocking those who send such messages; reporting content (on Facebook and Instagram) that violates community standards / guidelines (give a clear description of where the content is located); collect evidence by taking screenshots and storing messages (records are important for taking legal action); ask for information and support from specialized organizations dealing with the protection of rights on the Internet, organizations for the protection of children's rights or for the protection of women's rights (see *contacts of important organizations*); report violence to the competent institutions - services for the fight against high-tech crime in the police (childprotection@mup.gov.rs) or the prosecutor's office for high-tech crime (vtk@beograd.vtk.jt.rs).

## **Workshop: SEXTING AND REVENGE PORN**

**Melita Ranđelović, High School, Zemun**  
**Workshop created as part of the Click Safe project**

The workshop on sexting and revenge pornography is intended for first-grade high school students. The workshop can be planned within the topic of Internet security and violence in partnerships.

This activity gives the teacher space to offer information on the possibilities of acting in a situation when a young person is a victim of violence in a partnership: which institutions and individuals in their environment they can turn to for support, help and protection, as well as what obligations schools have in a situation where there is knowledge that one of the students has experienced violence.

**Aim of the workshop:** Introduction to the concepts of sexting and revenge pornography and their understanding; consideration of the risks that are possible when engaging in sexting; getting acquainted with the ways of reacting in situations when our personal photos / videos appear on the Internet, without our knowledge and approval.

**Target group:** High School students

**Material for the work:** Questionnaire for students, description of the situation, questionnaire for story analysis, supplement for the teacher "Sexting and cybersex"

**Duration:** 45 minutes (one school period)

## ACTIVITIES

### Activity 1 (5 minutes)

The teacher hands out a questionnaire to the students (Annex 1), emphasizing that it is a short anonymous questionnaire that they fill out individually. Also, the teacher emphasizes that students will not present the content of their answers to other students in the class. After completing the questionnaire, students remove their copy from the table by putting it in their bags or pockets. The teacher emphasizes that he / she will go back to the questionnaire at the end of the class.

### Activity 2 (5 minutes)

The teacher will start a conversation with the students about whether they have heard about the terms sexting and revenge porn (at school, in the media...) and what they know about these terms. The teacher writes the students' key answers on the board. The teacher explains the concepts and informs the students that sexting and revenge pornography will be the topic of the class, explaining why this topic is important.

### Activity 3 (10 minutes)

The teacher divides the students into several smaller groups, so that each group consists of 5-6 students. She/he gives each group a story (Annex 2) with instructions to read it, discuss the situation described, and write common answers to the questions (Annex 3).

### Activity 4 (20 minutes)

The groups present their answers to the other students. A discussion is developed at the whole class level. If any new issues are raised during the discussion, in addition to the above, they should also be discussed during class in plenary.

**Note:** *In this segment, the teacher, after all the groups have presented the answers to the given question and discussed it, complements the answers with the information from the Annex for teachers (Annex 4).*

### Activity 5 (5 minutes)

The teacher briefly summarizes the activities in class. She/he reminds the students of the questionnaire they filled out at the beginning of the class. The teacher's instruction for the students is to consider whether the answers to some questions would be different now. Each student looks at their answers. If someone wants to comment, or express some observations, they should be given the opportunity, but it is not obligatory.

**Note:** *Given the nature of the questions and the possible answers of the students, at the end of the class the teacher should make sure that the students tear up their completed questionnaires and throw them away.*

### Recommendation:

- *You can watch the Australian film "Tagged" with the students in the next class and continue the discussion.*
- *You can talk to students in the next class about the preventive measures that students should take in order to protect against privacy violations on the Internet and the steps they should take if that happens. The listed measures can be made available to peers in the form of posters, flyers and presentations on the school website.*

## Annex 1

Answer with yes or no.

### QUESTIONNAIRE

- You have a large number of personal photos on your phone.
- You think that some of these photos are not “for everyone’s eyes” and you would not like them to reach the public, for example on social networks.
- You keep these photos together with all the other photos.
- You would not want your parents to see some of the messages and photos you have on your phone
- Posting your photos on social media?
- You comment, like, share photos and videos of your peers on social networks...

## Annex 2

One of the stories from the *Sexting&Sextortion* manual:

### 01

„When she moved to high school, Inga began her rebellious phase. Apart from the remedial exam in mathematics at the end of the first grade, she had no other difficulties and, somehow, she coped with all the obligations in high school without too many problems. She enjoyed that period! Going out, the band she played in, drawing graphics, the crew from the neighborhood... In the third grade, her friend persuaded her to be a model for an amateur photographer, to help his promotion because he was just at the beginning of his career. Anyway, somehow naively she got involved in that, without enough information, with faith in people, and a positive attitude, despite a bad premonition she had. The exhibition was never held because the photographer gave up on a series of works called ‘Unknown and Naked Realms’, but the two of them received a small fee, which made their pocket money last a bit longer. In the first year of her studies, Inga was given the opportunity to do some professional training in Belgium. In an interview for a scholarship that could almost entirely cover the cost of six months of schooling, the committee members informed her that they’d come across several photos of hers that they judged to be of questionable aesthetic value. Above all, they considered them to be compromising material. Inga lost the long-desired opportunity...”

### 02

„Eugene has been training karate for more than 11 years. He achieves notable results nationally and internationally, has a well-known team he considers to be an extended family, has travelled more than half the globe and has perfected languages. On his return from the last state tournament, a message from an unfamiliar girl appeared on his profile on a popular social network, congratulating him on winning second place. She watched him from the stands, cheering for a relative who also participated in the competition. Although Eugene did not have the habit of interacting a lot on the Internet, he enjoyed the received attention and compliments. With this girl, everything was somehow simple and easy. They met, shared little things from everyday life, planned to see and meet live and became closer and closer... At her request, Eugene sent her his nude. He was waiting for hers in return... Shortly afterwards, hell broke loose – the amiable girl stopped answering, and blackmail and threats followed. After the initial shock and disbelief, Eugene did not know what to do. He could barely sleep and eat, could not concentrate, was irritable, totally dysfunctional, living in fear. He was

burdened by that horrible feeling that he didn't know who was blackmailing him, who was hiding behind that behavior. He avoided going to school and training..."

### 03

„Before going to the prom, Melita and her best friend Hana were looking for new pieces of clothing. They walked almost all day, having fun and laughing, had their hands full of bags, later went to lunch... Upon returning home, Melita noticed that she had lost her mobile phone somewhere. A few days later, Hana called her and informed her that her video from this year's vacation was circulating on the social networks. It was also in the class group. Yes, Hana and she had been fooling around then, they were alone in the cottage, making a few nude movies. But, Melita then forwarded only one of them to a boy she liked. She also received his photos and occasional explicit messages... Melita felt so naked and ashamed! She didn't want to leave the house, answer anyone's phone, she alternately cried and screamed in agony... She thought this would mark her forever, she despised herself and her recklessness..."

### Annex 3

## STORY ANALYSIS

- In what way could these unpleasant situations have been prevented? Why this didn't happen?
- Who is responsible for the situation that occurred? Where does this responsibility lie?
- What would you have done if you had been the main character of the story? Why?
- As a friend, what would you advise the main character to do, who to turn to in order to resolve the situation?

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS FROM THE GUIDEBOOK:

*Sexting & Sextortion*

*Prevention and response to digital (sexual and gender based) violence*

## Regular classes: TEACHING UNITS IN COMPUTING AND INFORMATICS, ART CULTURE and SERBIAN LANGUAGE and LITERATURE

In the Computing and Informatics class, when the unit **Uploading video material on the web** is being introduced according to the regular curriculum and in the Art class, when the topic **Ethical norms in the choice of motives, photo processing and photo publishing** is being presented, relying on the guidelines from the Manual, *Why and how to tackle the topic of gender-based violence in the school curriculum in high schools*, introduce the topic of privacy violation on the Internet, with a special focus on extortion and revenge pornography.

In the Serbian Language and Literature class, which according to the regular curriculum covers the teaching unit **Written exercises: journalistic news, article report, interview, comment...**, with the help of guidelines from the same manual, it is possible to show examples of how the media contribute to the spread of revenge porn, as well as examples of good practices, how the media can contribute to problem solving through education.