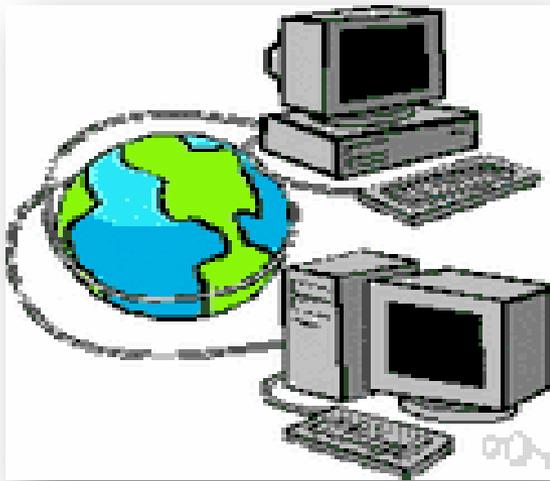


ARE WOMEN SAFE ON THE CYBER



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INTRODUCTION

▶ What is a cyber space ?

- The electronic medium of computer networks, in which online communication takes place.
 - The American Heritage® Science Dictionary Copyright © 2005 by Houghton Mifflin Company

- ▶ There are so many fascinating things to do and explore online.
 - ▶ Although the Internet is educational and entertaining, it can be a bit scary, therefore a source of great danger if one is not careful.
 - ▶ Women are therefore exposed to great danger on the cyberspace
 - ▶ Serious emotional distresses could include feeling terrified, intimidated, threatened, harassed, or tormented.
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- ▶ Cyber crime presents a new form of Violence Against Women(VAW) which is increasingly becoming part of women's experiences.
 - ▶ All forms of VAW usually take place under the veil of silence and shame due to fear of stigmatisation and a strong sense of obligation to keep family's reputations intact
 - ▶ Most of the time, perpetrators go unpunished
 - ▶ Estimates from the United Nations found 95% of online abuse being targeted at women.
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Social media

- ▶ Social networking websites have been around since the mid-90's, but in recent years, social networking has exploded across the web

What are social networking sites exactly?

- ▶ They are websites that encourage people to post **profiles** of themselves—complete with pictures, interests, their age, gender, hobbies, and interests and even journals—so they can meet like-minded friends.
 - ▶ Some also offer chat rooms.
 - ▶ Most sites are free
 - ▶ some restrict membership by age
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Top Social Networking Sites used by women



- ▶ Face book
- ▶ Twitter
- ▶ Link-in
- ▶ My space
- ▶ Hi -5
- ▶ Skype
- ▶ Face time
- ▶ Yahoo messenger
- ▶ Google talk
- ▶ You Tube
- ▶ etc

Entry point for violence against women

- ▶ Its easy to gain access to information on potential victims by using online profiles
 - ▶ Therefore there are lots of “wolves in sheep clothing” using the cyber space
 - ▶ Stalkers and potential hackers use this information to perpetrate acts of violence against women.
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Types of cyber crimes

- ▶ **STALKING**

Stalking is committed by one who intentionally engages in a course of conduct directed at a specific person

Types of stalking

- ▶ **“SMS stalking”**

- Specifically in Uganda, they found that males control their spouses’ phones and many times, invade their privacy through “SMS stalking”.

- ▶ **Cyber Stalking**

Cyber stalking is the use of the Internet, email, or other telecommunication technologies to harass, threaten, or intimidate another person. It is an extension of stalking from physical space to cyberspace.

Cyber stalker

- ▶ A cyber stalker is someone who methodically, deliberately, and persistently sends unwanted communications that do not stop even after you have requested that he or she end all contact with you.
- ▶ Cyber stalking may take many different forms. A cyber stalker may:
 - ▶ use the Internet to identify and track you
 - ▶ send unsolicited email, including hate mail or obscene or threatening messages
 - ▶ post messages about you or spread rumors about you through newsgroups
 - ▶ create websites that provide real or false personal information about you
 - ▶ assume your identity online (i.e., in chat rooms, instant messages, or email) to embarrass you, to pry into your personal life, or for other negative purposes.

Types of cyber crimes cont

▶ PORNOGRAPHY

Pornography is the 'explicit representation of sexual activity in print or on film of adults or children in the nude or having sexual relations to stimulate erotic rather than visual or emotional feelings.

- ▶ It is helpful to remember that pornography
- ▶ shows women as mere physical objects and focuses on their breasts and sex organs
- ▶ does not even try to show other ways in which a woman can be attractive, e.g. character, intelligence, humour
- ▶ shows sex as the only important thing in a relationship between a man and a woman;
- ▶ cannot substitute for long-term love and commitment. It produces short-lived thrills and does nothing to develop a loving sexual relationship.
- ▶ *It is possible for sexually explicit material not to be pornographic.* For instance, medical textbooks and sex manuals are designed for education. Pornography differs because its only purpose is titillation and fantasy.
- ▶ Pornography can lead to pain, shame and loss because of addictive sexual behaviour.

Types of cyber crimes cont

▶ Psychological battering

- This is a pattern of signs and symptoms, such as fearfulness and a feeling of helplessness, commonly appearing in women who are psychologically and mentally abused over an extended period by a husband or partner or stalker .

▶ Cheating By Impersonation

- ▶ The crime of falsely assuming the identity of another person in order to gain a benefit or cause harm to the other person. It is passing oneself off as another person.

▶ For example Gender switching

"Won't someone at least pretend to be female?"

Types of cyber crimes cont

▶ Trafficking

Human trafficking is a modern form of slavery. It involves controlling a person through force, fraud, or coercion to exploit the victim for forced labor, sexual exploitation, or both. Most women get involved in this through dating sites.

Types of cyber crimes cont

▶ Cyber Bullying

- ▶ Currently, cyber bullying becomes one of the fastest growing problem, and it is defined as using the computer or other electronic devices to intimidate, threaten or humiliate another individual.
- ▶ Cyber bullying most commonly takes place on the internet among teenagers.

▶ **Bullies use**

- Threats
- Intimidation
- Black Mail
- Identity Theft
- Posing As A Friend

Types of cyber crimes cont

▶ Hacking

- A hacker is someone who accesses a computer system by circumventing its security system.
 - Hackers use excellence, playfulness, cleverness and exploration in performing their activities.
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Types of cyber crimes cont

- ▶ obscenity and indecent representation of women in the cyber space.
- ▶ harassing women with sexually blackmailing mails or messages

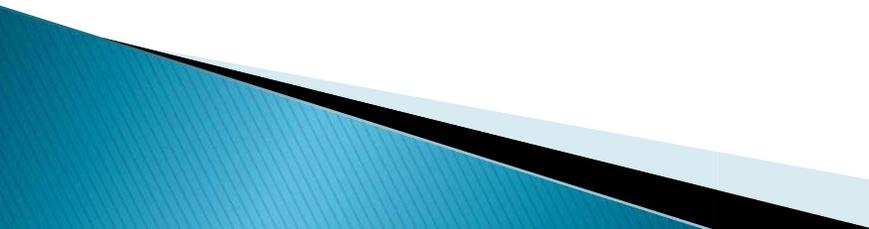
Mobile phones

Its important to highlight the use of mobile phones as a means of perpetrating violence against women

- ▶ Cell phones often have almost all the functionality of a computer.
- ▶ Therefore used to connect to these social media
- ▶ Pictures and videos can be posted within minutes on social media.
- ▶ These pictures and videos can be widely distributed and transferred via Bluetooth



HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM CYBER CRIME

- ▶ When communicating on-line,
 - Select a gender-neutral username, email address, etc.
 - Keep your primary email address private.
 - Don't give out information simply because it is requested
 - Block or ignore unwanted users.
 - Don't allow others to draw you into conflict.
 - Watch what you "say" online. Especially on social media and chat rooms
 - Know what's in your signature file. Company names and personal phone numbers
 - Never use a business account for personal use.
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HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM CYBER CRIME CONT

- Never give your password to anyone.
 - Don't provide your credit card number or other identifying information
 - Instruct children to never, ever give out personal information –
 - Be very cautious about putting any pictures of yourself or your children online anywhere, or allowing anyone else (relatives, schools, dance academies, sports associations) to publish any photos.
 - use privacy settings to restrict access to profiles so only the individuals on your contact lists are able to view your profile.
 - only add people you know in real life to your contact lists.
 - creating strong passwords.
 - Report inappropriate activity to the website or law enforcement immediately
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- ▶ Preventing technology-related Violence Against Women is an important component in ending violence against women today and contributes to creating a safe and secure environment for women and girls in every sphere of life.

▶ Thank you for you kind attention



Some useful websites

- ▶ http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/investigate/vc_majorthefts/innocent/social-networking-sites
- ▶ GenderIt.org
- ▶ www.fbi.gov
- ▶ Care.org.uk
- ▶ <http://www.uhs.wisc.edu/assault/online-stalking.shtml>