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PATH EDUCATION

Have you heard of Image-based sexual abuse (IBSA)?

The National Center on Sexual Exploitation defines IBSA as a broad term that includes a wide range of harmful experiences involving the weaponization of sexually explicit or sexualized images or videos.

It defines image-based sexual abuse (IBSA) as the creation, theft, extortion, threatened or actual distribution, or any use of sexualized or sexually explicit materials without the meaningful consent of the person depicted. This can include:

- using such images for purposes of blackmail of those depicted or to coerce the production of more sexually explicit material (often referred to as "sextortion")
- non-consensual distribution of sexually explicit or sexualized images (sometimes called "revenge porn;" this is sometimes accompanied by doxing)
- non-consensual collecting, swapping, and posting of sexually explicit or sexualized images of persons (such as in text/messaging groups or on third party platforms)
- non-consensual recording of such images or videos (including so-called "down blousing," "upskirting," or surreptitious recordings in places such as restrooms and locker rooms)
- identity theft involving the non-consensual use of a person's images for the creation of photoshopped/artificial pornography or sexualized materials intended to portray a person (popularly referred to as "cheap fake" or "deepfake" pornography)
- pressuring or harassing someone to self-generate or share sexually explicit or sexualized images

In an instant, anyone can become a victim of IBSA—whether someone has self-created images that are misused, or someone is targeted for "deepfake" creation or hidden camera capturing, or someone is abused on film, etc. No age, gender, or socioeconomic status is free from the threat of IBSA.

On Wednesday, July 31 Google announced that it is updating its search engine's algorithm and its removal request process to better combat unwanted sexually explicit AI deepfakes of people. When reported AI deepfakes are identified, Google Search will automatically filter out related search results that might pop up in the future so users won't have to repeatedly report similar images or duplicates of an image to

Google. Google Search's algorithm is also getting an updating to better tackle this issue, which has become a growing problem across the internet and social media. Generative AI tools are widely accessible and often free or available at a low cost to users, making it easy to quickly make sexually explicit deepfakes of virtually anyone. --reprinted from pcmag.com

In response to Google's announcement, the National Center on Sexual Exploitation issued the following press release:
The National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE) commended Google for implementing significant updates to its policies and processes to combat sexually explicit deepfake and AI-generated content on its Search platform.

"This milestone achievement is a major victory in the ongoing fight againstimage-based sexual abuse (IBSA)," said Dawn Hawkins, CEO, National Center on Sexual Exploitation.

"We applaud Google for these critical updates and recognize the positive impact they will have on individuals affected by deepfake and AI-generated pornography. As technology has evolved, the risk of falling victim to image-based sexual abuse has escalated dramatically. In just the recent few years, hundreds of thousands have been victimized by this invasive form of exploitation. The emotional, psychological, and reputational harm inflicted by these non-consensual images is profound and far-reaching. This is why Google's updates are not just timely but essential."
Google has been on the Dirty Dozen List, and these updates were developed based on critical feedback from experts and survivor advocates, and they include several key improvements designed to protect individuals from the harmful impacts of explicit fake content:

1. Explicit Result Filtering: When someone successfully requests the removal of an explicit deepfake image, Google will now aim to filter all explicit results on similar searches about that individual, significantly reducing the likelihood of re-exposure to harmful content.
2. Deduplication: Google's systems will automatically scan for and remove duplicate sexually explicit images that have already been successfully removed, providing more comprehensive protection for victims.
3. Ranking Updates: Google is updating its ranking algorithms to demote explicit fake content, promoting high-quality, non-explicit content instead. This change ensures that harmful material is less likely to appear prominently in search results.
4. Demotions: Websites with a high volume of removal requests will be demoted in search rankings, discouraging them from hosting explicit fake content and protecting individuals from repeated exposure.

"These changes are a direct result of Google's commitment to listening to and acting upon the experiences and needs of IBSA survivors. By prioritizing survivor feedback, Google has taken an essential step towards creating a safer and more respectful digital environment," Hawkins said.
"While this is a significant victory, we acknowledge that there is still much work to be done in the fight against IBSA. We call on all tech companies, policymakers, and advocacy groups to continue working together to develop innovative solutions and robust support systems for those affected by image-based sexual abuse."

PATH AND YOU

Give for Good Louisville™
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF LOUISVILLE

Click here on September 12 to donate: PATH Give for Good

It's time for PATH's largest fundraiser of the year. Thursday, Sept. 12 is a 24 hour on-line day of giving that PATH relies on to fund our operational efforts for the year. We appreciate your support because our organization is all volunteer led so your donation goes directly to supporting our mission.
Here's what donor financial support allowed us to accomplish since Give For Good 2023:

- Educated over 250 people about human trafficking.
- Participate on the Kentucky Foster Care Review Board.
- Participate on the KY Statewide HT Task Force.
- In May 2024, presented at an international conference for meeting and event professionals.
- In June 2024, continued the foster care partnership by presenting at the annual Youth Empowerment Conference in Lexington, KY.
- Began strategic planning including board development and updating our operational procedures to help us move smoothly into the future.

We thank you for your generosity and your support of the effort to stop human trafficking.

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PATH IN THE BOARDROOM

PATH welcomed four new board members during the August Board Meeting. They bring a wealth of experience and knowledge about human trafficking, legal issues, victim services and the foster care system. We are delighted to have them join the board.

Amanda Chapman, MSSW, LCSW

Mackenzie Grove

Amanda was born and raised in Greenup County, Kentucky. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Morehead State University, majoring in sociology with an emphasis in criminology and minoring in Social Work. She went on to earn her Master of Science in Social Work from the University of Louisville in 2012. Amanda is licensed as a Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) in Kentucky and Indiana.

Amanda has over 20 years of extensive experience in supporting individuals with mental health and substance use disorders, crime victims, children, and families. She began her career as a victim's advocate in a domestic violence shelter and advanced her skills at a child advocacy center (CAC), where she served as a family advocate, forensic interviewer, therapist, and Associate Director. At the CAC, she received training from esteemed organizations including the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the National Criminal Justice Training Center, and the National Child Advocacy Center. During her tenure, Amanda conducted over 2,000 interviews with children, including victims of human trafficking. Amanda's experience provides a unique perspective that can assist communities and organizations in combating human trafficking.

In 2020, Amanda joined the Jeffersontown Police Department to establish and develop its first victim service program. Her work led to the expansion of the Angel program walk-in model to include a quick response model and post-overdose outreach services, culminating in the creation of the REACH (Respond, Evaluate, Advocate, Connect, and Heal) model. This comprehensive program has reached over three thousand individuals and families.

Amanda is trained in various therapeutic modalities and employs a trauma-informed, victim-centered approach to promote healing and strives to help individuals and families overcome barriers to living life to the fullest. Amanda enjoys spending time

Mackenzie is currently in pursuit of her masters in social work. Most importantly to her, she is a dedicated foster parent, mentor and trainer for the Department of Community Based Services. Her mentorship, trainings and focus are upon aiding Kentucky foster homes in the care of sexually abused and trafficked children. As a specialized foster home for DCBS since 2018, she and her family provide care for some of the most traumatized youth in out of home care. When not working alongside DCBS in the training and support for foster carers, Mackenzie is an avid youth volunteer within her community.

with her family and is committed to making a positive impact in her community.

Stephanie Perry-LeBlanc, MSW, LSW, CTPI

Stephanie has her Master of Social Work from Marshall University and Bachelor of Arts from West Virginia Wesleyan College. She trained in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT), Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality (CAMS), Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing (EMDR), and holds her certification as a Certified Trauma Professional (CTPI). Currently, she is employed as a Licensed Social Worker, CTPI with Ironton Lawrence County Community Action Organization-Family Medical Centers (ILCAO-FMC) where she provides behavioral health care clinical services to survivors of various traumatic experiences (e. g., sexual abuse/assaults, human trafficking, suicidality, grief/loss, accidents). Prior to her current position, Stephanie served as a Child Protective Services investigator for the State of West Virginia and as a case manager whereby she provided socially necessary services to care givers and their minor children. Throughout her career as a social worker, Stephanie has worked with vulnerable and marginalized populations. She has a passion and dedication to bringing awareness and quality care to those who otherwise may not have a voice.

Barbara Sullivan, OP

Barbara is a Dominican Sister of Peace, most recently retired as Mission Coordinator for the Dominican Sisters at St. Catharine Motherhouse in Springfield, Kentucky. A native of Massachusetts, her earliest years in ministry were in education in New York, Boston, and at St. Catharine College in Kentucky. She has a BA in History from St. Francis College in Brooklyn and an MA in American Studies from Boston College. In 1988 she earned a law degree from the University of Notre Dame. As a lawyer, she represented low-income clients with the Appalachian Research and Defense Fund in Somerset, KY and with the Legal Aid Society of Louisville, where she primarily represented victims of domestic violence in protective orders and divorce cases. After retiring from the Legal Aid Society, she volunteered at Immigration Legal Services of the Archdiocese of Louisville.

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PATH Coalition of Kentucky | [Website](#)