



real

ISSUE 8 | OCT/NOV 2023

Advocating
Against Romance
Scammers

The World Came Together!

World Romance Scam Prevention Day

In January of 2023, AARS had the idea of creating a day where the world could unite and bring awareness and education to romance scams. Once the day was named and registered, we began planning how to acknowledge World Romance Scam Prevention Day.

To reach people worldwide, we thought of an informational webinar. Not just one that provided the red flags of a scammer and tips on how to stay safe, but how social media companies are keeping their consumers safe, the importance of reporting a romance scam, the length an investigation can take, and the consequential effects one's psyche endures once a romance scam has victimized someone.

AARS's Board of Directors met every other week from March to August and every week after until the big day. The Board's expertise helped make this day as successful as it was, and WOW was it successful. We had organizations, law enforcement, social media, banks...So many involved and several countries!

Thank you to everyone who participated, shared information, and created PSAs! October 3, 2023, was a good day, no, a spectacular day! Next year is already on our minds, and we can not wait!

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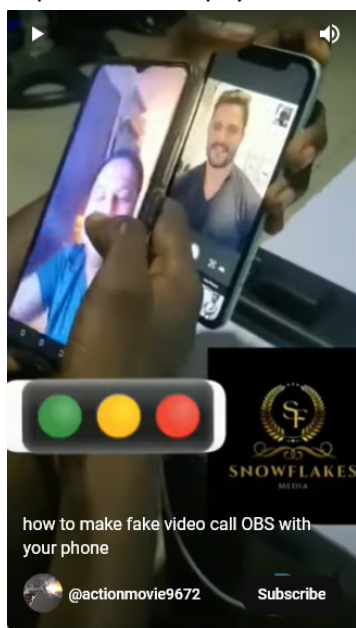
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TIP OF THE MONTH: SCAMMERS DO USE VIDEO CHAT!

Video chats are common amongst friends and family. We like to visually see how the person is doing, watch their facial reactions, and have a warmer way to communicate rather than through text or email. But what if the video is just a creation, not a real person, no real expressions, or emotions. This is what our technology has come to. Not only have scammers picked up on how to make fraudulent videos, but they also make "how to" videos; teaching one another their deceitful ways and publicly post the instructions to sites such as YouTube (see below).

Scammers are known to create fake videos, and off course, we are now hearing more about Artificial Intelligence (AI). AI's ability to make a computer-generated person act and look as real as a live human, for example same mannerisms, facial expressions, and physical movements,



Courtesy of:



**"I AM ON A SECRET
MISSION AND NOT
ALLOWED TO CHAT BY
VIDEO"**

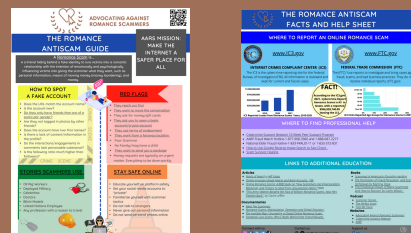
all on demand, is astounding. What is there to prove to a victim of a scam that these videos are not real? That the person doesn't exist. No heartbeat. No real emotion. The psychological effects from these encounters can be devastating, if not destructive to a victim's life.

It is so important people are made aware that video chats by someone they have never met in person, also cannot be trusted. Years prior, this was a "tell all". Scammers would often say "I can't video chat because the connection isn't good" or "I am on a secret mission and not allowed to chat by video". Today however, we are fighting the good fight against a type of technology that can fool the trained eye. We simply must continue educating on the up-and-coming scammer tactics, and hope the word is shared amongst all online users.

AARS WEBSITE PROVIDES...

1. Where to report a romance scam
2. Educational Resources
3. Social Media safety tips
4. How to identify a romance scammer
5. Stories from Identity Theft Victims
6. The latest advocating from AARS
7. Photo library of pictures used in scams
8. Option of how you can help the cause

Check us out and download your free 1 page
"help sheet" on romance scams!



How To Do A Fake Video Call With DeepFake Live on Google Chat Whatsapp - Facebook Yahoo Boys Update

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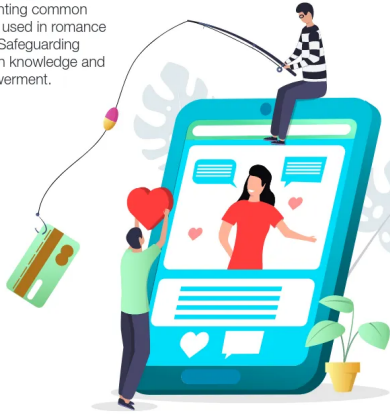
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THE U.S. and U.K. WORK TOGETHER FOR VICTIMS!

THAMES VALLEY POLICE ASKS AARS TO SHARE THE WORD...

Staying Safe from ROMANCE FRAUD

A practical guide highlighting common tactics used in romance fraud. Safeguarding through knowledge and empowerment.



Developed with Criminologist and Forensic Linguist Professor Elisabeth Carter, Carter & Day consultancy

On October 3, in commemoration of World Romance Scam Prevention Day, AARS was given the privilege to introduce the "Staying Safe from Romance Fraud" informational booklet to the United States including U.S. resources. This booklet was launched by the UK's Thames Valley Police, and developed with Criminologist and Forensic Linguist Professor Elisabeth Carter, Carter & Day Consultancy. The book explains many of the red flags and tactics of a romance scammer along with great examples of how a fraudster communicates with a victim. This informational booklet is free to download and can be found on the AARS website. It's a wonderful source for law enforcement, social workers, banks, any entity associated with victims, cybercrime, and fraud fighting.

DID YOU WATCH?

BBB Institute for Market Place Trust hosted a webinar "Protect Yourself from Romance Scams". This 60 minute webinar included a Pig Butchering survivor, AARS Cofounder, Kathy Waters, and Prosecuting Attorney with the REACT task force in Santa Clara County, Erin West. View it here: <https://lnkd.in/eBG2u8iw>



"Protect Yourself From Romance Scams"
BBB Institute for Market Place Trust Webinar

LIBRARY OF IDENTITY THEFT VICTIMS

UNDERSTANDING IDENTITY THEFT VICTIMS THE HARMFUL AFFECTS



On the AARS website you can find a large library of identity theft victims whose photographs were stolen by scammers and used to conduct online romance scams. These images, often times, provide closure to a scam for a defrauded victim.

AARS strongly advises not to reach out to the real person in the photos. They too are victims and are having to emotionally comprehend the negative impact their pictures are having on innocent individuals.

Each picture is strategically marked to prevent scammers from re-using the images posted by the AARS site.

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