Do you know what sexual extortion is?

Has someone ever threatened to share your sexual images online?

Resources by young people, for young people

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GSMA
Mobile Alliance to Combat
Digital Child Sexual Exploitation

Do you know what sexual extortion is?

Sexual extortion, also called "sextortion", is when someone threatens to share your private, sexual pictures or videos unless you do what they say.

Being sexually extorted is harmful and upsetting – no matter what the person is demanding, whether it's money, more pictures or anything else.

Types of sexual extortion

- **Financial sexual extortion –** someone threatens to share your private images or videos unless you pay them.
- **Relational sexual extortion –** someone you know, like a partner, classmate or friend, threatens to share your private images or videos to control or pressure you.
- **Sadistic sexual extortion –** someone threatens to share your private images or videos not for money, but to scare, hurt or humiliate you.
- **AI-generated sexual extortion –** someone uses generative AI to make fake or edited photos that look real, called deepfakes. Even though the image is fake, it can be just as harmful as a real one – and it's still sexual extortion.

Did you know... technology plays a big part in sexual extortion?
A research report found that 61% of young people targeted knew the person online, and most were threatened through technology too – like messaging apps, social media or video calls.[1]

In 2025, **one in five teens** said they'd experienced sextortion. Some people are more at risk, including:

- LGBTQ+ young people
- Boys aged 14–17
- Young people experiencing loneliness or poverty

Remember: you are not to blame and help is available.

We've put together resources to support you or someone you know who's been affected by sexual extortion.

[1] This information is based on research from Thorn into how sexual extortion affects young people today. Source: Thorn (2025). *Sexual Extortion & Young People: Navigating Threats in Digital Environments*.