

CYBER CIVIL RIGHTS INITIATIVE

WHO WE ARE

Cyber Civil Rights Initiative (CCRI) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization advocating for social, technological, and legal innovation to fight online abuse and discrimination.¹ Our first campaign, End Revenge Porn, provides support and advocacy for victims of nonconsensual pornography, commonly referred to as “revenge porn.”

HOLLY JACOBS

Founder, President,
Executive Director

MARY ANNE FRANKS

Vice President, Legislative
& Tech Policy Director

CHARLOTTE LAWS

Secretary

CHRISTINA M. HARTMAN

Treasurer

CARRIE GOLDBERG

Board Member

WHAT IS “REVENGE PORN”?

The term “revenge porn,” though frequently used, is somewhat misleading. Many perpetrators are not motivated by revenge or by any personal feelings toward the victim. A more accurate term is nonconsensual pornography (NCP), defined as the distribution of sexually graphic images of individuals without their consent.

NCP transforms unwilling individuals into sexual entertainment for strangers. Victims are routinely threatened with sexual assault, stalked, harassed, fired from jobs, and forced to change schools. It can destroy victims’ intimate relationships, as well as their educational and employment opportunities. Furthermore, victims suffer extreme psychological trauma, anxiety, depression, and some have even committed suicide.

MISSION OF FIRST CAMPAIGN (END REVENGE PORN)

- To provide direct services for NCP victims through a phone helpline, one-on-one victim services support, and educational resources;
- To increase awareness of NCP through public education, specifically presentations at universities, conferences, and in the media;
- To help develop and promote technological solutions to fight the practice; and
- To enhance the digital abuse policy debate by supporting legislative bodies in the United States to create sound laws or strengthen existing laws that prevent NCP, through legal guidance, sample legislation, and legal testimony.

CCRI ACTIVITIES

VICTIM SERVICES

CCRI provides emotional support, technical advice, referrals, and information to victims of NCP. Victims reach out to CCRI through the Helpline² or one of our websites³ to receive support from a counselor or victim advocate. CCRI also provides NCP educational material and resources to victims and the general public through our websites and social media accounts.

PUBLIC EDUCATION & AWARENESS

¹ For more information about CCRI, please contact the Founder and Executive Director, Holly Jacobs at holly@cybercivilrights.org

² 844-878-CCRI (2274): Provides emotional support, technical advice, and referrals to victims of NCP.

³ CyberCivilRights.org or EndRevengePorn.org

CCRI works to raise awareness and educate the public on NCP. In addition to posting information about NCP (e.g., applicable laws, resources for victims, blog posts, infographics) on our websites, CCRI's board members and the Executive Director, Dr. Holly Jacobs, give presentations about NCP at universities and conferences, participate in media interviews, and write op-eds for such media outlets as *The New York Times*, *CNN*, *The Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, and *The Huffington Post*.

TECH OUTREACH & CONSULTING

CCRI works closely with tech industry leaders such as Twitter, Facebook, and Google regarding their policies against online harassment and NCP. CCRI encourages these companies to develop design-based solutions to NCP and other forms of online abuse. In 2015, several major companies announced⁴ the banning of NCP from their platforms and the implementation of reporting procedures to investigate complaints.

LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT AND LEGAL RESEARCH

In order to prevent NCP from happening to others in the future, CCRI supports the implementation of strong, finely-tailored laws against NCP that respect freedom of speech. CCRI provides consultative research support to legislators and their staff while they are drafting legislation. CCRI's coverage in the media drives legislators to reach out to CCRI for input on their bills. Other times, constituents who have read our "Educate Lawmakers"⁵ page urge their legislators to pass a law against NCP in their state, who then reach out to CCRI for input on legislative drafts. This demand-driven approach ensures that lawmakers know that a NCP law matters to their voters and is not just the soapbox of another non-profit.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE AUGUST 2012⁶

- Launched a 24-hour Crisis Helpline in October 2014 for victims of NCP
- Issued support to over 3,000 online harassment victims worldwide
- Collaborate with the Cyber Civil Rights Legal Project⁷ and 28 other attorneys to provide pro bono legal services to NCP victims
- Were integral to the banning of NCP from Twitter and Facebook, as well as Google and Microsoft's decisions to honor requests to remove NCP from search results
- Have advised legislators on drafting "revenge porn" legislation in 30 states, D.C., and the federal government
- Helped 17 US states pass criminal "revenge porn" laws

⁴ Reddit banned NCP in February 2015, Facebook and Twitter followed suit in March, and Google and Bing announced that it would honor requests to remove NCP from search results in June and July.

⁵ endrevengeporn.org/impact-legislation/

⁶ CCRI started as the End Revenge Porn campaign in August 2012

⁷ Project launched by the law firm of K&L Gates to provide pro bono legal support for victims of NCP. See www.cyberrightsproject.com/ for more information.