

CONSENT & SOCIAL MEDIA

IN 2019

**“...correctly navigating
the issue of consent at
university.”**

LAYOUT

Law

- Consent
- Sexual offences

Society

- Attitudes towards sex
- Influences

Social Media

Case Studies

What is...

SEXUAL

CONSENT?

“ Consent is agreement or permission expressed through affirmative, voluntary words or actions that are mutually understandable to all parties involved, to engage in a specific sexual act at a specific time ”

SEXUAL CONSENT

VALID

- communicated
- both in mutual agreement
- An affirmative “YES”
- a “NO” is a “NO”
- Consent can be withdrawn at any time, as long as it is clearly communicated

INVALID

- “assumed”
- body language indicating “YES”
- If the consent is influenced by:
 - **Threat (blackmail)**
 - **Additional substances (alcohol, drugs etc.)**
 - **An earlier “YES” if their current communication is “NO”**

LAW ON SEXUAL OFFENCES

Sexual Offences Act (Scotland) 2009

- rape
- assault by penetration
- sexual assault
- causing a person to engage in sexual activity.

Attitudes towards sex: influences?

- Pornography
 - A poll published in March 2019 revealed that 45% of 18-25 year olds Brits claimed pornography was their main source of sex education.
- Alcohol or drugs
 - Involved in 80% of rape cases according to a study
- Hook-up culture
 - “Gender based power balance”
 - “Peer culture”

SOCIAL MEDIA

STATISTICS from 2018

- 81% of 18-34 year olds actively use Instagram world-wide
- 77% of Snapchat users in the UK are under 25
- the 2nd largest demographic group of Facebook users are 18-24 year olds in the UK (3.7 million)
- 33 % of Twitter users are 15-24 year olds
- 97% of all 18-24 year-olds use YouTube actively



SEX & SOCIAL MEDIA

REVENGE

PORNOGRAPHY?

- Disclosing private sexual photographs and films without consent and with intent to cause distress was made a criminal offence in 2015.
- If a person discloses the image with the intention of causing distress to the person in the image” - this behaviour could be captured by section 33 of the Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015 as the ‘revenge porn’ offence”

LACK OF CONSENT IN SOCIAL MEDIA?

...in practical terms:

- Distributing video/picture/screenshot- material of a person without their consent
- Taking a picture/filming without the person being aware and hence without their consent possessing this material
- Law around non-consensual taking, making and sharing of sexual images is being reviewed

CASE STUDIES

- Cambridge University
- Edinburgh University
- University of Essex
- Heriot-Watt University
- Strathclyde University
- Warwick University

**THANK
YOU!**

RESOURCES

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bbcthree/article/bb79a2ce-0de4-4965-98f0-9ebbcfcc2a60>

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/507417/number-of-facebook-users-in-the-united-kingdom-uk-by-age-and-gender/>

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/278320/age-distribution-of-twitter-users-in-great-britain/>

<https://www.avocadosocial.com/the-latest-uk-social-media-statistics-for-2018/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zSXSfYPfGLQ>

<https://studentaffairs.indiana.edu/violence-prevention/consent/index.shtml>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/law-around-non-consensual-taking-making-and-sharing-of-sexual-images-to-be-reviewed>

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2009/9/contents>

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1077801219844606>

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/07/17/rape-sexual-assault-reports-students-rise-ten-fold-investigation/>

<https://1752group.com/>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/gb/blog/fulfillment-any-age/201303/how-casual-sex-can-affect-our-mental-health>