



14 January 2016
Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
By email: legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

Re: Phenomenon colloquially referred to as 'revenge porn', which involved sharing private sexual images and recordings of a person without their consent, with the intention to cause that person harm

We commend the Committee for holding an inquiry into this important issue, and welcome the opportunity to contribute.

Equality Rights Alliance (ERA) is Australia's largest network advocating for women's equality, leadership, and recognition of women's diversity. ERA's Young Women's Advisory Group (YWAG) is a group of ten young women (aged 18-30) across Australia bringing young women's voices and perspectives to ERA's projects. We aim to incorporate young women's voices into ERA policy and inform policy in areas that will effectively respond to the needs of young women.

We endorse the submission made by the Australian Women Against Violence Alliance (AWAVA) to this inquiry. We reiterate that 'revenge porn' is a phenomenon which particularly affects young women.

YWAG recently conducted an Australian national survey of young women in school, aged 16-21, about their sex education experiences in order to establish the lay of the land regarding sex education perceptions of young women in Australia. YWAG believes in the importance of sexuality education which is student-centered and empowering to young people.

The vast majority of respondents to our survey reported that their sex education had been a negative experience and did not cover topics that were relevant to their lives. YWAG advocates for the inclusion of comprehensive sexuality respectful relationships education in the national curriculum, including information about the role that technology plays in the romantic and sexual relationships of many young people and how to manage this safely and respectfully.

Sincerely,

Young Women's Advisory Group
Equality Rights Alliance

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