



**Enhancing Strategies to Support
Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence (TFSV) Survivors in Singapore**

Research Question: How can current state policies better support survivors of TFSV, specifically Image-based Sexual Abuse (IBSA) survivors, in Singapore?

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“The internet never forgets” - Dr Giulia Mennillo

Executive Summary

Physical sexual assault and sexual violence have been on the rise in recent decades, and continues to be an ongoing phenomenon that is prevalent across all societies. In recognition of these social problems, many states have revised their legislation and developed robust support systems for survivors, while others are still catching up. With the turn of the millennium, it was followed with the accelerated advancement of technology. As technology became increasingly intertwined with our daily lives and at the convenience of our palms, sexual violence started taking on a new form, materialising as technology-facilitated sexual violence (TFSV). This exacerbated social issues and further complicated its management.

As with physical sexual assault, TFSV has proliferated across the globe as it takes on myriad forms. In Singapore, repeated cases of voyeuristic acts and high-profile cases of non-consensual dissemination of intimate images have prompted the need for action to be taken. However, given the novelty of this phenomenon, there is a lack of sufficient measures implemented to address the problem, and the support system for TFSV survivors unfortunately proves to be lacking.

This paper seeks to provide greater insight into TFSV in Singapore, specifically image-based sexual abuse (IBSA). It endeavours to shed light on the current situation of TFSV in Singapore. Our research findings show that there is a lack of awareness of TFSV and the support system for survivors, and that the current legislation in Singapore does not sufficiently address the needs of TFSV survivors. To plug these gaps in the system, we recommend a range of policies, including take-down orders and regulation of messaging applications as immediate short-term legal solutions to tackle the non-consensual dissemination of intimate media locally, an IBSA Taskforce helmed by INTERPOL to tackle such dissemination which take on a cross-border dimension, and education initiatives as a long-term measure to raise awareness of TFSV. These policy recommendations ultimately seek to stem and holistically mitigate the occurrences of TFSV in Singapore.