IWF
Internet Watch Foundation

Working together to stop child sexual abuse online

A view from the frontline of online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation

Chris Hughes | IWF Hotline Director

IWF

VISION:

An internet free from child sexual abuse

- **Not-for profit child protection organisation –** established 28 years ago.
- We **identify images and videos** showing the sexual abuse of children.
- We work **with partners and law enforcement globally** to have them removed.
- **Reporting portals in 54 countries** – latest being Sri Lanka
- We provide datasets and services – including **IWF Hash List** and **URL List** – to companies to prevent and disrupt child sexual abuse.
- We work with tech companies to support them to build **safety tech** of the future.

Finding content

- **Public reports**
  We take public reports in the UK and from our 54 international portals.
- **Police and Industry**

  We take reports from police as well as reports from the internet industry.
- **Proactive**
  Our analysts proactively search all public areas of the internet.
- **Reports from child victims**
  Children can report to us in the UK via Report Remove and in India through the Meri Trust Line.
- **Crawling**
  We use technology to automatically crawl from site to site looking for known content.

VISION:

An internet free from child sexual abuse

Every 80 seconds,
IWF analysts assess
a webpage.

Every 114 seconds,
that webpage shows
a child being
sexually abused.

Scale of the problem in 2023

392,665

Reports assessed

275,652

Reports were confirmed to contain images or videos of children suffering sexual abuse

1,000,000+

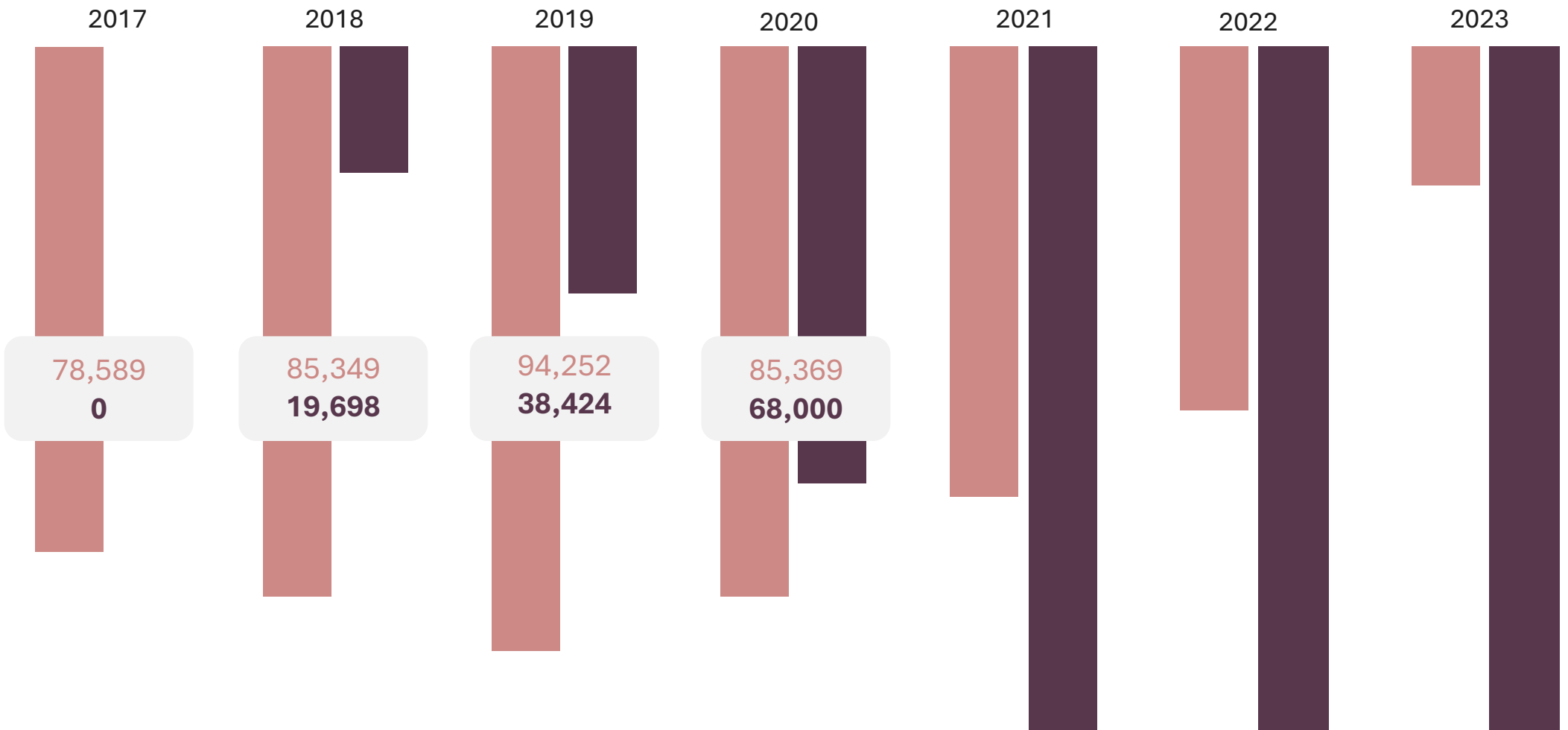
As each report contains at least one, and sometimes thousands of images, **this equates to millions of criminal images** removed from the internet.

↑ 27% (254,070)

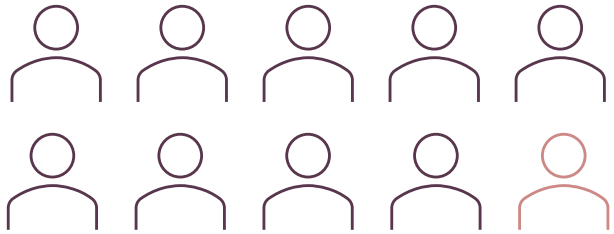
Increase in reports including ‘self-generated’

‘Not self-generated’
(Offender Generated /Present)

‘Technology Assisted / Self-generated’
(Child alone)



92%

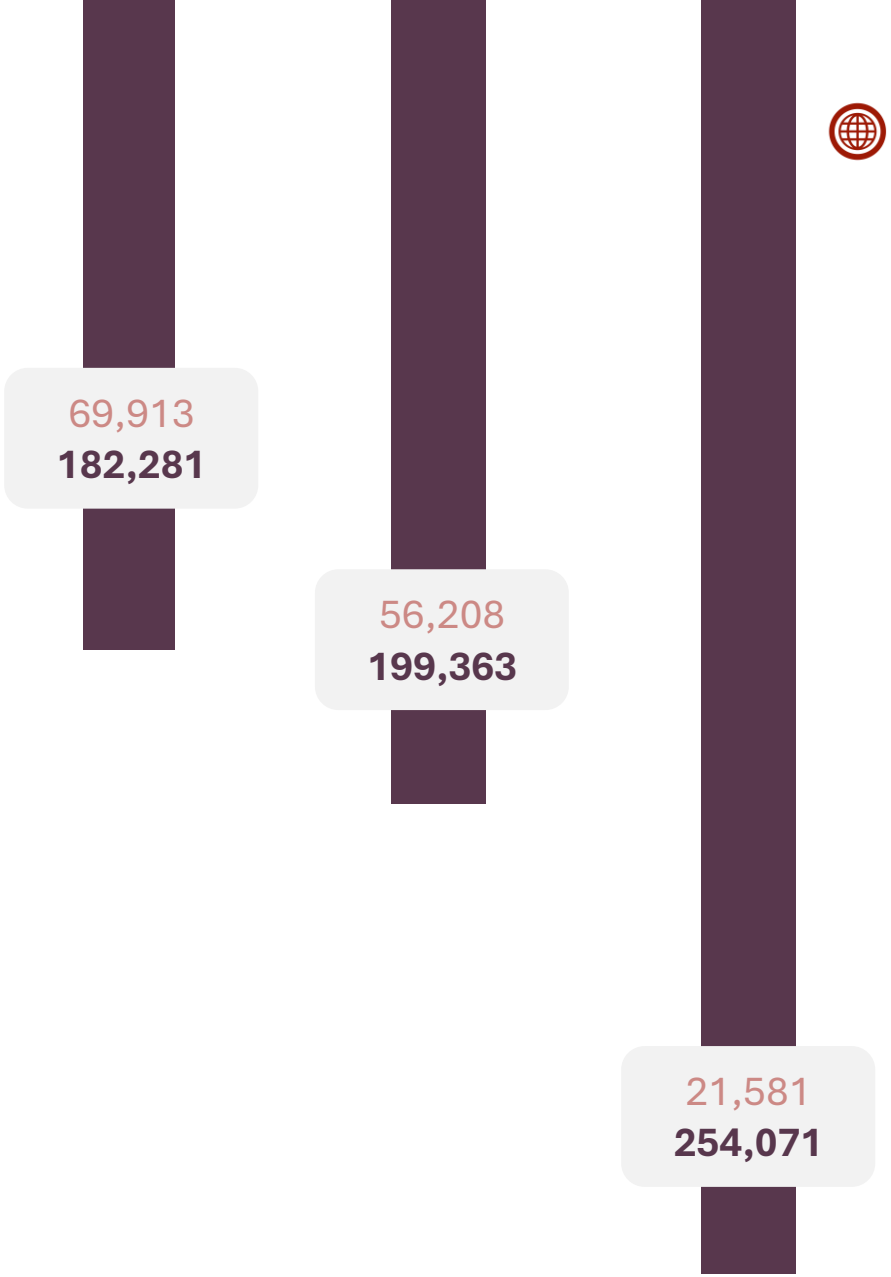


Sexual imagery created of children when they are online, often in the supposed ‘safe spaces’ of their bedrooms, now accounts for almost **nine in every ten** reports.

This is preventable!

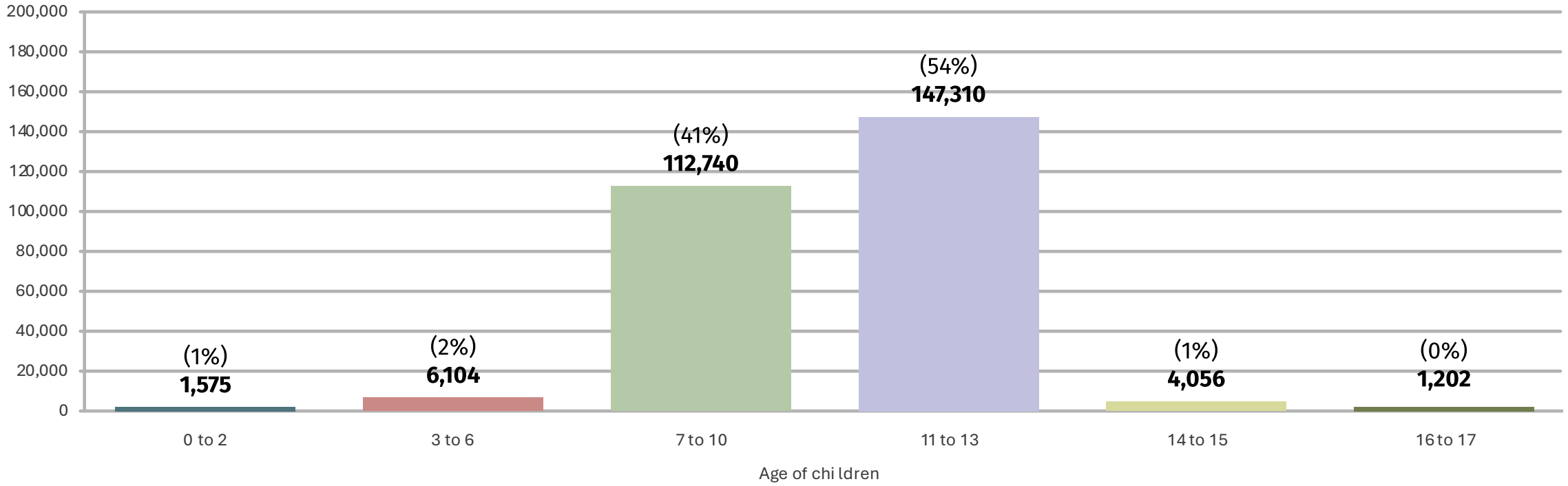
2,401

‘Self-generated’ images of 3-6 year olds



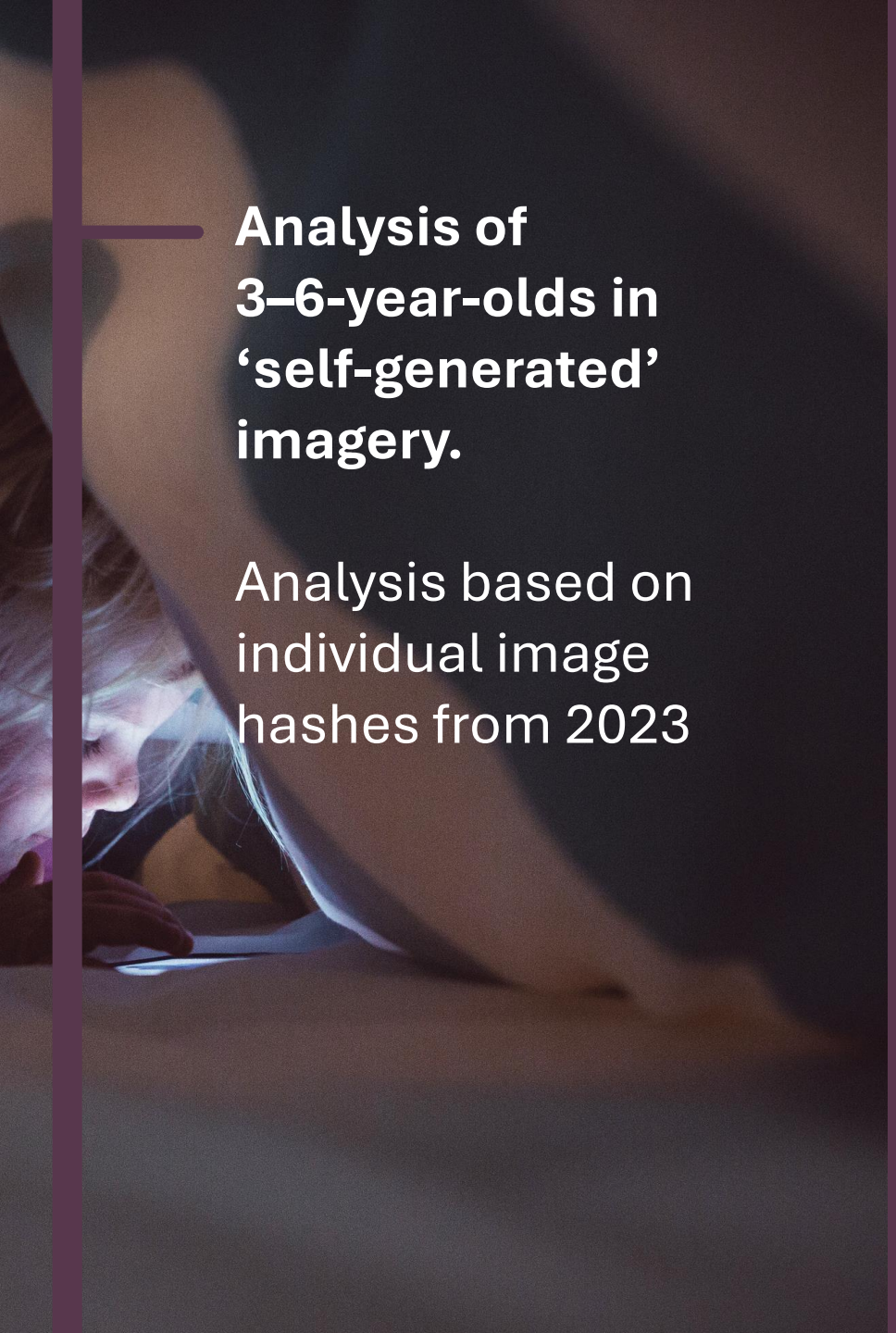
↑ 25%

Increase in 7-10 year olds



↑ 1%

Increase in 11-13 year olds



Analysis of 3–6-year-olds in ‘self-generated’ imagery.

Analysis based on individual image hashes from 2023

IWF

LOCATION:

Nearly half were recorded in a bedroom **(47%).**

SEX:

♀ **91%** were girls.

PROXIMITY TO OTHERS:

Most were pictured seemingly alone: A quarter involved at least one other child (28%).

ANALYSIS OF ACTIVITY:

3/5
showed “sexual posing with nudity”

16%
showed rubbing of genitals

15%
showed penetration – children penetrating themselves, or another child

Sexual Extortion of children

Reporting SARs Cymraeg

NCA
National Crime Agency

Protecting the public from serious and organised crime

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News

NCA issues urgent warning about 'sextortion'

Cyber crime | Child sexual abuse

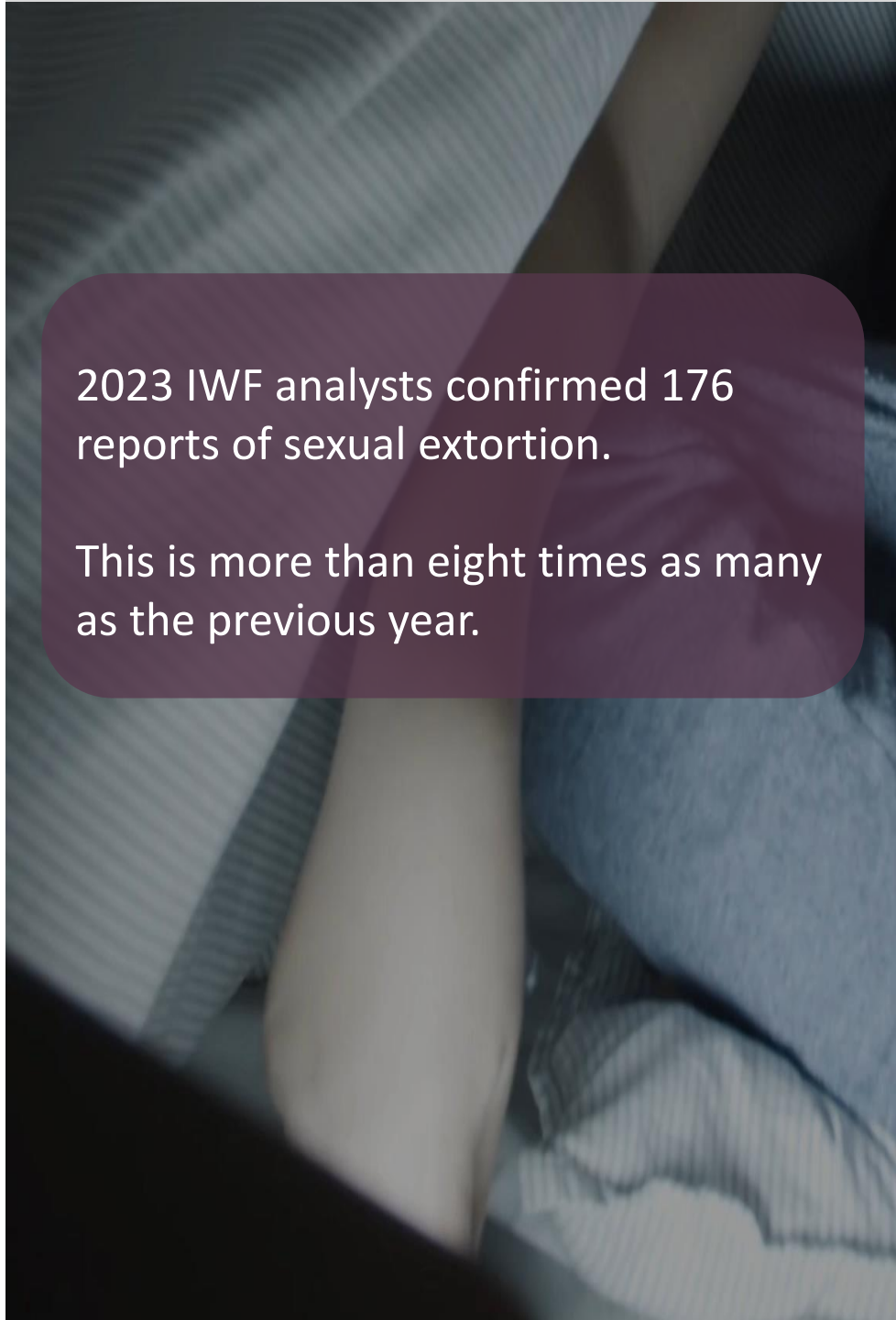
The National Crime Agency has issued an alert to hundreds of thousands of education professionals following a considerable increase in global cases of financially motivated sexual extortion – a type of online blackmail widely known as 'sextortion'.

Sextortion involves people being forced into paying money or meeting another financial demand, after an offender has threatened to release nude or semi-nude photos of them. This could be a real photo taken by the victim, or a fake image created of them by the offender.

Specialists from the NCA's CEOP Education team have produced the alert, which was issued to teachers across the UK today (Monday 29 April).

Latest from twitter

Visit the NCA timeline on Twitter



2023 IWF analysts confirmed 176 reports of sexual extortion.

This is more than eight times as many as the previous year.

Sexual Extortion - ‘Sextortion’ of children

- **Sexually motivated:** Offenders coerce victims into producing intimate and sexually explicit photos or videos.
- Sexual gratification – The production of more often increasingly extreme imagery.
- Images and coercion may be used facilitate contact abuse.
- Victim contact details may be ‘traded’ with other offenders and used in swaps as a form of human currency.

- **Financially motivated:** sexually coerced extortion or ‘sextortion' is a type of blackmail where offenders use intimate photos or videos of their victims to extort money from them.
- Financial Reward – Offenders target young people and adults alike.
- When shared online, the publication of the images signals the end stage of the extortion process.

Boy/Girl Image Prevalence (Online Reports)

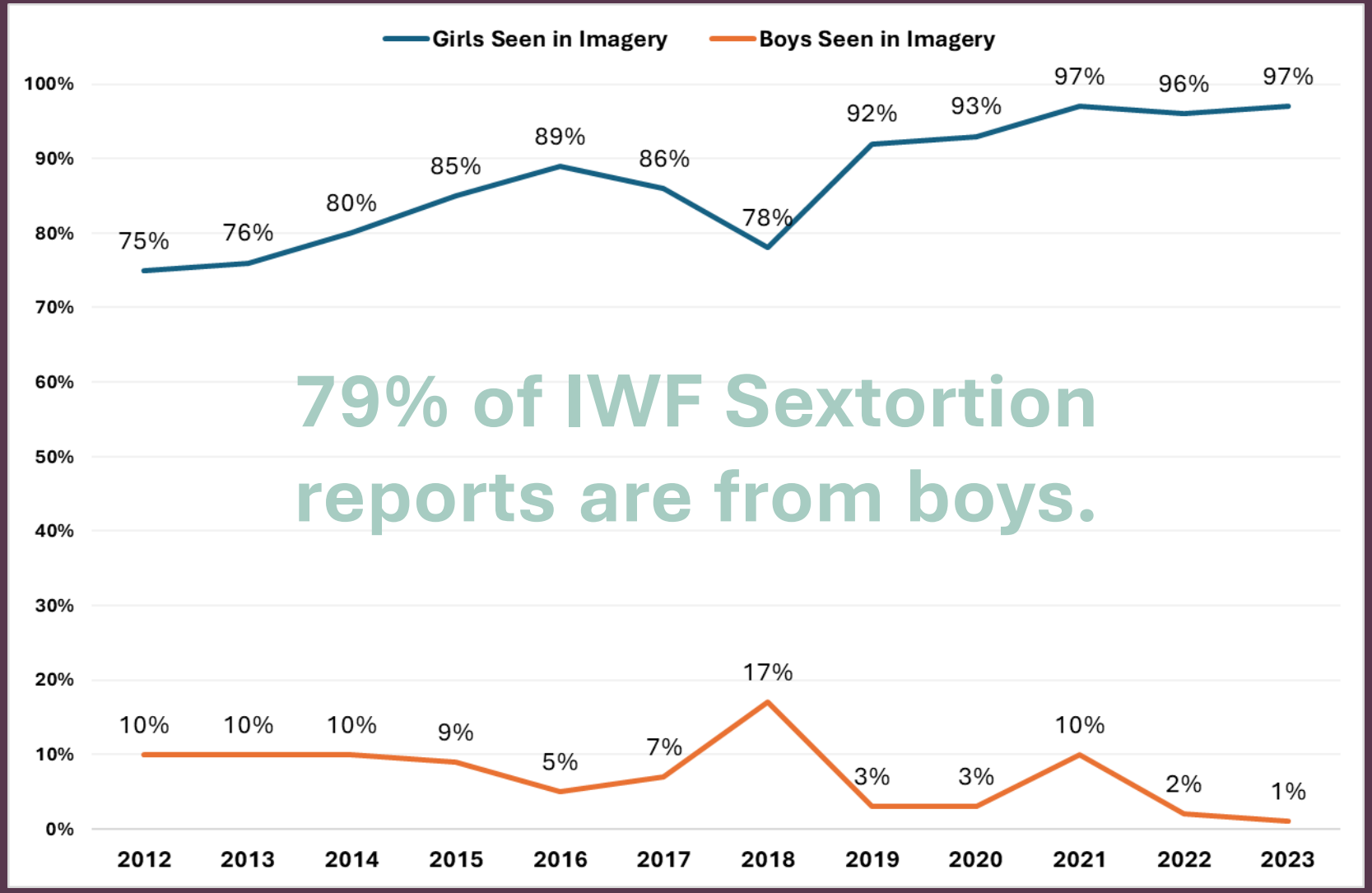
In 2022

97%
of the reports showed girls (264,246)

1%
of the reports showed boys (3,251)

5%
of the reports showed both sexes (5,394)

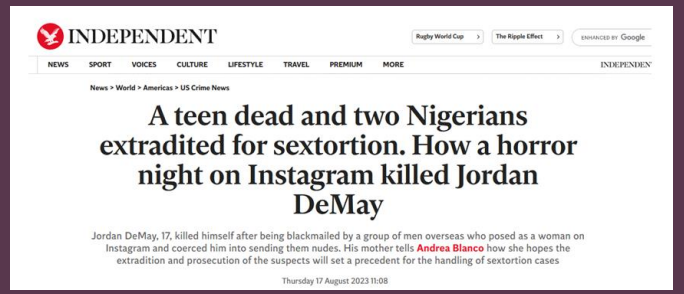
A small number were unidentifiable.



79% of IWF Sextortion reports are from boys.

Sextortion: The Threat / ‘MO’

1. Identify target online (Social Media)
2. Approach and befriend
3. Request to connect in separate ‘private’ message space
4. Suggest swapping of nude images
5. Demand money / more images / access to siblings / friends


INDEPENDENT

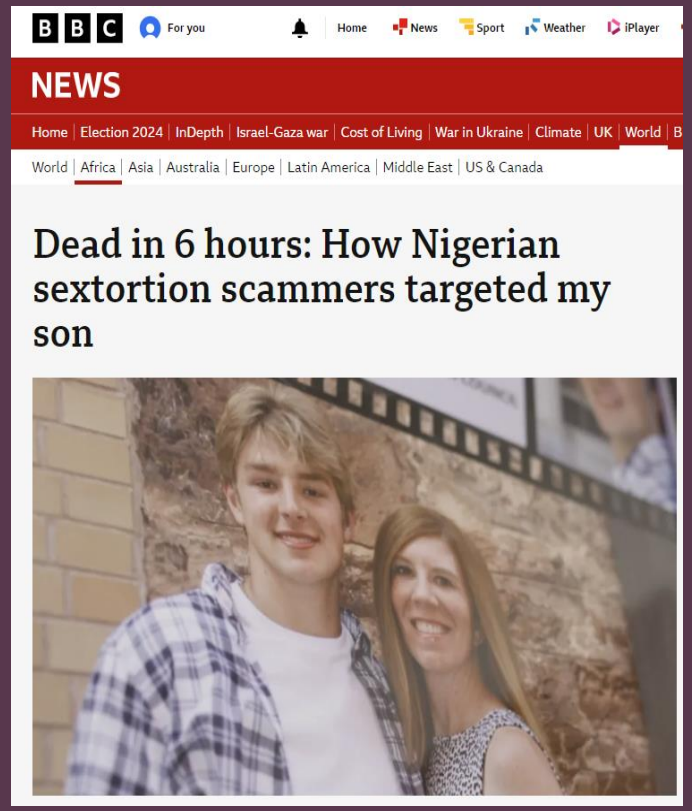
NEWS SPORT VOICES CULTURE LIFESTYLE TRAVEL PREMIUM MORE

News > World > Americas > US Crime News

A teen dead and two Nigerians extradited for sextortion. How a horror night on Instagram killed Jordan DeMay

Jordan DeMay, 17, killed himself after being blackmailed by a group of men overseas who posed as a woman on Instagram and coerced him into sending them nudes. His mother tells Andrea Blanco how she hopes the extradition and prosecution of the suspects will set a precedent for the handling of sextortion cases

Thursday 17 August 2023 11:08



Offender: "I have screenshot all ur followers and tags can send this nudes to everyone and also send your nudes to your Family and friends Until it goes viral...All you've to do is to cooperate with me and I won't expose you"

Offender: "Are you gonna cooperate with me"

Victim: "I'm kms rn" ["I'm kill myself right now"]

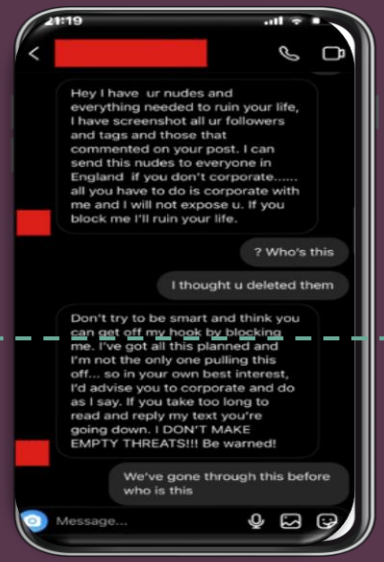
Victim: "Bc of you" ["Because of you"]

Offender: "Good"

Offender: "Do that fast"

Offender: "Or I'll make you do it"

Offender: "I swear to God"



Sextortion: The Dangers of AI

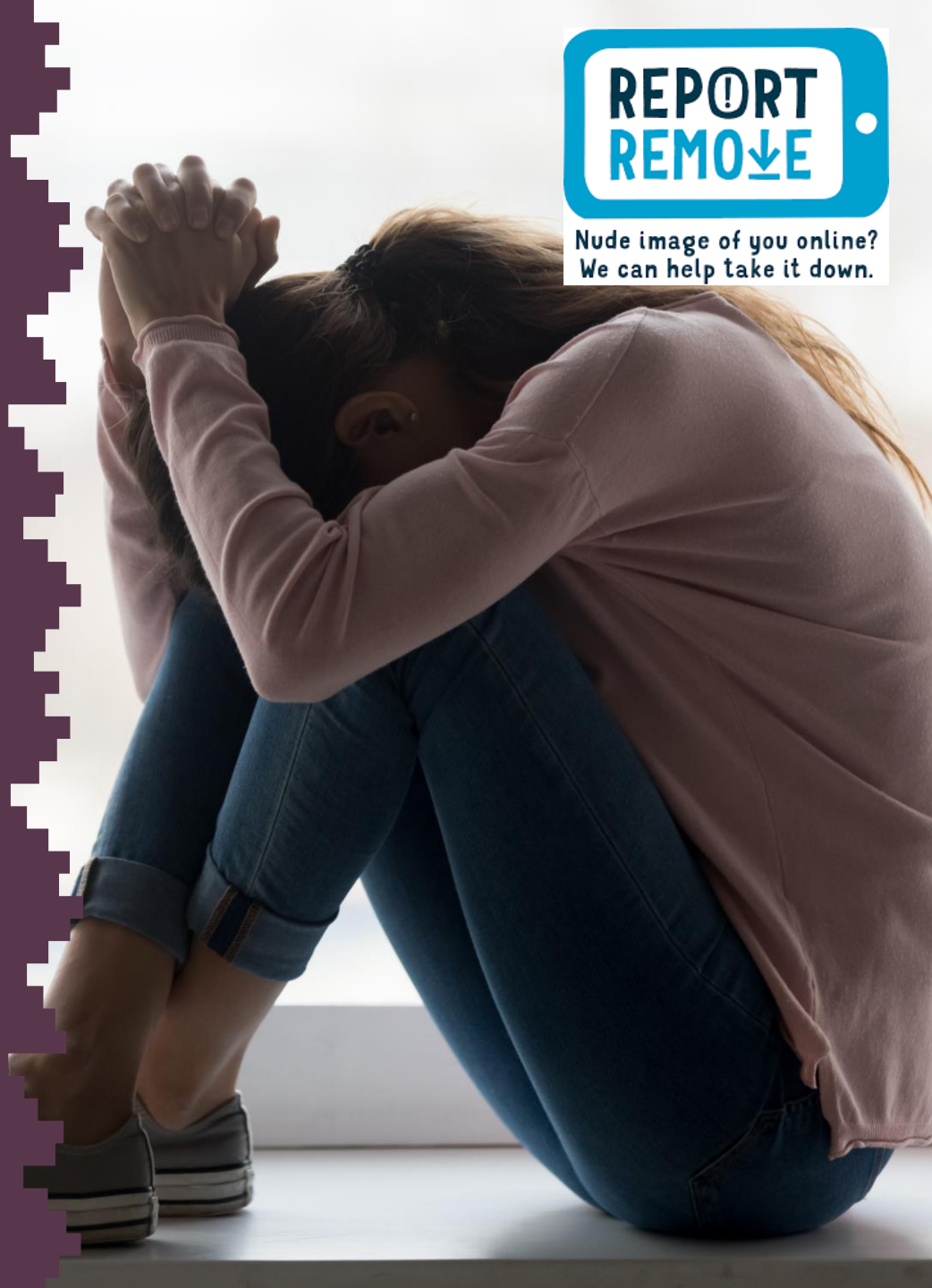
IWF and Childline Partnership

Report Remove – Support for victims

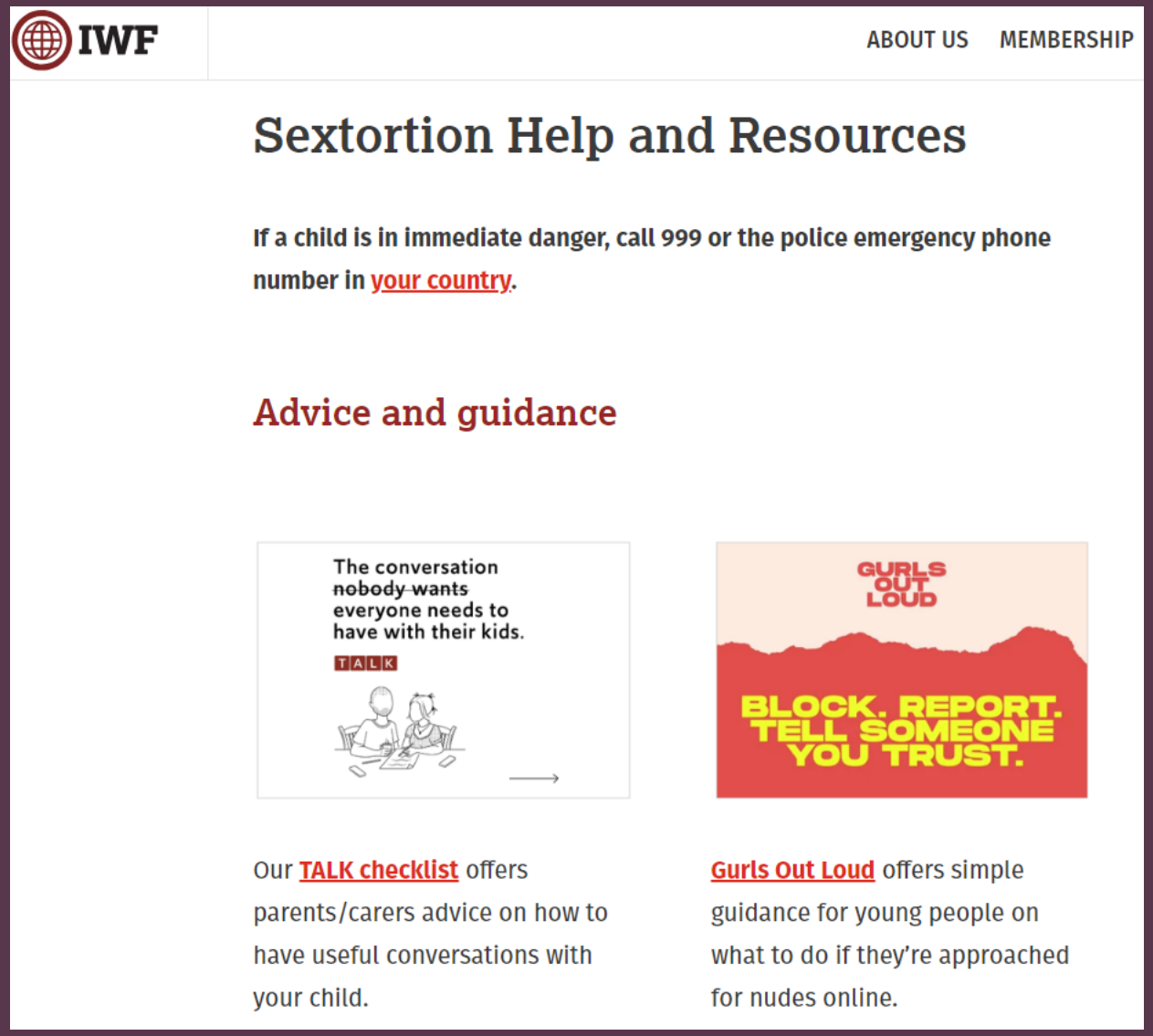
IWF & NSPCC developed Report Remove to support a young person in reporting their own sexual images or videos for removal from the internet.

- Childline supports and safeguards the child;
- The child reports their image/video to IWF through a dedicated portal, verifying their age with Yoti.
- IWF analysts assess the imagery against UK law. A criminal image will be removed from internet and hashed.
- Childline contacts the child to provide updates on their report.

The process is child-centered; does not identify them and ensures the child will not inadvertently be criminalised.



Resources : Advice and Guidance



IWF Resources:

thinkbeforeyoushare.org
talk.iwf.org.uk/
gurlsoutloud.com/
iwf.org.uk/resources/sextortion/

Reporting Services:

iwf.org.uk/en/uk-report/
childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/report-remove/

Stats and Trends:

iwf.org.uk/annual-report-2023/

IWF
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Working together to stop child sexual abuse online

Thanks for listening

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