Relationship Violence Awareness Month (RVAM) Technology-Based Harm Toolkit

October is Relationship Violence Awareness Month (RVAM).

During this month, advocates across the nation work together to end all forms of relationship violence. Relationship violence has many names – domestic violence, dating violence, intimate partner violence – all of these can be defined as physical and/or sexual violence, stalking, or psychological harm by a current or former partner or spouse[1].

This toolkit includes a collection of resources that will equip advocates with the information they need to build a path to ending relationship violence.

If you or someone you know needs help, call

Office of Respect (Emory Students only) (24-hr hotline: 470-270-5360)
Emory Faculty Staff Assistance Program (404-727-WELL)
National Domestic Violence Hotline (24-hr hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE)

Defining Relationship Violence

This section has been adapted from the Office of Respect's website[2].

Relationship violence – is a pattern of behavior used by a perpetrator to gain and maintain power over their intimate partner(s). This may include physical, emotional, spiritual, mental, sexual, verbal, psychological, and/or economic abuse. Here at Emory, we choose to use the term "relationship violence" because it best describes the people between whom violence exists, both on and off campus. http://bit.ly/TBHTK

Defining Technology-Based Harm

This section has been adapted from The Hotline[3]

Technology-Based Harm – the use of technology to harass, intimidate, stalk, or otherwise harm another person.

Some examples of technology-based harm may include: using social media to trace someone else's movements; controlling who someone friends or follows online; using technology like smartphones or GPS to track someone's movement; looking through someone's texts, emails, or social media; and sending unwanted sexual comments, videos, or photos.

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[1] https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/index.html
[2] Office of Respect, "About." 2020. http://respect.emory.edu/about.html
[3] "Types of Abuse," The Hotline. https://www.thehotline.org/resources/types-of-abuse/

Relevant Publications

Duerksen, K.D. & Woodin, E.M. Technological intimate partner violence: Exploring technology-related perpetration factors and overlap with in-person intimate partner violence. *Computers in Human Behavior 98*(2019), 223-231. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chb.2019.05.001

Understanding the risk factors and relationships between technology use, technological intimate partner violence, and in-person intimate partner violence can help clinicians better serve the survivors they work with.

Video Resources

Webinar: Technology, Stalking and Domestic Violence: What is it and how your clients can stay safe
https://youtu.be/2auo0VajV04

Hear more about what different kinds of technology-based harm might look like.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_dr9y41J38&feature=youtu.be

IPRCE Panel Discussion: Intimate Partner Violence in the Time of a Pandemic
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AVDQb_PLEYQ

National Resources

Hollaback! & HeartMob - Social Media Safety Guides
https://iheartmob.org/resources/safety_guides

VAWnet Special Collection - Technology-Facilitated Abuse
https://vawnet.org/sc/technology-assisted-abuse

Best practices for coping with online abuse
https://msmagazine.com/2020/10/08/7-best-practices-for-coping-with-online-sexual-harassment/

International Resources
UN Women - Issue brief: COVID-19 and ending violence against women and girls
http://bit.ly/TBHTK

Council on Foreign Relations – A Double Pandemic: Domestic Violence in the Age of COVID-19
https://www.cfr.org/in-brief/double-pandemic-domestic-violence-age-covid-19