

Welfare Awareness Topic: Peer on Peer Abuse

Overview – *Peer-on-peer abuse is abuse that happens between young people of a similar age or stage of development. It takes various forms, including physical and sexual abuse, sexual harassment and violence, emotional harm, on and offline bullying, like cyberbullying, child sexual exploitation, sexting and initiating/hazing type violence, and teenage relationship abuse.*

Research suggests that young women are more at risk of abusive behaviours perpetrated by their peers, but peer-on-peer abuse also affect young men, those with learning difficulties or disabilities, LGBTQ+ individuals, and those from different communities.

This abuse can be motivated by perceived differences, for example, on grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability or other differences.

Though there is not one clear definition of what peer on peer abuse entails, it can be captured in a range of different definitions, and can take place in a whole range of settings.

It can result in significant, long lasting and traumatic isolation, intimidation or violence to the victim, and can manifest itself and impact the victim in many ways, including: physical injuries; encouraging drug and alcohol abuse; going missing/running away; compromising their sexual health; committing criminal offences; acting disengaged from school; affecting their mental health and emotional wellbeing; and many other multifaceted consequences.

Article/Source

To view more information about peer on peer abuse, view [this website](#), and [this pdf](#) has some resources and links at the end as well as further information about peer on peer abuse.

[This website](#) shows the NSPCC #listentoyourselfie campaign, which was launched to reduce peer-on-peer sexual abuse. **Content warning:** some of the videos on this campaign might be distressing for some individuals to view as it contains themes of sexual abuse.

Remember that if you ever feel pressured to do something you don't want to, we urge you to get support, either from a friend, a trusted adult, or a helpline.

If you have been affected by this topic, you can find support here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

The Be You project has a whole host of [resources](#) for those in the LGBTQ+ community, so whatever you are going through, you can find support. They also have help and advice on staying safe [here](#).

Support

If you would like to talk to the safeguarding team about anything you have just read, we will listen without judgement and signpost you to support. If you would like to talk to a member of the Safeguarding Team then please get in touch: safeguarding@bpp.com