

Press release 26 February 2020

Porn site sued for illegal nude images

Amsterdam, 26 February 2020 - Helpwanted.nl and Stichting Stop Online Shaming start a lawsuit against the website Vagina.nl. The porn site exploits sex videos without the consent of the people who are visible in these materials. Among these videos is footage of people who do not seem aware they have been filmed. Hidden cameras were used to record this footage.

During the court case both parties underline that without consent of those involved third parties are not allowed to publish nude images on the Internet. The 'Stichting Stop Online Shaming' (Foundation SOS Online) was founded to combat *online shaming* through legal proceedings. Helpwanted.nl is part of the Expertisebureau Online Child Abuse (EOKM) and is a consultative body for young people under the age of 26, who have to deal with online sexual abuse. Helpwanted.nl has noted for some time now that porn sites disclose amateur-videos without the explicit permission of the persons appearing in those videos. "Then we get requests for help to get the material removed, something that is not always successful," says Arda Gerkens director of the EOKM.

On Vagina.nl you can find not only professional porn but also amateur porn, including secretly filmed material. "Some of the victims were filmed in a fitting room of a clothing store, in the shower, in the sauna or on a public beach", says Willem van Lynden, board member of SOS Online. "With titles such as 'A Hidden camera at H&M' and 'secretly filming ex-girlfriend in the shower' videos are published online that were filmed with a hidden camera. This is very threatening. It can happen to anyone who ever uses public facilities. These images are then commercially exploited on the Internet. This constitutes a massive invasion of the privacy of individuals who appear in the videos."

Gerkens has been surprised for years that this kind of videos can be published without any problem. But there is more. "What makes it even worse is that there's no age verification, which makes it possible to publish nude images of minors. The website vagina.nl claims all models are of the age of 18 and older, but this is a hollow phrase now age is never checked."

According to the organizations, porn websites such as Vagina.nl have to guarantee that the persons concerned have consented to the disclosure of sex videos. At this point these videos can be uploaded without any check. "It must be the other way around", Gerkens underlines: "Let these sites prove that there is permission for that." Otto Volgenant van Boekx Advocaten represents SOS Online and Helpwanted.nl during the legal proceedings and says: "It is clear from a legal point of view that offering this kind of videos is not allowed. Imagine trying to get those videos offline. For an individual victim, that's very difficult. To make this easier, we are now tackling this collectively, on behalf of all possible victims. This has got to stop."

In order to be able to pay for the lawsuit, the organizations start a *crowdfunding campaign* under the name "**Not without my permission.**" Gerkens: "We call on people to support us with a small amount of money. We are grateful for every euro. In this way we can fund the lawsuit and people can show they support the claim that these kinds of websites are not just allowed to have these nude videos uploaded." The [link](#) to the crowdfunding site is:

<https://www.pifworld.com/projects/RMoRyXNcAgw/niet-zonder-mijn-toestemming>

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