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Presentation title: Cyber sextortion: the female offender and the sexual double standard

Sextortion is the portmanteau of the words sex and extortion and it occurs when someone threatens to distribute private and intimate material of the victims in case they don't provide them sexual favors or money. Sextortion, part of the biggest phenomenon of non-consensual dissemination of intimate material, has been identified as an emerging online threat but research and empirical knowledge are limited. PermessoNegato is a non-profit advocacy organization born in Milan at the end of 2019 that provides technological support to the victims of Non-Consensual Pornography (NCP), online violence and hate crimes, using an approach of stay down instead of take down. The present study employed both quantitative and qualitative content analysis of the victims of Sextortion that contacted PermessoNegato during 2020 and 2021. Moreover, it was analyzed who the perpetrators are (in more than 80% of the cases a woman) and how the double standard is applied in sextortion incidents. The sexual double standard can be defined as a standard that judges sexual behavior of heterosexual men and women in a different way, with men being more positively evaluated than women for showing the same behaviors. Consequently, when the sextortion victim is a male (in more than 85% of the cases), social consequences e.g. victim blaming is less frequent, unlike when the victim is a woman. Finally, studying a sample of over 1.000 victims and perpetrators, a recurring pattern in the main phases has been identified: how the victim is chosen, the grooming, the creation of a bond, the acquisition of the material and the sharing threat.