

[Intro Music]

Natalie Saborio: Hi everyone thanks for tuning in to the Casual Kiwi Chats, my name is Natalie I'm a Peer Educator for the Counseling and Psychological Services.

Anilenia "Ani" Hernandez: I'm Ani I'm also a Peer Educator at for the Counseling and Psychological Services. I'm also a research assistant for the Power, Women, Relationship (PWR) lab here at FIU and that's where I did a lot of the research we're going to be talking about.

Natalie: Cool! Today we're just going to be talking about the topic of Non-Consensual Pornography and I want to ask you why this topic?

Ani: So non-consensual pornography first of all is what people usually call "Revenge Porn", it's the distribution of sexually explicit images or text without someone's consent this is something that emerged recently that the academic sphere has kind of taken note of. Because you know everyone having a camera is kind of a new thing when you really think about it in the scope of ten or fifteen years everyone has one on their phone. And so, you know, now it's different there's that different avenue that lets you express your sexuality by taking nude photos or sending nude photos. There isn't much research done on the topic now and so people that care about sexual violence prevention because non-consensual pornography is a type of sexual violence. Because victims end up having a lot of the same trauma symptoms as someone who might be sexually assaulted. Their rate of somatic symptoms is really high and generally what that means is, you know, they'll get headaches and pains; like your body trying to tell you hey there's something wrong. Like when you're so stressed out you get sick that's what somatic symptoms are. They'll have lower rates of well being like depression, anxiety, nervousness, PTSD symptoms and stuff like that. And that's why this is important especially at like college age because we found that in the few studies we have done in the last few years; that perpetration and victimization of non-consensual pornography happens the most between 18 and 29 which is college students that's emerging adulthood. Very long winded but yeah.

Natalie: Thank you, and also why do you use the term non-consensual pornography rather than revenge porn?

Ani: Revenge porn has this connotation of like that they did something to earn this happening to them like someone is getting revenge on you for doing that. It's very victim-blaming territory and we're trying to stay away from that and it also just doesn't encompass the entire scope of what non-consensual pornography is. So revenge porn you think, oh it's like an ex doing that to you to get back at you for like breaking up with them or whatever. And while that is the case a lot of times, because we found that perpetuation is almost

always like someone they know just like regular sexual assault. But, sometimes people are perpetrated for monetary reasons to make money off of posting it somewhere or using it as blackmail and things like that; so we use as broad of definition as possible to be able to include people's experiences.

Natalie: And also why did you choose this topic?

Ani: So me specifically it really bothers me the amount of victim blaming that happens when people get their nudes leaked. We had that whole thing that we called the Fappening a few years ago where like all of the celebrities nudes got leaked and people were like coming down on them. Calling them sluts and that it was their fault because if you don't want your family seeing these photos why would you take them. But, I think that's very short sighted, that's very shaming of people's sexuality; there's so many different avenues to express yourself as a sexual being. To be shamed for it, kind of just creates this atmosphere where we are not supposed to talk about this, that it's shameful; that ends up creating this ripple effect that like society is uncomfortable talking about sex and so when you're trying to have sex with someone you don't know how to go about having this conversation about consent and then it doesn't happen and then sexual assault happens. So it's just one thing leads to another in the grand scheme of things. It creates a really big problem, so I decided that this is one of the ways that I could tackle it from an academic standpoint that matches up with my research interest.

Natalie: The last question is, how do you think we can solve this problem, like, what steps do you think we can take or where can we start?

Ani: So I think a really good place to start is just the language that we use so like we use non-consensual pornography instead of revenge porn. Because the way we talk about things kind of dictates how as a society we see them, so if we talk about something in hushed tones and it's not polite conversation, something we're not supposed to talk about, or like no one can hear us. Or if we giggle like 12 year-old boys, type of thing. It creates this atmosphere that it's shameful, it's not helpful, that there's something wrong with sex, sexuality, or wanting sex and then having talked about that ripple effect. So I think that being comfortable with your own sexuality, how you like to express that to someone else, and then talk about other people's in a way that isn't so hush hush or taboo. Obviously within your boundaries and within that person's boundaries I think really helps, you know the language kind of dictates our ideals.

Natalie: And is there anything else you'd like to add for us to know?

Ani: Yeah if there's anything that you leave with today is that, I'm so sorry your trust is betrayed, you didn't deserve that, you didn't ask for it, you weren't asking for it because

you were taking the photos in the first place, because you should've known better. You're not naive, it wasn't some sort of moral failing, it was just that someone that you trusted ended up betraying that and that's not on you. The process of dealing with it is hard and difficult or confusing and you have ups and downs. I respect that and I see you and I'm here for you and I don't want you or anyone to think that they did something for this. If they were posted on sights or something like that, cyber civil rights initiatives here in Miami is what can help legally take them down and stuff like that.

Natalie: Also if you're an FIU student you have the Victim Empowerment Program for you, it's free and confidential we help with all types of victimization like sexual assault, hazing, stalking, domestic violence so you can definitely contact us 24/7 at 305-348-2277. Thank you so much Ani for letting us bring this topic to light and raise awareness.

Ani: Thank you for having me, I'm happy that you care.

Natalie: Thank you for listening.

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