

April 2018 - In This Issue:

Tech Abuse and Misuse

From the Field

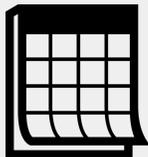
Upcoming Webinars and Trainings

Share Your Ideas

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Monthly Newsletter

Vera Center on Victimization + Safety



Upcoming Webinars and Trainings

2018 End Abuse of People with Disabilities Webinar Series

Creating and Maintaining a Safety Net for Survivors with Disabilities

May 15, 2018
2-3:30 pm ET

This webinar will provide information to domestic violence and sexual assault providers on how to connect survivors with disabilities to additional, necessary resources and how to ensure that those benefits and resources are protected even when an individual with a disability is employed as a part of the movement.

[Register here.](#)

Tech Abuse and Misuse: Supporting Survivors with Disabilities in Using Technology

By: Rachel Gibson, Program Associate



The misuse of technology to harass, stalk and invoke fear in victims of domestic and sexual violence is not a new tactic of abuse. However, it is becoming more prevalent. Over the last few years, we have seen an uptick in reports from survivors of crime who have been cyberstalked, had their identities stolen, or had intimate photos of them shared illegally, for example. The misuse of technology is a complicated crime even when a survivor does not have a disability. When we think about the complicated ways in which technology misuse can affect survivors with disabilities, finding ways to support them becomes even more important.

Here are three ways advocates can support people with disabilities who may be experiencing technology abuse:

Nothing About Us Without Us: Centering the Movement Around Self-Advocates

July 17, 2018
2-3:30 pm ET

This webinar will provide an overview of how to facilitate the effective participation of self-advocates at the intersection of violence and disability as well as some of the many benefits of doing so.

[Register here.](#)

Please be on the lookout for the rescheduled date for our March webinar. More information will be available soon.

Registration closes one week prior to the webinar date for all of our webinars.

Save the Dates for the 2018 End Abuse of People with Disabilities Webinar Series!

- May 15, 2018
- July 17, 2018
- August 21, 2018 - DATE CHANGE
- September 18, 2018

Don't forget - you can view all of our archived [webinars](#) on our End Abuse of People with Disabilities website.



Share Your Ideas!

Do you have ideas about issues we could highlight in our monthly newsletter, topics for our monthly webinar series, or information about new initiatives that seek

1. **Believe them.** We hear this all the time, but especially when someone says that their technology is being misused. When a person has a disability, they are already less likely to be believed by society as a whole, and when the crime is technology related, it can be even more difficult for the person to tell their story. Believing their stories is important in helping them identify what is happening and can provide reassurance and begin healing.

2. **Don't forbid the use of technology.**

While it may seem right to tell the person to stop using the technology, getting rid of the tech isn't the answer to the problem. Survivors use technology as a means to live, getting rid of it won't stop the misuse, does not empower survivors, and can be isolating. Additionally, people with disabilities, in particular, may rely on technology for basic, day-to-day survival and *cannot*, even if they wanted to, stop using their technology.

3. **Develop a technology safety plan.**

When a person with a disability is developing a safety plan, including whatever technology they use in this plan is key. This will help them think through what they may need if they decide to leave, ways that the technology may have been compromised, and steps to take if they cannot take their technology with them. To learn more about technology safety plans visit: [Technology Safety Plan](#).

If you want to learn more ways to support survivors through technology misuse, check out our webinar [The Ins and Outs of Safety and Assistive Technology](#).



From the Field

As part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, a new public service announcement focusing on the sexual victimization of men was released. The video features several men's stories, including that of a self-advocate with an intellectual disability. We encourage you to watch and share this moving PSA, which is available on [YouTube](#).

Casa de Esperanza has developed a Spanish language campaign for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The campaign, entitled No Mas, provides a wide range of

justice for people with disabilities? We want your feedback! Take advantage of this feature in our newsletter and submit your ideas thoughts and feedback by emailing cvs@vera.org.

resources, including public service announcements, toolkits, and signage, in both English and Spanish. The campaign materials are available on the [Casa de Esperanza website](#).

Human Rights Watch has published a report on access to justice for women and girls with disabilities in India. The report, entitled "Invisible Victims of Sexual Violence," discusses gaps in the current system and reviews potential solutions and reforms. It is available on the [Human Rights Watch website](#).

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