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I can say NO!
LOVE IS NOT VIOLENCE

AWARENESS ATTITUDES AND EXPERIENCES OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS RELATED TO CYBER SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



NATIONAL REPORT
for Spain

June 2020



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1. INTRODUCTION

The increasing reach of the internet, the rapid spread of mobile information and the widespread use of social media, has led to the emergence of cyber violence against women and girls (VAWG) as a growing global problem with potentially significant economic and societal consequences¹.

Though digital technology has enabled improved access to information and networking, it has also provided a space for replicating the imbalance of gendered power relations and diverse forms of discrimination that underlie violence against women and girls (VAWG). Data on VAWG occurring online indicates that, in Europe, 9 million girls have experienced some kind of cyber violence, by the time they are 15 years old.

There are various forms of cyber VAWG, including hate speech, hacking, cyber stalking, non-consensual pornography, gender-based slurs and harassment, 'slut-shaming', 'sextortion', rape and death threats, 'doxing' and electronically enabled trafficking.

Experts have warned against conceptualizing cyber VAWG as a completely separate phenomenon to 'real world' violence, when in fact it is more appropriately seen as a continuum of offline violence. For example, cyber stalking by a partner or ex-partner follows the same patterns as offline stalking and is therefore intimate partner violence, simply facilitated by technology.

Furthermore, data from the 2014 FRA survey shows that 77 % of women who have experienced cyber harassment have also experienced at least one form of sexual or/ and physical violence from an intimate partner and 7 in 10 women (70 %) who have experienced cyber stalking, have also experienced at least one form of physical or/and sexual violence from an intimate partner².

The project in which this research is included (NO SGBV - I can choose to say no. Empowering youth, especially girls, to stand up against cyber sexual and gender-based violence in intimate partner relationships) was submitted to the European Commission in 2018, in the Call for Proposals for Action Grants Under 2018 Rights, Equality and Citizenship Work Programme, REC-RDAP-GBV-AG-2018, by the Autonomous Women's Center (Serbia) in collaboration with CESI - Centar Za Edukaciju Savjetovanje I Istrazivanje (Croatia), NANE - Women's Rights Association (Hungary) and Fundación Privada Indera (Spain).

The project seeks to contribute to ending cyber sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in youth (aged 15-19) intimate partner relationships, by especially empowering girls and supporting them to stand up against violence.

Although cybersexual harassment has been included in the Spanish criminal code since 2013 (art. 183 ter. of the Criminal Code), this is only considered as such when it involves adults contacting minors, what we know as grooming, and not

¹EIGE report "Cyber violence against women and girls", 2017, available at: <https://eige.europa.eu/rdc/eige-publications/cyber-violence-against-women-and-girls>

²idem.

other types of cybersexual harassments between adults.

Furthermore, sexual harassment in our Criminal Code refers only to situations in which someone asks sexual favors to someone else in the field of an employment, teaching or service provision relationship, leaving out all other types of sexual harassment (online and offline).

In 2015, the law was changed again, including stalking and sexting (defined as the unauthorized disclosure of intimate images or recordings obtained with the consent of the affected person) in the Criminal Code through articles 172 ter. And 197.7.

There is still a strong need to focus on lowering tolerance towards cyber SGBV, especially when it comes to youth intimate partner relationships and increasing their readiness for speaking out and acting against such violence. Research has shown that some teenagers have worryingly high levels of acceptance of abuse within relationships and often justify the abuse with the actions of the victim.³

For essential change to happen it is not enough to just have in place legal regulations and protocols of action. Because there is still insufficient research on cyber SGBV, it is necessary to map underlying determinants and key drivers of violent behavior to inform empowerment and support interventions with youth. For this very reason, the EU project NOSGBV in which this research has been conducted, aims to, through awareness-raising and education activities, mobilize youth and teachers in standing up against cyber SGBV and provide them with knowledge and tools to better understand the causes, forms and consequences of cyber SGBV in youth partner relationship and take steps in standing up to it/preventing it.

According to an FRA study, the prevalence of physical and sexual violence by current and/or previous partners is up to 13% and by any other person up to 16% since the age of 15 in Spain.

Furthermore, one in three women in Spain (33%) have experienced some form of psychological violence in their relationships. (17% experiencing it with their current partner and 37% having experienced it with previous partners).

Prevalence of stalking since the age of 15 is marked 11% and prevalence of sexual harassment since the age of 15 goes between 39% and 50% of women, depending on the number of items taken into consideration as sexual harassment.

16% having been sexually harassed by unwelcome touching, hugging or kissing since the age of 15 and 10% having been cyberharassed since the age of 15, the age of the most affected respondents was between 18 and 29.

As the world becomes more and more connected, relationships become more mixed with the online world. Socialization in young people has changed and adapted as well, making impossible for them to separate *online* and *offline*

³Against Violence and Abuse: A teacher's guide to violence and abuse, available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/506524/teen-abuse-teachers-guide.pdf

realities, as everything is part of their daily lives. These patterns are making the way they communicate with others different from previous generations.

For example, for adolescents, 'sexting', i.e. the sending and receiving of sexual images and text messages, is part of their reality and it plays an important role in connection with experiences of sexual violence.

An European survey among 4564 adolescents from Bulgaria, Cyprus, England, Italy and Norway between the ages of 14 and 17 years, established a clear correlation between sexting and real-life experiences of violence. Despite great differences between adolescents in the different countries, those reporting violence in their relationships were also more than twice as likely to have sent or received sexual images or text messages. A significant part of the girls interviewed (between 9% and 42 %) said that the pictures or messages sent by them had been forwarded to others.

Furthermore 17% to 41% of the girls and 9% to 25 % of the boys in this study said that they had experienced sexual violence from their partner⁴.

Another research conducted within the European Flirt Expert Project (2017)⁵, supported by the European Commission and conducted in Austria, Poland, Romania and Spain, inquired about the connections between sexual harassment (exhibitionism, sending non-asked intimate photos, etc.) and sexual abuse (groping, kissing, etc.) and sexting as a way of flirting.

It became clear in the survey that, for that sample of young people, there was a strong connection between sexting during a relationship and the experience of sexual violence without physical contact: 21% of those stating that they had practiced sexting during a relationship were affected by sexual violence without physical contact, but only 6% of those never having practiced sexting in a relationship. There was also a connection between sexting and experiences of sexual violence with physical contact: Those participants, who had practiced sexting once, a few times and often, were twice as often victims of sexual violence with physical contact.

Furthermore, the survey showed that, even if the prevalence was low, from those who claimed to be sexually harassed or abused, there was a big difference between sexes, as girls and young women were affected twice as often than boys and young men.

In Spain, there have been several investigations on the extent of intimate partner violence in young relationships. A survey conducted by the Ministry of Equality in 2015 on teenage girls and boys across Spain shows that roughly 1 in every 10 girls say they have experienced an abusive situation at the hands of the boy they are going out with. A little more, 1.3 in every 10 teenage boys, admit to behaving aggressively towards their girlfriends.

Furthermore, IPV mediated through technology appears to especially be a problem between young couples than in general, being 25,1% of the girls

⁴STIR Safeguarding Teenage Intimate Relationships, 2015, Briefing paper. <https://childhub.org/en/child-protection-multimedia-resources/safeguarding-teenage-intimate-relationships-stir-young-peoples>

⁵Hazissa (2017) Survey of the sexual health of adolescents and young adults carried out in the course of the project "European Flirt Expert". Selected results. http://www.love-and-respect.org/uploads/EU_Survey%20about%20the%20sexual%20health%20of%20adolescents%20and%20young%20adults.pdf

between 16 and 19 years old who have admitted being controlled through their phones by their partners vs. 9.6% of the total women sample⁶. This relates to another study on teenage perceptions on TDV⁷ which found out that one in three young people considers it inevitable or acceptable in some circumstances to 'control the couple's schedule', 'prevent the couple from seeing their family or friends', 'not allow the couple to work or study 'or' tell them things they can or cannot do'. It looks like control violence is widely accepted among young people.

Related to cybersexual and gender-based violence, the newest investigation was made in 2014⁸ and in that time there was already awareness about the potential and the huge role that social media plays in violence. This research also pointed out the difficulties that social media creates in that it offers such an easy access to the victims of these behaviours through the use of these online platforms. But, due to the relative emergence of the phenomena, further investigation about cyberviolence needs to be conducted in order to draw more conclusions.

In the study carried out by Donoso, Rubio and Vilà (2018)⁹ about gender-based cyber violent behaviors, they divided the possible behaviors that can be committed through social media and internet mediated into categories depending on what it is that "motivates" the aggressor to behave that way.

The categories set by them were:

1. Transgressing sexual normativity for women

Behaviors: insulting women online for being sexually active, calling them names for having been in more relationships than "the usual" according to gender stereotypes, etc.

2. Transgressing sexual heteronormativity

Behaviors: insulting (or other behaviors online) both women and men because of their sexual orientation (different than the heteronormative standard)

3. Transgressing the heteronormative beauty stereotypes

Behaviors: insulting (or other behaviors online) girls for not having the perfect body, not dressing properly "like a girl", dressing in a mannish way... or boys for not having the perfect body too, not being "macho" enough, etc.

4. Sexual Violence

In this category, there's a whole lot of behaviors that can be committed: from harassment, abuse to non-consensual pornography distribution, threats, etc.

⁶Government Office against Gender based Violence (2015) Survey on violence against women: Main results. Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality Publications Center.

⁷Government Office against Gender based Violence (2015) Teenage perception on gender-based violence. Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality Publications Center.

⁸Government Office against Gender based Violence (2014) Cyberbullying as a way to exercise Gender Violence in Youth: a risk in the information and knowledge society. Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality Publications Center.

⁹Donoso Vázquez, T.; Rubio Hurtado, M. J. y Vilà Baños, R. (2018). Adolescence and gender violence 2.0: concepts, behavior and experiences. *Educación XX1*, 21(1), 109-134, doi: 10.5944/educXX1.2018

5. Violence associated with romantic love myths (Teen Dating Violence)

Behaviors here often are controlling and jealousy behaviors through technology like instant messages, apps. Although, we need to bear in mind that some of the sexual violence behaviors can fit in this category, as they are usually committed by a partner or ex-partner.

6. Other reasons: violent attitudes against feminism movement in general

Behaviors: Hate speech online, insults...

The following research aims to use an innovative methodology to be able to assess what is the awareness and which are the attitudes young people have about cyber sexual gender-based violence and Teen Dating Violence. Furthermore, the research has also included a section to measure the incidence of the phenomenon in the lives of the adolescents surveyed.

The used questionnaire for the present research focused on categories 4 and 5 in this list but the other categories were found worthy to explore in order to have a broader insight on the normalization of these kind of behaviors, as it is known that the normalization of one of those types can lead to another and perpetuate the chain of violence.

Besides, what most of the times may be called "Sexist Attitudes", to differentiate them from "more violent" behaviors, are harassing behaviors and are actually the 'light version' of the same ill. From Indera's understanding, sexist attitudes are abusive and violent. It is a harassment that makes a woman feel less in herself, it makes her feel insecure in her body, it makes her dress differently and it seriously impacts women's freedom of movement. So, it is needed to explore awareness on these 'light versions' in order to get the whole picture.



2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Gaining awareness is a complex process. Introducing a concept or a fact to someone is only the first step. This fact either gets pushed out of the person's mind or gets registered in his/her psyche as knowledge. **The last and the most significant step to gaining awareness is when someone uses this knowledge to bring about an attitudinal or behavioral change.** This is when the person is finally productively aware of the concept or fact.

Testing awareness on one topic is an important step to be able to carry out good and useful prevention campaigns. The surveys conducted with this aim can help us to figure out if the problem of a phenomena happening in one society is a product (in certain part) of this lack of awareness or to discover that, even though the results show a grand amount of awareness, the behaviors don't change and the problem remains unsolved. In that case, other types of strategies need to be carried out as prevention mechanisms.

Understanding people's preset beliefs that can get in the way of accepting new information and learning about the traditions or difficulties that keep people from implementing behavioral changes are important aspects to consider while designing awareness survey questions. In our case, these sets of beliefs would translate into gender stereotypes.

But, how to measure awareness and attitudes in youth people in an attractive way that can lead them to answer the questions with honesty?

In order to do that, we have chosen a format and layout that is part of their daily way to communicate. Hence, the questions are placed within WhatsApp conversations placed in the questionnaire with screenshots, showing different situations for them to react, comment and take part as a member of a group chat or as a friend who is asked for advice. In that way young people would be able to get more involved in the situations and engage better to get a real answer rather than just read some questions and check the boxes yes, no, maybe, etc.

To find out about the level of awareness on the topic, we wanted to ask about two main things: general awareness on gender violence, stereotypes, etc. and specific awareness on cybersexual abuse and TDV.

And to find out about their attitudes/behaviors and strategies we asked the youth what they would do if they themselves were to suffer the violence or observe it happening or if they were asked by a friend and what would be the action they would take. The aim with this was to address the individual capacity to respond to situations of sexual violence and abuse and the growing normalization of TDV in the virtual environment and also to measure how often the bystander attitude shows, which is strongly enabling the acceptance and normalization of abuse on a daily basis.

Recruitment process and distribution method

The questionnaires were distributed in two public high schools in Barcelona, in the El Clot and Poble Nou neighborhoods.

With these premises, we must emphasize that this research does not seek to be representative of all young people who live in the country. At most, it can give us an image of the young people who study (and therefore it is highly likely that they live) in the neighborhoods of El Clot and Poble Nou.

The questionnaires were completed in paper during one-hour workshops implemented in the schools and then digitalized into the statistical program SPSS for its analysis.

During those workshops, the students would first complete the survey and then comment it with the facilitators in a previous exercise to start raising awareness for future implementation of other project related activities.

Challenges or obstacles

The limitations we have encountered when implementing the questionnaires were mainly three:

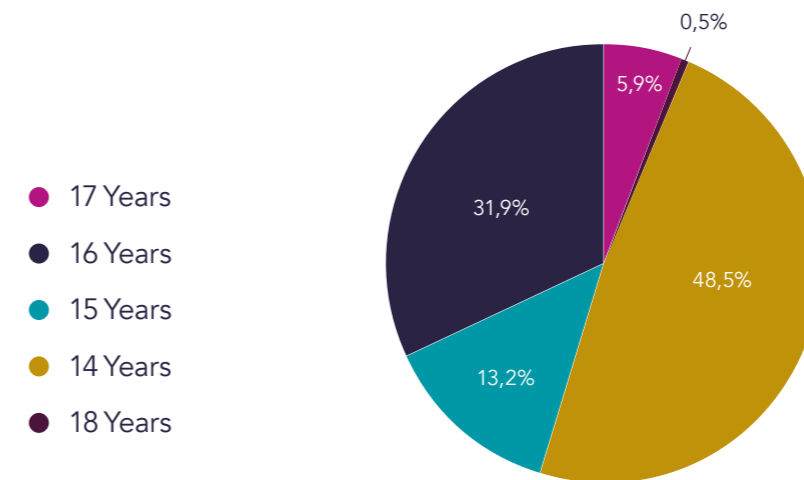
1. The challenge of getting the attention of pupils, in order for them to complete and take the questionnaire seriously.
2. The predisposition of the high schools where the research was conducted. These high-schools have special sensitivity for this topic and they already try to do workshops and other activities to raise awareness on the topic. One of them has even created a whole commission with their students to prevent TDV happening in the school. Due to this, it may be possible that the level of awareness of the sample is higher than the norm.
3. The COVID-19 pandemic situation in which we are. Due to the lockdown in Spain, 3 workshops had to be canceled, thus preventing us from getting all the data we wanted.

3. DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

3.1 General information about the sample

Our results are based on a sample of 204 participants, 101 of them of female sex (49.5%) and 103 of them of male sex (50.5%).

The age of the sample is distributed in the following way:



As it can be seen, almost half the sample is 14 years old, followed by 31,9% of people who are 16 years old. As we mentioned before, 3 more workshops to collect samples were going to occur just when the lockdown was introduced. Those workshops were going to be implemented with last year students (17-18 years old), thus increasing the sample by 75 more people, which would have allowed us to select a more distributed final sample. This has not been possible and is not expected to be possible before the end date.

The geographical origin from the sample has been already mentioned in the previous section of this paper.

To finish with the general data of the sample, the students were asked which were the most used social networks for them. This question allowed multiple answers, so their response showed us that **94.6% of the sample marked Whatsapp and 78.43% marked Instagram** as their most used social media. Few cases marked other social media platforms as Tik Tok, Twitter, Telegram, Snapchat or Facebook, but those were no more than 7 people.

3.2 What is the level of general awareness and normalization of gender-based violent behaviors?

Gender-based Violent Behaviors

Respondents were asked to rate 5 types of gender-based violent behaviors. Their responses can be found in **Annex 1**.

As general comments, it has been noticed that, although most of the respondents don't accept any of the behaviors described, male and female responses distribute slightly different; with female respondents generally not going as far as male participants when it comes to accepting those behaviors. While in some of the behaviors there are boys that come to describe the act as "Kind of ok" or even "Ok and normal", girls don't go to that extreme except in one case out of the five.

Behaviors that provide the clearest picture are "Mocking online someone because he/she is gay/lesbian/bisexual" and "Boys entering girls' changing rooms in schools and taking photos of them as a way of having fun", in which case the behaviors are rated as "totally unacceptable" by 89,2% (94,1% of girls and 84,5% of boys) of the sample in the first one and 90,5% (98%-83,5%) in the second one.

About gender roles and stereotypes, the other behavior that was presented was "Saying things like "you look sooo gay on this picture" or "look at her, she looks like a boy"", which is rated by 47,1% of the sample as "Totally unacceptable" and "Not ok" by 40,2% of it. This can indicate that while almost everyone recognizes direct violence (mocking online) as a violent behavior, it is not the same when it comes to "funny" comments; in those cases they are more reluctant to position themselves completely against the behavior, maybe because they themselves, as the rest of the society, have made such jokes sometimes or have heard about them.

When asked about what they think about "Making comments on someone's posts mocking them because they posted something that is saying no to abuse and violence", gender differences are also shown: 80,2% of girls rated this behavior as "Totally unacceptable" and 15,8% as "Not ok" (the rest was not sure), while only 50,5% of boys rated it as "Totally Unacceptable" and 38,8% as "Not ok" (the rest divided between "not sure" and, some people, rating it as "kind of ok").

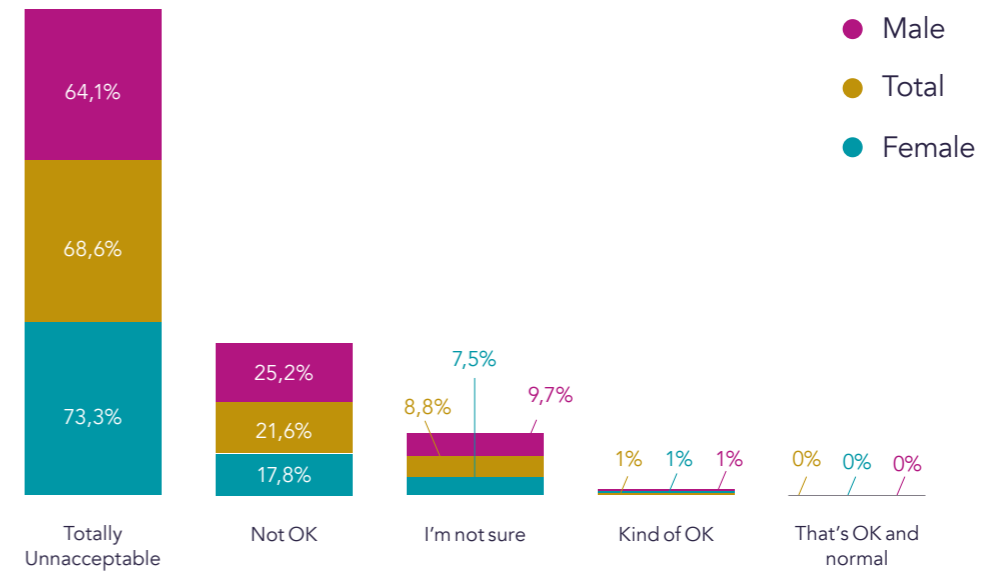
On the other hand, the behavior that showed the most unclear picture was "Commenting with your friends about a girl because she has a "reputation"", where "Totally unacceptable" and "Not ok" got 67,7% of the responses between the two of them, 15,7% people being "Not sure" and even 9,3% and 7,4% rating it "Kind of ok" and "That's ok and normal" respectively.

Again, in this case there are some gender differences, 41,6% of women rating it "Totally unacceptable" and 35,6% "Not ok" while only 14,6% of men rating it "Totally unacceptable" and 43,7% "Not ok". But, despite this, both genders have people who rate the behavior as "kind of ok" or even "ok and normal".

Sextortion

Respondents were asked to rate 5 types of gender-based violent behaviors. Their responses can be found in **Annex 1**.

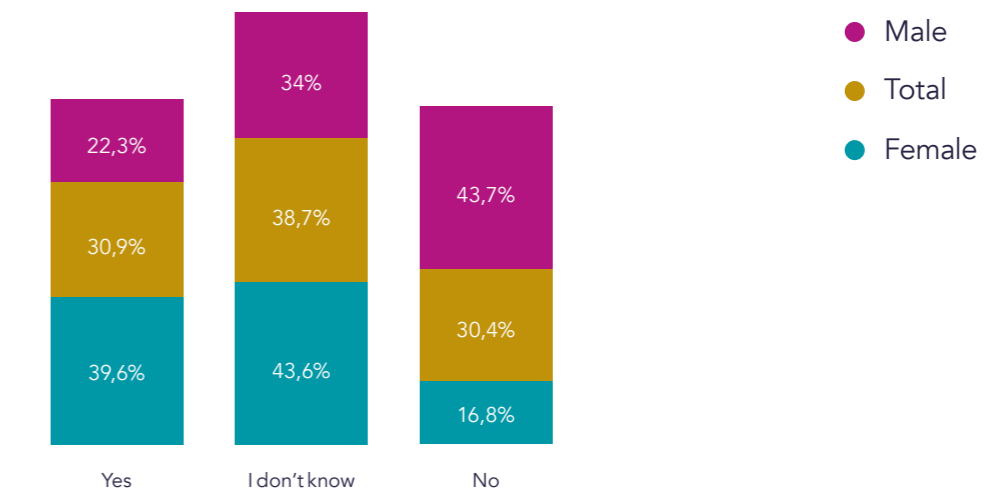
A sextortion online situation was shown to respondents through WhatsApp screenshots. When asked about if this situation was acceptable, the responses were the following:



"Do you think it is an acceptable behaviour if someone gets upset because of a break-up and starts threatening their ex-partner?"

As it can be seen, there is no significant difference between male and female respondents, being that 68,6% of them rate the behavior as "Totally unacceptable", followed by 21,6% that rated it as "Not ok". Although, as it was commented on before, girls tend to grade the behavior worse than boys.

Control Violence in Intimate Partner Relationships – constantly messaging

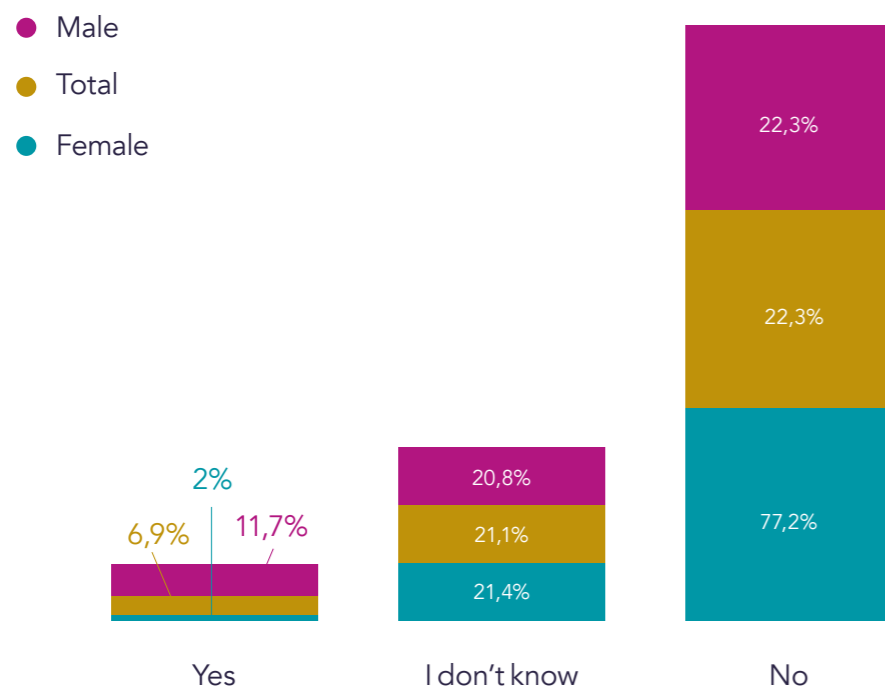


People in the sample were asked whether they identified constant messaging from their partners as a violent or abusive behavior. As it can be seen in the graphic, there is a huge number of respondents that are confused about it.

Another important discovery that can be appreciated is the difference between genders. While most of the female respondents are undecided between it being a violent behavior or not knowing it and only 16.8% clearly denying it, 43.7% of male respondents (almost half of them) have clearly denied it, 34% of them are not sure about it and only 22.3% consider it a violent behavior.

This differences in the responses, that are present and are going to be present throughout the document, do nothing but emphasize the importance of involving young boys in the prevention of gender-based violence.

Password exchange - Do you consider it as "no big deal"?



As the graphic shows, when asked about if exchanging passwords is not serious or not so important, the response that most of them (72.1%) gave is "No", it is not something serious for them, followed by 21.1% of them that don't know and 6.9% that think it is not important.

Again, we observe that more boys than girls consider it as not serious (11.7% vs. 2%).

3.3 Have they suffered from any form of cyber GBV? among teens?

Due to the size of the sample and the few affirmative responses we obtained in these questions, most of the percentages are not more than 1 to 5%, making general inferences impossible to draw. The questions about systematic experiences and feelings of the victims are especially not reliable due to less than 5% of the sample answering them.

For that reason, a short summary of the most relevant results will be developed here whereas the complete tables for these questions can be found in the annex 1 below.

When asked about...

The sexualization of the body, more than 50% of the total sample has been sexualized through comments online at least once (being 33,3% few times and 13,2% frequently). Disaggregated by sex, it can be seen that more female than male respondents have experienced it, being the males that have never been commented on their bodies 57,3% vs. 36,6% of females.

Cyberbullying or cyberharassment, 85.8% of the sample has not suffered from it, whereas 10.8% have experienced it once, 2.9% few times and 0.5% frequently. About gender differences, females that have experienced it once are almost double than males (13.6% vs. 7.8%).

Sextortion, 94,1% of the sample has not suffered from it. Disaggregated by sex, 7.9% of females have suffered it (at least once) compared to 3.8% of males.

Sextreading, 90.7% of the sample has not suffered from it (87.1% of females and 94.2% of males). In the same line as the previous question, it seems like female participants have experienced it more than males (12.8% vs. 5.9%).

Physical threats, 70.1% of the sample has not received physical threats online (73.3% of female respondents and 67% of male). 14.9% of females and 12.6% of males have received them "once", 11.9% (F) and 15.5% (M) "Few times" and 0% of females and 4.9% of male "Frequently". It seems like physical threats are happening more to boys than girls. When asked about the attacker, those were either different people rather than the same person and, when it was the same person, those were males who were not the victim's partner or ex-partner. It is highly possible here, then, that the violent threats they are reporting here are acts of peer violence (bullying, fights) rather than gender-based violence.

However, when asked if any of those received threats involved sexual violence, 0% of males answered affirmatively compared to females, where there were 2 affirmative cases. So even when those threats are more directed towards males, those that include sexual violence are not. Sexual violence is used as a threat against girls but not boys.

Porn viewing, 82.4% of the sample (82.2% of girls and 82.5% of boys) have never been asked to watch online porn or participate in acts inspired by online porn. 8.9% of female participants and 3.9% of male have been asked "once", 8.9% of females and 8.7% of males "few times" and 0% of females and 4.9% of males "Frequently". When asked about if it was the same person, that was not the case for the majority of boys, where they were different people except for one case where it was a male person who was

not his partner or ex-partner. Whereas in the case of girls, the percentages are more distributed between different people (5%), a male partner or ex-partner (2%) and a male person who is not her partner or ex-partner (2%).

The 12.9% of boys who answered "Few times" or "frequently" felt like it was not a big deal when asked about how they felt, while in the case of the girls, the 9% who answered they experienced it more than once have more divided opinions and they felt powerless, disgusted, uncomfortable or scared in the majority of the cases and like it was not that big of a deal in fewer cases.

Sending nudes to strangers, 91.7% of the sample responded that they have never done it while 7% of girls and 9.7% of boys answered affirmative. In the case of girls, 4% did it because the person asked them to do it and 3% because they wanted to and, in case of boys, all of them did it because they wanted to.

Sending nudes to their partners, 88.2% of the sample never did it (37.7% because they never had a partner) while 11.8% of the sample did. Most of them answered that they did it because they wanted to and in the minority of the cases it was because their partners asked them to (2.5% of the cases). Differences between sex in all this data have not been found.

Sexual harassment (receiving Dickpics): difference between sex were clear, being 71.8% the total of boys who have never received this kind of pictures compared to only 57.4% of girls. Being 8.9% of the female participants who have received these pictures "once", 29.7% "few times" and 4% "frequently". And 3.9% of the male participants have received them "once", 17.5% "few times" and 6.8% "frequently". The huge majority of girls who said that they received it more than once responded that the senders were **different men** each time and 5.9% of the women in the sample answered that it was **always the same male**. While, in the case of men, most of them said they were **different women or different people**, men and women.

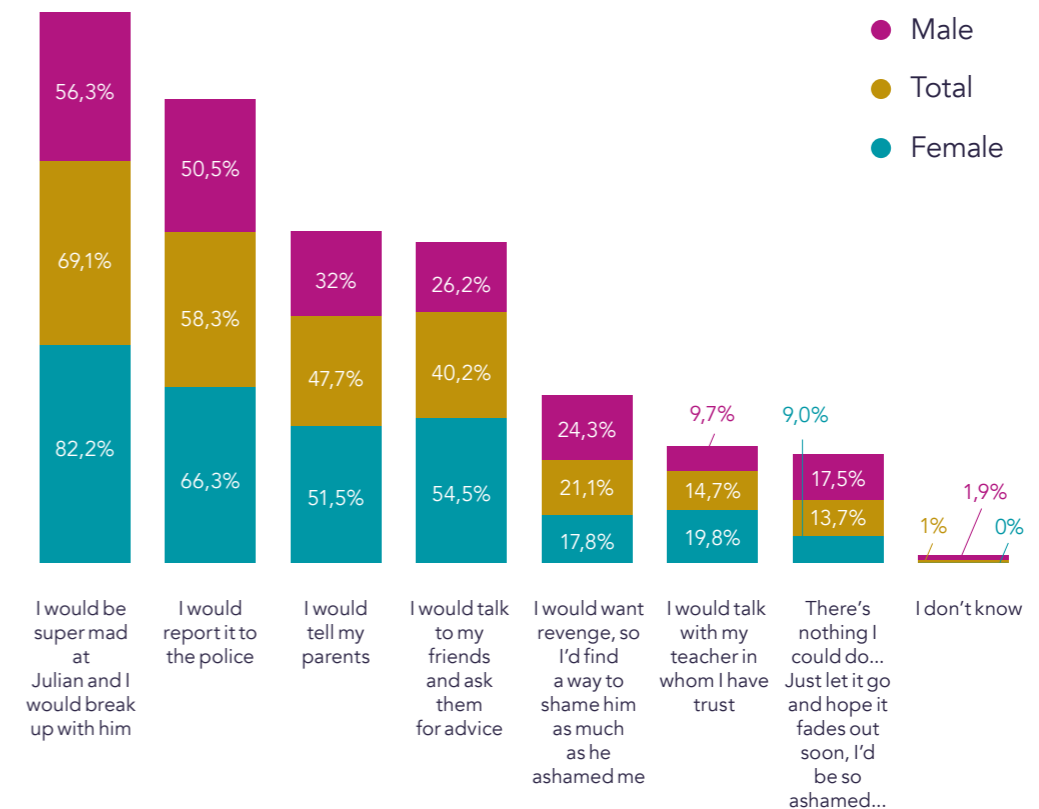
Sharing passwords: 87.8% of the total sample responded that they never shared their password with their partners (35.8% because they have never been in a relationship). 6.4% of the total sample (7.9% of girls and 4.9% of boys) answered that they have shared it with their male partners and 5.9% of the total sample (1% of girls and 10.7% of boys) answered that they have shared it with their female partners. 1% of girls and 2.9% of boys of the sample answered that their partners had used their password to make posts, changes, etc. without their knowledge.

Changing the profile picture: 92.6% of the sample answered "no" (39.7% because they have never been in a relationship). 5% of the girls answered "affirmatively", because their male partners suggested it and 8.7% and 1% of boys answered "yes" because their female partner and male partner respectively suggested it.

As it can be seen, this data has to be taken with extreme caution, as it can be misleading. The grand amount of data and research conducted on this topic suggest that some of these responses could not be showing the reality of the phenomena. This can be due to the limitations in the methodology previously explained.

3.4 What would they do and how would they react if it happened to them?

Sexpreading



When given the scenario of a case of Sexpreading or Revenge Porn, where a boy resends naked photos of his girlfriend to his friends and those get more and more spread through social media, the participants were asked what would they do if they were the girl. Multiple answers were allowed for this question.

The first thing that can be noticed is that girls have marked more than one answer on a greater extent than boys, whether it is because, in general, they have shown more interest in the questionnaire than boys, because they have more resources and knowledge than boys or because they can empathize more with the girls' position, it cannot be known.

About responses, the percentage of girls that would do or react in a way described by the answers is larger in all the possible answers except for two of them: the revenge attitude and the passive attitude.

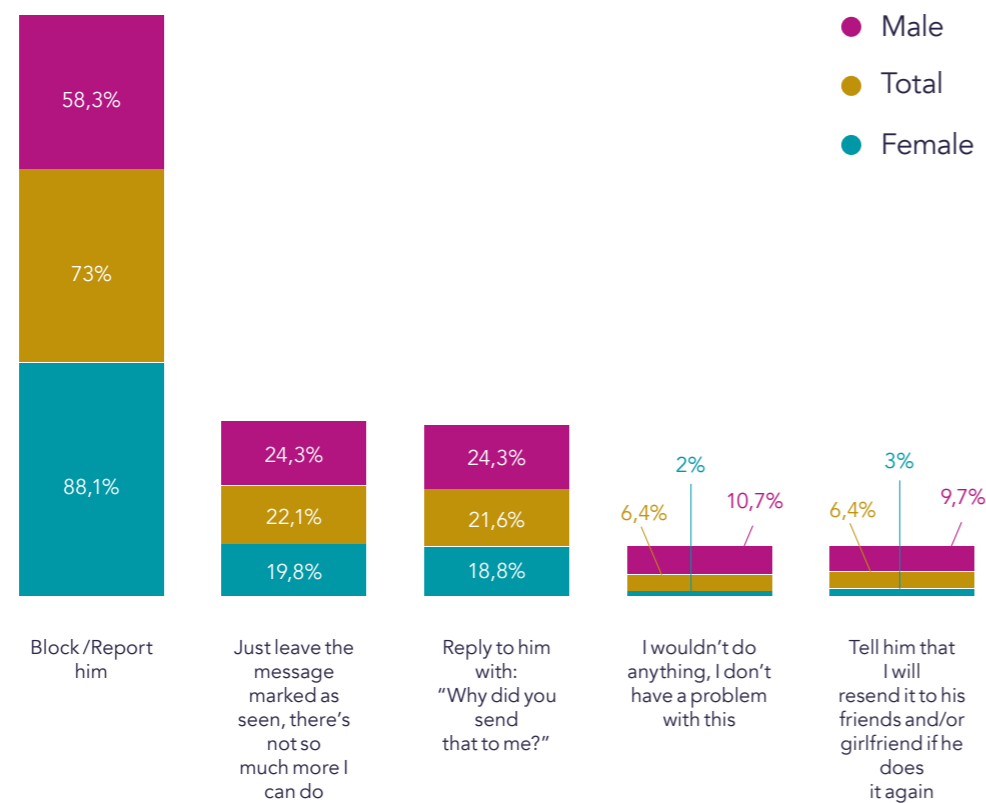
In the case of the revenge attitude, 24.3% of male participants vs. 17.8% of female participants would want revenge and to "find some way to shame him", this difference says a lot about gender stereotypes itself: when socialized, girls tend to learn that they need to be peaceful and submissive whereas boys have to be tough and defend their pride when harmed.

About the passive attitude where “there’s nothing they can do and just wait for it to fade”, 17.5% of male participants and 9.9% of female participants marked this as their response. When looking at this sole response, it can be difficult to see the stereotype, but if the other responses are taken into account, it can be seen that male respondents are less prone to seek for advice from friends, teachers or parents. It is in their gender socialization that men cannot show weakness, thus, seek for help or telling other people would make themselves ‘not male enough’.

About breaking up, again girls have a clearer response than boys, as 82.2% of them would break up with him compared to only 56% of boys.

Finally, another thing that may be surprising is the level of respondents who would confide with the police in this case (66.3% of girls and 50.5% of boys).

Sexual Harassment – Send unsolicited intimate photos (“cyberflashing”)

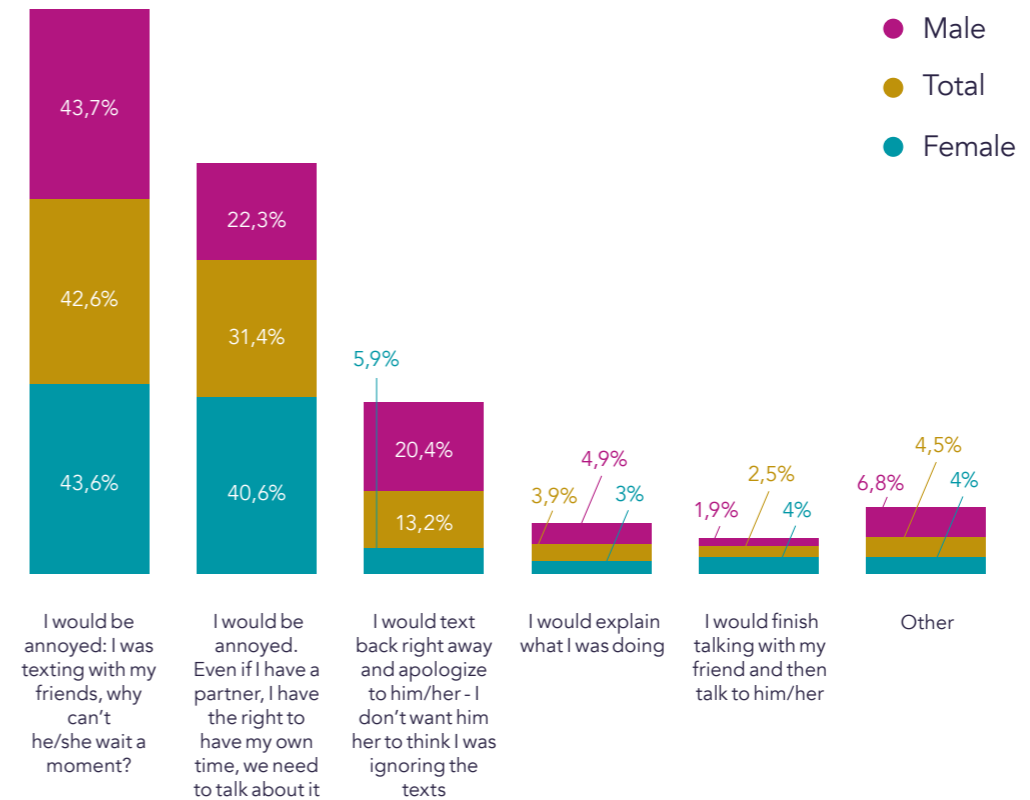


An Instagram conversation, where a man sent an unsolicited sexually explicit photo (dickpic) to a woman, was showed to the participants and those were asked what their response would be. Multiple answers were allowed for this question.

As it can be seen, the most repeated response to this behavior is blocking and reporting, which is the most used response by most girls, followed by leaving the message as seen and replying to them by inquiring why they sent the photo.

As occurred in the previous scenario with the revenge, boys would choose the threat to expose them more than girls.

Control Violence in Intimate Partner Relationships – constantly messaging

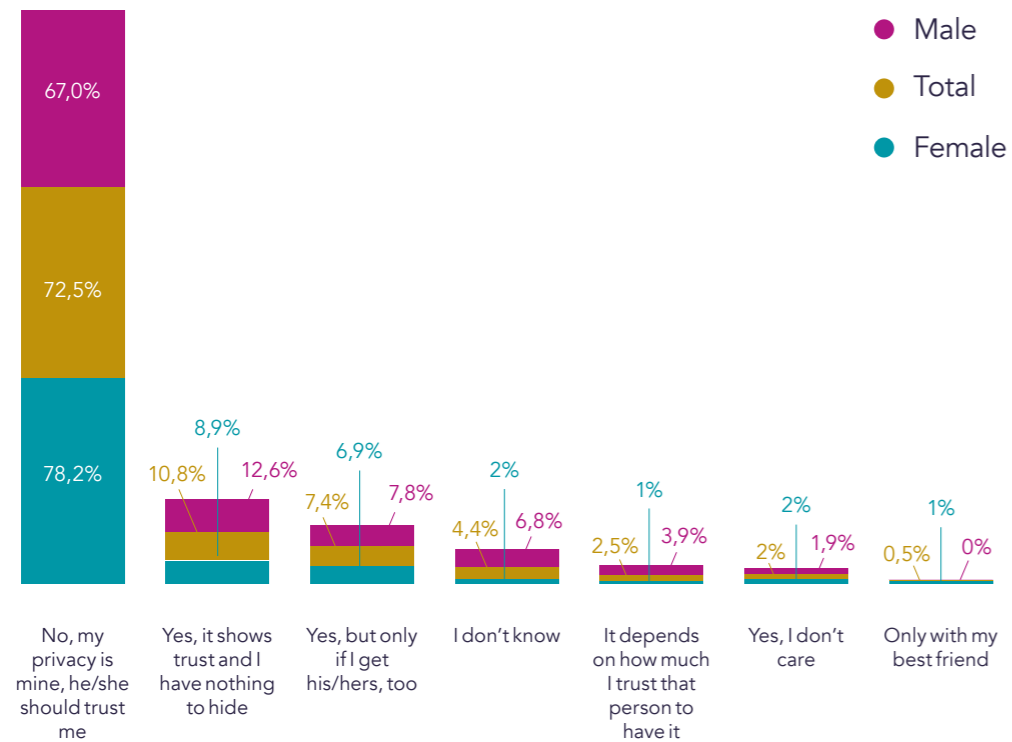


In this case, a situation where their partner does not stop messaging them was shown to the participants, asking them what their response would be, to measure the level of awareness of the youngsters.

Even though 43% of both girls and boys answered that they would be mad at their partners, almost twice the girls (40.6%) than boys (22.3%), answered in a reflective way, being clear that even if they have a partner, they have the right to have their privacy and own space. 20.4% of the boys vs. 5.9% of the girls would text back, ignoring the red flag and feeling bad about it.

This, again, makes clear the importance of raising awareness against gender-based violence among boys. If they do not perceive it as a problem, how can it be expected of them to not become violent or at least toxic in their own relationships?

Control Violence in Intimate Partner Relationships – Password exchange



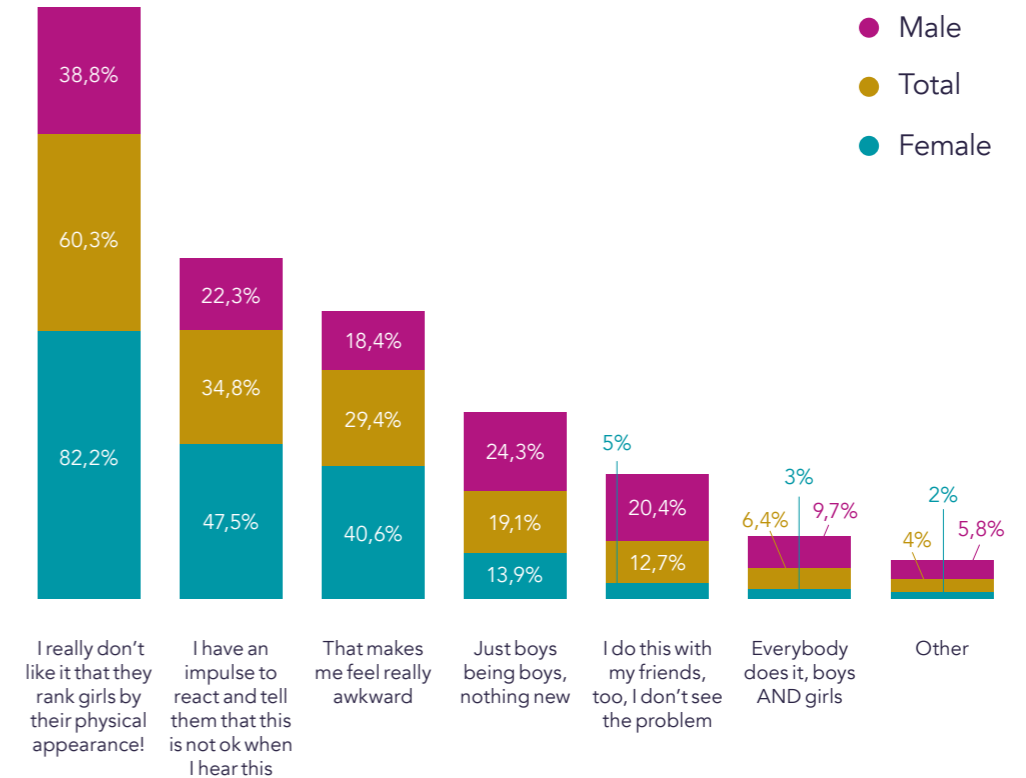
The respondents were asked about whether they would exchange their password with their partners.

Most of the sample, girls and boys, seem to have a clear picture about exchanging passwords and their right to their own privacy. Again, we can see a slight differentiation by sex, given that 12.6% of boys vs. 8.9% of girls would exchange their password as a sign of trust. But in general, it appears as a conduct they know it is not about trust.

This correlates with the previous question shown at the experiences part, where only 6.4% of the sample had exchanged their passwords with their partners.

3.5 What would be their response or reaction as observers of this behaviors?

Sexualization of women's bodies

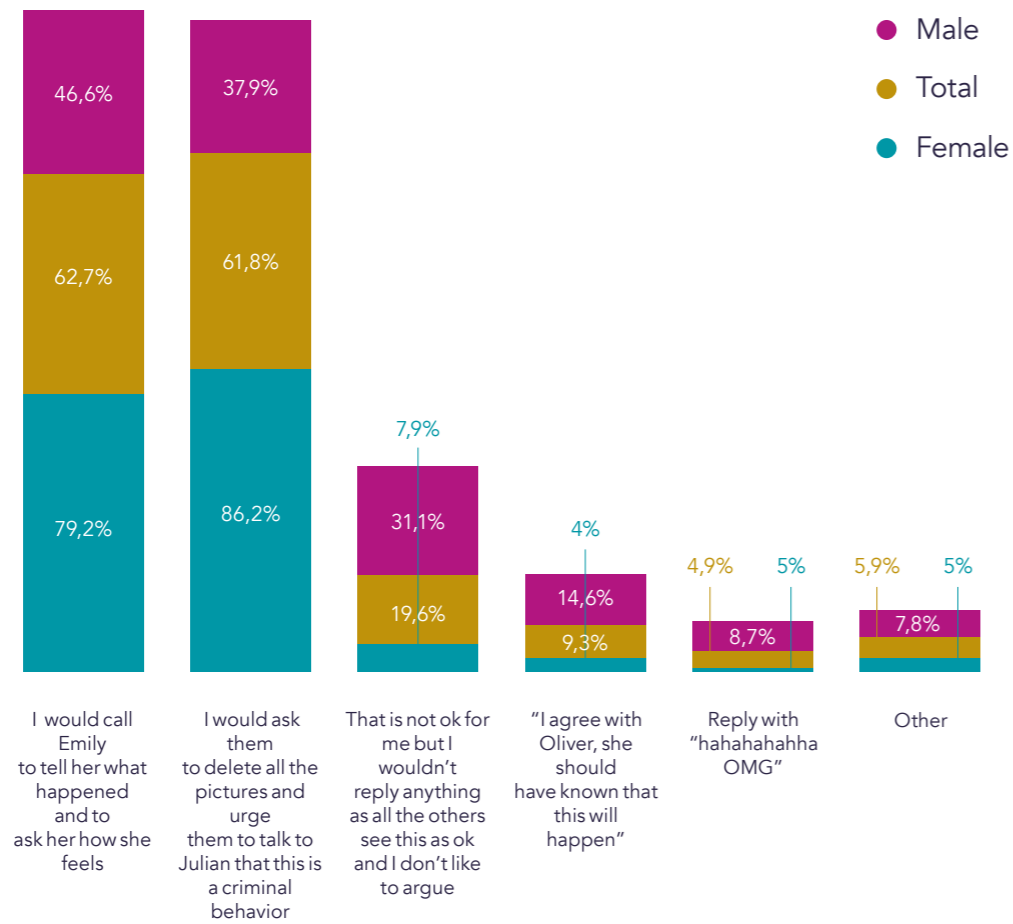


A conversation was shown about a group chat where boys were doing rankings about girls by their physical appearance. The participants were asked what they thought about it. Multiple answers were allowed in this question.

As it can be seen, girls responded with multiple answers in a greater extent than boys and most of the girls reprovved the behavior (while only 38.8% of boys did it). Almost half of them would have the impulse to react when hearing or observing this behavior and it made them feel really awkward when seeing this.

On the other hand, 24.3% of boys normalized the behavior and ascribed it as something boys do and 20.4% admitted they have done it as well, compared to 5% of girls.

Sexpreading – Revenge Porn

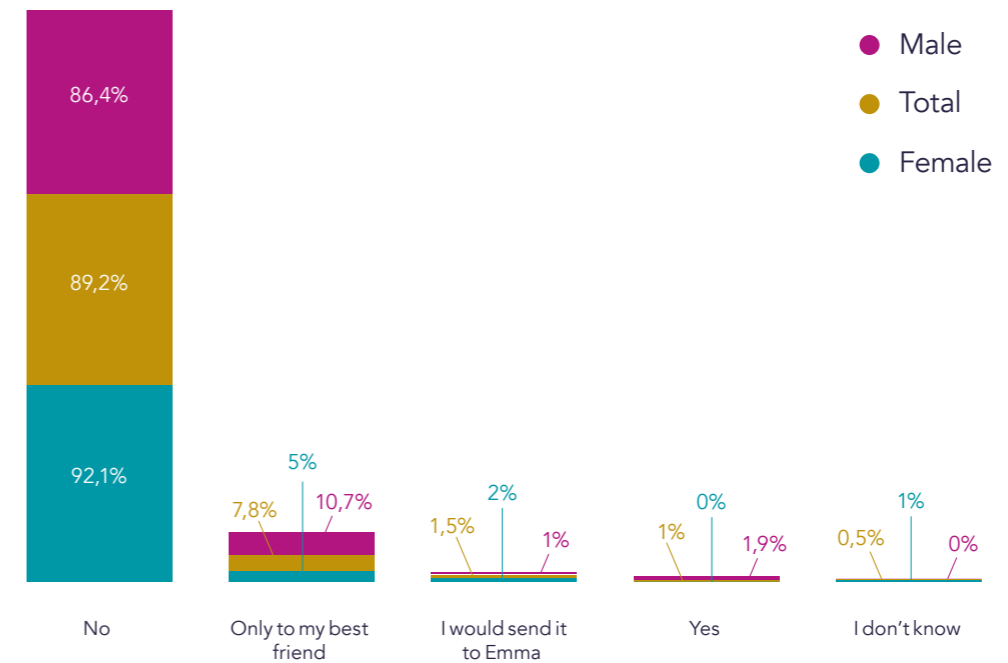


Using the same sexpreading scenario as the one described before, participants were asked about what their response would be as a member of the group (spectator or bystander).

79.2% of girls would call the girl to tell her and ask about her feelings and 86.2% would ask the people who spread the photo to delete it and talk to the boy. While only 46.6% and 37.9% of boys would act that way respectively.

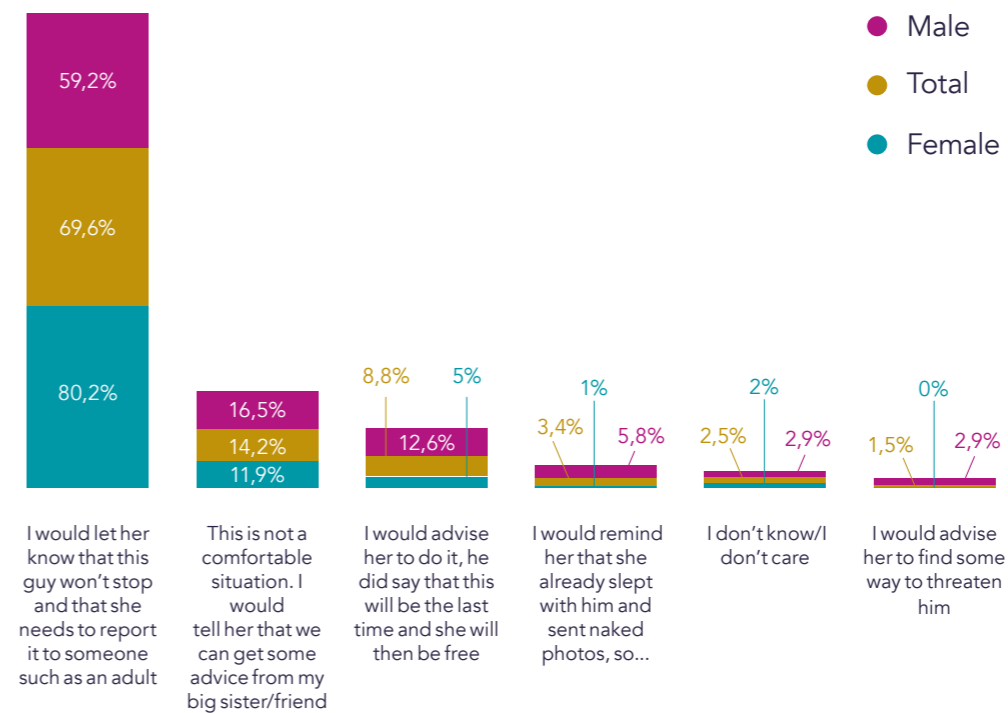
Besides, more boys than girls (31.1% vs. 7.9%) would not reply or say anything, 14.6% of boys vs. 4% of girls would adopt a victim blaming attitude, claiming that she shouldn't have sent the pictures and 8.7% of boys vs. 1% of girls would laugh at it.

Sexpreading: Resending the picture



Again, with the same example, participants were asked whether they would resend the picture or not, most of them would not do it but again 10.7% of boys compared to 5% of girls would forward it to their friend.

Sexual Harassment – Sextortion

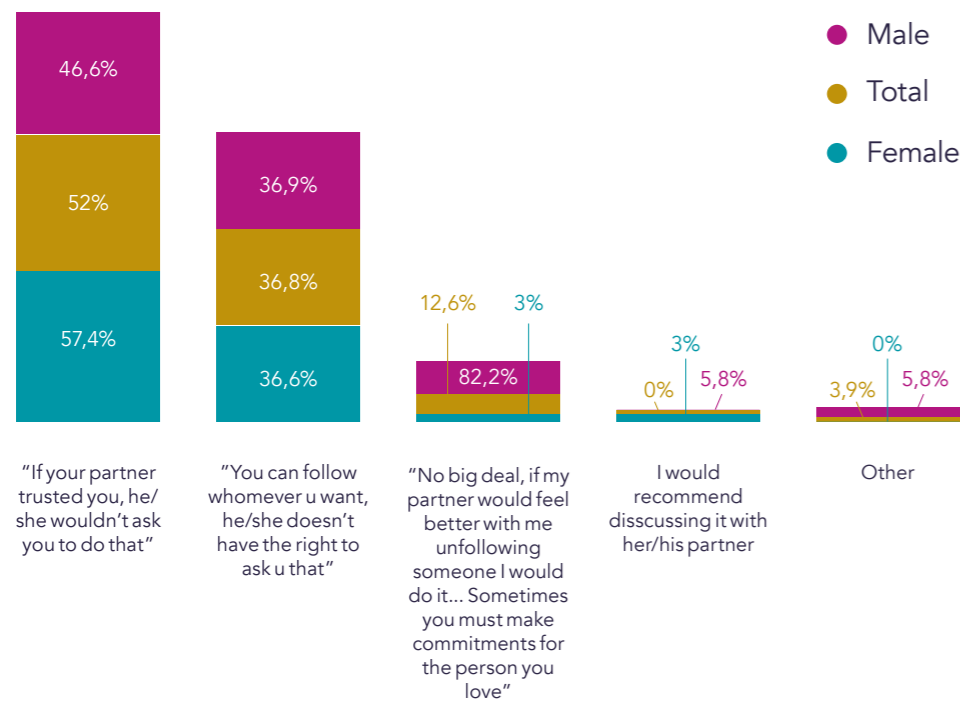


A situation where a friend was asking the participants for advice in a sextortion situation, where the boy was threatening her to expose some naked pictures of her unless she slept with him one last time, was shown to the participants. They were asked what their advice would be.

As it can be seen, 80.2% of girls vs. 59.2% of boys would let her know that sleeping again with him will not work and that she needs to tell someone. And 11.9% of girls and 16.5% of boys would turn to someone else more experienced to help her.

On the other hand, more than twice as many boys (12.6%) as girls (5%) would advise her to do it and 5.8% of boys vs. 1% of girls would adopt a victim blaming attitude.

Control Violence in Intimate Partner Relationships – Erasing Contacts

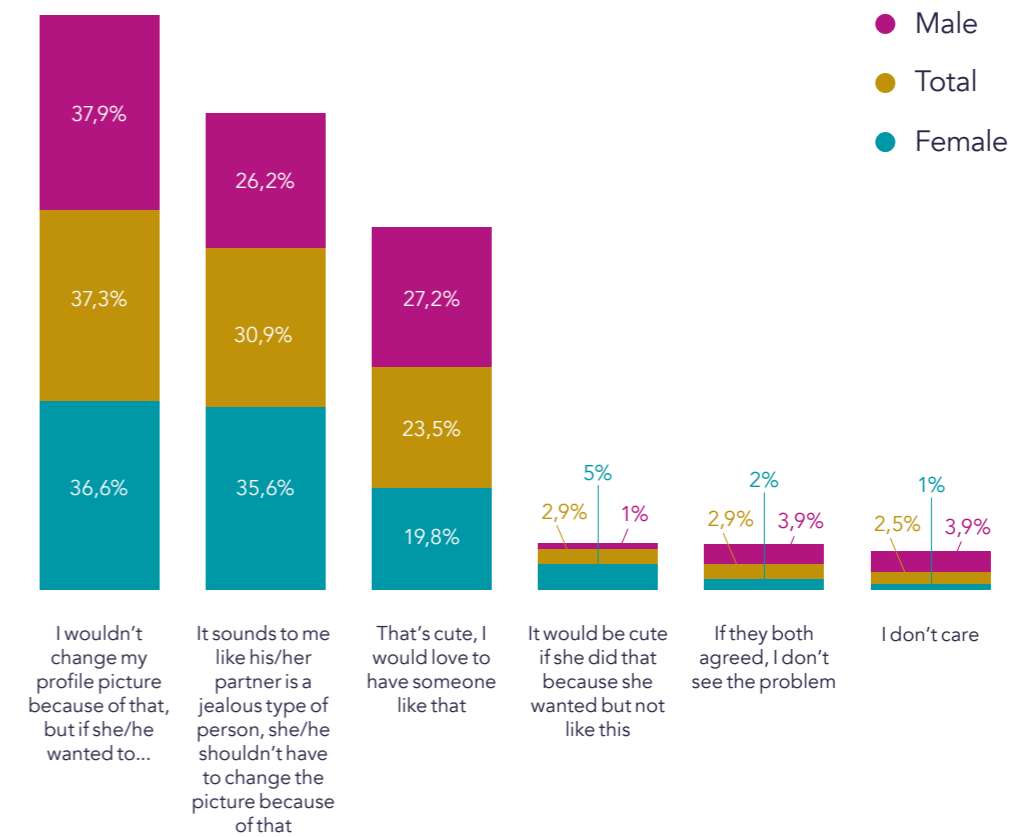


A scenario where a friend asked the respondents for advice when their partner asked them to erase a contact from their social media because he/she thought they were flirting was shown. The participants were asked to give an answer.

As it can be seen, most of the respondents show awareness about the red flag in this situation, even some of them (52%) feeling clear that it's about trust.

Once more, a gender difference can be found, being 12.6% of the boys who would erase the contact, based on love and commitment, compared with 3% of girls. In addition, 3% of girls would recommend the friend to talk with their partner about it.

Control Violence in Intimate Partner Relationships – Changing profile picture



Only 35.6% of girls and 26.2% of boys would identify the red flag in this scenario, talking about jealousy, while over 37% of both girls and boys would not change it for that reason but would say nothing.

Besides, 27.2% of boys and 19.8% of girls have found it "cute" and would want a partner like this, 5% of girls and 1% of boys would find it cute if she would have done it because they wanted to, but not for that reason, and 2% of girls and 3.9% of boys don't see the problem if they both agreed.

4. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The main conclusions that can be extracted from this research are the following:

1. Female respondents show, in general, highest awareness on all the raised topics than boys. This gender difference has been shown through the whole document.

2. Normalization of certain levels of abuse are generalized among all the sample; being the situations that got highest awareness rates those which are directly violent, even verbal, behaviors, rather than jokes or perceived as mere comments.

3. All the sample, but mostly boys rather than girls, have difficulties locating the **red flags** on certain abusive behaviors in a dating relationship (or are confused about them) such as constantly messaging, exchanging passwords, erasing contacts or changing the profile picture.

4. Level of direct cybersexual/gender-based violent experiences among the sample is low and, although it can be possible, that may also be due to the early age of the respondents or the misidentification of the situations lived as violent or abusive. Regardless, women tend to have experienced it, at least once, more than men. However, as it has been cleared during the document, the majority of the research have shown that number of experiences could be higher in a more representative sample.

5. Some highlights on the experience's questions are that:

- The sexualization of the body, especially female bodies is high, being that they experienced it more than 50% of the girls in the sample.
- It seems like physical threats are happening more to boys than girls. But it is highly possible that the violent threats they are reporting here are acts of peer violence (bullying, fights) rather than gender-based violence. Furthermore, when asked if any of those received threats involved sexual violence, 0% of males answered affirmatively compared to females, where there were 2 affirmative cases. So even when those threats are more directed towards males, those that include sexual violence are not. Sexual violence is used as a threat against girls but not boys.
- Sexual harassment in the form of receiving undesired explicit photos is a huge (and gendered) phenomena, with almost half of the female respondents having experienced it at least once (29.7% of them few times).

6. Concerning their mechanisms and attitudes to deal with it in case they were to suffer from a form of violence in general, it seems like girls have more ways of

dealing with it than boys. Whether it is because they showed more interest in the questionnaire or because they have experienced it themselves; or at least know from some other girl who did, and know better how to deal with it, it cannot be known.

7. The way girls and boys would react is gendered as well, with boys tending more to active/revenge responses than girls in cases like sexpreading or sexual harassment.

8. On the other hand, when talking about control violence in intimate partner relationships, it seems like girls noticed the red flags and would act accordingly more than boys, who happen to ignore those.

9. Finally, focusing on behaviors as bystanders or counselors, gendered responses are also observed.

- In general, boys tend to adopt a bystander attitude more than girls, who are more likely to act when they observe an abusive or violent behavior among their peers.
- And, when asked for help, boys tend to give non-aware advice more than girls.

Having all this in mind, further steps according to what have been raised here have to be directed towards:

1. Focusing on raising awareness among boys to stand against gender-based violence. When focusing our attentions only on raising awareness and empowering women we are only focusing on half of the phenomena. In order for gender-based violence to be eradicated, efforts must be made towards educating boys and changing their hegemonic masculinity patterns as well.

2. Keep empowering girls and giving them tools and services where they can turn to in case of need.

3. Training on red flags detection. It has been noticed that more awareness on toxic/healthy relationships must be provided.

4. Providing teens with attractive and innovative ways to inform themselves about these matters.

Annex 1 – Tables and graphics

a) General awareness - Gender-based Violent Behaviors

Behaviors		Totally Unacceptable %	Not OK %	Not Sure %	Kind of OK %	OK & normal %
Commenting with friends about a girl who has a "reputation"	Girls	41,6%	35,6%	13,9%	3%	5,9%
	Boys	14,6%	43,7%	17,5%	15,5%	8,7%
Saying things like "you look so gay on this picture" or "look at her she looks like a boy"	Girls	63,4%	31,7%	5%	0%	0%
	Boys	31,1%	48,5%	10,7%	8,7%	1%
Mocking online someone because he/she is gay/lesbian/bisexual	Girls	94,1%	5%	0%	1%	0%
	Boys	84,5%	11,7%	1,9%	0%	1,9%
Mocking someone because they posted something saying no to abuse and violence	Girls	80,2%	15,8%	4%	0%	0%
	Boys	50,5%	38,8%	6,8%	3,9%	0%
Boys entering girls' changing rooms in schools and taking photos of them for fun	Girls	98%	2%	0%	0%	0%
	Boys	83,5%	14,6%	1%	1%	0%

b) Experiences related to sexual and gender-based violence: Tables

Did it ever happen to you that...

- Someone commented online or through chat about you or your body in a sexual way, both through positive or negative comments?

	Female	Male	Total
Never	36,6%	57,3%	47,1%
Few Times	40,6%	26,2%	33,3%
Frequently	14,9%	11,7%	13,2%
Once	7,9%	4,9%	6,4%

- Someone posted online mean or hurtful (could be montaged) picture/video/webpage of you OR created a fake account under your name?

	Female	Male	Total
Never	84,2%	87,4%	85,8%
Few Times	13,9%	7,8%	10,8%
Frequently	2,0%	3,9%	2,9%
Once	0%	1%	0,5%

If the answer is "Few times" or "Frequently":

→ Was it the same person?

	Female	Male	Total
Rest of respondents	98,0%	95,1%	96,6%
No, different people	2,0%	4,9%	3,4%

→ How did you feel?

	Female	Male	Total
No big deal, I didn't care	2,0%	1,9%	2,0%
I felt scared, powerless...	0%	2,9%	1,5%

- Someone blackmailed you that they will post private information/ photo/video of you online if you don't do something sexual in return (send some sexually explicit photos, have sex with them, etc.)

	Female	Male	Total
Never	92,1%	96,1%	94,1%
Once	5,9%	1,9%	3,9%
Few times	2,1%	1,9%	2,0%

If the answer is "Few times" or "Frequently":

→ Was it the same person?

	Female	Male	Total
No, different people	1,0%	1,0%	1,0%
Yes, a male who wasn't my partner or ex-partner	1,0%	1,0%	1,0%

→ How did you feel?

	Female	Male	Total
No big deal, I didn't care	1,0%	1,9%	1,5%
I felt scared, powerless...	1,0%	0%	0,5%

- Someone posted intimate photo/video of you that you sent him/her privately without your consent (with or without visible intimate parts of the body)

	Female	Male	Total
Never	87,1%	94,2%	90,7%
Once	5,9%	4,9%	5,4%
Few times	6,9%	1,0%	3,9%

If the answer is "Few times" or "Frequently":

→ Was it the same person?

	Female	Male	Total
No, different people	3,0%	0%	1,5%
Yes, a male who wasn't my partner or ex-partner	1,0%	0%	0,5%
Yes, my partner or ex-partner	1,0%	0%	0,5%
Yes, a female who wasn't my partner or ex-partner	2,0%	1,0%	1,5%

→ How did you feel?

	Female	Male	Total
I don't know	1,0%	0%	0,5%
No big deal, I didn't care	1,0%	1,0%	1,0%
I felt scared, powerless...	5,0%	0%	2,5%

- Someone threatened you online/via email/via chat/via comment sections (threats related to your physical safety)?

	Female	Male	Total
Never	73,3%	67,0%	70,1%
Few Times	11,9%	15,5%	13,7%
Once	14,9%	12,6%	13,7%
Frequently	0%	4,9%	2,5%

If the answer is "Few times" or "Frequently":

→ Was it the same person?

	Female	Male	Total
No, different people	8,9%	16,5%	12,7%
Yes, a male who wasn't my partner or ex-partner	3,0%	3,9%	3,4%

→ How did you feel?

	Female	Male	Total
It was mutual	1,0%	1,0%	1,0%
I attacked him too	0%	1,0%	0,5%
I reported him	1,0%	0%	0,5%
I don't know	0%	1,9%	1,0%
No big deal, I didn't care	4,0%	12,7%	8,3%
I felt scared, powerless...	5,9%	3,9%	4,9%

→ Did the threat include things related to sexual violence, e.g. rape toward you?

	Female	Male	Total
No	9,9%	20,4%	15,2%
Yes	2,0%	0%	1,0%

- Someone asked you to watch online porn or participate in acts inspired by online porn?

	Female	Male	Total
Few Times	8,9%	8,7%	8,8%
Never	82,2%	82,5%	82,4%
Frequently	0%	4,9%	2,5%
Once	8,9%	3,9%	6,4%

If the answer is "Few times" or "Frequently":

→ Was it the same person?

	Female	Male	Total
No, different people	5,0%	10,7%	7,8%
Yes, my partner or ex-partner	2,0%	0%	1,0%
Yes, a male who wasn't my partner or ex-partner	2,0%	1,9%	2,0%

→ How did you feel?

	Female	Male	Total
It was disgusting, felt uncomfortable	4,0%	0%	2,0%
No big deal, I didn't care	3,0%	12,6%	7,8%
I felt scared, powerless...	2,0%	0%	1,0%

- Did you ever send a message to a person you haven't met in life with a photo in it from any of your intimate body part(s)?

	Female	Male	Total
No	93,1%	90,3%	91,7%
Yes, because he/she was asking for it	4,0%	0%	2,0%
Yes, because I wanted to	3,0%	9,7%	6,4%

- If you have or had a partner, did you ever send a message to him/her with a photo in it of any of your intimate body part(s)?

	Female	Male	Total
No	52,5%	48,5%	50,5%
No, because I haven't been in a relationship	32,6%	37,9%	37,7%
Yes, because he/she was asking for it	2,0%	2,9%	2,5%
Yes, because I wanted to	7,9%	10,7%	9,3%

- Did it ever happen to you that you got an unwanted message of someone's intimate body part(s)?

	Female	Male	Total
Few Times	29,7%	17,5%	23,5%
Never	57,4%	71,8%	64,7%
Frequently	4,0%	6,8%	5,4%
Once	8,9%	3,9%	6,4%

If the answer is "Few times" or "Frequently":

→ Was it the same person?

	Female	Male	Total
No, different people, men and women	1,0%	4,9%	2,9%
No, different people, all women	1,0%	12,6%	6,9%
No, different people, all men	25,7%	1,9%	13,7%
Yes, it was a male person	5,9%	1,9%	3,9%
Yes, it was a female person	0%	1,9%	1,0%

- Did it ever happen to you that you were sharing your password with your partner/ex-partner?

	Female	Male	Total
No	51,5%	52,4%	52,0%
No, because I haven't been in a relationship	39,6%	32,0%	35,8%
Yes, my male partner or ex-partner	7,9%	4,9%	6,4%
Yes, my female partner or ex-partner	1,0%	10,7%	5,9%

If yes: did it happen that he/she used your password and made posts, changes, etc. on the given online platform (e-mail, social sites) that you were not aware of (good OR bad things)?

	Female	Male	Total
No	7,9%	10,7%	9,3%
I don't know	0%	1,9%	1,0%
Yes	1,0%	2,9%	2,0%

- Did it ever happen to you that you were sharing your password with your partner/ex-partner?

	Female	Male	Total
No	53,5%	52,4%	52,9%
No, because I haven't been in a relationship	41,6%	37,9%	39,7%
Yes, my male partner asked me and I did it	5,0%	1,0%	2,9%
Yes, my female partner asked me and I did it	0%	8,7%	4,4%