



THE PROMISE AND PERIL OF AI: SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

THE ROLE OF AI IN SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies have revolutionized media creation, but their misuse has exacerbated sexual exploitation globally. Among the most concerning applications is the use of deepfake technology to manipulate images and videos, often without consent, resulting in devastating psychological, reputational, and social harm for victims.

Deepfakes leverage AI-driven tools to fabricate highly realistic but false explicit media by altering or generating images and videos. These tools, once complex and inaccessible, are now easily available via open-source platforms and affordable apps, enabling even unskilled individuals to create convincing, harmful content.

HOW AI ENABLES EXPLOITATION

- **Non-Consensual Pornography**
 - Studies reveal that 98% of all deepfake videos online are pornographic, with 99% targeting women. Victims are often unaware of the content until it is shared or weaponized against them.
 - AI tools allow users to generate explicit content from everyday photos, such as social media images, by removing clothing or splicing faces onto adult content.



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HOW AI ENABLES EXPLOITATION

- **Manipulation of Minors**

- AI has facilitated the creation of child sexual abuse material (CSAM), enabling predators to fabricate explicit images of minors quickly and cheaply. This content often originates from innocent photos manipulated using AI.

VICTIMS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Elliston Berry (Texas, USA):

- A 15-year-old Texas girl had an innocent family photo, taken on a cruise ship, manipulated into a deepfake explicit image. These fabricated photos were then spread via anonymous Snapchat accounts and text messages, causing significant emotional distress and reputational damage.

Francesca Mani (New Jersey, USA):

- In another case, a 14-year-old girl from New Jersey was one of 30 victims in her school whose images were manipulated into sexualized deepfakes by male classmates. These altered images were circulated among peers, sparking outrage and underscoring the ease of AI exploitation.

Spanish Minors:

- Over 30 girls aged 12-14 from a Spanish town became victims of AI-generated deepfake pornography created and distributed through social media. The scale and speed of such exploitation highlight the pervasive threat of these technologies.

IMPACT OF AI EXPLOITATION

Victims of AI-driven sexual exploitation face severe psychological trauma, societal stigma, and long-term reputational harm. The technology's accessibility and rapid evolution create significant challenges for enforcement, as current laws struggle to keep pace with emerging threats.

LEGISLATIVE SOLUTIONS

- **HB 1709** (Rep. Capriglione) provides a comprehensive risk-based framework to protect human dignity and promote innovation.
- **HB 1092** (Rep. Shaheen) clarifies the criminality of both deepfake videos and images, and increase penalties for content generated of children under 14 years old.
- **HB 1717** (Rep. Shofner) amends Section 43.26 of the penal code to add "indistinguishable" in statute to equip prosecutors to bring action against AI-Generated CSAM creators.

