TECHNOLOGY-ENABLED COERCIVE CONTROL WORKING GROUP

Mission

The Technology Enabled Coercive Control Working Group is a cross-sector effort between the City of Seattle, University of Washington, and Seattle-area organizations that work on gender-based violence issues. Our mission is to disrupt the ways that technology enables and perpetuates coercive control in interpersonal relationships.

We invite participation from public agencies, advocates, service providers, and those involved in the criminal justice system, as well as technology companies and workers – anyone who is interested in helping us combat the abuse of technology in interpersonal relationships.

Goals

- Increase understanding of technology-enabled coercive control across sectors, including in law enforcement and the technology industry.

- Stimulate the creation and/or adoption of technology tools that help people safely exit abusive situations.

- Advance research that sheds light on survivor experiences and potential avenues of support.

- Develop recommendations for companies, law enforcement, and the criminal justice system to adapt to this rapidly changing threat.

- Encourage the development of support systems for victims of technology-enabled coercive control and the institutions that support them.

Members

Organizations currently represented in the working group include:

Government
City of Seattle IT
Seattle Police Department, Victim Support Team

Non-profit
New Beginnings
Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Academic
University of Washington SafeCampus
University of Washington Tech Policy Lab
University of Washington Victim Advocacy Services

Technology
Avvo
Valassis Digital

TECC Clinic

Supporting Survivors of Technology-Enabled Coercive Control (TECC)

Description:

- Technology Enabled Coercive Control (TECC) is defined as the abusive use of technology to stalk, monitor, expose, impersonate and/or humiliate a target. This abusive use of technology can manifest in intimate partner relationships, stalking situations, online harassment, sexual harassment/assault, and in numerous other scenarios of interpersonal abuse. The TECC Clinic is a volunteer program for technologists to provide direct technology support to survivors who are experiencing abusive use of technology. Volunteers can help to secure someone's personal devices and online activity, explain how to preserve digital evidence, and how to incorporate these steps into their safety plan.

TECC Volunteers:

- Assess for and document tech points of compromise

- Identify options to address points of compromise

- Help with tech solutions that support client's goals

- Assist with implementing those options when practical

- Refer to advocates for questions beyond tech

- Maintain confidentiality

Partnering Advocates:

- Identify potential TECC Clinic participants and complete referral

- Accompany to TECC clinic if possible

- Comprehensive safety planning

- Provide information about reporting options and assistance through criminal/legal proceedings

- Maintain confidentiality

TECC Clinic Appointment:

- Introduce roles of TECC Volunteer and Advocate.

- Review intake paperwork

- Clarify individual's personal goals, barriers and identify options

- Discuss potential consequences

- Implement immediate options

- Discuss next steps

- Provide documentation