



“Smart” Technologies and Domestic and Sexual Abuse

**4th Annual Cybercrime Conference
11 July 2019**

Gender and IoT (#GloT)

Dr Leonie Tanczer, @leotanczt

A high-angle, long-exposure photograph of a dense crowd of people walking across a crosswalk. The motion blur creates a sense of constant movement and a busy urban environment. The people are wearing various casual clothing, and the crosswalk lines are clearly visible on the pavement.

Technology is gendered.

Examples?

- Phone size
- Bicycles
- fMRI scans (Kaiser, 2010)
- Advanced Imaging Technology (Currah and Mulqueen, 2011)
- Crash test dummies (Bose et al., 2011)
- “Making things prettier” e.g., by adding different colours, mirrors etc.

Gendered nature of technology

“women and men have different access to the **creation** of technology, have different access to **decision** making about the development of technology, and have different **experiences** with technology.” (Rakow, 1988)

Representation
Design
Usage/control
Effects

A high-angle, long-exposure photograph of a dense crowd of people walking across a crosswalk. The motion blur creates a sense of rapid movement and a busy, chaotic environment. The people are wearing various casual clothing, and the crosswalk lines are clearly visible on the pavement.

Technology is abused.

A MAN HAS CREATED A MACHINE. NOW THE MACHINE WANTS TO CREATE A MAN . . .

Demon Seed^{AA}



MGM presents a HERB JAFFE PRODUCTION JULIE CHRISTIE in "DEMON SEED" co-starring FRITZ WEAVER


Produced by HERB JAFFE Directed by DONALD CAMMELL Screenplay by ROBERT JAFFE, ROGER O. HIRSON

Musical Score Composed and Conducted by JERRY FIELDING Filmed in PANAVISION® and METROCOLOR®



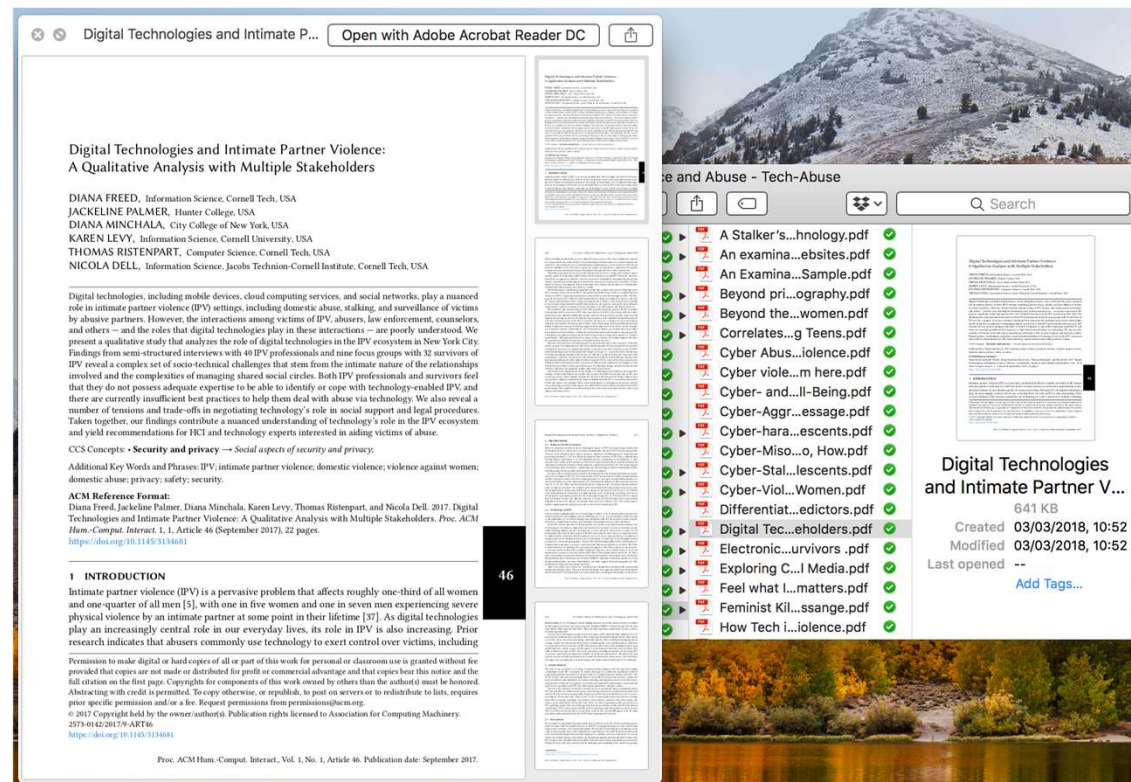
MGM

READ THE CORGI PAPERBACK

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Growing body of work...

“Tech Abuse”



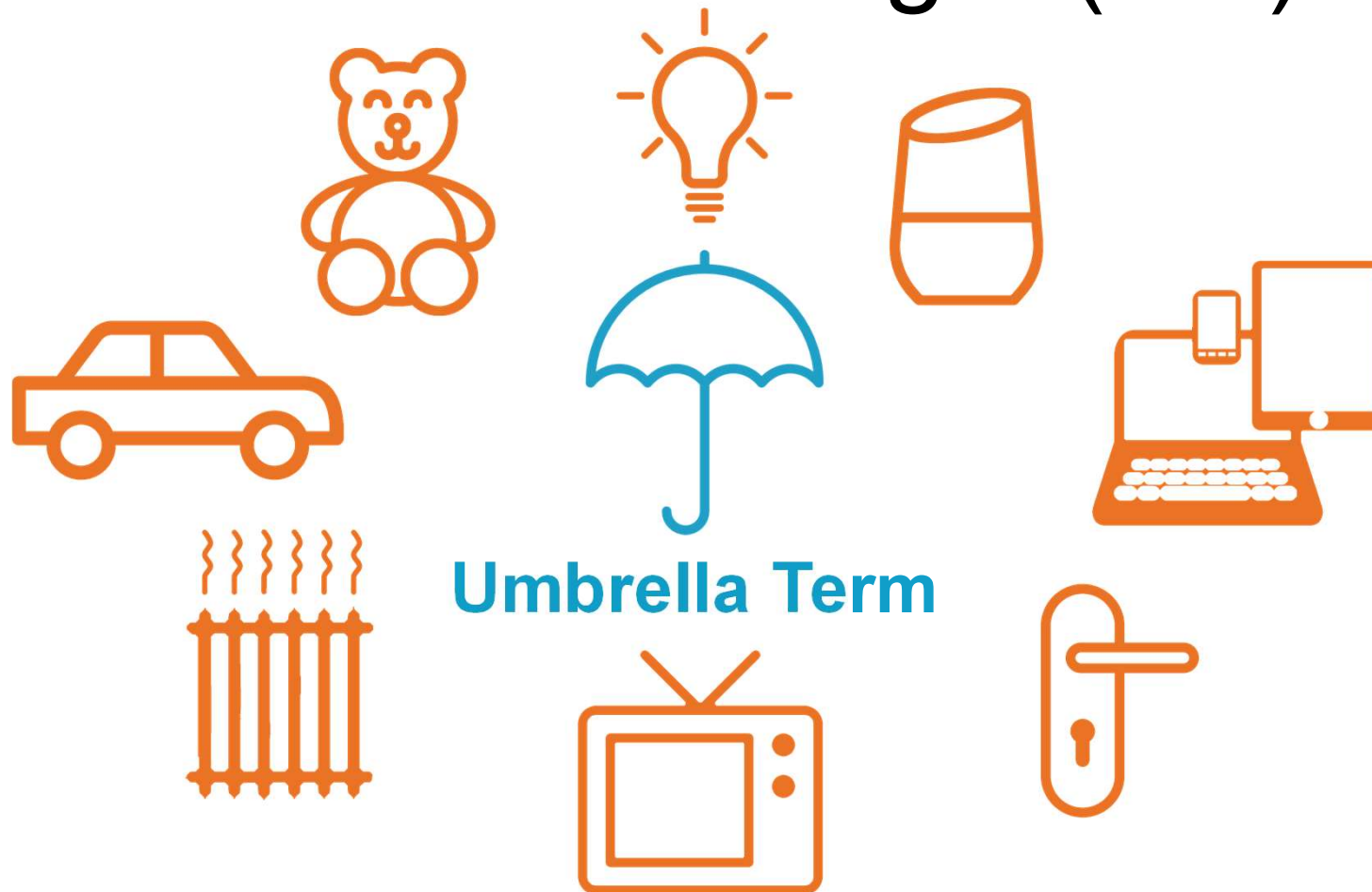
Tech abuse research

- **Online harassment** (Winkelman, 2015; Aghazadeh et al., 2018)
- **Cyber stalking** (Pereira and Matos, 2016)
- **Spyware** (Chatterjee et al., 2018)
- **Image-based abuse / revenge porn / creepshots** (McGlynn, Rackley, Houghton, 2017; Powell et al., 2018)

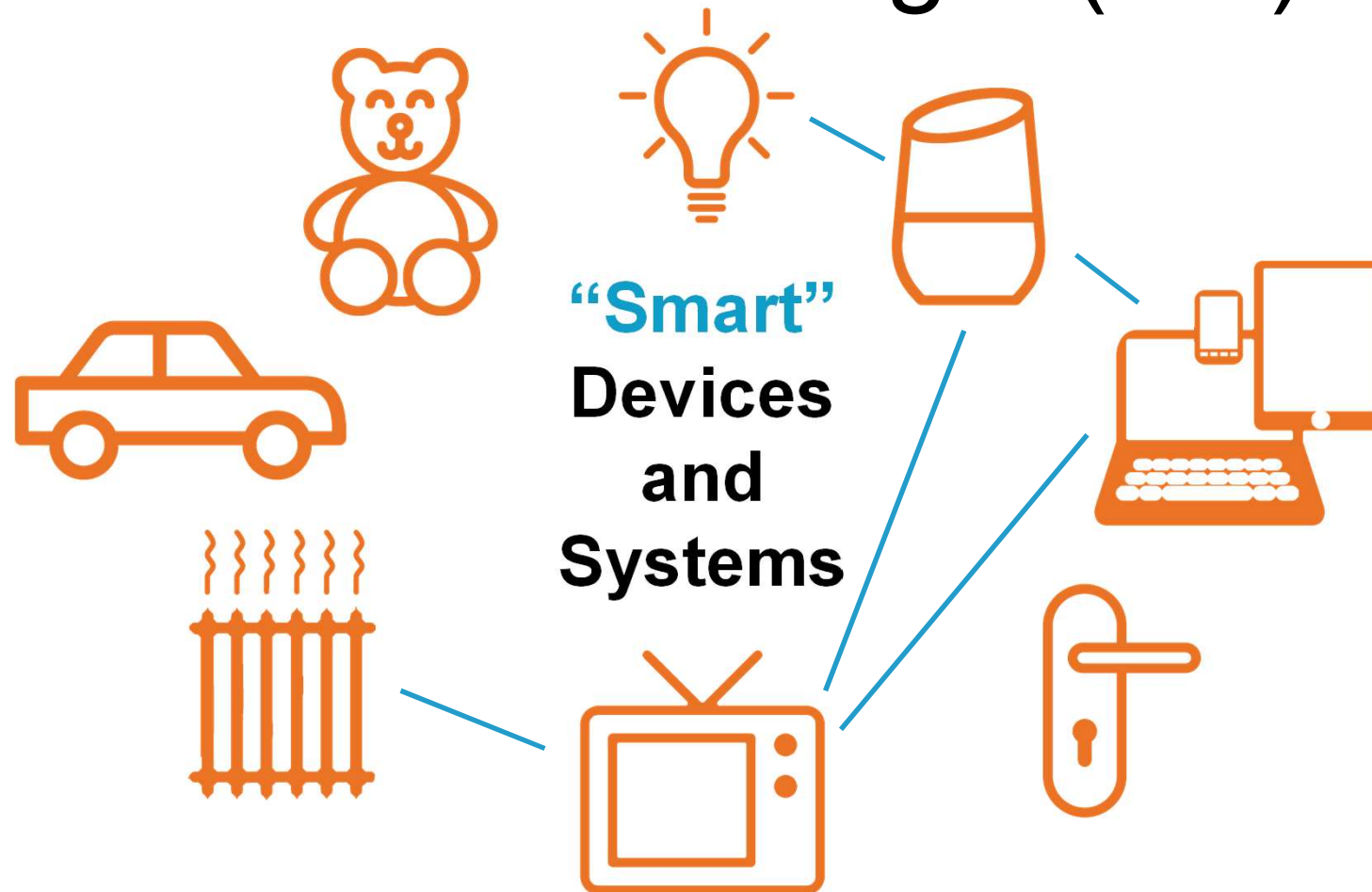
A high-angle, long-exposure photograph of a large crowd of people walking across a crosswalk. The motion blur creates a sense of rapid movement and a dense, busy environment. The people are wearing various casual clothing, and the crosswalk lines are clearly visible on the pavement.

Technology is changing.

“Internet of Things” (IoT)?



“Internet of Things” (IoT)?





By 2020,
some **25 billion**
devices will be
connected to
the Internet with
studies estimating
that this
number will rise to
125 billion in 2030.

Tech abuse research

- **Online harassment** (Winkelman, 2015; Aghazadeh et al., 2018)
- **Cyber stalking** (Pereira and Matos, 2016)
- **Spyware** (Chatterjee et al., 2018)
- **Image-based abuse / revenge porn / creepshots** (McGlynn, Rackley, Houghton, 2017; Powell et al., 2018)

Phone, tablets, laptops, social media, CCTV, and trackers

“Smart” abuse?

Increasing number of household devices are now “smart, but...

- **Disguised** in terms of their ability to sense, accentuate, and collect private data;
 - They look like “**normal**” devices we are used to
- They have new, “**enhanced**” functionalities
 - **Expanding and exacerbating** the reach of coercive and controlling behaviour

#GloT Team

Leonie
Tanczer



Simon
Parkin



George
Danezis



Trupti
Patel



Isabel
Lopez



Julia
Slupska



**London
VAWG
Consortium**



**PRIVACY
INTERNATIONAL**

Action Research



Department
for Culture
Media & Sport



**National Cyber
Security Centre**
a part of GCHQ

G-IoT: aims

1. the **role and impact** IoT technologies have on victims/survivors of domestic violence and abuse;
2. the potential **risk trajectories** that may arise from those devices and services; and
3. the **awareness** victims/survivors and corresponding services (such as womens' shelters) exhibit, and strategies they apply to mitigate those risks.

2 Workshops

6 Trainings

14 Interviews

Tech analysis

1 CryptoParty

Outcomes

1. **Co-developed research** on the issue of emerging IoT risks



2. **Capacity-building** and knowledge exchange

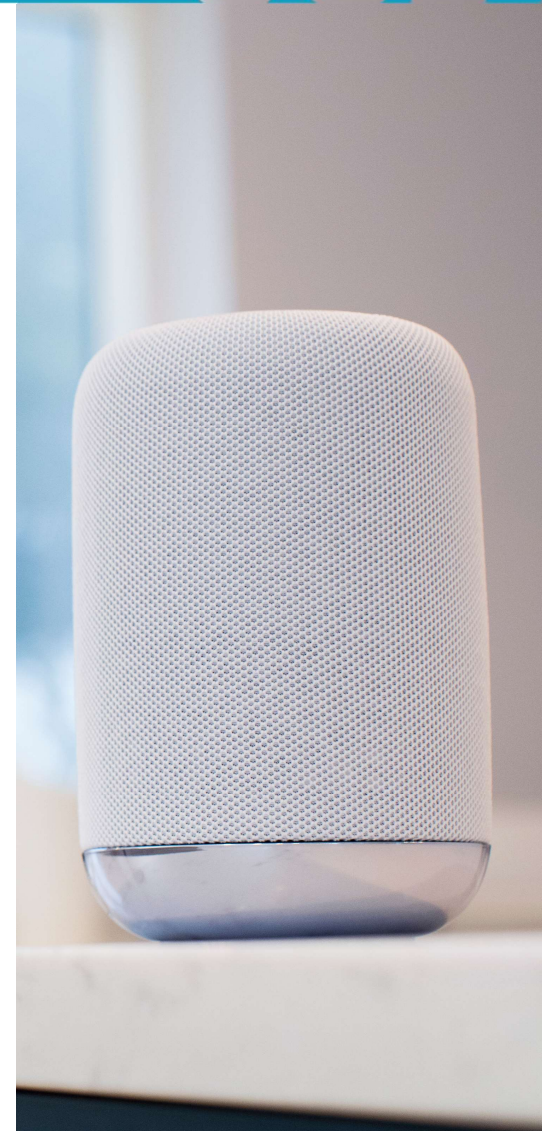


3. **Transformative**, both in regards to practice and policy



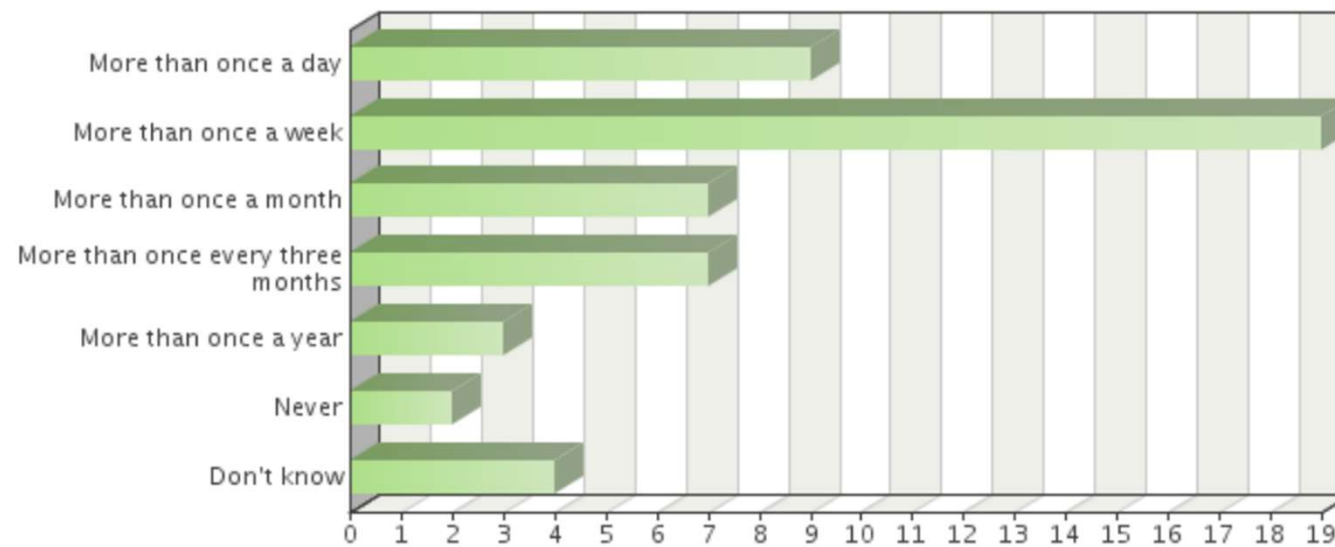


(1) Research



Question 2

How frequently do you encounter tech-related abuses when working within the area of victims/survivors of domestic and sexual violence and abuse?



n=51

Insights

Front line staff:
lack of
knowledge,
require wider
awareness.

In a state of
crisis smart tech
is the last thing
on the list.

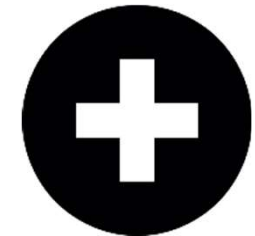
We have become very reliant
on the internet; if a victim
does not have access to the
internet, they may not be able
to contact a charity.

Police are behind
the times in terms
of their tech.

Physical violence
is easier to prove.

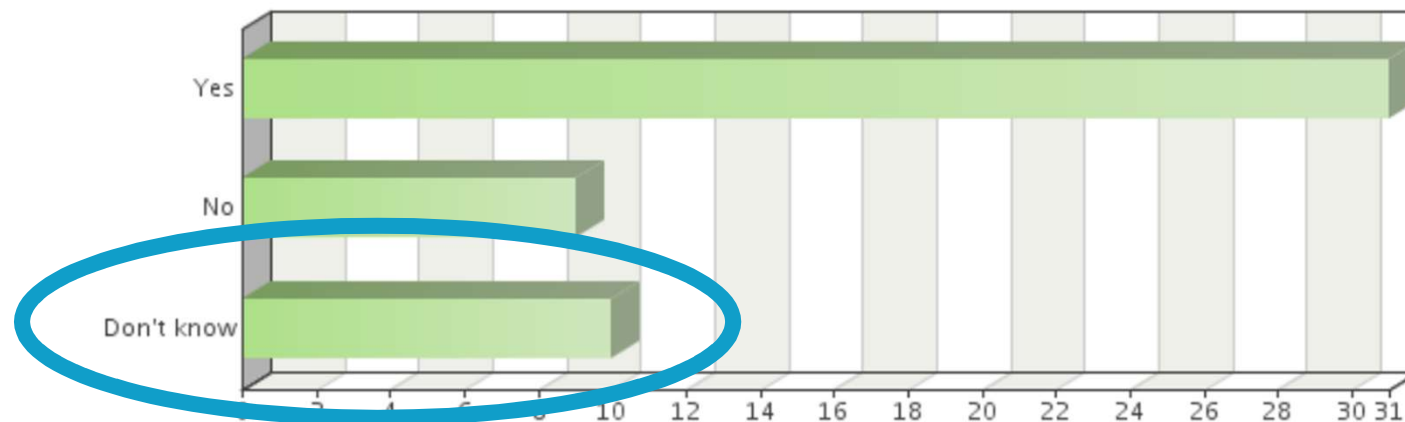
Positive impact

- **Logging of evidence** e.g., tampering, harassment
- **Video footage** e.g., CCTV
- **Communication and contact** e.g., seeking help
- **Online forums and bots** e.g., receiving advice and guidance
- **Detection?**
 - Empowerment



Question 4

Have you already experienced IoT technologies (i.e., "smart", Internet-connected devices) being of concern when working with victims/survivors of domestic and sexual violence and abuse?



n=50



Technical Analysis

1. Management
2. Assumptions
3. Usage



For example: Google Home

Settings and Activation

- Offers a “**Multi-User Support**”, recognising different voices
- A Google account links to **other services**, e.g. Google Play, Netflix

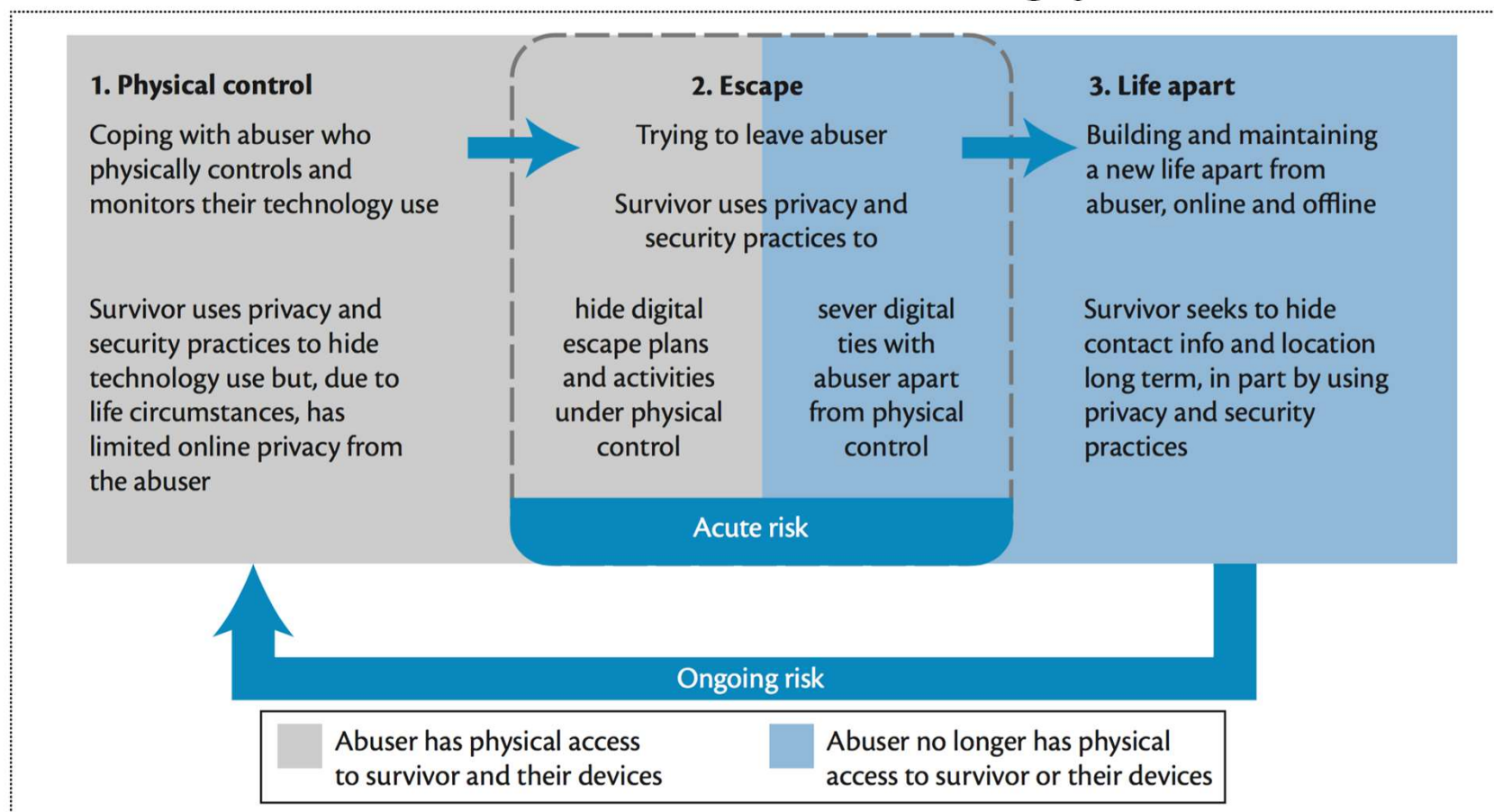
Data Collection

- Google Home collects **voice requests** and browsing history

Privacy and Security Considerations

- History and voice requests may be **deleted** by going to *myactivity.google.com*

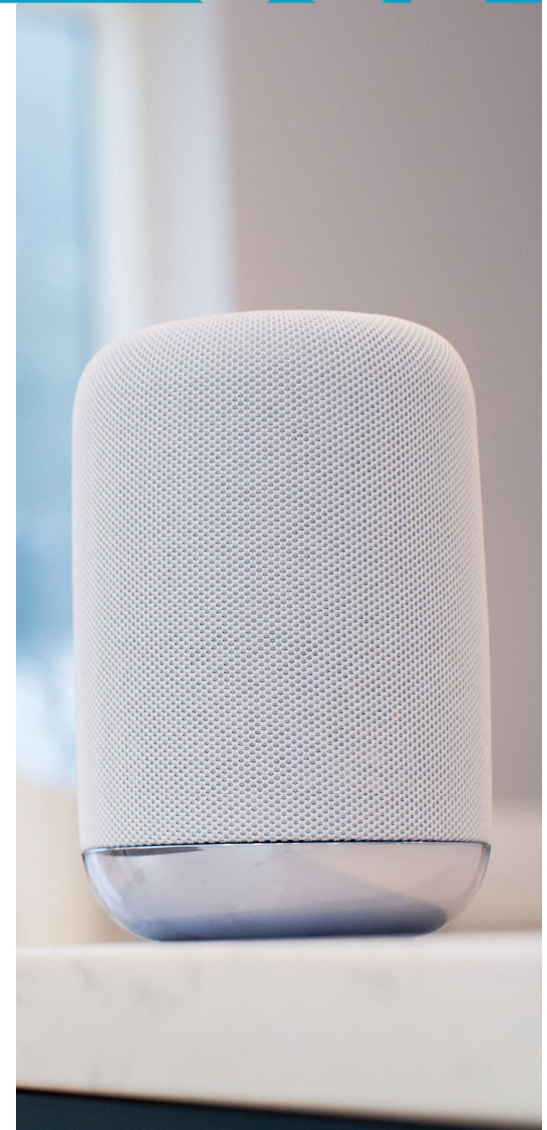
IPA and Technology Use



Matthews et al. 2017. *Stories from Survivors: Privacy & Security Practices when Coping with Intimate Partner Abuse*. CHI 2017.

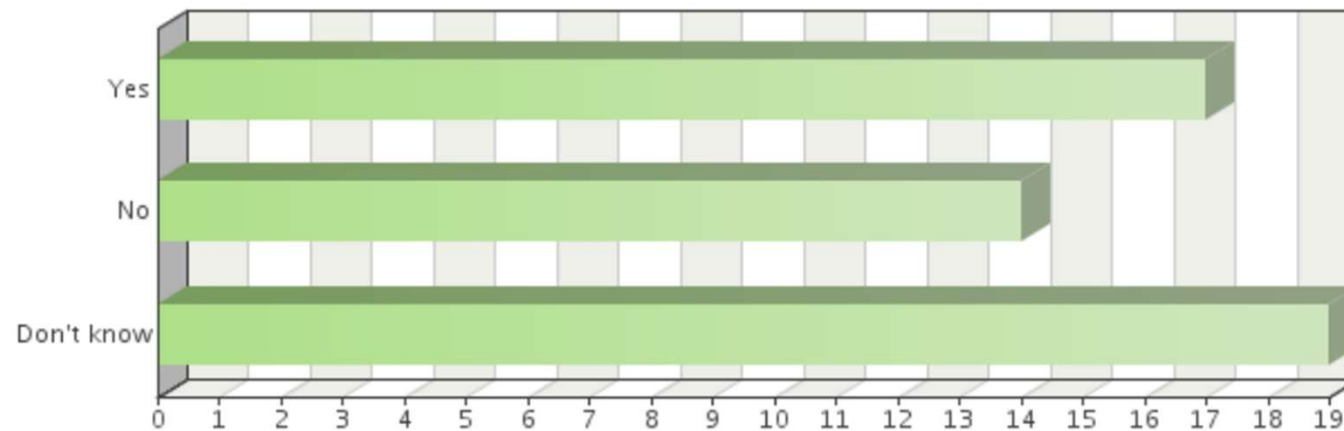


(2) Capacity Building



Question 8

Is your organisation documenting and categorising tech-related abuses?



n=50

Information Material

Gender and IoT (G-IoT): Technical Analysis
Trupti Patel, Leonie Tanczer, Simon Parkin, George Danzeis
April 2018

Based upon the outcomes of the first Gender and Internet of Things (IoT) workshop, participants indicated an interest in learning more about connected IoT systems. This team embarked on an analysis of popular IoT devices. The latter support home automation and allow, amongst others, for the remote controlling of TVs, lights, heating systems and more.

Frequently, IoT devices can be managed through associated apps and dashboards, more so than through the interface of the physical device itself. This user's ability to inspect and directly amend the system's interface if access to the device is prohibited.

We examined three smart home appliances, including the digital assistants Amazon Echo and Google Home, and a smart lighting solution, specifically the Philips Hue. These devices because they appeared to be the most popular IoT devices currently available, and as these systems were frequently mentioned by participants in the first G-IoT workshop.

Below are some of the analysed features that may be of relevance to support research.

Amazon Echo

User Settings & Activation

Users of the Amazon Echo can set up "Household" as part of the "Amazon Household" service. "Amazon Household" allows users to share Amazon benefits with one other person, categorised as "Adult". For instance, both share access to "Prime" benefits (One-Day Delivery, Same-Day Delivery, Video streaming (but not purchasing), Prime Early Access, Kindle Owners' Lending Library), digital content on Amazon Music, and can manage the profiles of "Child" accounts to the profiles. Within each "Amazon Household" there are two "Adult" accounts and four accounts split between "Child" and "Pet" profiles.

"Prime" benefits are shared between the two "Adult" profiles. For instance, both users must agree to share credit and debit cards. The user paying for "Prime" has the right to manage the profiles.


Gender and IoT

This is a draft document.

Social Science Plus Pilot Project

Gender and IoT (G-IoT): Guide
Leonie Tanczer, Trupti Patel, Simon Parkin, George Danzeis
April 2018

What is the Internet of Things?



The Internet of Things (IoT) is an umbrella term that describes interconnected "things" and systems which are the direct and indirect extension of the Internet into a range of physical objects and devices.

IoT, thus, describes "digitally upgraded" products that have become "smart", (e.g., smart phones, TVs, fridges, even cars). The "smartness" emerges from IoT systems capability to:

- collect and transmit data,
- interpret and analyse gathered data, and
- take action – increasingly without direct human intervention;

IoT systems have unique identifiers (so-called Internet Protocol addresses), can be remotely controlled, and function as physical access points to networked services.

Its application areas are wide, stretching from personal fitness to assisted living devices, from home appliances such as smart fridges to utilities such as smart energy meters, and from smart traffic management systems to connected and autonomous vehicles, and transport infrastructures.

What makes IoT risks so different?

While many support services will have encountered technology-supported forms of abuse through phones or laptops, IoT systems enable similar risk vectors but on devices that previously were basically "offline". This means that the heating one formerly only manually switched on and off, may now be controlled digitally through, for example, the smartphone or through autonomous decisions that are triggered by information provided to the devices.

The interdependence and connectedness that IoT creates (i.e., between the human and the larger network) can result in:

- Privacy Risks:** As a large amount of information, including preferences, user habits, and personal details are being collected.
- Security Risks:** As the software used on these devices has to be kept up to date and may be subject to tampering, vulnerabilities, and exploitation.
- Safety Risks:** As the physical state of these devices can be prone to the same safety hazards as any other products (e.g., a burning toaster) before.

Gender and IoT

This is a draft document. Please do not cite or act upon this guide without prior consultation with the authors.

Social Science Plus Pilot Project

Gender and IoT (G-IoT) Resource List
Leonie Tanczer, Trupti Patel, Simon Parkin, George Danzeis
April 2018

Intended as supplementary material to better inform and guide victims of cyberstalking, as well as those working with them. It lists sources by other organisations, guidelines and advice, and highlights known attack vectors which can be exploited. It also offers a reference point to provide information on common privacy issues. This list has been written in response to feedback received from the workshop.

This document was written in April 2018. As technology is constantly evolving, sources may soon be outdated and recommendations may no longer be applicable.

GENERAL INFORMATION

at Assessment: UK Charity Sector is a report from the National Cyber Security Centre that outlines the cyber threat that charities of all sizes now face. <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/cyber-threat-assessment-uk-charity-sector>

Women's Security provides a digital security training package for women. <https://www.womens-security.com/en/>

of Queensland, Australia has produced a video outlining Technology, Domestic Violence and Cyberstalking. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F46W7M4o4IU&feature=youtu.be>

ports on digital 'spies' in the home <https://qzmodo.com/the-house-that-is-a-1822429852>

from the Electronic Frontier Foundation is on a mission to help victims have been hacked regain their digital lives. So far, she's helped victims <https://www.wired.co.uk/article/tech-abuse-digital-stalking-evaluation>

Warning!

erved that Online monitoring software such as **Spyzie**, advertised as a tracking software for parents to monitor online behaviour have been used by perpetrators. They allow to block apps, set a schedule to restrict phone target using GPS or WiFi hotspots, set geofencing to allow perpetrators to know when the target has arrived, the ability to tap into a phone to hear what is going on, a call log, access to messages, browsing history, calendar, voice and memo, video and photo, and much more. Other potential monitoring may be on smart toys and pet monitoring devices.

Gender and IoT

This is a draft document.
Disclaimer: We are not endorsing one source over another.

Social Science Plus Pilot Project

UCL STEaPP 2nd floor, Beaton House, 36-38 Fitzroy Square, London, W1T 6EY, United Kingdom



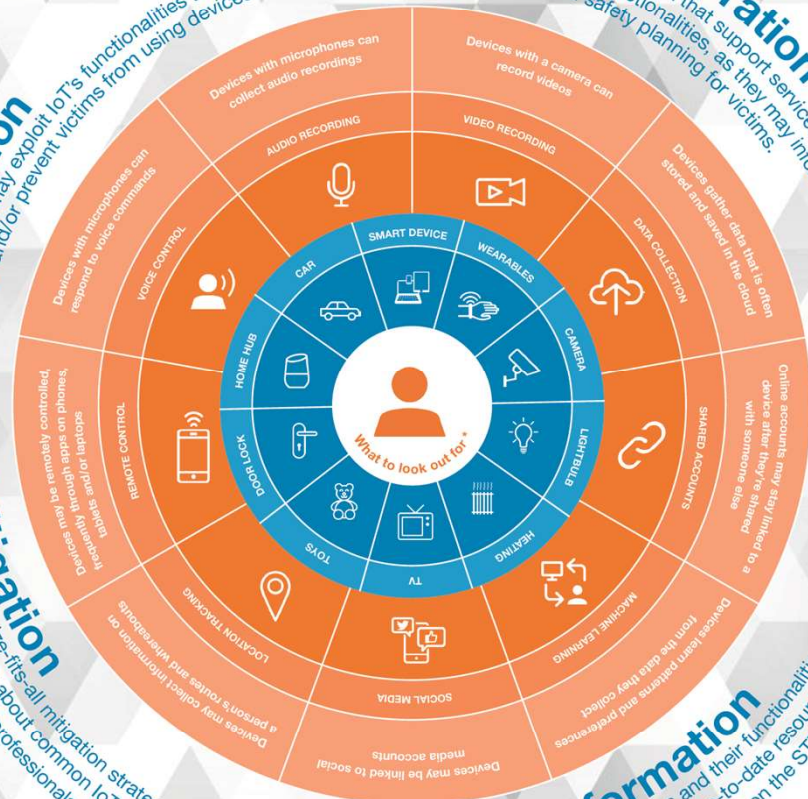
How internet-connected devices can affect victims of domestic and sexual violence and abuse

Implication

Perpetrators may exploit IoT's functionalities to monitor, control and/or prevent victims from using devices.

Consideration

It is important that support services are aware of IoT's functionalities, as they may inform assessments and safety planning for victims.



Mitigation

There is no one-size-fits-all mitigation strategy when IoT-enabled tech abuse occurs. Knowing about common IoT functionalities can help when seeking support from professionals such as the police.

Information

As IoT devices and their functionalities are constantly evolving, further up-to-date resources and information on the topic are provided on the STEaPP website.

Who is this guide for?

This guide is for frontline workers and support services working with victims of domestic and sexual violence and abuse. ✓

What is this guide about?

It is about tech abuse, which means abuse that's made possible by technology. It hopes to:

- help people talk about abuse that's done using 'smart', internet-connected devices (also known as the Internet of Things, or IoT).
- explain common ways in which IoT devices work, in case abuse of this kind is suspected. ✓

How should I use this guide?

Read this guide to become more familiar with IoT. It provides supplementary information and is not meant to replace advice from specialists, including the police. ✓

About the authors

The guide has been developed by a socio-technical research team at University College London. The team's 'Gender and Internet of Things' study was funded by the UCL Social Science Plus scheme. Research collaborators included the London VAWG Consortium, Privacy International, and the PETRAS IoT Research Hub.

About this Guide



What is the Internet of Things?

The Internet of Things (IoT) is a network of internet-connected devices creating a 'net' of smart objects, such as cars, homes, and household appliances.

How does IoT work?

IoT devices are connected to the internet and can communicate with each other. They can be used to monitor and control devices remotely through connected devices.

How could IoT be used to monitor and control devices?

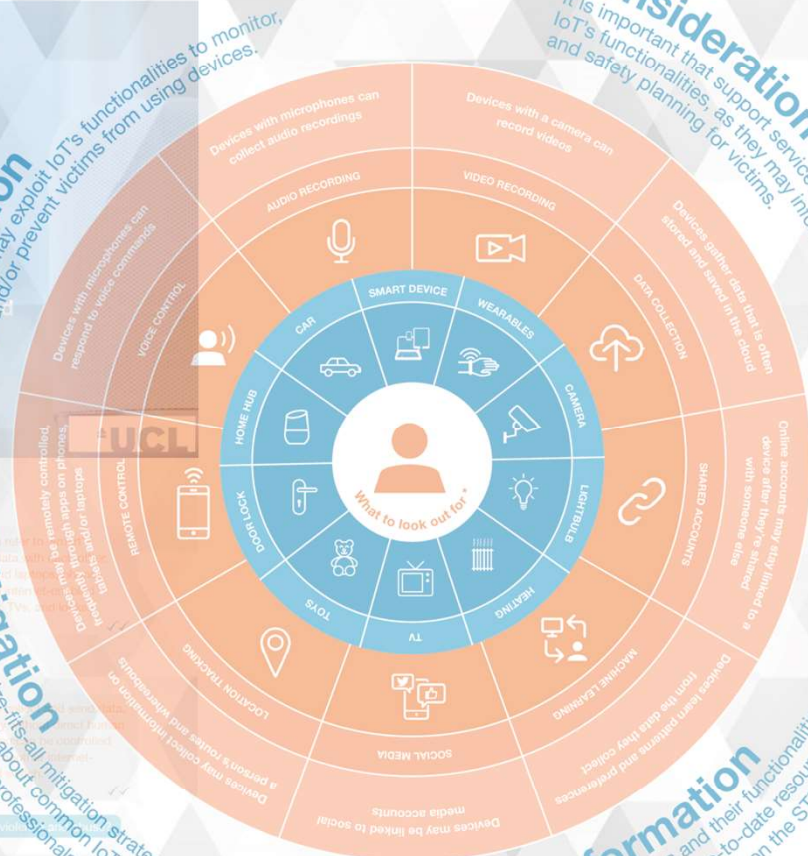
When IoT devices are connected to the internet, they can be used to monitor and control devices remotely through connected devices. This can be used to monitor and control devices remotely through connected devices.

* This list is not exhaustive.

- Voice control
- Audio recording
- Video recording
- Data collection
- Shared accounts
- Location tracking
- Remote control
- Social media
- Machine learning

TECH ABUSE

Implication
Perpetrators may exploit IoT's functionalities to monitor, control and/or prevent victims from using devices.



Who is this guide for?

What is this guide about?


It is about tech abuse which involves the use of technology. It hopes to:

- help people talk about abuse that's done using 'smart', internet-connected devices (also known as the Internet of Things, or IoT).
- explain common ways in which IoT devices work, in case abuse of this kind is suspected.

How should I use this guide?

Read this guide to become familiar with IoT. It provides supplementary information for professionals, including:

About the authors
The guide has been developed by a socio-technical research team at University College London. The team's 'Gender and Internet of Things' study was funded by the UCL Social Science Plus scheme. Research collaborators included the London Women's Consortium, Privacy International, and the PETRAS IoT Research Hub.



TECH ABUSE

Gender and IoT (G-IoT) Resource List


Leonie Tanczer, Trupti Patel, Simon Parkin, George Danezis
July 2018

This resource list is intended as supplementary material to better inform and guide victims of technology-facilitated abuse as well as those working with them.

It lists to organisations which produce guidelines and advice, and highlights known attack vectors which perpetrators may exploit. It also offers a reference point to provide additional information on common cybersecurity and privacy issues.

The document has been developed by a socio-technical research team at University College London. The team's 'Gender and IoT' (G-IoT) study was funded by the UCL Social Science Plus+ scheme. Research collaborators included the [London VAWG Consortium](#), [Privacy International](#), and the [PETRAS IoT Research Hub](#).


The list may be used together with a guide which outlines common IoT devices and their functionalities.



Please note, this document was written in July 2018. While we aim to update this document regularly and indicate changes through timestamps, hyperlinks and proposed recommendations may not always be accurate.

The resource list also does not replace advice from specialists, including the police.

Should you spot mistakes and errors or have any questions and concerns about the resource list, please contact a member of the research team.



Training

Gender and IoT Cryptoparty

Start: Nov 22, 2018 06:00 PM

End: Nov 22, 2018 09:00 PM

Location: Central London

Learn how to use digital technologies more securely



On Thursday 22nd of November, UCL's "**Gender and IoT**" research team is running a **CryptoParty** (a digital security training session) followed by a panel discussion with policymakers and technologists.

- CryptoParty: **Digital security training** for voluntary and statutory services
- Information exchange **workshops** for voluntary and statutory services frontline workers and support organisations

Clinical Computer Security for Victims of Intimate Partner Violence

Sa



Cornell University

Director, IPV Computer Security Clinic, Cornell Tech - New York, NY

 New York City (Cornell Tech)

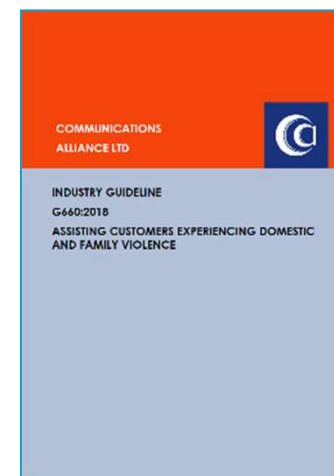
[Apply](#)

Cornell Tech is seeking an outstanding candidate to become the first director of our computer security clinic for victims of intimate partner violence (IPV). IPV is a widespread problem, and technology is increasingly used to facilitate harms against victims. Groundbreaking recent academic research out of the IPV computer security and privacy group at Cornell Tech has pioneered a new intervention model for helping victims with technology abuse via face-to-face consultations with them.

Digital insecurity
tacks increasingly le
threatening situation
victims, what we call
it in the context of i
widespread and abus
intimidate, and other
iterative design, refin
service that we creat
security help from a t
and tested a range of

Pointers for industry

- **Prompts and notifications** (e.g., location tracking on, what devices want to connect)
- **Logs** (e.g., who has connected to what, when)
- **IPV threat model** (e.g., trust levels)
- **Customer-facing staff guidance** (e.g., helplines, shop workers)
- **Data collection** (e.g., extent of the problem and what types of requests)
- **Exchange and collaboration with support sector** (e.g., data and remediation)

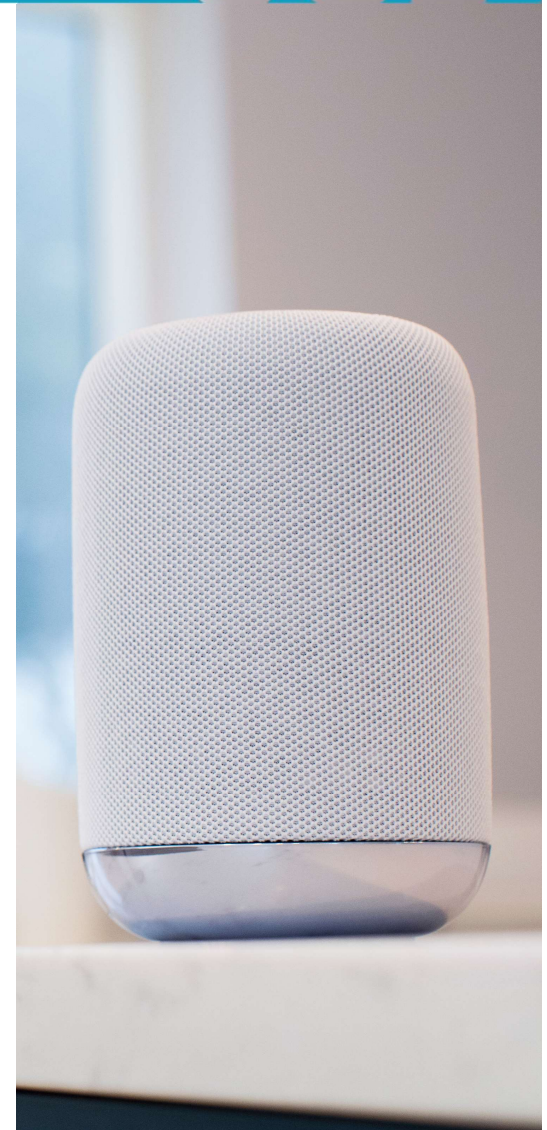


https://commsalliance.com.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/61527/Communications-Guideline-G660-Assisting-Customers-Experiencing-Domestic-and-Family-Violence.pdf

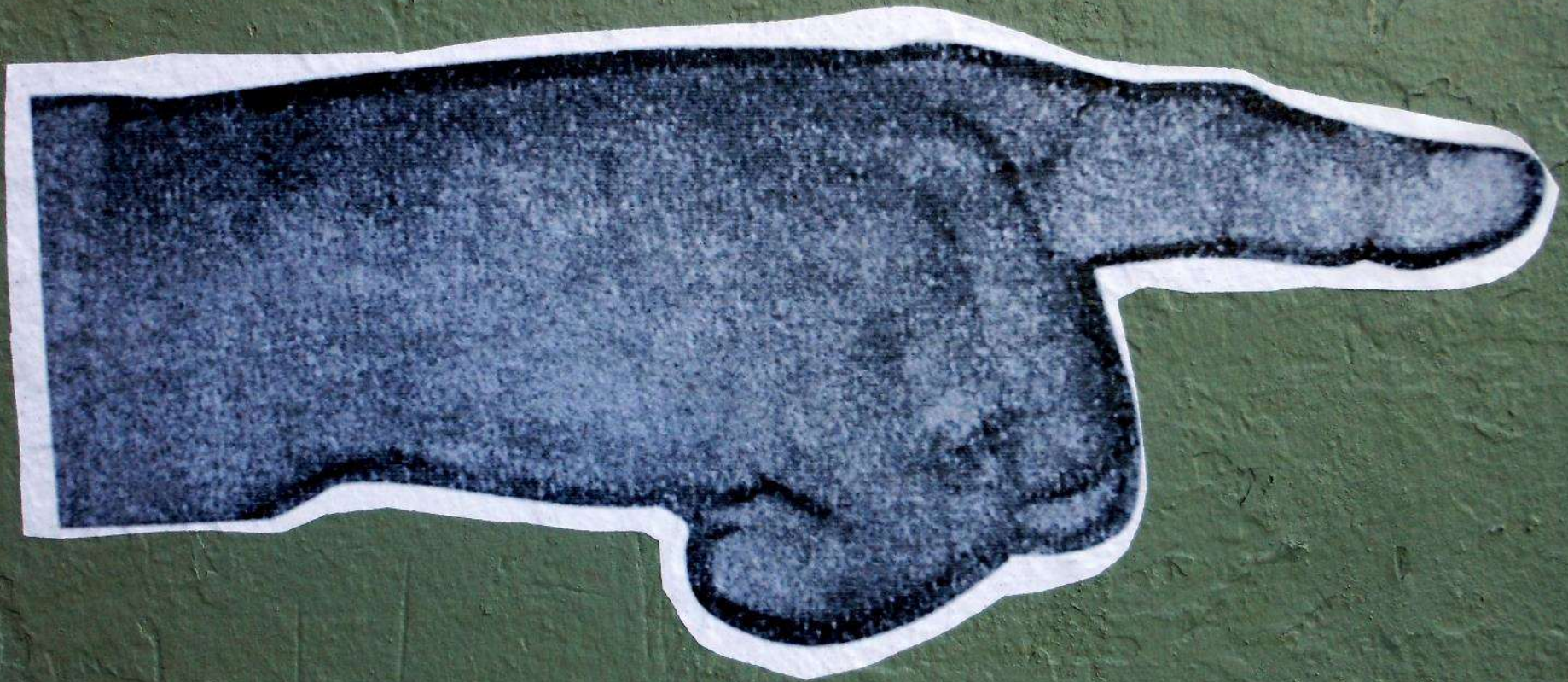


(3)

Transformation

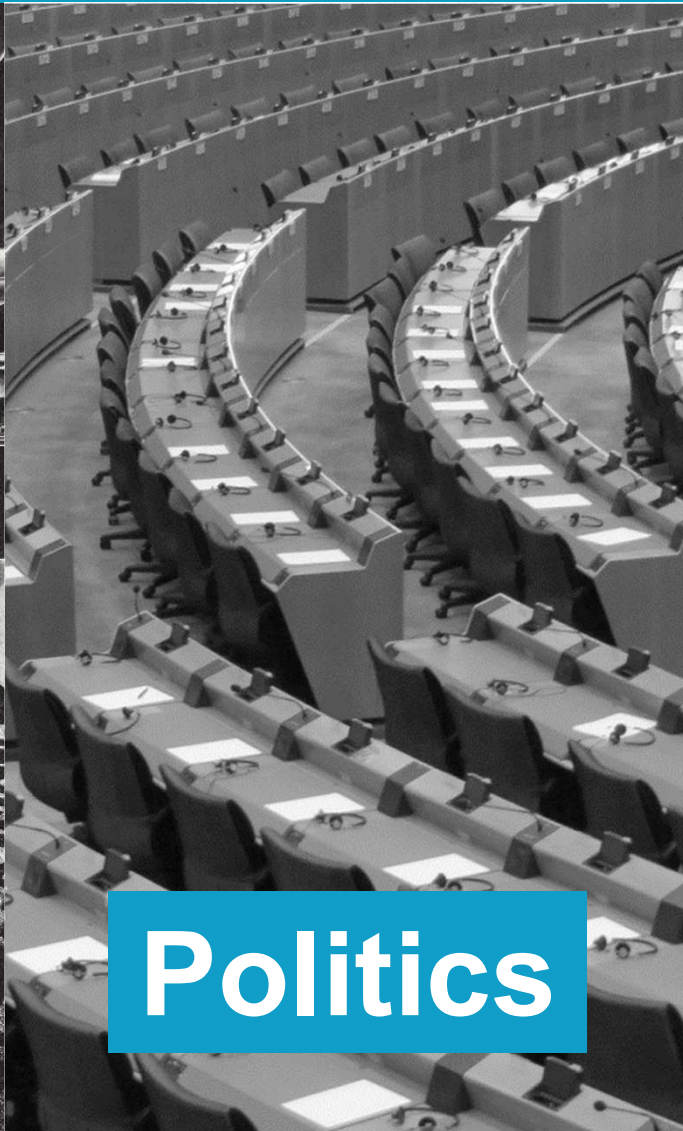


Responsibility





Industry



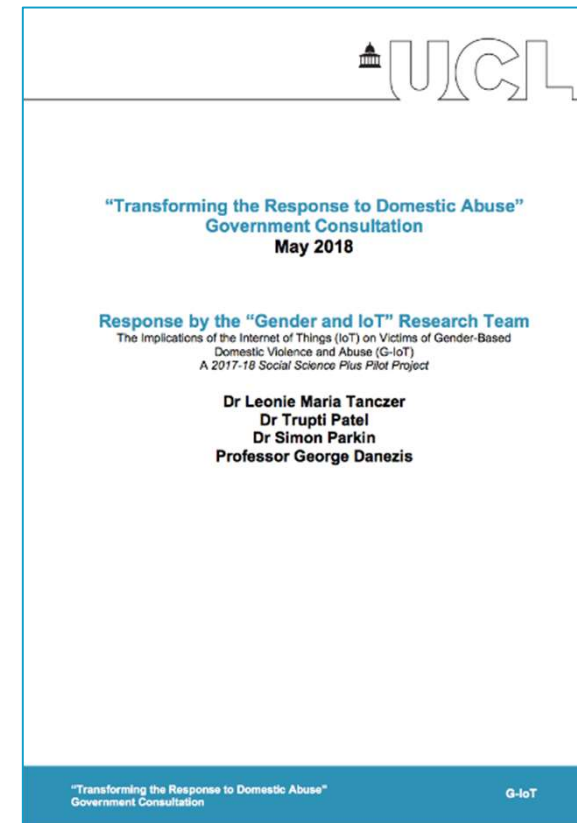
Politics



Society

UK Government Consultation

- (1) Tech abuse as a factor in the **risk assessment** of victims;
- (2) Tech abuse as a factor in the **safety planning** of victims;
- (3) Expand the focus on tech abuse to emerging technologies such as the **Internet of Things**;
- (4) Create tech abuse **guidance and expertise**;
- (5) Reduce/remove prevalence of **spyware**;



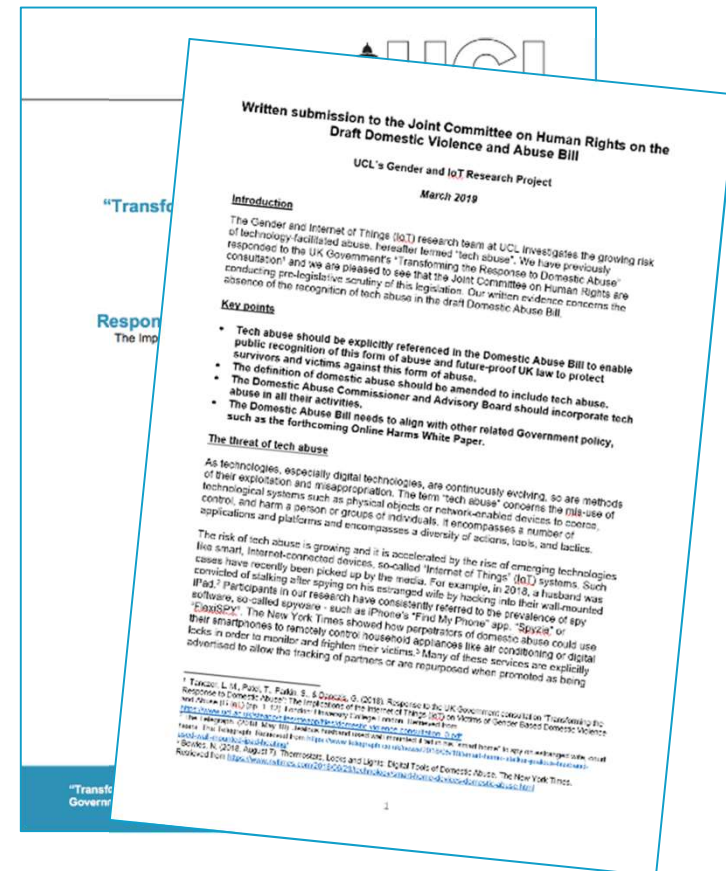
UK Government Consultation

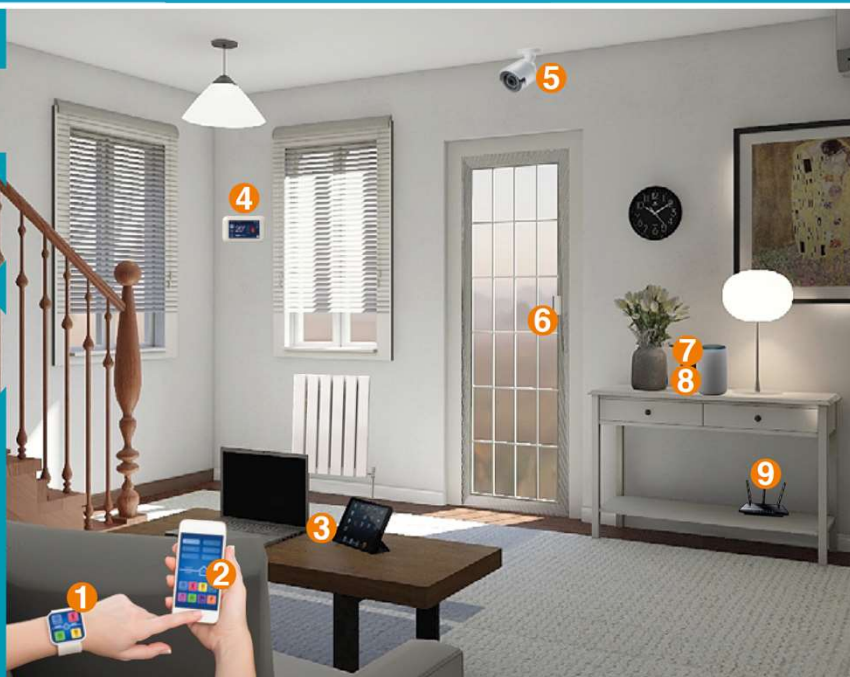
(1) Tech abuse should be **explicitly referenced** in the Domestic Abuse Bill to enable public recognition

(2) The **definition** of domestic abuse should be amended to include tech abuse;

(3) The Domestic Abuse **Commissioner and Advisory Board** should incorporate tech abuse in all their activities;

(4) Align with other **related Government policy**;





Tech Abuse – Smart, Internet-connected devices pose risks for victims of domestic violence

1 Wearable devices

Could allow perpetrators to track and monitor movements and other behavioural patterns drawing on GPS signals and other collected data.

2 Phones

Could provide perpetrator an access point to control various IoT devices.

3 Laptops and tablets

Accounts between devices are linked and could allow perpetrators to change and review IoT devices' settings via an Internet browser.

4 Remote control of heating, lighting and blinds

Could be used to coerce and intimidate victims by switching systems on or off from afar.

Recommendations

- Internet security legislation must be 'future-proofed'** against the expected growth in the number of Internet-connected home devices.
- Capacity to deal with the threat of tech-abuse needs to be available at the front line.** This requires training for front-line staff and access to technical expertise, for example via a dedicated hotline. Police forces also need to be better equipped to deal with this form of abuse.
- The risk of tech abuse must be incorporated into **risk assessment and safety planning processes.**
- More data is needed to understand the scale of the problem and to monitor changes over time.** Police and frontline staff need to change their reporting patterns to achieve this.

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Gender and IoT

How will IoT impact on gender-based domestic violence and abuse and what socio-technical measures will need to be implemented in order to mitigate against those risks?



Project Background

Gender and IoT is an interdisciplinary project exploring the implications of IoT on gender-based domestic violence and abuse and is funded by a [Social Science Plus+](#) award from UCL's [Collaborative Social Science Domain](#).



[Gender and IoT leaflet](#)

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[IoT devices and smart domestic abuse](#)

[Domestic abuse consultation](#)

[Lab Blog and News](#)



Thank you.

Dr Leonie Tanczer
l.tanczer@ucl.ac.uk

Twitter: [@leotanczt](https://twitter.com/leotanczt), [#GloT](https://twitter.com/GloT)



References and further reading

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