

A lot of efforts have been done all over the world to make sure that women are protected against all kinds of sexual harassment and discrimination at the international, regional and domestic level through enactment of human rights law, like the African Charter on Rights of Women and Children and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. These are some of the laws that fight sexual abuse and harassment.

However, the sexual abuse and harassment which goes hand in hand with sexual bribery has never been given emphasis although such acts are taking place in the society and they are rampant. It was only recently that the word sextortion was invented to identify such conduct and explain all kinds of action involving sexual abuse and harassment in relation to the abuse of power and sexual bribery

### WHAT IS SEXTORTION

This is a new word invented purposely to identify all kinds of actions and behavior related to the abuse of power/authority to extort sex.



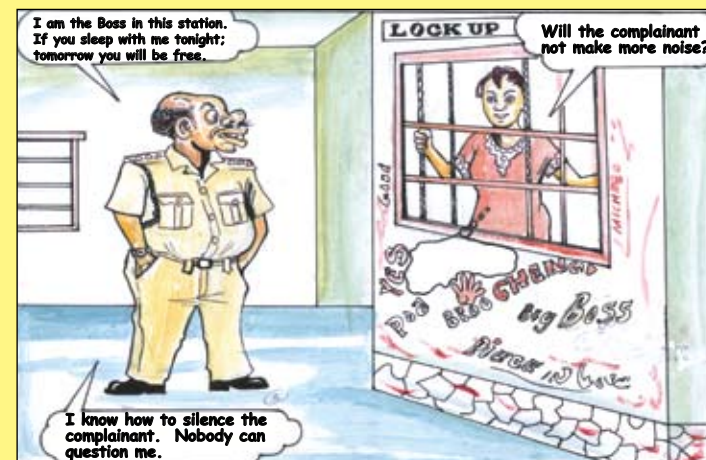
### BEHAVIOURAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF SEXTORTION

- Exposing private body parts of a student, patient, prisoner etc.
- Pausing for sexual photography.
- Physical touching, pinching, scouring and patting on private parts.
- Rape and sodomy.

N:B Generally the term sextortion does not relate to a conduct or behavior which is not related to sexual abuse by authority.

### CORRUPTION AS AN ELEMENT OF SEXTORTION

1. The perpetrator of sextortion must be a person in authority and must use the authority in a wrong way by indulging in sexual demand, or accepting a sexual favour in exchange for the exercise of the authority.
2. Corruption involving an exchange of favours; that is, the receipt of a benefit or detriment is conditioned on the person's response to a sexual request rather than on the basis of merit, law, or ethical obligations.



In short sex is used as a key element to corruption instead of money as in ordinary way.

There are three elements of sextortion

#### 1. Abuse of authority

Authority is exercised in many ways, including

- ❖ Religious authority.
- ❖ Legal authority.
- ❖ Employment authority.
- ❖ The important thing to observe is that the authority must come from a legitimate source.

#### 2. Corruption is the form of exchange; that is,

A form of sexual harassment in which an employment benefit or detriment is conditioned on the employee's response to a sexual request.

#### 3. Psychological abuse rather than physical abuse

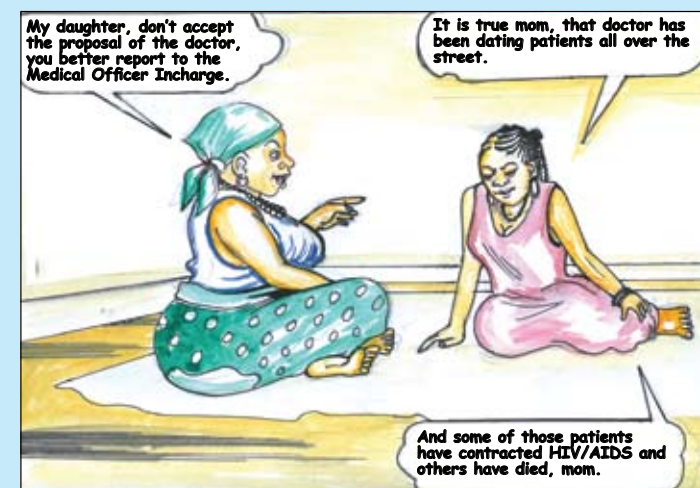
Sextortion relies on coercion rather than physical violence or

force to obtain sexual favour.

### THE EFFECT OF SEXTORTION TO THE SOCIETY

The abuse of power or authority in relation to sexual abuse and harassment (sextortion) has the following impact in the society

- Spreads HIV transmission (AIDS).
- Degrades humanity.
- Hampers performance and development.
- Family disputes mostly separation of marriage and an increase in the number of street children and poor rearing of children.



### SEXTORTION IN RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

The word sextortion can also be referred to as an abusive act that relates to sexual harassment. Sexual bribery can also take place between religious leaders and converts.

### EXAMPLES OF SEXTORTION IN RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

- A religious leader can sexually abuse a member of the congregation by touching her/his private parts while conducting a prayer.
- A religious leader may ask for sexual favour in exchange of prayers to a person who is in need of the same or, his relative or friend.
- A religious leader may extort sexual favour from an employee working at the institution in exchange for selection in a higher post or in a certain committee.

### SEXTORTION IN THE MEDICAL FIELD

In the medical field sextortion usually involves a doctor vis a vis a patient, a friend or relatives. A doctor abuses his patient's trust and violates his professional ethics when he uses his medical position to have inappropriate sexual contact with a patient. When he uses physical force to sexually abuse his patient, it is sexual assault. When he abuses his position of authority to coerce the patient's consent to inappropriate sexual contact in exchange for treatment, it is sextortion.

### EXAMPLE OF SEXTORTION IN MEDICAL FIELD

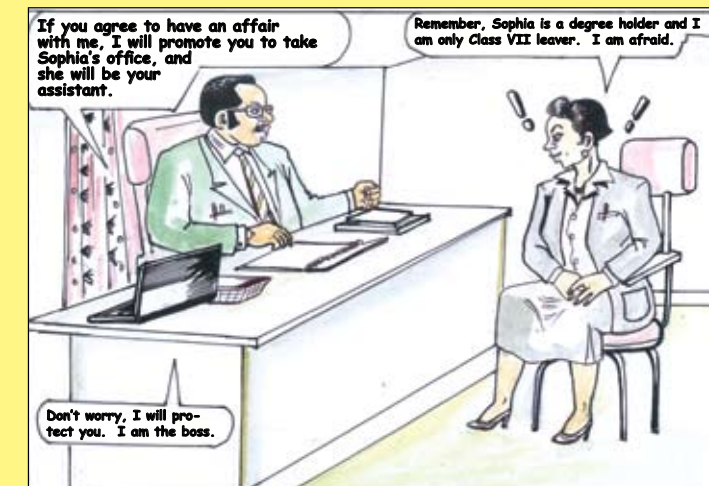
A doctor may pat or touch private parts of the patient for sexual pleasure while examining her/him.

A patient who can't afford medical expenses may be asked for a sexual favour in exchange for medical expenses.

A doctor may use force to sexually abuse his patient.

### SEXTORTION IN WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Abuse of authority by indulging in the activity of extorting sexual demand, or accepting a sexual favour in exchange for the exercise of the authority can emerge in different forms of employment such as employment in public offices, judiciary etc. In most cases the victims of sextortion are employees who are afraid of losing their jobs and posts as well as benefits and other privileges. In this case, employees are involved in the relationships without their consent.





## EXAMPLES OF SEXTORTION IN WORK PLACES

A person in authority can abuse his subordinate by demanding sex in exchange of certain benefits or favours such as promotion etc.

A person can qualify for a certain post but the person in authority dealing with promotion matters cannot perform his duty of promoting the person without demanding sex. The same applies to the application for a new post. A person cannot be employed without first submitting to sexual bribery.

## SEXTORTION IN POLICE LOCK UPS AND PRISONS

This can happen as follows;

- A Prison officer or a Police Officer can sexually abuse the prisoner in exchange of certain favours.
- A Prison officer can demand sex from a person who has relatives in prison for certain favours.

## SEXTORTION IN SCHOOLS AND HIGHER LEARNING INSTITUTIONS

At the university level and in schools, students can be tempted by different promises for example a student can have a promise on high pass mark from a teacher so as to be involved in sexual affairs with the teacher.

### The effect of sextortion in schools

- Absenteeism in schools because of student teacher relationships.
- Poor standard of education.
- Early pregnancies.
- Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

### Does the laws provide for sextortion?

- Yes, sextortion has been provided under different laws.
- The Penal Code Chapter 16 under section 130 (3).
- Section 25 of Prevention and Combating of Corruption Act 2007.

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO DEAL WITH SEXTORTION?



- There is a lot of sexual abuse in different offices, schools, religious institutions, in prisons, police stations but such abuses are rarely reported.
- The society should be aware of the effects of sextortion like transmission of HIV, poor performance in work places, etc.
- The victims to be aware of their rights like reporting the matter to the relevant authorities as a step towards ending sextortion.

## STEPS THAT CAN BE TAKEN BY THE VICTIM OF SEXTORTION

### In religious institutions

The victim of sextortion can report the sexual abuse to the disciplinary commission of the said religion, or to the police, or to any institution that deals with corruption matters in Tanzania, that is the PCCB.

### In the medical field

The victim of sextortion can report to the Medical Association of Tanzania (MAT). The aim of this council is to monitor medical ethics and conduct of doctors in Tanzania.

In educational centre (such as primary, secondary schools, higher learning institutions, etc)

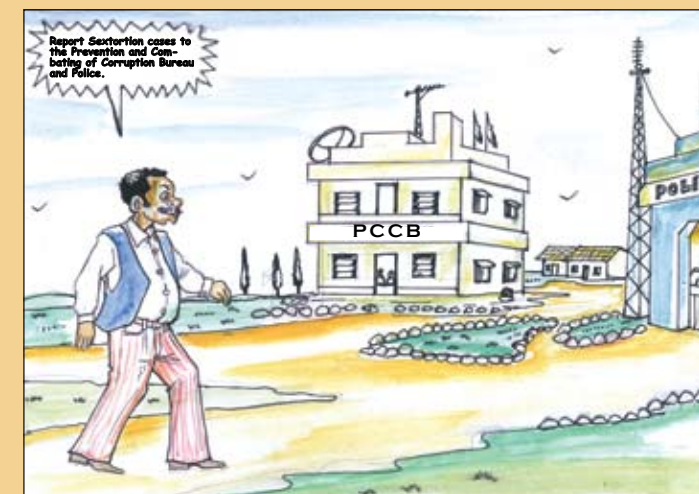
The victim of sextortion can report to the head of the school (Headmaster /Headmistress or the school management). The same can be reported to the police or in any institution that deals with corruption matters in Tanzania for example the PCCB.

### Police

The victim can report to the police station. The culprit can be charged for rape or indecent assault contrary to section 130 of the Penal Code, Chapter 16 (R.E 2002)

### The Bureau for Preventing and Combating Corruption (PCCB)

A perpetrator of the offence of sextortion can be charged with the offence under section 25 of the Act.



### Sextortion can be combated through the following ways

- Refusing sextortion and reporting the same to the institutions dealing with the matters.
- Dissemination of knowledge on human rights and sextortion in educational centres and society at large.
- Adherence to rules, regulations and laws.
- Having good morals (righteous).



TAWJA



International Association  
of Women Judges

**YOU CAN FIGHT AND END SEXUAL ABUSE RESULTING FROM ABUSIVE USE OF AUTHORITY IN THE MEDICAL FIELD, LEARNING INSTITUTIONS AND RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS.**

**STOPPING THE ABUSE OF POWER FOR PURPOSES OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION: NAMING, SHAMING AND ENDING SEXTORTION**

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