

# Towards an optimal app for stalking victims

WORKSHOP 1B

# Proposed conference resolution

- ▶ “The conference believes that apps to help stalking victims need to include the ability to store evidence in a secure location.”
- ▶ Let’s revisit this at the end of this workshop

# Why an app for stalking?

- ▶ To help victims of stalking, victim advocates and police who want to increase personal safety and prosecutions of this crime by collecting evidence and educating on risk.
- ▶ Users could download the app in order to:
  - (i) find out more about their victimisation experience and potential impacts and solutions, and
  - (ii) gather evidence for legal proceedings.

Collating physical evidence is taxing and distressing for victims and an app would allow a neat prompt-initiated method of storing evidence in a manner that would help:

- (i) ensure that all forms of evidence are collated, even those the user may not consider important, and
- (ii) allow users to store evidence remotely so that they are not re-victimised by continually needing to revisit distressing experiences.

# What does an app need to include?

- Needs to collect evidence
- Needs to educate on risk

## How?

- Logging incidents to build up a picture
- Diarised timeline
- Introductory info on stalking
- General assistance advice
- Upload multiple forms of evidence (e.g. photos, videos, e-mails, letters, text messages, screen shots, car registration details and medical and victim impact evidence )

## WHAT ELSE?

# Content details

- ▶ stalking education module
- ▶ data collection forms (e.g. surveys, image capture)
- ▶ discreet/secure design to protect the privacy of the user
- ▶ a custom cloud-based dashboard could collate and visualise the data, which could be beneficial for demonstrating patterns of stalking behaviour and negative impacts on the victim to law enforcement and in the courtroom
  
- ▶ ANYTHING ELSE?

# Problems with existing apps

- ▶ not specific to the unique nature of stalking
- ▶ not available within/not relevant to particular jurisdictions
- ▶ too expensive for users
- ▶ cannot be hidden or disguised on the user's phone home screen

ANY OTHERS?

# Who would own it/pay for it?

- ▶ Basic features of the app = make freely available?
- ▶ Charge a small fee for cloud-based storage of evidence and production of a timeline?
- ▶ Raise money via:
  - (i) referrals to professionals such as lawyers, counsellors and psychologists?
  - (ii) co-branding with advocate organisations within each country where these organisations would contribute as a sponsor?
  - (iii) philanthropic donations?

## Our recommendations/Revisiting the conference resolution

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