

# IS IT SH▶RABLE?

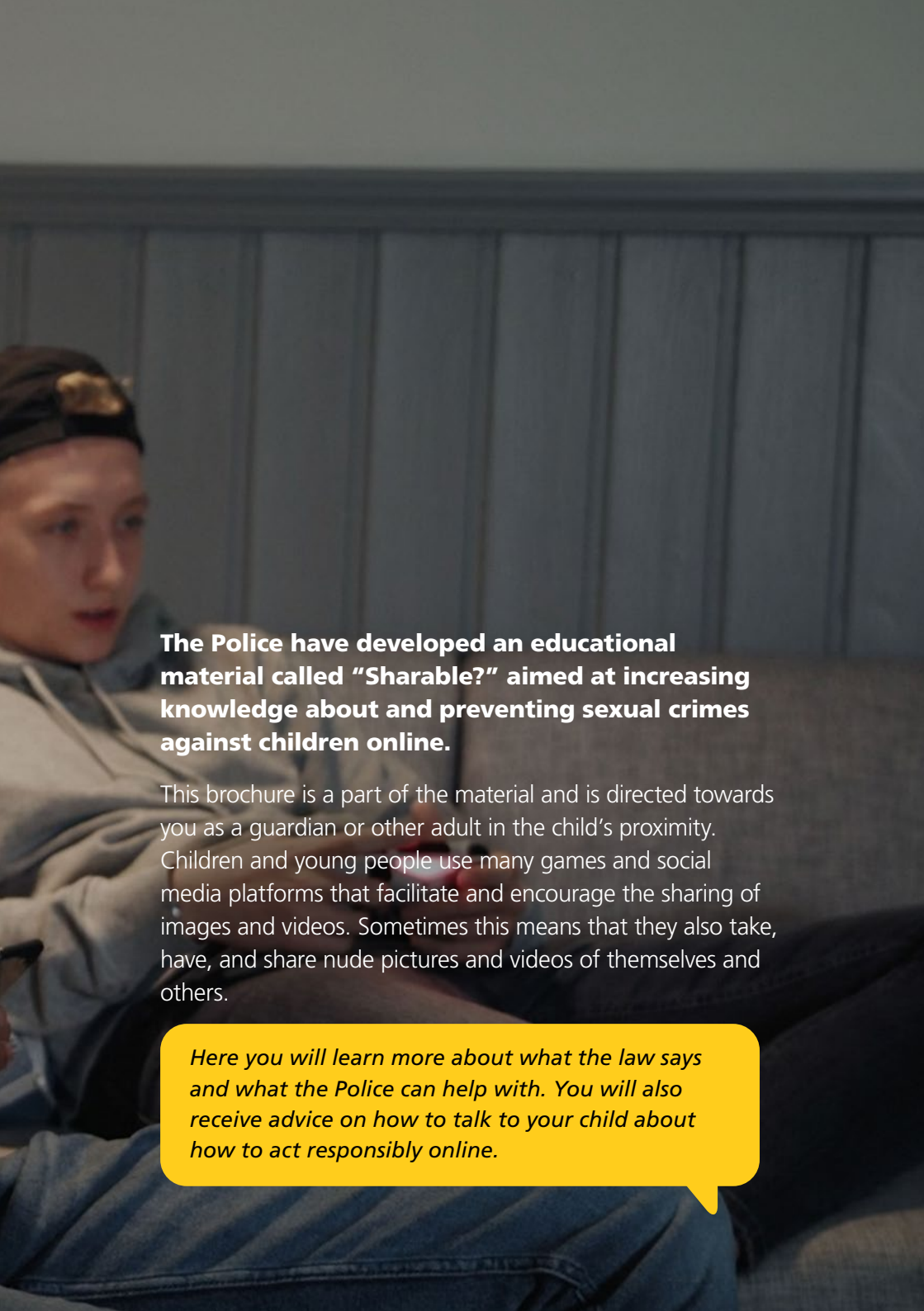
On taking, having and sharing nude pictures



Polisen

A young man with short dark hair, wearing a dark grey hoodie over a white t-shirt, is sitting on a couch and looking down at a smartphone in his hands. He has a serious expression. In the background, another person wearing a light grey hoodie and a black cap is partially visible, also looking down. The setting appears to be an indoor space with vertical wood paneling on the wall.

**It *can* be shared.  
But is it allowed  
to be shared?**

A young person with a black headband and a grey hoodie is sitting on a couch, looking at a smartphone. The background is a grey wall with vertical paneling.

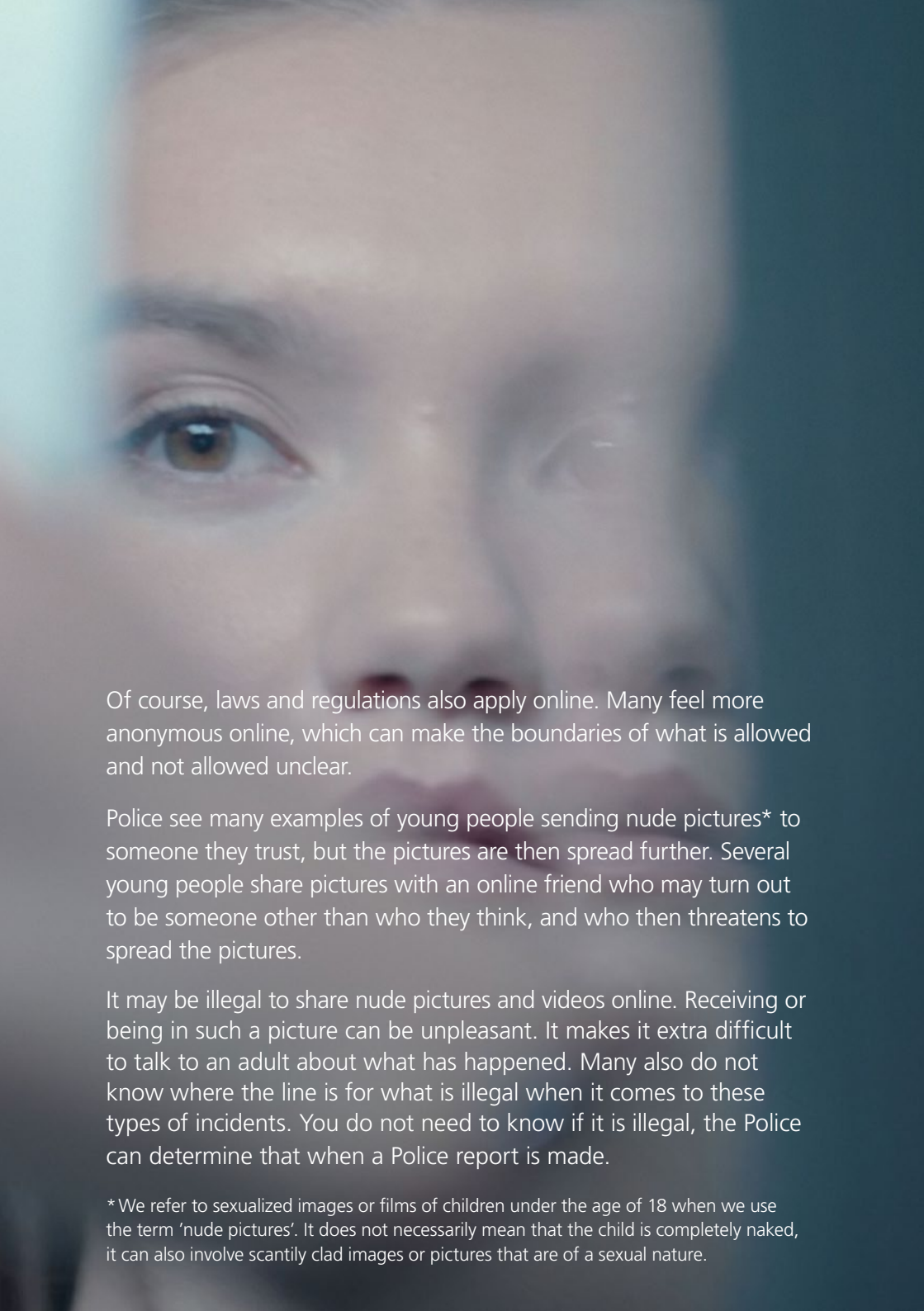
**The Police have developed an educational material called “Sharable?” aimed at increasing knowledge about and preventing sexual crimes against children online.**

This brochure is a part of the material and is directed towards you as a guardian or other adult in the child’s proximity. Children and young people use many games and social media platforms that facilitate and encourage the sharing of images and videos. Sometimes this means that they also take, have, and share nude pictures and videos of themselves and others.

*Here you will learn more about what the law says and what the Police can help with. You will also receive advice on how to talk to your child about how to act responsibly online.*



**Swedish law  
applies  
even online**



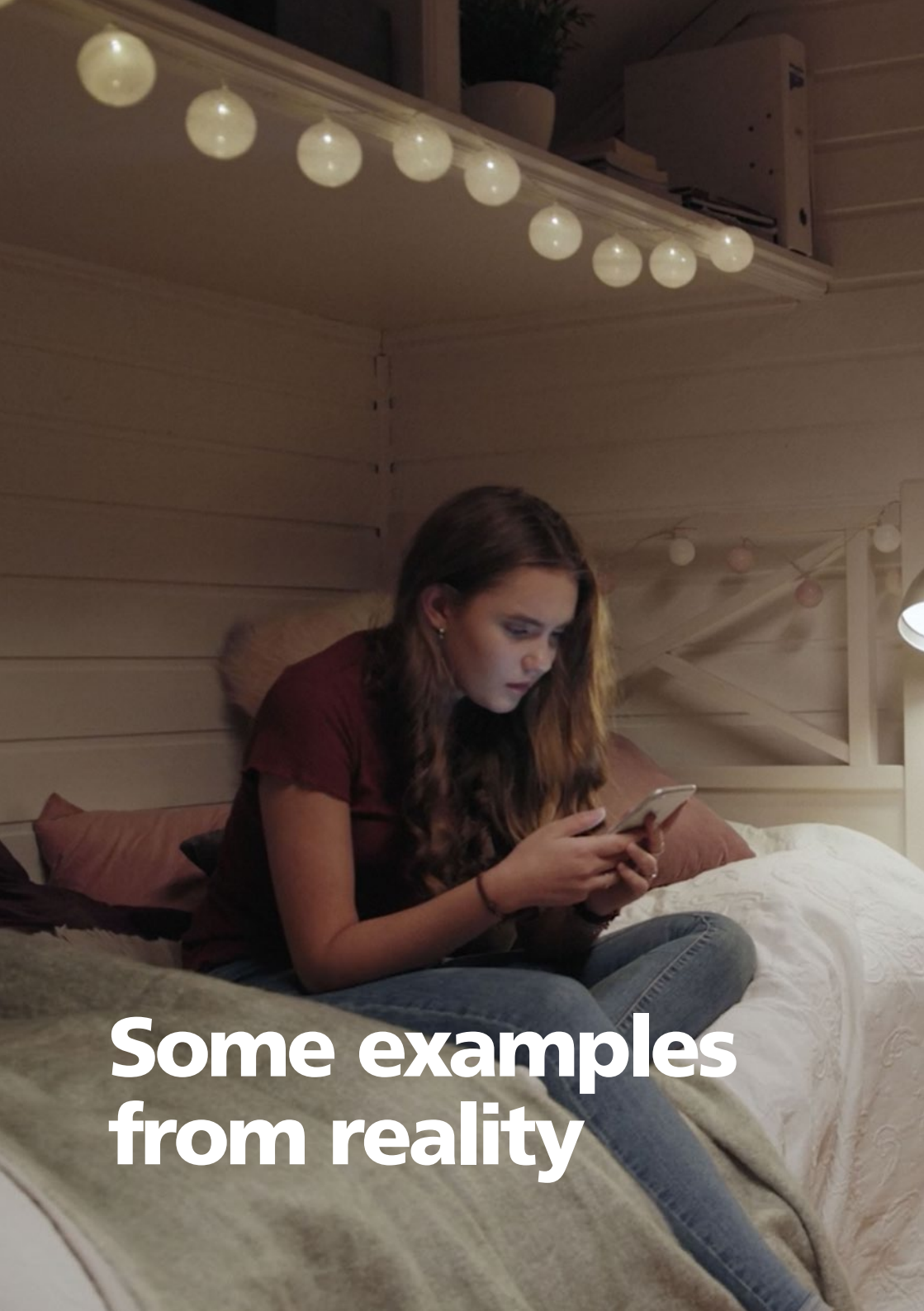
Of course, laws and regulations also apply online. Many feel more anonymous online, which can make the boundaries of what is allowed and not allowed unclear.

Police see many examples of young people sending nude pictures\* to someone they trust, but the pictures are then spread further. Several young people share pictures with an online friend who may turn out to be someone other than who they think, and who then threatens to spread the pictures.

It may be illegal to share nude pictures and videos online. Receiving or being in such a picture can be unpleasant. It makes it extra difficult to talk to an adult about what has happened. Many also do not know where the line is for what is illegal when it comes to these types of incidents. You do not need to know if it is illegal, the Police can determine that when a Police report is made.

\* We refer to sexualized images or films of children under the age of 18 when we use the term 'nude pictures'. It does not necessarily mean that the child is completely naked, it can also involve scantily clad images or pictures that are of a sexual nature.





**Some examples  
from reality**

Rimna and Max are 15 years old and in love with each other. Rimna's friend asks if she has sent nude pictures to Max yet. The friend thinks that if Rimna doesn't do it, maybe Max will get tired of her. Rimna doesn't feel like sending nude pictures but is worried that Max will lose interest.

Alex and Calle start chatting. They like each other and Alex sends some nude pictures. One evening they have a fight. Calle writes that if Alex doesn't send more pictures, he will send the ones he has to his friends. Alex gets angry and shuts down the chat. The next day, he finds out that the pictures have been spread around the school.

Melvin is at a class party and drinks alcohol with his friends. He feels sick and locks himself in the bathroom. He doesn't remember anything else, but he gets help to get home. The next day, his phone is full of messages. Someone has shared pictures of Melvin in the class chat group. In the pictures, he is lying naked on the bathroom floor and has vomited.

Sanna is 11 years old and likes to create her own dances and upload them online. One day someone she doesn't know sends her a dick pick. She finds it disgusting and uncomfortable but is afraid to tell her parents because she is afraid they will not let her use the app anymore.

Mira meets lively\_Sofia online and they become best friends. Lively\_Sofia tells her about friends, school, and secrets she hasn't told anyone else. Soon, lively\_Sofia wants to meet her. What lively\_Sofia hasn't told is that he is actually named Johan, is 35 years old, and chats so that Mira will dare to meet him.



# Not familiar with the law

Many young people are unaware of the law and do not know where the line is drawn for what is permissible on the internet. They may only understand the consequences after the fact, and by then it is often too late. Nude pictures and videos are difficult to remove once they have been spread online. Knowing that one's nude image has been shared online can cause great stress and sometimes long-term suffering, especially for children and young people. Most people understand that it is not good to share them further, but how many know that it is actually a crime?



## What does the law say?

It is a criminal offence to send nude pictures and videos to someone under 15 years old or to someone who is over 15 years old and has not given their consent. It is a crime to pressure a child under the age of 18 to send nude pictures. It is a criminal offense to share nude pictures of children and young people up to 18 years old. The exception is if someone of the same age has or receives a nude picture of a person over 15 years old who thinks it is okay. But it is always illegal to share it without consent.

## What crimes could it be?

Someone has sent an unwanted nude picture to you: **Sexual molestation.**

Someone shares a nude picture of a child in a group chat: **A child pornography offense.**

Your partner or someone else pressures you to send nude pictures: **Attempted exploitation of a child for sexual posing.**

Someone shares a picture of someone in a vulnerable situation without consent, for example, in the bathroom: **Unlawful breach of privacy.**

Someone threatens to spread nude pictures of you if you don't send more:

**Exploitation of a child for sexual posing or grosse exploitation of a child for sexual posing.**



# What can you do as an adult?

It is important for children and young people to know that they can talk to their parents or other trusted adults about what is happening online. Talk to your children, ask questions and tell them about the consequences of sharing pictures. This way, you help your child think and make good choices. Instead of judging or punishing if something happens, it is good to explain that it is okay to make mistakes.

Watch the video “Delbart” together at [polisen.se/delbart](https://polisen.se/delbart) and discuss the events in the video. Maybe your child has their own experiences of taking, having, or sharing pictures, or a friend or someone at school has experienced this. There are also Questions and Answers available at [polisen.se/delbart](https://polisen.se/delbart).

[polisen.se/delbart](https://polisen.se/delbart)

## Tips for talking to children and young people

Take an interest in your child's social media, games, and online friends. Let them show you and ask regularly how things are going online, not just at school or during sports.

- Talk about the consequences of sending nude pictures, even when you trust someone. You never know what will happen to the pictures later.
- Explain that pressuring someone under 18 for nude pictures can be a crime. This can make it easier to say no.
- Be clear that it is never the victim's fault if something happens; the responsibility always lies with the person who commits the crime.
- Children can be victims of crimes, but they can also be the ones committing crimes, for example, by sharing other people's nude pictures.
- Explain that there are adults online who try to exploit children, for example, by sending nude pictures. They are good at tricking and often have a strategy to gain children's attention and trust. It is not uncommon for several children to be targeted by the same person.
- If a child tells you about an incident, it is important not to punish them by forbidding them from using games, social media, or similar, as much of their social life is online.
- If a child has social media or app accounts, make sure they provide their real age. Many apps have created accessibility barriers based on the user's age.

# IS IT SHARABLE?

## Has your child been exposed to online abuse?

### Here is some advice:

- Take screenshots and document what happened, such as where and when the image or video was shared. Do not delete anything and always report it to the Police! Even if you only have an alias or username.
- Do not share any more pictures or videos, do not send any more messages. Do not pay anything.
- Contact the Police at 114 14 or see addresses and opening hours at [polisen.se](https://www.polisen.se) if you want to visit the Police station. Read more about making a Police report at [polisen.se/delbart](https://www.polisen.se/delbart).
- Always call 112 in case of an emergency.
- If the child needs to talk to someone else, you can contact social services, the child rights organization ECPAT's support line at 020 112 100 or [dittecpat.se](https://www.dittecpat.se), Brottsofferjouren 116 006, [ungaboj.se](https://www.ungaboj.se), or Bris 116 111, [bris.se](https://www.bris.se). They offer support hotline and chat for children and young people.

Read more at [polisen.se/delbart](https://www.polisen.se/delbart)

Many thanks to the Norwegian Police for sharing their experiences and enabling the translation and production of the material "Delbart" in Swedish.

