

# Romance Scammers Exploit Our Human Compassion



Victims of romance scams are often blamed and criticized for being too trusting. In reality, victims of romance scams are targets of systematic psychological manipulation by cybercriminals. Did you know that we have several human susceptibilities that cybercriminals exploit to pressure their victims into sending money?

## Position of authority

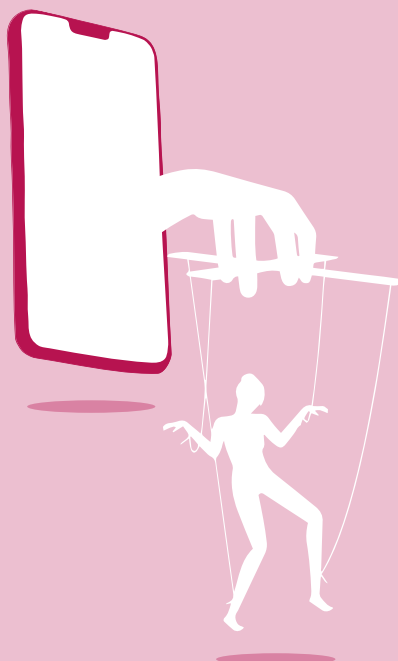
To appear credible, romance scammers pretend to be leaders, engineers, doctors, or officers.

## Affection

Romance scammers use attractive profile pictures and send flattering messages to build trust.

## Sense of obligation and reciprocity

The perpetrators create a sense of duty and pressure for reciprocity by, for example, promising to send valuable gifts.



## Commitment

Scammers keep victims hooked with constant messages and isolate them from those close to them.

## A sense of urgency and concern

Romance scammers invent emergencies, such as accidents or arrests, that require the victim's financial assistance.

## The need to act similarly

We often feel the need to act similarly to others in certain situations. Scammers may claim that others are helping them during the crisis, even more than the victim.

## Identify the red flags and protect yourself from romance scams

- ⚠️ Your new acquaintance claims to work abroad in a high-ranking profession.
- ⚠️ They keep sending you messages constantly and practically demands continuous chatting.
- ⚠️ Their messages are overly romantic, and their strong feelings are evident from the very first messages.
- ⚠️ You are being asked for financial help to deal with a sudden crisis, such as an accident.
- ⚠️ Your messaging partner wants to send you a valuable gift, such as gold, jewelry, or cash.
- ⚠️ Your new acquaintance claims that others are already supporting them, some even giving much larger sums.

## If You Are a Victim of a Romance Scam

- 🚫 Stop communicating with the scammer.
- 📄 Save all information related to the scam.
- 📞 Contact your bank, inform them of what happened, and follow their instructions.
- 📑 File a police report.
- 🙋 Seek support for recovery and handling the situation.



More information about romance scams:  
[nettideitturva.fi/info/in-english](https://nettideitturva.fi/info/in-english)