



IN BRIEF



REPOSITORY OF UN WOMEN'S WORK ON TECHNOLOGY-FACILITATED GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (OCTOBER 2024)

Technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TF GBV) is a global problem. It refers to any act that is committed, assisted, aggravated, or amplified by the use of information communication technologies or other digital tools, that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual, psychological, social, political, or economic harm, or other infringements of rights and freedoms. It disproportionately affects women and girls. It is a form of gender-based discrimination and a violation of human rights.¹ It is driven by power imbalances, patriarchy, and misogyny,² and occurs within a continuum of multiple, recurring, and interrelated forms of gender-based violence.³ TF GBV also exacerbates existing forms of violence (e.g. sexual harassment and intimate partner violence) and includes new forms of violence (e.g. zoom bombing).

TFGBV is not a new problem. It is a global issue that has been happening for years. The global pandemic has brought renewed attention to the issue, with evidence suggesting that there has been an increase in TF GBV during the pandemic,⁴ along with increased calls to work to prevent and respond to it.

Building on the 2018 Report of the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, Its Causes and Consequences on online violence against women and girls from a human rights perspective, UN Women conducted an internal Global Landscape Analysis (GLA), supported by the Ending Violence against Women Section in New York, on ICT-facilitated violence against women and girls (VAWG) in November 2020. The GLA identified key trends and developments, reviewed key

areas where UN Women has been working on this issue. The GLA showed that there continues to be a gender gap in access to and control over digital technologies and the Internet and indicated that important knowledge and implementation gaps remain, including relating to normative frameworks, data and research, prevention and response, legislative responses, and regulation.

UN Women has since been working to accelerate efforts to close these gaps. The following pages are a repository of the documents that we have produced up to this point. The advances that we have gained with regards to normative and knowledge gaps are helping to raise important awareness about the prevalence, forms and consequences of TF GBV. We continue to work on this and have a number of forthcoming publications and efforts underway, including with regards to prevention of TF GBV, safe technologies for supporting survivors of violence, methodological approaches for collecting data on TF GBV, and the use of technology as part of a comprehensive approach to address gender based violence against women more broadly.

Finally, all of these efforts are strengthened by our participation in multistakeholder initiatives for catalytic action to address TF GBV, including through two of the Generation Equality Action Coalitions: the Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence and the Action Coalition on Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality, as through our role as a Technical and Policy Lead on the Steering Committee of the Global Partnership on Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse.

1 UN Women (2020). "Online and ICT-facilitated violence against women and girls during COVID-19".

2 WP3057 (2022) Report: Building a shared agenda on the evidence base for Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse, Wednesday 17- Friday 19 August 2022, in association with the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), and the Home Office.

3 A/HRC/38/47

4 In Australia, online abuse and bullying have increased by 50% since social distancing measures were enforced. In Northern York County, Pennsylvania, there was a 700% increase of online harassment recorded during 1-20 April 2020, compared to the same period in 2019. And in the United Kingdom, traffic nearly doubled to the government helpline for adults experiencing intimate image abuse in the week of 23 March 2020." UN Women (2020). Policy Brief no. 17. [COVID-19 and Violence Against Women and Girls: Addressing the Shadow Pandemic](#).

NORMATIVE

Global Digital Compact (2024)

Adopted as an Annex to the [Pact for the Future](#), adopted during the Summit of the Future in September 2024. The Global Digital Compact (GDC) lays out a set of shared principles and guidelines for the global governance of digital technologies for an inclusive, open, sustainable, fair, safe and secure digital future for all. The GDC calls for strengthened international cooperation to close the digital divide, with gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and their full, equal and meaningful participation in the digital space named as a core principle. The GDC also calls for gender mainstreaming and to “counter and eliminate all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence that occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology” as a key principle of the compact.

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CSW Agreed Conclusions (2023)

The 67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women had for its priority theme “Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.”

The principal output of the Commission is the agreed conclusions on priority themes, which contain an analysis of the priority theme and a set of concrete recommendations for governments, intergovernmental bodies and other institutions, civil society actors and other relevant stakeholders, to be implemented at the international, national, regional, and local level.

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Human Rights Council Resolution A/HRC/56/L.15, Technology-facilitated gender-based violence (2024)

Adopted in July 2024, the Human Rights Council (HRC) resolution on TF GBV requests that the HRC Advisory Committee “prepare a study on TF GBV and its impact on women and girls, including by developing a better understanding of the issue, highlighting good practices around the globe in tackling gender-based violence that occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology, and making recommendations on how to address the issue, and to present the study to the Human Rights Council at its sixty-third session”. The resolutions explicitly calls for this to be a collaborative process with relevant stakeholders, including the UN, victim/survivors, women’s rights and youth organizations, the private sector and others.

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Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women: Report of the Secretary-General (2022)

Pursuant to UN General Assembly resolution 75/161, on the intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, the present report (A/77/302) is focused on the urgent need to address violence against women and girls in digital contexts, as well as on broader efforts to eliminate violence against women, particularly in the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The report provides information on measures taken by Member States and entities of the United Nations system to address violence against women and girls, and contains conclusions and specific recommendations for future action.

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UN Women Observer Paper for the CSW 67, “Stepping Up Action to Prevent and Respond to Online and ICT-Facilitated Violence against Women and Girls” (2022)

This paper outlines important trends in knowledge and implementation gaps related to online and ICT-facilitated VAWG and highlights some promising practices. It draws on findings from: the Report of the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences on Online Violence against women and girls from a human rights perspective (2018), a global landscape analysis conducted by UN Women (2021), and the Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women: Report of the Secretary-General (2022), and several other recent studies and papers on online VAWG to inform a set of proposed recommendations to address these gaps.

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Expert Group Meeting report: Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls (2023)

This publication includes findings and recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on the CSW 67 priority theme, which was held from 10 to 13 October 2022. It includes a glossary of terms, summaries of a series of background papers, expert papers, and informational notes prepared especially for the EGM, exploring various facets of the theme. These address key trends and knowledge gaps and frame concrete recommendations for policies to be implemented at the international, regional, national, and local levels.

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Normative frameworks on gender perspectives in technology and innovation (2022)

This paper, prepared ahead of the CSW 67, identifies and explored how previous global normative frameworks have already worked to address gender equality and women’s empowerment as it relates to technology and innovation.

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Informe | Ciberviolencia y Ciberacoso contra las mujeres y niñas en el marco de la Convención Belém Do Pará (2022)

This report explores the Implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará, which acknowledges that violence against women is present in all spaces where women are and where they participate. Violence against women including sexual harassment have expanded to digital and online settings, which must now be considered as part of regional and national efforts to eradicate all forms of violence against women and girls. It concludes with a series of targeted recommendations for taking this further.

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Mapping of laws and services for online and ICT-facilitated violence against women and girls in Arab States (2022)

This report reviews and maps current legislation pertaining to online violence in the Arab States and outlines services provided by governments and CSOs to stop online and ICT-facilitated VAWG. It highlights international frameworks and practices related to responding to online and ICT-facilitated VAWG. The report relies mainly on secondary data to identify laws and services relevant to online and ICT-facilitated VAWG, and to highlight international and Arab States good practices in combating the phenomenon.

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DEVELOPING THE KNOWLEDGE BASE

Data collection and research production



Technology-facilitated gender-based violence: Developing a shared research agenda (2024)

The Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TF GBV) Shared Research Agenda was designed as a practical tool for researchers as well as for policymakers and activists to inform research, advocacy and ultimately policies, programmes and budgets to effectively address TF GBV. It aims to help the field address key knowledge gaps that hamper the delivery of effective response and prevention programmes to end TF GBV.

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Guía de prevención y atención: Violencia de género facilitada por la tecnología, Bolivia (2024)

This guide aims to share information and practical tools related to the prevention and response of TF GBV. The purpose of this guide is to define mechanisms to support survivors of violence, provide guidance on prevention efforts, guidance on supporting survivors through the justice system to avoid revictimization.

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Guía para el litigio estratégico de casos de violencia contra las mujeres en la vida pública y política (2023)

La guía brinda claves y recomendaciones para el impulso de procesos de litigio que puedan generar impactos transformadores hacia sociedades y una nueva cultura política libre de toda forma de discriminación y violencia en contra de las mujeres.

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The dark side of digitalization: Technology-facilitated violence against women in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (2023)

The research report provides new insights into technology-facilitated violence against women in Southeast and Eastern Europe as well as Central Asia. This study draws upon surveys with over 12,000 women across the region and interviews with state and civil society representatives. The research explores the types and prevalence of technology-facilitated violence against women in 13 countries of the region and its consequences on women and girls' attitudes, experiences and access to services. Furthermore, the publication maps the existing normative and institutional landscape, and role and perspective of relevant stakeholders in providing prevention and support services to survivors of technology-facilitated violence.

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Understanding and measuring technology-facilitated violence against women for better prevention and response (2023)

The rapidly growing access to and use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, has resulted in a rise in technology-facilitated violence against women (TF VAW). Yet, accurate, reliable and comparable data on the extent of TF VAW are lacking to effectively inform and monitor targeted policies and programmes. As an emerging form of VAW, the lack of a commonly agreed definition impedes the availability of TF VAW data. This issue brief highlights the efforts of UN Women and partners to develop a common definition to better measure TF VAW.

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Technology-facilitated violence against women: Taking stock of evidence and data collection (2023)

Based on a scoping study, this paper offers a landscape scan highlighting what is known about technology-facilitated violence against women, who is currently generating this knowledge, and how the evidence is being produced. The paper also highlights some of the related methodological, ethical, and sociopolitical challenges to collecting data on technology-facilitated violence against women. As a way forward, actions for strengthening knowledge generation and data collection are proposed, including recommendations on methods and further research.

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Brief: The state of evidence and data collection on technology-facilitated violence against women (2023)

This brief paper summarizes the scoping review and key recommendations on the approaches to collecting data on TF VAW, the current state of evidence and data, and the challenges presented in the research paper, “Technology-facilitated violence against women: Taking stock of evidence and data collection”, developed by Ladysmith as part of the UN Women–WHO Joint Programme on Violence Against Women Data.

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Using Big Data Analytics for Insights on Online Violence Against Women (OWAV) in Libya (2023)

This study intends to provide a first sampling of concrete data around OWAV in Libya in order to better understand this form of violence. This type of data can inform policy and programming and provide clear examples for social media authorities of where and how OWAV is proliferating so they can take urgent steps to end OWAV.

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Accelerating efforts to tackle online and technology-facilitated violence against women and girls (2022)

This paper provides a brief overview of the existing data and evidence on online and technology facilitated VAWG, outlines some of the key developments, gaps, challenges, and emerging promising practices, and makes recommendations to be considered by governments, international organizations, civil society organizations, and the technology sector.

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Expert Group Meeting report: Technology-facilitated violence against women: Towards a common definition (2023)

UN Women, as part of its Joint Programme on Violence against Women Data with the World Health Organization (WHO), convened an expert group meeting to develop a common, comprehensive definition of TF VAW that could be used as the basis for developing tools to begin to fill the data gap around the prevalence of TF VAW. This report captures the main points that were discussed during a two-day meeting and explains the rationale behind the development of the proposed definition.

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Online and ICT-facilitated violence against women and girls during COVID-19 (2020)

This brief highlights emerging trends and impacts of COVID-19 on violence against women and girls facilitated by information and communications technology (ICT). It provides examples of strategies and practices put in place to prevent and respond to online and ICT-facilitated violence against women and girls. It also considers the impact of the pandemic on violence against women and girls in a reality shaped by a gender digital divide. It makes recommendations to be considered by governments, women's rights organizations, civil society organizations, internet intermediaries, and other practitioners committed to enhancing women's and girls' online safety.

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Online violence against women in Asia: a multicountry study (2020)

This study on ICT VAWG was conducted from July to December 2019 in five Asian countries: India, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines and the Republic of Korea. In each country, the research looked at the manifestations of ICT VAWG, the measures (legislation, policies and programmes) taken by States and ICT intermediaries to both prevent and respond to it, and perceptions of civil society organizations (CSOs). Although this report is based on research conducted prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, it assumes greater relevance given how critical ICT has become in rethinking ways of communicating, working, conducting business, managing family life, and accessing services, facilities and justice.

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Violence against women in the online space: insights from a multi-country study in the Arab States (2022)

Using an innovative web-based data collection technology, the study surveyed some 11,500 male and female Internet users over the age of 18 in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia, and Yemen to explore the prevalence, impact, and consequences of online violence on women in the Arab States, and the barriers women and girls' survivors face to access services and reporting. In addition, the project conducted qualitative research on the experiences of online violence through the lens of civil society organizations, women activists, and service providers and a mapping of existing laws and services related to online, and ICT facilitated violence against women.

[Full report](#) | [Summary report](#)



Social Media Monitoring on COVID-19 and Misogyny in Asia and the Pacific (2020)

This brief examines the links between the COVID-19 pandemic and online misogyny and hate speech directed at women in South and South-East Asia for the period of March – June 2020. It is based on the findings of research conducted by Mythos Labs for UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

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Research on TF GBV against women in the public eye



Violencia de género en línea hacia mujeres con voz pública. Impacto en la libertad de expresión (2022)

This preliminary report summarizes the results of a qualitative study conducted in Latin America and the Caribbean. Specifically, the report draws from in-depth interviews with fifteen women from different countries in the region with a strong public presence, primarily as journalists, that resulted in their experiencing much online violence. The report explores how the experiences of violence that women face online impact their freedom of expression in digital spaces.

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Cuantificación y análisis de la violencia contra las mujeres políticas en redes sociales: Uruguay (2022)

This specialized study was conducted on women politicians' experience of Gender-Based violence through social media networks. More than half a million messages sent via the Twitter platform to Uruguayan politicians were surveyed between June 2019 and June 2020. The analysis found that, while the proportion of violent messages is not constant, it varies with the level of political activity (falls in moments of parliamentary recess, increases in the run-up to elections) and with the level of individual exposure of the politician (the greater the exposure, the greater the proportion of violent messages). Comparative analysis between men and women legislators shows that the level of violence in messages directed at women legislators is slightly higher than for men legislators. But while violent tweets directed at legislators tend to relate to political work, those aimed at women tend to mention the condition of being a woman, suggesting that gender-based violence is more present in the case of violent messages against women. In fact, half of tweets that mention concepts related to feminism are classified as violent and tweets that contain insults directed at female legislators are more likely to disparage their abilities when compared to those directed at male legislators.

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Estudio Violencia política contra las mujeres en el Ecuador (2019)

This mixed-method study of the different forms of violence experienced by women in politics in Ecuador revealed that 24% women politicians, supporters or activists reported having experienced online harassment or cyberbullying.

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Violence against Women in Politics in Türkiye (2023)

This first nationwide qualitative study on violence against women in politics in Türkiye reveals that women face different forms of violence throughout all phases of their political lives, including technology-facilitated violence. As women politicians' visibility increase in traditional and social media around election cycles, they are subjected to online gender-based discrimination and violence, often focused on their appearance. The research also reveals that women politicians are often targeted with violent and sexually explicit smear and harassment campaigns on social media, as well as other acts of violence in communication with constituents after they have been elected.

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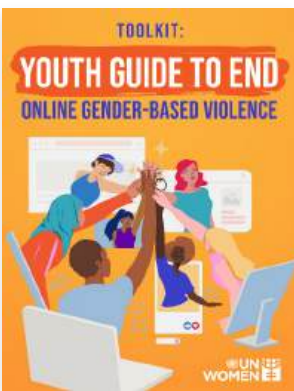
TOOLS



Toolkit: Youth Guide to End Online Gender-Based Violence, Second Edition (2023)

This updated toolkit is an actionable learning and knowledge product developed by the 30 for 2030 Network, a youth and civil society leadership cohort in the Asia-Pacific region supported by UN Women. The toolkit has been created for: youth, survivors of OGBV, and anyone interested in learning about and taking action against OGBV. The toolkit contains a wealth of information, including about OGBV and TF GBV, the forms they take, consequences, useful tips and recommendations for key stakeholders.

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Toolkit: Youth Guide to End Online Gender-Based Violence (2022)

The toolkit aims to be an actionable learning and knowledge product developed by the 30 for 2030 Network, a youth cohort in the Asia-Pacific region. The toolkit has been created to be social media friendly and designed specifically for but not limited to:

- Youth
- Survivors of Online Gender-Based Violence
- Anyone interested in learning and taking action against OGBV
- Individuals or organisations interested in inclusive and gender-transformative digital spaces and technologies

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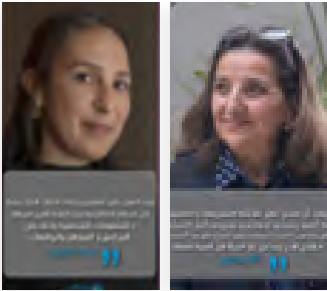
AWARENESS-RAISING CAMPAIGNS



Safe Digital Spaces: Protection of Women and Girls from Technological Violence (2020)

This paper analyses the ways in which technology helps women and contributes to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), examines the various forms of technology-assisted violence against women and their impact and consequences in the light of the global and Africa region frameworks, how this type of violence impacts women's lives, where various African governments are in terms of policy provision to access justice for victims, and proposed recommendations to end the vice. The paper argues that making accessible the ICTs and filling the gender divide is important in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It also seeks to offer collective understanding of what technology-assisted violence against women and girls constitutes. It further makes recommendations to address tech- violence against women and girls with emphasis on the transformative change in making digital world accessible and safe for women and girls.

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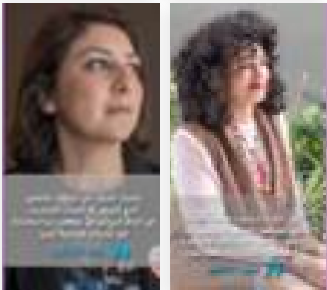


For International Women's Day 2023, UN Women Tunisia has produced a digital awareness campaign, addressing online violence against women and girls:

How does online violence affect the lives of women in Tunisia?

4 Tunisian women from different sectors shared their recommendations for combating this form of violence under the slogan "Digital violence is not an a fabulation.... Let's start with coordination".

[Watch video](#)



As part of this campaign, and thanks to the regional program "Combating online violence against women and girls" funded by Finland, UN Women Tunisia produced the short film "Amira": A day in the life of a woman victim of online violence". It recounts the harassment suffered by a young Tunisian woman, with the aim of raising awareness of the problem and encouraging women and girls to take action.

The film was screened at the Human Screen Festival on International Women's Day, March 7, 2023.

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Webpage

UN Women Türkiye Fireflies campaign

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Video

Animated video conveying the story of Malak – Arab states

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Video

UN Women Indonesia 1 minute video featuring a girl who starts receiving TF GBV messages

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Video

1.5 minute video on cyber harassment, by UN Women Pakistan

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Video

7.5-hour webinar series on Gender and Cybersecurity by UN Women Asia and the Pacific

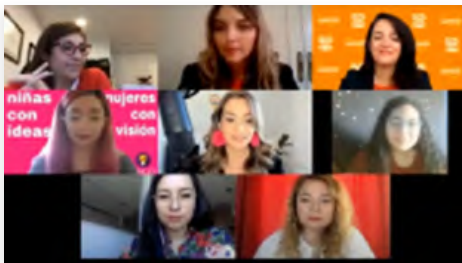
[Watch online](#)



Audio

30-second public service announcement (in Spanish) by UN Women Bolivia and Educación Radiofónica de Bolivia (Erbol)

[Watch online](#)



Video

2-hour webinar by UN Women Chile

[Watch online](#)



Video

2-minute video by the UN Women Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean

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