



Tracking Countries' Efforts on Technology-Facilitated Violence against Women and Girls

© 2025 UN Women.

This work is available open access by complying with the Creative Commons license created for inter-governmental organizations, available at: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/igo/>.

Publishers must delete the UN Women logo from their edition and create a new cover design.

Publishers should email the file of their edition to: permissions@unwomen.org.

Photocopies and reproductions of excerpts are allowed with proper credits.

Produced by Raphaëlle Rafin and Giorgia Airoidi, with support from Kalliopi Mingeirou, of the Ending Violence against Women Section, Policy, Programme and Intergovernmental Division of UN Women, New York.

Lead author: Amira Diallo

The views expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views of the UN Women, the United Nations or any of its affiliated organizations.

Copy Editing by Jen Ross.

Cover photo credit: UN Women Sri Lanka/Jeewan Vithanage/Vimukthi MaduwanthaRaveendra Rohana

Tracking Countries' Efforts on Technology-Facilitated Violence against Women and Girls

ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

UN Women

New York, October 2025

INTRODUCTION

The rapid expansion of technology and digitalization offer immense potential for advancing gender equality, women's empowerment and ending violence against women and girls (VAWG). Unfortunately, the digital world is also a breeding ground for VAWG. While global comparable data are still lacking,¹ different studies confirm the high rates of technology-facilitated violence against women and girls (TF VAWG), with **national data ranging from 16 to 58 per cent**; while **globally** 38 per cent of women reported having experienced online violence and 85 per cent of those spending time online have witnessed it.

Intersectional effects of digital violence against women

Online violence is a threat to human rights. It can infringe on people rights to privacy, to not be discriminated against and to be free from violence.² Evidence from different studies shows that TF VAWG disproportionately affects women and girls and those that are at heightened risk of offline violence are also at greater risk of online violence, including: young women and girls; women in public life; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer and other (LGBTIQ+) people; racialized, minoritized and migrant groups of women; and women with disabilities.³

Increased concerns with the development of artificial intelligence (AI)

The rapid development of AI raises additional concerns and risks in terms of cyberviolence against women and girls. A mapping of AI's abusive potential points not only to the specific tools of the technology that can be exploited, but also to radically new possibilities in terms of ease, speed, anonymity or broad dissemination.⁴ This requires adequate and rapid measures.

About the analysis

Global efforts have been ongoing to better understand and to develop strategies to tackle the issue, including research and data collection, knowledge resources development, international and regional joint commitments. The **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action** (BDPfA), adopted in 1995, is the most widely endorsed global agenda for women's rights that outlines 12 critical areas for action, including VAWG. It has enabled the monitoring of Member States' efforts to address all forms of VAWG, including TF VAWG.

Ahead of the 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the analysis of reports submitted by Member States for the review of the 30th anniversary of the implementation of the BDPfA provides good insights on measures taken to address TF VAWG and the different strategies adopted by Member States.⁵

The methodology used for this analysis focused on a desk review of **Member States' reports** for the review of the 30th anniversary of the BDPfA, complemented with additional official measures as included in the **Global Database on Violence against Women**. Other resources, such as the **Secretary-General's reports on VAWG**, various reports from UN Women and other UN agencies and user resources listed in the bibliography have also been consulted. The analysis took into consideration measures adopted and officially reported by Member States through various UN forums and reporting procedures as of June 2024.



Key highlights



» 69%

of Member States reported adopting one or more **measures to address TF VAWG**.



Only

» 27%

of reported measures are **specific to TF VAWG**. Often, measures adopted by Member States do not focus on, but integrate, TF VAWG. **These measures are mainly related to VAWG** (11 per cent), **to cyberviolence and online safety in general** (31 per cent) or to a **specific form of cyberviolence** such as cyberstalking, cyberbullying or online hate.



» YOUNG PEOPLE

have been targeted by initiatives on digital violence (59 per cent of prevention measures), but most interventions are gender-neutral and implemented within school environments, therefore leaving behind girls not attending schools who are also at risks of TF VAWG.



» POLICE SERVICES

are the response measure most frequently adopted by Member States to respond to TF VAWG (37 per cent), with different types of units and focal points being created to deal specifically with TF VAWG cases (Cybercrime Units, Gender Crime Units, Web-constables, Cyber Referents). Followed by **Social services** (24 per cent) and other **coordinated and or integrated services delivery** (20 per cent). **Health services** are the response measure least reported by Member States (2 per cent).

Member States reported more than

» 200 MEASURES

across different areas, comprising initiatives related to **research and data collection, legislation, policies, funding allocation, prevention, services provision, and monitoring and evaluation**.



The adoption and/or amendment of

» RELEVANT LAWS

(27 per cent) is the most reported measure adopted by Member States to tackle TF VAWG. **Support services for survivors** (22 per cent) are also a measure frequently adopted by Member States.



Specific initiatives have targeted

» WOMEN WITH PUBLIC ROLES

women with public roles, particularly those in politics and working in the media, given their increased risk of TF VAWG.



Some initiatives targeted

» VULNERABLE WOMEN

in shelters to **increase their knowledge on the use of digital means**, raise awareness to mitigate risks of TF VAWG and provide support to those already subjected to this form of violence (7 per cent of Member States).



MEASURES ADOPTED BY MEMBER STATES TO ADDRESS TECHNOLOGY-FACILITATED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

To end violence against women and girls, it is crucial to develop effective strategies with a combination of diverse approaches involving evidence-based legislative, preventive and responsive measures. Member States have reported measures across these different areas.



1. Generating research and statistical data on technology-facilitated violence against women and girls

Effective strategies to end violence against women and girls rely on robust, regular and comparable data.⁶ Understanding the phenomenon of technology-facilitated violence against women and girls (TF VAWG) is also pivotal for addressing the issue effectively. Adequate research and statistical data provide the evidence base needed to understand the problem, inform policy and practices, guide legislation and enhance partnership.

Research and data-collection initiatives on TF VAWG address different topics, including of a more general scope around the use of information and communications technology (ICT), cyberviolence, cybercrime, technology-facilitated violence (Austria, Finland, Indonesia, Netherlands, Singapore, Spain), as well as looking into specific forms of TF VAWG like cyberbullying, online misogyny, sexism or hate and threats against women (Brazil, Czechia, Denmark, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden).

To generate quantitative data on TF VAWG, Member States have used different types of surveys at national, regional and subnational surveys, such as stand-alone surveys on TF VAWG; surveys on a specific form of TF VAWG; and VAWG surveys or more general surveys that include questions on TF VAWG.

Regarding VAWG studies, the Uganda Violence Against Women and Girls Survey 2020, conducted by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, provided an intersectional analysis of experiences of cyberharassment by geography, age and income status.⁷

Some studies have targeted specific groups of women that are exposed to the heightened risk of violence. For example, some studies focused on female politicians ("Research on online hatred towards female politicians by the Alliance Politica" in the Netherlands), while others focused on women living with an intellectual or

cognitive disability (Australia). Others have targeted young people from schools and tertiary institutions (Congo, Cuba, Kenya).

Routine data collection through administrative data systems has also helped countries to better understand the phenomenon of TF VAWG and inform the adoption of measures. Routine data collection is essentially integrated in existing mechanisms, for instance the database of the Ministry of Interior/Public Security or the police (Maldives, Sri Lanka), the judicial system (Costa Rica), cybercrime data systems (Chile) and the national statistical office (Netherlands). In Greece, the General Secretariat for Equality and Human Rights Annual Report on Violence against Women for 2023 was focused on online VAW and presents data on the issue.

Periodic national surveys to analyse the prevalence of bullying and cyberbullying have been a strategy used in Italy to assess trends and the impact of efforts to tackle the issue. On a **multisectoral front**, France has included questions on cyberviolence as part of surveys conducted by various ministries to better document citizens' perceptions of digital violence (Ministry of the Interior's survey among the general population, Ministry of National Education's survey among students and heads of schools). A study conducted in Indonesia looked at the perceptions of media managers towards online violence.



Innovation: Senegal developed a **digital platform for the collection of data** through a newly developed cloud-based application.⁸

Overall, countries reported how research and data have been instrumental to inform the development of additional TF VAWG-related measures, such as law improvement and enforcement, the development of prevention and guidance materials, as well as capacity-strengthening for service-providers.



2. Strengthening national legislation

Most of the Member States that reported adopting TF VAWG measures focused on strengthening their legislation (69 per cent of Member States). Approaches to tackle TF VAWG vary from one country



PHOTO: UN WOMEN

to another, combining the criminalization of specific cyberoffences with the use of general criminal or VAWG laws. Approaches adopted by Member States can be grouped into the following categories:

- **Integration of TF VAWG into new or existing VAWG laws.** As an example, the Domestic Violence Act (2022) of Saint Lucia includes cyberstalking and harassment as acts of domestic violence. The South African Domestic Violence Amendment Act, (Act No 14 of 2021) and the amended Law for the prevention and combating of domestic violence in Romania (no. 217/2003) also integrate digital violence, including as a form of domestic violence.
- **Integration of TF VAWG into broader existing laws,** such as the Penal Code (Ecuador, France, Greece, Iceland, Norway, Singapore, Türkiye), criminal law (Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Pakistan, North Macedonia, Portugal and Romania) or family law. In Solomon Islands, the Family Protection Act (adopted in 2014, reviewed in 2020) is a domestic violence legislation that addresses aspects of TF VAWG, defining the use of a mobile phone to perpetrate violence against a family member as domestic violence and a crime.
- **Adoption of online safety or cybercrime laws** that, among other issues, also cover online VAWG (Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Botswana and Colombia).
- **Adoption of specific laws that address one or some forms of TF VAWG,** such as cyberbullying, online hate speech, misogyny or sexism. An example is represented by the Republic of Korea that adopted in 2023 an Act on Prevention of Stalking and Protection of Victims, punishing sex crimes involving deepfake technology, sexual exploitation materials, online stalking with aggravated punishments imposed for intimidation or compulsion using sexual filmed content and for habitual offenders.

Countries either criminalize acts of TF VAWG by further defining

the scope of existing criminal offences or by introducing new offences. The New Zealand Harmful Digital Communications Act was amended in March 2022 to include a new offence of posting an intimate visual recording without consent.

It has to be noted that, although only few laws specifically address TF VAWG, provisions relating to technology-facilitated violence against children, such as online child exploitation and abuse, cyberstalking and cyberharassment, are more common and often integrated into national cybercrime laws.

In some cases, **special measures have been adopted**, such as Indonesia's Presidential Regulation No. 71/2019, which empowers victims of digital violence to request the removal of harmful or unlawful content from online platforms, addressing issues like cyberbullying, revenge porn and online harassment.



Innovation: Chile reported an **initiative linking AI to digital violence**. The National Artificial Intelligence Policy (2021) was amended in 2023, to integrate measures that promote digital environments free of violence and discrimination from the school system.



3. Improving policy frameworks to prioritize efforts against TF VAWG

Policies, such as national strategies or national action plans, play a vital role in ending VAWG by providing a structured and strategic approach to addressing TF VAWG. They ensure that coordinated efforts are prioritized to effectively tackle the issue.

Member States have reinforced their national policies and, in some cases, developed specific action plans that contribute to address-

ing TF VAWG. Many of these policies do not exclusively target TF VAWG, which is rather often embedded within broader frameworks. These broader policies are either on cybersecurity, like in Albania (National Cyber Security Strategy 2020–2025 and its Action Plan); on gender equality, like in Czechia (Gender Equality Strategy 2021–2030); or on VAW like in Finland (Action Plan for Combating Violence against Women 2020–2023). To ensure a high level of priority is given to TF VAWG, some Member States integrated cyberviolence, including TF VAWG, as a priority into their national development plan (e.g. Nepal's 16th Plan 2024/25–2028/29).

In 2024 Norway's Ministry of Children and Families prepared a report to Parliament (White Paper) aimed at further developing the approach guided by the National Strategy for safe digital upbringing ("Right online"), which was launched in September 2021 by focusing on promoting a safe digital upbringing for girls and boys and for young women and men.

To further guide efforts in addressing technology-facilitated violence, **countries have adopted sector-specific guidelines or directives**. For instance, the Supreme Prosecutors' Office (SPO) of the Republic of Korea developed case-handling guidelines for stalking and digital sex crimes to ensure appropriate punishments of such offences. A large part of reported measures to address digital violence apply to the education sector. It is the case in Italy, where the

Ministry of Education and Merit adopted in 2015 the "Guidelines for the prevention and combating of cyberbullying" or in Ecuador where a "Protocol of Action against situations of digital violence detected in the National Education System" was adopted in 2023.



4. Resource allocations for effective initiatives related to TF VAWG

Beyond political will, dedicated resources are crucial for the effective implementation of policies and for law enforcement. Very few States reported dedicated budget allocations as a measure to address TF VAWG. The budget measures primarily focus on funding support services for both survivors and perpetrators. Since 2019, the Danish Government has provided permanent funding to the Danish Stalking Center, to offer counselling and care to perpetrators and victims. In 2021 and 2024, additional funding has been allocated to upscale the capacity of the centre to deliver care.

In Germany, the Federal Government allocated more than 2 million euros (EUR) for two pilot projects specifically related to TF VAWG. The project "Countering digital violence in women's refuges with confidence" (2023–2026) run by the Association of Women's Shelters and funded for a total of EUR 1,069,000, supports women's



shelter workers in implementing the protection strategy against digital violence. The project “Active against Digital Violence/Concepts against Digital Violence in the Social Environment and in Public Spaces” (2023–2026) run by the Federal Association of Rape Crisis Centres and Women’s Counselling Centres is being funded with a total of EUR 1,024,000.

As part of its new feminist diplomacy strategy, France launched on 8 March 2024, the Laboratory for women’s rights online that is funded by the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and serves as an incubator for projects aimed at preventing, identifying and curbing TF VAWG.



5. Influencing positive social norms changes to prevent digital violence and protect women and girls

There are a wide range of measures reported by Member States to strengthen the prevention of violence against women and girls and accelerate the transformation of social norms that perpetuate and normalize violence, including TF VAWG. The approaches used are diverse and interventions are implemented both on and offline.

a. Online learning resources

To diversify strategies and facilitate learning on cybersafety and TF VAWG, some States have invested in online information material and resources, published on key institutions’ websites (Australia, New Zealand, Samoa). The Samoa Police, Prisons and Corrections Service regularly posts public information about cyberawareness on their website, while the New Zealand Classifications Office released a detailed online resource that contains extensive information on online harms targeting women and girls.

b. Collaborating with digital platforms and actors

Several countries (Austria, Colombia, Mongolia, Nepal, Singapore) have established collaborations with digital platforms to create online safety digital tools and resources for users for different purposes, including to prohibit content that promotes hatred against any group based on gender or distorting private images without consent, to handle queries and facilitate the deletion of inappropriate content and illegal information. In Côte d’Ivoire, the High Authority for Audiovisual Communication (HACA) worked with digital stakeholders to develop in 2023 a Social Networks Charter signed by bloggers, activists and influencers. This charter notably prohibits discriminatory or offensive speech based on gender, as well as the dissemination of statements calling for violence in all its forms, including sexism.

c. Targeting women and girls through digital literacy programmes

Increasing knowledge of the digital world is one of the strategies prioritized by Member States to address the issue of TF VAWG. Initiatives have been rolled out to promote media and digital literacy among women, youth and girls, with a strong emphasis on equip-

ping them with the skills to navigate online platforms safely while ensuring their digital security (Ghana, Hungary, South Africa, Tonga). The Ministry of Communication of Ghana initiated the “Girls in Information, Communication and Technology (ICT)” programme to equip young girls with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively navigate the Internet. In Indonesia, the digital literacy programme to raise awareness about online violence, targets a broad audience with the aim to educate on recognizing and responding to technology-facilitated violence.

d. Awareness-raising campaigns

Awareness campaigns contribute to the prevention of VAWG by informing people of the different forms of violence, the consequences and available support services. They also serve to enhance a change in attitudes and behaviour.

Several States have invested in awareness-raising campaigns on TF VAWG (Australia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Indonesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Singapore) targeting various groups, such as community members in general, women and girls, women in shelters or teachers, young people and girls in schools and higher education. Government institutions engaged in awareness-raising initiatives are mainly ministries or national bodies in charge of education, gender, women and children, the police (Vanuatu) or media sector coordination bodies. The campaigns in Marshall Islands and Kiribati have focused on community activities and workshops to help girls, particularly in schools, to avoid violence via social media. In 2023, Australia launched a “Preventing Tech-based Abuse of Women Grants” Programme that supports NGOs to develop innovative programmes to address the drivers of TF VAW, challenge social norms and promote positive online behaviours and accountability among men and boys. In 2019 and 2020, The Colombian Institute of Family Welfare and the Attorney-General’s Office, with the support of the Ministry of National Education, the Ministry of ICT and the International Organization for Migration, together with other entities, created the “60 seconds your way” contest, in which participants between the ages of 6 and 25 years old created 1-minute videos where they recognized their rights, reflected on them and proposed solutions to different problems, including digital violence.

The use of international days commemoration and global campaigns has been the primary entry point for awareness-raising on TF VAWG. These are particularly the Girls in ICT Day (Brunei Darussalam, Turks and Caicos), Safer Internet Day (Namibia), World Press Freedom Day (Australia), the 16 Days of Activism campaign (Tuvalu) and the HeForShe campaign (Netherlands). Various and combined activities have been implemented during these campaigns, comprising of online and offline activities such as publications through social media and websites, workshops and dissemination of awareness tools or guide.



Innovation: Ecuador used technology to address digital violence by creating, in partnership with Child-Fund, a virtual game called “Is this love?” (2022–2023). The aim of the game is to prevent violent relationships in adolescence, where social networks are also used as a mechanism for violence or threats of violence, including digital-sexual violence between peers.

e. Targeting women in public life by working with politicians and media actors

Women in public roles, such as politicians or women working in the media and entertainment sectors, face increased risks of online violence. According to a **UNESCO survey** conducted in 2020, 73 per cent of women journalists experienced online violence in the course of their work. This can have a detrimental impact on women’s empowerment, participation in political life and in decision-making. However, very few countries (Ireland, Netherlands) reported initiatives targeting these groups of women.

Among these, in the Netherlands, Alliance Politica developed and facilitated in 2022 a training entitled “Resilient together against online hate” targeting political groups on how to become more resilient as an organization and individually, with particular attention to how hate expresses itself differently towards women and other underrepresented groups.

States like Australia, Bhutan and Indonesia worked with their national media coordination entity to respectively create online safety resources to implement capacity-building activities and to raise awareness among media actors (media managers, journalists and bloggers). These initiatives focus on ethical reporting practices, considering gender stereotypes, as well as services and protection

available to survivors of online violence. The Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs supported the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) “Safety of Female Journalists Online” (SOFJO159) project aimed at improving the safety of female journalists across the region by promoting free and safe access to cyberspace and digital technologies. In Bhutan, in addition to the Women and Children Toll-free number (1098), an individual or entity can report online discrimination and other forms of online abuse including biases in media reporting to the Bhutan InfoComm and Media Authority, which is responsible for regulating and overseeing digital communications.

f. Working against digital violence in women shelters

Member States’ initiatives to address TF VAWG have also targeted shelters for women and girl survivors of violence, both from a prevention and response perspective (Austria, Germany, Mongolia, Norway, South Africa, Türkiye). To prevent and mitigate risks for women already affected by diverse crises and violence, Member States are supporting shelters to implement specific activities that contribute to increase women’s knowledge on the safe use of technology (particularly mobile phones and computer) and digital platforms, considering safety precautions and prevention of experiencing TF VAW. To strengthen the capacity of frontline workers’ tools, guidance, training and other resources have also been developed. For example, the Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs has developed a guide, including checklists and tools, to help crisis shelters map victim’s risks of being exposed to digital violence, as well as tools on how to advise victims on handling phones, digital communication and social media.

Through the collaboration between the General Directorate on the Status of Women and the Information Technologies and Communication Authority in Türkiye, awareness sessions are conducted on Zoom on “Digital Violence and Cyberbullying” to increase understanding of the risks women and children staying in women’s shelters may encounter online and to enhance their skills in dealing with these risks.



6. Diversifying support services for survivors, including technological assistance

Member States reported adopting measures to strengthen multisectoral response services to TF VAWG, including in the area of legal and psychosocial support, health, police and social services, including shelters. All services reported by States to **support survivors of TF VAWG are integrated in existing support mechanisms for survivors of VAWG**, with additional support related to technology services. Although a multisectoral approach has been reported by many, most services focus on providing legal support and other follow-up actions through the platforms. Depending on the forms of TF VAWG reported, different assistance actions are implemented across countries, such as the management and deletion of inappropriate content or blocking communications from perpetrators. These services are provided in most cases through specialized cybercrime units and involve in some cases collaboration with social

media platforms, such as Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, X (formerly Twitter) or WhatsApp. The cybercrime units hosted by criminal police departments in several countries are composed of police officers and other specialists trained to handle various forms of digital violence.

The Republic of Korea provides **an example of integrated support services implemented at national and subregional levels**. The Advocacy Center for Online Sexual Abuse Victims established in 2018 collaborates closely with domestic institutions and with relevant overseas organizations to ensure substantial remedies for the rights of victims. It provides essential free-of-charge services to victims of digital sex crimes, including counselling, deletion of digital sex crime videos and referral services for legal, investigative and medical assistance. In 2021, 14 regional Counselling Centres for Digital Sex Crimes were established nationwide to better facilitate access to support services for victims.

As an example of specialized units providing support services, specific Gender Crime Units and women desks have been established by the ICT Police and provincial police departments in Pakistan to support women survivors of online sexual harassment, stalking and non-consensual sharing of images.

Specific capacity-building initiatives with the development of

guiding materials and workshops (in Albania, Austria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of),⁹ Germany, Panama, Romania, Solomon Islands) have helped to increase the knowledge and capacity of front-line service-providers to handle the complexities of TF VAWG.

Training materials and sessions have specifically targeted professionals working in the field of domestic violence (Germany), counselling facilities (Austria), police and prosecutors' offices (Albania, Bolivia, Republic of Korea), or social workers and psychotherapists (Romania). In 2024, the National Center Against Violence in collaboration with the Asia Foundation in Mongolia, organized a capacity-building training to enhance the ability to identify, detect and protect victims of TF VAWG, provide services based on a human rights approach, and improve cybersecurity and digital skills to shelter specialists in Bayankhongor and Zavkhan provinces.

Monitoring systems of cases of TF VAWG were established in some sectors for updated information on reported incidents and case monitoring. In France, a "Cyber referent" in charge of monitoring major cybercrime cases was created in all public prosecutors' offices and specialized interregional jurisdictions in 2019. Italy has integrated into the ELISA platform (www.piattaformaelisa.it) a dedicated area for schools to monitor cyberbullying and bullying, to equip them with tools to effectively address related issues.





Innovation: In 2021, the Republic of Korea developed specific face-search technology that can identify victims from illegally filmed harmful content in response to digital sex crimes. The “Advocacy Center for Online Sexual Abuse Victims” is using this technology through a pilot project to support the deletion of illegal videos of victims.

Mechanisms to file complaints of TF VAWG include, in addition to direct traditional reporting mechanisms through the police, online reporting portals (France, Indonesia, Philippines, South Africa) and helplines or hotlines (Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Bhutan). The tollfree and multilingual options for helplines, the free counselling or pro-bono legal counselling for online harms (Singapore) are strategies that contribute to facilitate the use of assistance services. In Sri Lanka, two different trilingual helplines (1938 and Prathya) provide free technological assistance, psycho-social and legal support and referrals. The helplines in Austria, Germany and Sri Lanka are operational 24 hours a day.

Specific tools were developed to guide survivors of digital violence on accessing services. Panama developed a Guide for reporting gender-based violence on the Internet, and the 24-hour women's emergency hotline in Vienna (Austria) developed the handout “What should you do if you experience technological or cyberstalking?” to facilitate access and use of support services.



7. Monitoring and evaluation

Few examples were reported where Member States have adopted and implemented monitoring and evaluation measures specifically on TF VAWG or by integrating TF VAWG into broader initiatives.

Specific monitoring indicators were developed in Namibia. In 2020, the Internet Society Namibia Chapter in partnership with the Web Foundation launched “Namibia's Women Rights Online”, which set out to assess the gender divide, relevant content online and women's empowerment, using 14 specifically designed indicators, including on online safety.



8. Enhancing partnership and joint initiatives at regional and global levels

Different initiatives at regional and global levels contribute to enhance Member States' commitment towards ending TF VAWG. This comprises initiatives related to partnership, international gender-related events, online platforms or regional programmes.

In term of partnership, the Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse (Global Partnership) launched in 2022 and led by a group of Member States,¹⁰ brings together countries, UN agencies, international organizations, civil society and the private sector to better prioritize, understand, prevent and address significant gaps in research, policy and evidence-informed practices to counter this growing issue.

Different States have seized the opportunity of international events for initiatives aimed at increasing partnership and commitment in the fight against TF VAWG. Through the Generation Equality Forum, convened by UN Women in 2021, Finland and Iceland committed to advocating for the integration of online gender-based violence in relevant international forums, processes and instruments to ensure visibility of the issue, understanding of its seriousness and for measures to be taken to comprehensively tackle it as part of gender-based violence.¹¹

As an **online platform**, the Laboratory for women's rights online launched by France in 2024 is an initiative of international scope that brings together States, national and international civil society organizations, private platforms, and gender and digital researchers. It serves both as a platform for multi-stakeholder collaboration and as an incubator for projects aimed at preventing, identifying and curbing technology-facilitated online VAWG.

As an example of a **regional programme**, the **Cyber Safety Pasifika** Programme was established in 2012 by **22 countries** of the Pacific region, to ensure a proactive and joint approach to cybercrime prevention. It's a Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police programme that is managed and facilitated by the Australian Federal Police, delivering cybercrime training and awareness-raising across the Pacific region, utilizing a “by the Pacific, for the Pacific” approach. This initiative equips police officers with capacity and tools to combat online abuse, including TF VAWG.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

While there is a growing attention to digital violence at global, regional and national levels, efforts to specifically address TF VAWG remain inadequate and insufficient. The digital world changes fast and the rapid progress in generative AI – which is providing new platforms enabling the spread of gendered disinformation and perpetuating the drivers of VAWG – may undermine efforts to eliminate it. It is a necessity to increase and accelerate initiatives to

avoid jeopardizing efforts already made and to prevent women and girls from further risks of TF VAWG.

Continuous efforts from Member States, United Nations entities, regional bodies and other stakeholders to accelerate progress in the elimination of TF VAWG should include the following actions.

- 1** Invest in national research and data collection to cover knowledge gaps and adopt contextualized measures to address TF VAWG, in alignment with global efforts for agreed definitions and methodologies.
- 2** Strengthen national legislation and policy frameworks to specifically address the gendered aspects of cybercrime and prevent its impacts on women and girls, and to ensure greater accountability of perpetrators.
- 3** Allocate dedicated resources to address TF VAWG, as part of measures to tackle VAWG and cybercrime, including flexible and long-term funding for civil society and women's rights organizations to play a lead role in informing, developing, designing and implementing effective prevention and response measures.
- 4** Invest in long-term comprehensive approaches to transform gender stereotypes, harmful behaviours, social norms and toxic masculinities that drive VAWG in digital contexts, including through the empowerment of women and girls, addressing unequal gendered power relations, and community engagement.
- 5** Strengthen cooperation with the technology sector, women's rights organizations, civil society and national and regional human rights mechanisms to strengthen multisectoral efforts against online VAWG.
- 6** Develop initiatives that target out of school young people, particularly girls, who are also vulnerable to digital violence.
- 7** Strengthen the response mechanism by increasing the capacity of service-providers, including cybercrime units, on managing specific gender-related digital violence.
- 8** Integrate specific provisions, tools or indicators on TF VAWG in the monitoring, evaluation and accountability frameworks of global and regional human rights bodies that relate to VAWG and cybercrime, to enhance national commitments.

END NOTES

¹ Many countries have invested in data collection but the absence of agreed definitions and methodologies for measurement limits the understanding of the true prevalence of violence against women and girls in digital contexts. There is no official common definition of TF VAWG, but there is clear agreement that it is a pervasive form of violence. The multistakeholder expert group convened by UN Women in November 2022 and composed of diverse gender policy specialists, researchers and statisticians from 26 inter-governmental organizations, government agencies, civil society and academia, proposed a common comprehensive definition that considers the unique specificities of digital technologies: “Technology-facilitated violence against women is any act that is committed, assisted, aggravated or amplified by the use of information and communications 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”.

See UN Secretary-General. 2022. [Report on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls](#) and UN Women. 2023. [Understanding and measuring technology-facilitated violence against women for better prevention and response](#).

² Amnesty International. 2024. [Online violence](#).

³ UN Women and WHO. 2023. [Brief: The state of evidence and data collection on technology-facilitated violence against women](#).

⁴ European Parliament. 2024. [Cyberviolence against women in the EU](#).

⁵ This initial analysis focuses on Member States’ reports submitted in English, French and Spanish and aims to be further completed with submissions in the other UN languages in an upcoming version.

⁶ UN Secretary-General. 2022.

⁷ UN Women and WHO. 2023.

⁸ UN Secretary-General. 2024.

[Report on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: technology-facilitated violence against women and girls](#).

⁹ Henceforth Bolivia.

¹⁰ As of March 2023, members included: Australia, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Iceland, Kenya, Mexico, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States.

¹¹ Government of Iceland. 2021. [Generation Equality Forum - Iceland Policy Brief on Iceland’s Roadmap for Ending Gender based Violence by 2026](#).

REFERENCES

Member States’ Beijing+30 reports.

Amnesty International. 2024. [Online violence](#).

Economist Intelligence Unit and Jigsaw. 2021. [Measuring the prevalence of online violence against women](#)

European Parliament. 2024.

[Cyberviolence against women in the EU](#).

Government of Iceland. 2021. [Generation Equality Forum - Iceland Policy Brief on Iceland’s Roadmap for Ending Gender-based Violence by 2026](#).

Institutes of development studies, K4D Helpdesk Report. 2021. [Global Evidence on the Prevalence and Impact of Online Gender-based Violence \(OGBV\)](#).

University of Melbourne, UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund). 2023. [Measuring technology-facilitated gender-based violence. A discussion paper](#).

UN Secretary-General. 2022. [Report on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls](#).

UN Secretary-General. 2024. [Report on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: technology-facilitated violence against women and girls](#).

UN Women. 2023. [The dark side of digitalization: Technology-facilitated violence against women in Eastern Europe and Central Asia](#).

UN Women. 2022. [Accelerating efforts to tackle online and technology facilitated violence against women and girls](#).

UN Women. 2023. [Understanding and measuring technology-facilitated violence against women for better prevention and response](#).

UN Women. Global data base on Violence against Women. Available at: <https://data.unwomen.org/global-database-on-violence-against-women>.

UN Women and WHO (World Health Organization). 2023. [Brief: The state of evidence and data collection on technology-facilitated violence against women](#).

UN WOMEN EXISTS TO ADVANCE WOMEN'S RIGHTS, GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS.

As the lead UN entity on gender equality and secretariat of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, we shift laws, institutions, social behaviors and services to close the gender gap and build an equal world for all women and girls.

Our partnerships with governments, women's movements and the private sector coupled with our coordination of the broader United Nations translate progress into lasting changes. We make strides forward for women and girls in four areas: leadership, economic empowerment, freedom from violence, and women, peace and security as well as humanitarian action.

UN Women keeps the rights of women and girls at the centre of global progress – always, everywhere. Because gender equality is not just what we do. It is who we are.



220 East 42nd Street
New York, New York 10017, USA

www.unwomen.org
www.facebook.com/unwomen
www.x.com/un_women
www.youtube.com/unwomen
www.flickr.com/unwomen