Forum: United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

Issue: Combating Gender-Based Harassment, Abuse, and Radicalization in Online Spaces.

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Introduction

Technology-facilitated gender-based violence has become a global human rights crisis. By 2025, more than one in three women worldwide reported experiencing online harassment,a figure consistent with the Economist Intelligence Unit's global survey finding that 38% of women have personally experienced online abuse. This systemic issue goes beyond constituting a technological problem; it is a fundamental violation of women's human rights to safety and dignity. While it undermines international commitments, including the Beijing Declaration and Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, consequences extend beyond digital spaces to affect mental health, economic opportunities, and democratic participation.

Definition of Key Terms

Algorithmic Amplification

The process by which platform algorithms prioritize engaging content, often amplifying misogyny and hate speech, creating feedback loops that normalize gender-based violence.

Cyberstalking

The repeated use of digital technologies to monitor, threaten, or intimidate another person, often a precursor to physical stalking and causing severe psychological distress.

Deepfakes

A form of AI-generated synthetic media depicting someone saying or doing something they did not, frequently used to create non-consensual pornographic content targeting women.

Doxxing

The act of publishing a person's private or identifying information online without consent to incite harassment and enable stalking.

Online Misogyny

The expression of hatred, contempt, or prejudice against women in digital spaces, including gendered slurs, threats, and promotion of male supremacy. Online misogyny is a root cause of Technology-Faclitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV) rather than simply one of its forms. When contempt for women is repeated, shared, and rewarded with engagement, it comes to look normal and abuse becomes framed as something women provoke or deserve. That framing erodes the barrier for individuals to move from posting about women in general to harassing, threatening, or exposing a particular woman, and studies this year, like one from Equality Now, trace how this escalation can even extend further into violent extremism.

Online-to-Offline Spectrum

The process by which online violations of civil conduct frequently escalate into offline stalking, assault, and honor-based violence.

Sextortion

The act of using a victim's intimate images, whether genuine or AI-generated, as leverage to coerce them into paying money, sending further sexual content, or meeting other demands, under threat of distributing the images further.

Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV)

While there is no definition of TFGBV that boasts unanimous, international agreement, it encompasses a broad range of behaviours undertaken towards a form of gender-based violence committed, assisted or amplified through digital technologies, including harassment, stalking, and image-based abuse of women and girls.

Background

Digitalization of Gender-Based Violence: Scope and Gaps

With the growing use of digital technologies, online gendered violence has become increasingly prevalent. According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), 38 percent of women had personally experienced online violence and 85 percent had witnessed digital violence against other women and marginalized groups. In another report, UNESCO's global survey of more than 1,200 participants found that 73 percent of female journalists surveyed had experienced online violence in the course of their work. UN Women describes TFGBV as an emerging dimension of violence that grew along side the development of online information and communication technologies.

This phenomenon was not inherently digital, however; digital technologies have created additional channels through which existing patterns of discrimination, harassment, and abuse can be carried out, intensified, and reproduced. As digital environments become increasingly integrated into social, professional, and commercial life, violence within these spaces can extend beyond the virtual sphere, threatening individuals' mental, emotional, physical, and social well-being. This has an effect on whose voice is heard in most online spaces. In the Economist Intelligence Unit's survey of women in 51 countries, 30 percent of respondents had reduced their online presence and 20 percent had stopped using a platform altogether, which means that abuse aimed at individual women is having the effect of gradually removing women's voices from public debate.

Despite its growing prevalence and consequences, TFGBV remains difficult to monitor systematically. The acceleration of online socialization during the COVID-19 pandemic further exposed the lack of reliable and comparable data needed to assess its scale, track emerging forms of abuse, and evaluate the effectiveness of prevention and response measures. One aspect of this issue is on the basis of its definition: since there is no international unanimity on its definition and it is often left out of census forms, reports can seldom be compared across borders. Addressing these gaps is therefore essential to developing evidence-based policies and ensuring that responses keep pace with the evolving digital landscape.

Forms of Online Gender-Based Harassment and Abuse

TFGBV encompasses a broad range of behaviors rather than a single category of online harassment. Often, offenders build on information and images gained through previous harassment, further escalating the situation. UNFPA identifies forms of TFGBV to include cyberstalking, doxxing, digital surveillance, and online sexual harassment. These can reveal a victim's personal information, making them more susceptible to both physical and digital harassment, threats, and intimidation. Other forms include impersonation, image-based sexual abuse, coordinated harassment, the sharing of intimate images without consent, and the malicious use of synthetic or manipulated media. These images could be manipulated and circulated, which can further amplify gendered hate speech and reputational harm, making it more difficult to contain once media travels across platforms. Furthermore, perpetrators could use circulated material for sextortion, threating to distribute images further in an effort to extort money, sexual content or other demands from victims. In addition, threats of physical or sexual violence and gendered hate speech not only further harms the victim's mental and emotional well being, but mass dissemination also pose a significant threat to the regulation, containment, and reduction of gendered violence online.

These forms rarely occur in isolation, and each act often supplies the material for the next. Cyberstalking and digital surveillance give a perpetrator a victim's location, contacts, and private images. Doxxing then publishes that information so that strangers can join in, and coordinated harassment turns a single abuser into hundreds of accounts, many belonging to people who have never met the victim. Image-based abuse follows a similar chain. An intimate image shared within a relationship, or a fabricated one produced with AI tools, becomes leverage for sextortion, and each demand that a victim gives in to deepens her exposure. Because content is copied across platforms faster than it can be removed, the harm is cumulative: a victim who has an image taken down from one

site may find it reposted on several others. Measures that target a single form of abuse in isolation, such as a ban on deepfakes alone, will therefore leave the surrounding chain of conduct violations intact.

Targeted Groups and Causes

TFGBV is largely motivated by structural gender inequality and discriminatory norms. Certain groups of women and girls are disproportionately targeted because of their visibility, identity, or advocacy to challenge patriarchal norms and male dominance. The UN Women Strategy on Preventing and Eliminating TFGBV reveals several groups at a higher risk: young women and girls,women that are public figures, members of the LBGTQIA+ community, migrant women, and women with disabilities.

Women in the public eye face the most severe and coordinated attacks. A 2025 UN Women study shows that 70% of women human rights defenders, activists, and journalists have experienced gender-based violence on online platforms. Women in public life are targeted specifically due to their participation that threatens male power structures. This pattern is not limited only to adult women but to girls and young women: more than 58% have experienced digital harassment. Moreover, women who belong to multiple marginalized groups are generally exposed to higher rates of violence. A report in 2023 from the Centre for International Governance Innovation shows that 42.7% of LGBTQIA+ persons have experienced TFGBV as a result of their sexual orientation.

The targeting of women and girls online does vary across regions, shaped by local contexts of governance, patriarchy, and platform accountability. In the Arab States, a 2021 UN Women study found that 60 percent of female internet users had been exposed to online violence in the previous year, and 44 percent of those affected said the violence had subsequently continued offline. In sub-Saharan Africa, a 2020 five-country study cited by UN Women found that 28 percent of women had experienced online gender-based violence, while the Inter-Parliamentary Union reported in 2021 that 46 percent of female members of parliament in Africa had been targeted by sexist attacks online. In many Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs), weak legal frameworks and deep patriarchal norms leave women more vulnerable with fewer avenues for recourse, and online exposure can carry offline consequences from family and community. In More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs) stronger accountability mechanisms coexist with problematic coordinated anti-feminist backlash and gendered disinformation campaigns, the targets of which disparate but include many women politicians and journalists. The practical difference is best summed as: states with established regulators tend to debate how far platforms should be held responsible, while many LEDCs are still deciding whether online abuse is a crime at all.

The reason for targeting is rooted in structural gender inequality and power imbalances. The underlying causes of violence against women and girls include inequitable socio-cultural norms that support male authority over women in various regions, rationalizing violence or even holding victims responsible and culpable. In past decades, discriminatory gender norms and stereotypes have created the conditions for TFGBV. These norms persist on online platforms today, where they continue to give rise to gender-harassing behaviour (doxxing, stalking, shaming etc). Stereotypes predominantly portray women as sexually available, facilitating even greater rationalization of harassment and the justification of violence as a punishment for women who step outside their traditionalist roles.

Ultimately, these patterns demonstrate that TFGBV is rather an online extension of pre-existing structural inequalities that systematically target women.

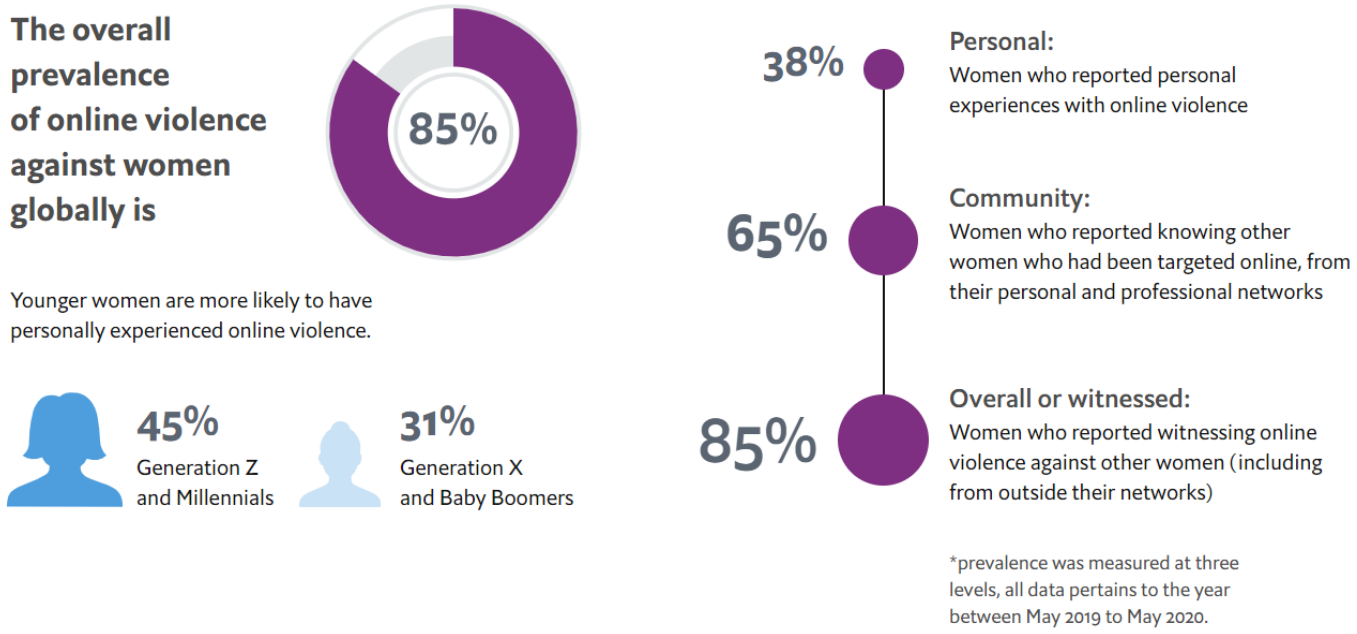


Figure 1: An Infographic illustrating the global prevalence of online violence against women from 2019 to 2020 (World Economic Forum)

Misogynistic Communities and Online Radicalization

Online communities based around misogynistic views known collectively as 'the manosphere' encompass a wide variety of groups, such as Pick-Up Artists, Men's Rights Activists, and Involuntary Celibates (incels). In providing a sense of community and simplistic understanding of frustrations experienced both individually and socially, members tend to be composed of young males suffering from alienation or identity confusion, and while initial platforms focused on fitness, health, and self improvement, these forums ultimately act as portals for radicalized beliefs against feminism. Such a phenomenon is accelerated through echo chamber algorithms rewarding provocative content, allowing for normalization of misogynistic ideas and linking users within larger, politically far-right networks. With 5.5 billion internet users worldwide by 2025, UNCSW research found that two-thirds of young men consistently engage with masculinity influencers online, exacerbating the issue of radicalization and polarization.

Algorithms, Platform Design, and Amplification

Online platform mechanisms are constructed through engagement based algorithms that often favor misogynistic content with artificial intelligence's inability to recognize the content. Recommendation algorithms prioritize content that generates high interaction, and research demonstrates that misogynistic posts often receive disproportionately high engagement, thereby pushing them into mainstream feeds. A 2024 report released by UNESCO notes that algorithm-driven platforms expose women and girls disproportionately to negative gender norms, citing Facebook data that "32% of adolescent girls say Instagram makes them feel worse about their bodies." In a structured review, researchers found that misogyny is "typically treated as one category within

broader hate speech frameworks rather than as a distinct sociocultural phenomenon" under current AI moderation systems; there is an inherent lack of misogyny-specific datasets for multilingual settings. Contemporary regulatory responses remain fragmented and inadequate: the EU's Digital Services Act requires platforms to assess systemic risks including gender-based violence, yet civil society analysis of three years of risk assessments found they remain "vague," lack "irrelevant or missing data," and constitute little more than "tick-box exercises". Globally, fewer than 40% of countries have laws protecting women from cyber harassment, leaving 44% of the world's women without legal recourse.

Offline Consequences of Gender-Based Violence

However, TFGBV does not remain enclosed in digital spaces. The offline continuity of harassments and abuse demonstrates that virtual violence can often escalate into physical harm.

The Online to Offline Spectrum

Digital tracking and monitoring often proceed to physical following and intimidation. In some specific regions and contexts, non-consensual image sharing has led to honor killings by family members, as it is interpreted as a loss of male control over female sexuality. A United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) study noted that doxxing increased the risk of physical harm. Additionally, image-based abuse may also potentially lead to blackmail and coercion.

Unfortunately, the harm caused by TFGBV extends far beyond the digital level to concrete consequences. Notably, online abuse is occasionally considered as less serious than physical violence. However, traumatizing experiences produce enduring and even irreversible psychological impacts for survivors.

Psychological and Physical Impacts

Survivors endure a wide range of psychological effects of varying severities including: chronic stress and hypervigilance, particularly from cyberstalking and surveillance behaviors as well as threats of violence and coordinated harassment campaigns. In addition, mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) can often arise from long-term online abuse. Thus, coordinated harassment often leads to public humiliation and loss of personal or professional reputation. Furthermore, survivors frequently experience shame, guilt, and social isolation, often deriving from image-based abuse, sextortion, doxxing, and victim-blaming responses from individuals or communities. Significantly, a 2022 global statistic found that 92% of women reported that online violence damaged their sense of well-being. Likewise, 35% of women experienced mental health problems due to online violence.

Furthermore, the stress and trauma associated with TFGBV also manifest in physical symptoms. They could protest in insomnia, headaches, stomachaches, loss of appetite or disordered eating and chronic fatigue. Outcomes of technology-facilitated sexual violence (TFSV) persist even after controlling for other forms of violence, leaving severe psychological consequences.

Economic Impacts

Online harassment also carries significant economic costs for women. In severe cases, external abuses may force women to change jobs, reduce work hours, or exit the workforce entirely, deepening gender economic disparities. Figures compiled by UN Women show that 51 percent of women who experienced online abuse reported serious impacts on their professional lives.

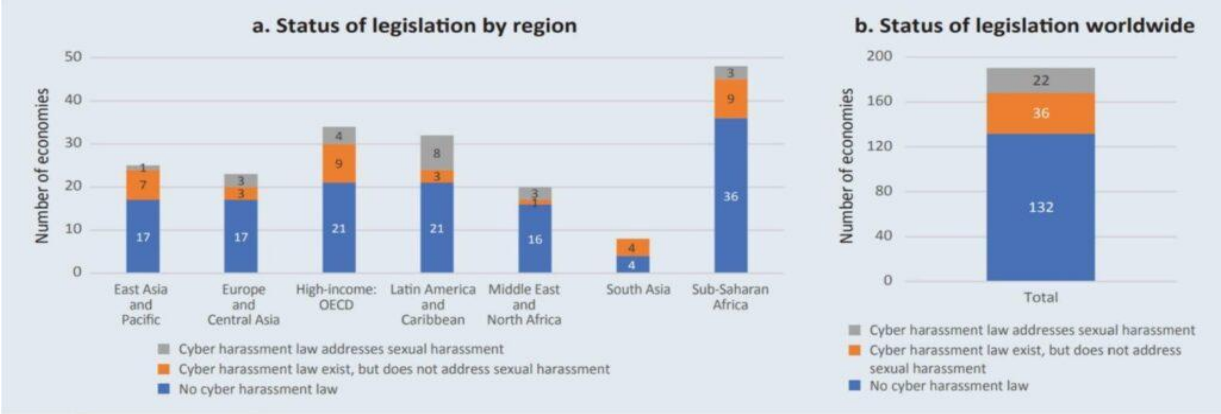
The costs are highest in careers that depend on a public profile. In UNESCO's survey of women journalists, 11 percent had missed work to recover from online violence, 38 percent had made themselves less visible, 4 percent had quit their jobs, and 2 percent had left journalism altogether. The same pressure applies to women who run small businesses or build careers through social media, for whom leaving a platform can mean losing customers. At the level of whole economies, a study for the European Parliamentary Research Service estimated the cost of online violence against women to individuals and society in the European Union at between 49 and 89.3 billion euros per year. These losses connect TFGBV to women's economic participation, which falls within the core mandate of this Commission.

Legal and Enforcement Gaps in TFGBV

Many countries have adopted legislation addressing online harassment, stalking, and image-based abuse etc. However, legal frameworks alone do not prevent violence.

Fragmented Legal Framework

As enforcement is weak and platforms disregard reports, laws become ineffective in practice. Protections for women online vary significantly depending on geographic region, leaving survivors difficulties to redress. After 2014, the Istanbul Convention was legally enforced as a far-reaching binding treaty, requiring states to criminalize online violence and establish support services, but it remains restricted in Europe. On the other hand, in the global South, many countries lack adequate legal or technical frameworks to address digital violence. Beyond this, the Pacific region depends commonly on regional coordination rather than enforceable obligations. The absence of an internationally agreed measurement framework for TFGBV, coupled with limited reliable data and significant regional knowledge gaps across the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa, and Central Eastern Europe, leaves perpetration in humanitarian contexts insufficiently examined. As research remains predominantly concentrated in high-income countries, the global applicability of results remains constrained. Consequently, a woman's protection depends largely on where she lives.



Source: Women, Business and the Law database, 2022.
Note: OECD = Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Figure 2: A bar chart illustrating the status of legislation on cyber harassment by region and worldwide in 2022 (Women, Business and the Law database)

Enforcement Failures and Impunity

Nevertheless, even where laws exist, enforcement remains weak, and TFGBV continues in an environment of widespread impunity. The World Wide Web Foundation's Web Index found that in 64 of the 86 countries it studied, law enforcement agencies and courts were failing to take appropriate corrective action against online violence against women. Enforcement failure stems from a combination of factors rather than any single cause.

The first is resources. Under-resourced law enforcement units lack dedicated cybercrime capacity and forensic tools, even though digital evidence such as account data, messages, and deleted posts has to be secured quickly before it disappears.

The second is training. Law enforcement professionals (police, judges, and prosecutors) receive minimal TFGBV-specific training and frequently perceive online abuse as less grave than offline violence. Accordingly, victims may encounter blame rather than support when they come forward, and survivors are often re-traumatized by judicial systems.

The third is political will. Governments frequently prioritize other crimes, leaving TFGBV cases deprioritized in prosecution queues and platform regulations below global standards. This gives rise to complacency on a systemic level towards combatting this issue

The fourth is reporting. Reporting mechanisms are often too inefficient for survivors to use effectively: in the Economist Intelligence Unit's survey, only one in four women reported abuse to the platform where it occurred, and only 14 percent reported it to an offline agency. Cases that are never reported cannot be investigated.

The fifth, and the hardest to solve nationally, is jurisdiction. Cross-border legal frameworks create jurisdictional gaps that perpetrators take advantage of. Perpetrators exploit gaps between national laws by operating from abroad, using fake identities, VPNs, and encrypted tools to escape from detection, while law enforcement often declines to act when victim and perpetrator are in different countries. Investigators

also depend on platforms headquartered abroad to hand over account information. South Korea's 2024 deepfake crisis shows how this plays out. Sexually explicit deepfakes of women and girls, including teenagers, circulated widely in Telegram chat rooms, and Korean police stated that Telegram had not responded to their earlier requests for account information in criminal investigations. The Women's Human Rights Institute of Korea reported that the company had not answered any of its inquiries about illegal content since April 2018. Telegram began removing reported content more quickly and set up a hotline with Korean officials only in late 2024, after Korean police opened an investigation into the platform itself and after its founder was detained in France. Korean law applied throughout; what the authorities lacked was a reliable way to compel a foreign company to cooperate.

Furthermore, voluntary and self-regulatory approaches lack independent monitoring, minimum standards, and meaningful sanctions, leaving platform accountability largely unenforceable.

Major Parties Involved

Australia

Australia pioneered the world's first eSafety Commissioner, an extensive national online-safety framework. Its regulatory framework enables eSafety Commissioner to address online harms and requires platforms to maintain mechanisms for reporting and responding to abusive material. The agency co-developed the international TFGBV framework alongside the UN to enforce "Safety-by-Design" across digital spaces, following the core framework of prevention, mitigation, advocacy, and response.

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

Established in 1982, CEDAW, consisting of twenty-three members appointed as independent human rights experts, monitors how Member States implement measures in effort to eliminate gender discrimination. Under CEDAW, technology-related gender-based violence qualifies as an act of human rights discrimination that signals the need for prevention, investigation, and punishment.

Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse

Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse was established in 2022 during the Leaders' Summit for Democracy as an international coalition representing partnership aimed at combating TFGBV that targets women, girls, and the LGBTQIA+ community. The partnership focuses on addressing various aspects of online violence, such as harassment, stalking, non-consensual intimate images, doxxing, and deep-fakes.

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

The OSCE created foundational ethics related to digital security, human rights and preventing violent extremism. They explore connections between gender dynamics, misogyny, internet platforms, and violent

extremism, acknowledging gendered stereotypes and how it could endorse and contribute to radicalization among genders in digital contexts. The organization works on adopting gender-based approaches towards countering and preventing violent extremism through approaches such as education, media literacy, intervention, and improved understanding of online extremism through research.

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom leads with its domestic framework on addressing online safety and violence against women and girls. As a founding participant of the Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse, UK strongly advocates for international cooperation against technology-facilitated gender-based violence. The UK also backed funding for projects targeting the collection of data on digital gender abuse, supporting victims of abuse, and internet regulators that minimize the appearance of harmful content.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

The UNFPA, accountable for international sexual and reproductive health and rights, has become an important global actor in overseeing and documenting technology-facilitated gender-based violence. UNFPA branches onto the development of common definitions, improvement of data collection, training of frontline responders, and victim-centered services. UNFPA views technology-facilitated gender-based violence as a larger issue concerning gender equality and human rights rather than purely a cybersecurity related problem.

United States

The United States, a leading country that holds influence over technological firms, called for the Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse during the 2021 Summit for Democracy. It promoted international collaboration in handle various forms of abuse by producing roadmaps every year, which emphasize safety-by-design, tackling gendered disinformation, funding international organizations to regulate gendered abuse online, and increasing data gathering of abuse online. On a domestic level, the TAKE IT DOWN Act was passed in 2025 and penalizes individuals who publish non-consensual intimate imagery.

Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

- General Recommendation No. 35 on gender-based violence against women, July 2017 (**CEDAW/C/GC/35**)

  Adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, this recommendation updates General Recommendation No. 19 to recognize new forms of violence against women and girls that occur "through technology-mediated environments, such as contemporary forms of violence occurring in the Internet and digital spaces"; not only in the physical form, but now in the digital. It defines gender-based violence as a social problem requiring comprehensive responses and identifies technology-facilitated violence as part of many, interrelated forms of violence against women. Its main

limitation is legal status. General recommendations are the Committee's interpretation of the Convention rather than treaty text, so they are not legally binding in themselves, and the Committee cannot enforce them; it can only review state reports and, for states that have ratified the Optional Protocol, consider individual complaints. GR 35 also addresses technology-mediated violence in only a handful of references, without setting out what states must specifically do about abuse online.

- Resolution 38/5, Accelerating efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls: preventing and responding to violence against women and girls in digital contexts, 5 July 2018 (**A/HRC/RES/38/5**)

  The adoption of Resolution 38/5 was among the first UN resolutions to address gender-based online violence as a fundamental human rights issue. The resolution urged Member States to consider perspectives of different genders while constructing digital policy frameworks. Accountability measures in regards to digital spaces were called for; and additionally, women and girls were acknowledged in facing disproportionate risks of harassment and abuse online. The resolution also called for the full participation of women in the development of digital policies such that gender perspectives could be carried out. Its limitation is enforceability. Like all Human Rights Council resolutions, 38/5 is a recommendation rather than a legal obligation. It was adopted without a vote, which shows broad support but also reflects the soft language that consensus requires: on technology companies, it asks states only to "encourage" platforms to act. It created no monitoring mechanism and no consequences for states or companies that ignore it.

- Intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: the digital environment, 17 December 2024 (**A/RES/79/152**)

  This resolution focuses on the continuity between offline and online gendered violence against women, girls, and marginalized gender groups. It vocalizes that women and girls face disproportionate risks of sexual abuse, harassment, and exploitation in digital spaces. This includes cyber stalking, non-consentual propegation of private data, gender based discrimination...etc. The resolution pushed Member States to adopt comprehensive response measures on legislation, policies, and accountability foundations for digital platforms in efforts to reduce and prevent radicalized, gender-based hate against women in digital environments. It also emphasizes the need to address harmful algorithmic mechanisms. As a General Assembly resolution it is not legally binding, and it was adopted by a recorded vote of 174 in favor, none against, and 11 abstentions, so even non-binding language on the digital environment did not reach consensus. It also leaves the content of national legislation and platform obligations to each Member State and includes no mechanism to track whether states follow through.

- UNOCT Practice Guide on Artificial Intelligence and Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, February 2026

  Launched by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, the UNOCT Practice Guide on Artificial Intelligence and Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism highlights methods on reducing harmful platform policies such as algorithmic bias, privacy breaches, over-surveillance and the use of AI in the prevention of violent extremism. It provides practical tools for policymakers and practitioners

to make educated, context-sensitive decisions when dealing with AI in preventative situations like gender-based radicalization and violence. The guide is voluntary, practical guidance for governments, practitioners, and technology partners rather than a binding instrument. It addresses violent extremism as a whole, so gender-based radicalization is one concern within a much wider counter-terrorism agenda rather than its focus, and its impact depends entirely on whether states choose to adopt its recommendations.

Possible Solutions

Any single measure would be insufficient to address TFGBV in isolation. Efficient solutions require coordinated action across prevention, legal enforcement, victim support, and international cooperation. Member States should consider multi-layered approaches that address the root causes, strengthen accountability, and ensure survivors have access to justice and support.

Prevention and Education

Preventing TFGBV requires confronting the social norms and digital environments that enable it. Integrating online safety literacy and consent education into school curriculae from primary levels onward, teaching young people about respectful online behavior as well as the consequences of harassment could reduce the prevalence of TFGBV. This enables long-term cultural change by teaching respect and consent before harmful behaviors turn normalized. Other solutions might educate young men and boys who may be vulnerable to radicalization or developing misogynistic ideology. Simultaneously institutional responses are another factor that can be improved upon. Greater institutional response would help ensure that online violence is treated as seriously as offline violence.

School curriculae alone will miss many of the people most at risk. Girls who are out of school, women in rural areas with limited connectivity, women with disabilities, migrant women, and LGBTQIA+ people often fall outside formal education and government outreach. Online outreach is one way to tackle this issue, making sure materials are accessible and easy-to-read.

Legal Frameworks on Platform Accountability

While TFGBV exists among multiple regions, legal frameworks remain fragmented enabling perpetrators to exploit juridical gaps and escape responsibility. Legal frameworks must be strengthened to ensure consistent protection across borders.

Before all, it is essential to align legal definitions of TFGBV across Member States, in order to impede abusers from utilizing legislative loopholes. Standardization could also facilitate cross-border cooperation. \

Such standards could include a fixed deadline for removing non-consensual intimate images once they are reported, following the model of the United States' TAKE IT DOWN Act, which requires platforms to remove such images and known copies within 48 hours of a valid request. They could require risk assessments that treat

gender-based violence as its own category rather than folding it into general hate speech, and transparency reports that break down complaints, removals, and response times by type of abuse. Reporting tools could be required to be simple, available in local languages, and able to let survivors track the status of their report. Safety-by-design defaults, such as privacy settings that protect new users and limits on who can send images to an account, could become a baseline obligation, alongside duties to preserve evidence and respond to law enforcement requests within set timeframes. Finally, independent audits and researcher access to platform data would allow compliance to be verified rather than self-reported.

Moreover, establishing cross-border mechanisms for reporting, evidence-gathering, and prosecution of online gender-based violence, can be further potential measures to reduce impunity for cross-border perpetrators. Finally, it is necessary to consider punitive deterrants to hold platforms accountable to following through on prescribed recourse. The result would allow States to impose financial and reputational consequences that push platforms to address risks rapidly.

Victim Support and Survivor-Centered Justice

Survivors must have access to comprehensive, accessible, and confidential support services. Supporting victims and delivering survivor-centered justice is key to addressing TFGBV. Many survivors of online harassment face significant barriers to seeking help, including fear of perpetrators, stigma around being a victim of online violence. Member States could invest in increasing funding for access to mental health services, legal aid for victims. These services need to be accessible to victims in disparate circumstances, including rural areas where online treatment would not be an option.

Crucially, safe and anonymous reporting procedures need to be prioritized. These procedures are to help women to report online abuse and more so, to ensure that they remain the center of any process to hold perpetrators accountable. Moreover, economic support for survivors who have faced job or opportunities loss due to online abuse are recommended to verify that they can regain stability and dignity.

Funding

Addressing TFGBV requires sustained financial investment across prevention, protection, prosecution, and support services. Without dedicated funding, policies will remain unimplemented. There must be sustainable funding for frontline services, legal aid, and mental health support in under-resourced regions. Equally, by offering tax incentives for companies that invest in online safety would encourage private sector investment in moderation tools, platform transparency, and survivor support. Delegates should consider building the evidence base needed for effective policy design and allocation of resources. In addition, public-private partnerships may be a key way to ensure cooperation between government and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

Data and Monitoring

Reliable data is essential for confronting TFGBV, tracking progress, and holding actors accountable. However, no agreed international measurement framework currently exists, creating limitations to comparable data across regions. Addressing this gap requires primarily to develop an international measurement framework for

TFGBV with the help of UN Women in coordination with Member States in order to have an evidence base for policy development.

On the other hand, regular daily tracking of platforms, legal enforcement, documentation of survivor outcomes, and public records of conduct violations on online platforms are equally important. This would allow researchers, individuals and communities to assess platforms that are meeting their obligations to protect users from gender-based harm. Beyond all, it is equally important for Member States to set up national data collection systems for TFGBV, in an effort to evaluate data consistently at the national level.

International Cooperation and Mechanisms

Perpetrators exploit jurisdictional gaps; platforms operate across borders making survivors in one country be targeted by actors in another. Therefore, multilateral coordination has become essential in combating gender-based harassment, abuse, and radicalization in online spaces. Delegates should encourage international organizations, Member States and relevant UN entities to negotiate and work effectively to negotiate a binding international convention and reinforce obligations for States to address TFGBV while also providing independent mechanisms for complaints and inquiries.

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