
Centre for International
Governance Innovation

Supporting a Safer Internet

Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence Annotated Case Studies

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Overview

The weaponization of technology and private information in digital spaces has become all too prevalent in online interactions. Advanced tactics have fashioned a medium through which individuals can become victims of online harassment, cyberstalking, trafficking, cyberbullying, sexual images shared without consent, profile cloning, grooming for extortion or abuse, online hate speech and intimidation, as well as spyware or tracking software used to monitor internet usage.

Anecdotal evidence surrounding technology-facilitated violence (TFV) supports that this growing phenomenon is disproportionately affecting women and girls, and sexual and gender minorities. For example, a report conducted by UN Women looked at women's experiences globally of both online and offline violence. It found that incidents of online violence such as cyberstalking, online harassment and online sexual extortion are highly prevalent (UN Women, n.d.). Other studies have found that transgender and gender diverse people are also experiencing significant levels of TFV, as they are more likely to be a victim of technology-facilitated harassment than cisgender people (Evelyn et al. 2022; Powell, Scott and Henry 2020).

Such violence has been linked to serious psychological distress, including depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder and suicidal ideation (Duggan 2017; Maple, Short and Brown 2011). Qualitative data collected by Samantha Bates (2016) found that women who, for example, had their intimate images shared without their consent experienced similar forms of psychological distress as those who had been sexually assaulted. Additionally, TFV can also lead to social isolation due to its impact on a victim's ability to engage in activities online, leading to a decrease in self-esteem (Henry and Powell 2016). An Amnesty International online poll commissioned by Ipsos MORI across eight countries found that more than half (56 percent) of the women who were harassed on Twitter struggled to focus on everyday tasks and felt stress, anxiety, or panic attacks (55 percent) after experiencing harassment or abuse.¹

Studies also show that victims of TFV are more likely to experience financial instability and economic disadvantages, including reduced salary or loss of employment (Jane 2018), which can have severe repercussions on the physical, mental and economic well-being of those affected (Citron and Franks 2014). There is an urgency to develop a standardized set of tools to address this form of abuse on a global scale.

This annotated collection of sources features a selection of country and regional case studies on the topic of technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV). It relied on a series of advanced search strategies that were operationalized in bibliographical research databases to retrieve more than 300 items.

When analyzing the items, the author's credentials, the information presented in the piece and the accuracy of the sources' claims were all criteria that were used to examine the work's contribution to the field. In addition, how the source was structured, the purpose of the work and the evidence used to support its arguments were also important evaluative criteria for inclusion in this annotated collection. It is important to note, however, that a potential limitation of this exercise is that it is only reflective of studies that were published in English.

¹ Amnesty International commissioned Ipsos MORI to carry out an online poll of women aged 18–55 in Denmark, Italy, New Zealand, Poland, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States. For the full data set, see www.ipsos.com/ipsos-mori/en-uk/online-abuse-and-harassment.

High-level Guiding Research Questions That Were Prevalent in the Literature

A preliminary scan of the literature determined the following themes and research questions that have been explored. Note that this is not an extensive list.

The Prevalence and Conceptualization of Online Gender-Based Violence

- What are the forms of TFGBV and what are the root causes?
- How does the internet reproduce societal discrimination, violence and inequalities based on sexuality, gender, class and race?
- What are the characteristics that distinguish online violence from offline violence?
- In what ways has online harassment provoked victim shaming and blaming?
- Does gendered online abuse of women qualify as hate speech?
- How does online gender-based violence (OGBV) inflict psychological, financial, economic and physical harm?

Surveillance, Privacy and Censorship

- As technologies transform our lives, how do we create a “right to privacy” that is well suited to protect women and gender diverse people from new forms of abuse? Is this possible given the long-standing patriarchal structure that continues to fuel gender-based violence?
- How do the politics of social platforms’ “real name” policies reinforce heteronormative logics? Do they enable the involuntary “outing” and direct sexual surveillance of queer individuals?
- Are there inherent double standards that women face when utilizing their right to sexual expression on the internet?

Enabling a Feminist Internet

- How do developments in new digital technologies reproduce and amplify patriarchal structures, practices and cultures of contemporary life?
- How can we apply a critical, radical feminist lens to the field of internet technologies? Do we hold violations of our rights online — such as gender-based violence — to the same level of accountability and attention as other spaces?
- How can internet intermediaries ensure that the internet is a space that empowers rather than subjugates women?

Accountability: Platform and Human Rights Responses

- What should accountability for platforms look like? Are there transparent procedures to address complaints by users of the platform that take into account gender and cultural sensitivities? If platforms do have reporting systems in place, is there English language bias in reporting mechanisms?
- Is there a level of distrust in platforms? Are victims more likely to block abuse rather than to report it?

- What ethical, social and human rights responsibilities do internet intermediaries have to their users who are affected by their networks?
- How well do internet intermediaries emphasize the importance of consent in the dissemination of content and comply with international human rights standards in determining whether a violation of the right to expression has been committed?
- How can we implement policies that uphold international human rights principles of non-discrimination and equality, while also drawing on contextual factors such as language, culture and power dynamics?

Engagement and Prevention

- How do we better engage feminist activists and advocates in setting the domain for policy or standards?
- How can we foster an environment that allows individuals to feel confident enough to report online abuse to authorities — even in instances where cultural norms or political or religious agendas interplay?
- How can we change social attitudes and norms to shift the way online abuse is understood and the seriousness with which it is treated?
- What efforts are needed to better educate and raise public awareness about this issue?
- How can varying perceptions regarding what constitutes gender-based violence, due to cultural or other reasons, be considered when asking victims to report instances of violence? Would it be beneficial to provide examples of behaviour that constitute gender-based violence?
- How can we ensure that cybercrime prevention for women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning and other sexualities (LGBTQ+) individuals residing in marginalized communities is accessible (especially in areas where bandwidth is low)?
- In countries where LGBTQ+ individuals are not widely accepted, what impact does the adversarial role of authorities have on handling online blackmail and privacy threats in a safe and sustainable way?

Common Themes Surrounding Recommendations

Achieving online safety for women, girls and LGBTQ+ persons will take multiple intensive strategies by different actors. Common themes emerged surrounding the recommendations for reducing the prevalence of TFGBV, and can be summarized as follows:

- Developing legal and policy measures to protect victims of OGBV. This could include the implementation of national online harassment and cyberbullying policies, as part of a wider tactic to combat gender-based violence.
- Continuous advocacy for digital human rights and necessary policy reform.
- Fostering a multi-stakeholder platform that could be used to discuss and promote the effective use of the internet to combat online harm.
- Developing tools and training for law enforcement and the judiciary on how to address OGBV.
- Implementing awareness-raising campaigns to promote safe and responsible use of the internet and social media.

- Growing public-private partnerships to develop technological solutions to combat OGBV.
- Providing survivor-centred services for those who have experienced TFGBV, including crisis counselling and legal advice.
- Social media platforms can take several steps to help end OGBV; these include:
 - developing and enforcing policies that prohibit gender-based violence on their platforms;
 - providing resources and training for moderators to recognize and respond to gender-based violence;
 - strengthening security protections to reduce the risk of OGBV;
 - working with law enforcement to investigate and prosecute perpetrators of gender-based violence;
 - working with activists and organizations to raise awareness of this harm and to promote positive online behaviour; and
 - providing clear reporting and enforcement mechanisms to remove harmful content from their platforms.

Annotated Sources

This section provides a high-level summary of some of the work that has been written in this field.

7amleh — Arab Center for Social Media Advancement. 2018. “Online GBV in Palestine Means Losing Out on Women’s Participation.” June 11. <https://genderit.org/feminist-talk/online-gbv-palestine-means-losing-out-womens-participation>.

This article underlines that online participation by Palestinian women and girls is often hindered at the local, regional and global level through conservative societal norms, increased online violence and local laws that are enacted by Palestinian governments to suppress free speech and that also enable a high-tech surveillance apparatus and biased content moderation by social media giants. The disparity between the rise of gender-based violence crimes on the internet compared to public awareness and legislation regarding this issue is of great concern. For this reason, Palestinian civil society must build the capacity to address OGBV through awareness raising, initiatives, workshops and support lines.

Abdul Aziz, Zarizana. 2020. *Online Violence against Women in Asia: A Multicountry Study*. Ministry of Gender Equality and Family and UN Women. November. www.aidsdatahub.org/sites/default/files/resource/unwomen-online-violence-against-women-asia-2020.pdf.

This comprehensive analysis focused on five countries: India, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines and the Republic of Korea by studying the correlation between information communications technologies (ICT) and VAWG. It examined elements such as relevant legislation, policies and programs implemented by states and ICT intermediaries to both prevent and respond to instances of online harm through promising practices to prevent and respond. The work explored various risk factors associated with ICT VAWG, which included gender inequality, negative perceptions of women, misogyny, impunity, anonymity, ease of transmission, dissemination of false information, disinhibition of perpetrators, lack of media literacy and online behaviour and etiquette. The findings highlighted that ICT VAWG is common in all five countries. There is a scarcity of programs on internet etiquette and culture, and lengthy community rules are often not read by users. Victims and survivors often stated that they did not report ICT violence to the authorities, and state legislation commonly focused on criminalizing ICT VAWG, carrying sentences of imprisonment and fines.

Aghtaie, Nadia, Cath Larkins, Christine Barte, Nicky Stanley, Marsha Wood and Carolina Øverlien. 2018. “Interpersonal violence and abuse in young people’s relationships in five European countries: online and offline normalisation of heteronormativity.” *Journal of Gender-Based Violence* 2 (2): 293–310. <https://doi.org/10.1332/239868018X15263879270302>.

Qualitative interviews with 91 young people aged 13–18 in Bulgaria, Cyprus, England, Italy and Norway explored experiences of intimate partner violence and abuse. The data from the five countries demonstrated that online and offline control and surveillance were accepted as “normal” by many young people. Justification of control and surveillance was viewed as a form of love and protection — it was also more prevalent in Bulgaria, Cyprus and Italy. The data also revealed that the dominant culture of masculinity equates to righteousness and to “being in control,” which can provide an atmosphere of tolerance that normalizes abusive behaviours. Future research needs to understand how old and new forms of support and technologies can be mobilized to build opportunities for resistance to intimate partner violence and abuse.

Ahlenback, Veronica, Naomi Clugston and Maria Vlahakis. 2022. “Issues Paper: Global prevalence of online VAWG.” *What Works to Prevent Violence*, August. <https://ww2preventvawg.org/evidence-hub/issues-paper-global-prevalence-online-vawg>.

This analysis sets out to explore the following questions: “What differences are there in overall prevalence rates (e.g. by country, region, type of online VAWG [violence against women and girls], or in relation to specific women and girls?) To what extent does it identify targeted harm, gender disinformation, and misogynistic discourse and the broader effects on society, such as democracy, achieving gender goals/roll back of rights, women’s political empowerment? Where are there gaps in the data and limitations with existing surveys? What are the methodological and ethical challenges in collecting data on this issue and ultimately measuring women’s and girls’ experience of online VAWG?” This paper highlights the importance of improving the overall quality of global VAWG prevalence data and suggests a range of methods to achieve this. These include using more representative sampling techniques, developing standardized definitions and frameworks, increasing the range and quality of disaggregated data, and increasing data collection across different countries and regions. Such improved data collection could enable more accurate estimates of VAWG prevalence and a better understanding of the complex dynamics driving the issue, ultimately allowing for more effective interventions.

Aikenhead, Moira. 2021. “Revenge Pornography and Rape Culture in Canada’s Nonconsensual Distribution Case Law.” In *The Emerald International Handbook of Technology-Facilitated Violence and Abuse*, edited by Jane Bailey, Asher Flynn and Nicola Henry, 533–53. Bingley, UK: Emerald Publishing. www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/978-1-83982-848-520211039/full/html.

In 2014, Canadian law criminalized the non-consensual distribution of intimate images and recognized it as a form of “revenge pornography.” This legislative move was a response to a practice in which individuals (typically men) would publicly share intimate images of their ex-partners (typically women) in an effort to inflict harm or seek revenge. This behaviour is seen as a symptom of rape culture — a framework of beliefs and values that normalizes sexual violence and blames its victims. This chapter examines the revenge pornography case law in Canada to determine whether the judiciary is effectively treating this phenomenon as a form of communal, gendered, intimate partner violence. The analysis finds that while the courts have taken a serious view of revenge pornography, there is some indication that they are utilizing the same gendered reasoning and assumptions previously observed by feminists in sexual assault jurisprudence. As such, there is a risk that this approach will inadvertently reinforce rape culture rather than challenge it.

Ajder, Henry, Giorgio Patrini, Francesco Cavalli and Laurence Cullen. 2019. *The State of Deepfakes: Landscape, Threats, and Impact*. Amsterdam, Netherlands: Deeptrace. September. https://regmedia.co.uk/2019/10/08/deepfake_report.pdf.

Deepfake pornography is a growing phenomenon that exclusively targets and harms women. Danielle Citron, a law professor at Boston University, describes pornographic deepfakes made without a person’s

consent as an “invasion of sexual privacy.” Deeptrace, an Amsterdam-based cybersecurity company, conducted an analysis that focuses on the top five deepfake pornography websites and the top 14 deepfake YouTube channels. The study found that more than 90 percent of deepfake videos on YouTube feature Western subjects; however, non-Western subjects featured in almost a third of videos on deepfake pornography websites, with South Korean K-pop singers making up a quarter of the subjects targeted.

The subjects featured in the videos came from a diverse range of professions — including politicians and corporate figures. The report delved into a case study on “DeepNude,” a computer app that enables users to “strip” photos of clothed women by using deep learning image translation algorithms that have been specifically trained on images of women. This app is easily accessible, demonstrating the growing dangers for creating deepfake pornography. The report cautioned that with the growing speed of the development of artificial intelligence (AI), the landscape for deepfake pornography is constantly shifting with rapidly materializing threats resulting in increased scale and impact. There is a demonstrated need for governments and civil society at large to be better prepared for the emerging challenges that are yet to come within this realm.

Bailey, Jane and Sara Shayan. 2016. “Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Crisis: Technological Dimensions.” *Canadian Journal of Women and the Law* 28 (2): 321-41. www.utpjournals.press/doi/abs/10.3138/cjwl.28.2.321.

This article examines how digital technology interacts with the long-standing effects of colonialism, misogyny and racism, which are at the heart of the missing and murdered Indigenous women crisis in Canada. The authors illustrate how technology can be used to perpetrate multiple forms of violence — including stalking, intimate partner violence, human trafficking, the production and distribution of child abuse images, and online hate and harassment — and note how Indigenous women and girls may be made especially vulnerable. They also contemplate the implications of police use of technology, such as social media and DNA testing, for investigations. Refraining from assigning blame to technology itself, the authors insist that technology is entwined with multiple factors in the intricate historical, cultural context where the national crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls is bred. The article closes by posing questions that may be addressed in the upcoming national inquiry.

Bailey, Jane and Carissima Mathen. 2019. “Technology-Facilitated Violence against Women & Girls: Assessing the Canadian Criminal Law Response.” *The Canadian Bar Review* 97 (3): 664-96. <https://cbr.cba.org/index.php/cbr/article/view/4562>.

This case study focused on technology-facilitated violence against women and girls (TFVAWG) by reviewing several Canadian criminal law cases. It found that even though there are criminal law provisions in place to address the many forms of TFVAWG, the quality of responses may be lacking in terms of achieving the forms of survivor-centred outcomes envisioned by several scholars in the field. There are many limitations in Canadian criminal law as it relates to Indigenous peoples and members of other equality-seeking groups. Eradication of this form of violence extends beyond the capacity of the criminal law system, as stronger public censure is needed to actively protect women and girls’ sexual integrity, autonomy and dignity in online spaces.

Bailey, Jane, Jacquelyn Burkell, Suzie Dunn, Chandell Gosse and Valerie Steeves. 2021. “AI and Technology-facilitated Violence and Abuse.” In *Artificial Intelligence and the Law in Canada*, edited by Florian Martin-Bariteau and Teresa Scassa, chapter 10. Toronto, ON: LexisNexis.

AI is being used to cause harm to members of equality-seeking communities, including both individual and collective effects. These equality harms arise from both “direct” and “structural” violence and are not adequately addressed by existing Canadian law. This is due to the law’s focus on individual wrongdoers and victims, its failure to address collective harm and its siloed approach to the issues of privacy and equality. TFV and abuse discussions should be expanded to include both direct and structural violence and encompass individual and corporate (ab)uses of AI. Meaningful responses to TFV and abuse must

also include an understanding of the tightly interwoven equality and privacy harms associated with discriminatory algorithmic profiling by corporations.

Bansal, Vaiddehi, Mayumi Rezwan, Mithila Iyer, Kareem Kysia, Laura Hinson, Poulomi Pal, Erin Leasure and Connor Roth. 2022. *Landscape Analysis of Technology-Facilitated Gender Based Violence: Findings from the Asia Region*. National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago and the International Center for Research on Women. February. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00Z7GS.pdf.

The purpose of this study was to conduct a rigorous analysis of existing evidence on TFGBV in Asia and make actionable research, policy and programming recommendations. Countries included in the analysis were Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste and Vietnam. To capture the breadth of information available on TFGBV, a comprehensive search of peer-reviewed (academic) and grey literature (reports, briefs, white papers and United States Agency for International Development Development Experience Clearinghouse documents) was conducted. Addressing TFGBV in Asia requires collective action from multiple actors at the global, state and local levels.

Recommendations at the local/national government levels included conducting an analysis of the legal landscape from a survivor and human-rights lens, enacting laws that are specific to TFGBV, and repealing transphobic and homophobic legislation and strengthening protections for the LGBTQ+ population. At the programming level, recommendations include conducting public education campaigns on TFGBV, developing specialized training for law enforcement and legal officials, and enhancing data collection by streamlining reporting processes for survivors. It was recommended that technology companies enhance privacy settings of digital platforms, review community standards to take gender into consideration, strengthen the capacity to improve response and support resources and invest in transparent reporting mechanisms. Lastly, researchers should focus greater efforts on Central Asia and the Pacific Islands, strengthen partnerships and examine the gendered impact in areas or sectors with burgeoning technology growth.

Body and Data. 2018. *Unshackling Expression: A study on criminalisation of freedom of expression online in Nepal*. Association for Progressive Communications. www.apc.org/en/pubs/unshackling-expression-study-criminalisation-freedom-expression-online-nepal.

Freedom of expression and opinion — including sexual expression of citizens, artists and the press — is often criminalized and suppressed in Nepal through ambiguous laws, state-sponsored surveillance and censorship. This report dives into the relevant laws and policies surrounding this area to understand how freedom of expression is operationalized and implemented, finding that there are many factors that impede on this right — especially among women and marginalized communities. Additionally, lack of access to technology, OGBV, patriarchal values and the protectionist approach of family and society are other considerations that are a precipitating factor in curbing rights to expression online. To draw these conclusions, relevant provisions that aim to curtail freedom of expression, including violation of digital rights online, were reviewed, along with significant case laws and media reports around proof of infringement within the country. Important stakeholders were also consulted and asked to review the facts and analysis presented in the report.

Bradshaw, Samantha and Amélie Henle. 2021. “The Gender Dimensions of Foreign Influence Operations.” *International Journal of Communication* 15 (2021): 4596–618. <https://ijoc.org/index.php/ijoc/article/view/16332/3584>.

This article examines the gender-specific dynamics of foreign influence operations by analyzing 7,506 tweets from state-sponsored accounts belonging to Russia’s GRU and Internet Research Agency (IRA), Iran, and Venezuela. It examines how foreign state actors exploit the affordances of social media to influence, polarize, and disrupt online conversations around women’s rights and feminism. Through examining the narratives and strategies used by four state-backed actors, distinct blueprints of influence operations emerged. Russian accounts focused on the demobilization of feminist movements, while

IRA accounts hijacked legitimate criticisms of the activist communities to exploit fracture lines within them. GRU accounts perpetuated xenophobic narratives to spread disinformation, while Iranian accounts focused on disseminating information that supported their own political agendas. Venezuelan accounts relied on clickbait, crime and sensationalism to generate virality around divisive political topics. Most targeted attacks against high-profile women were indirect in nature, relying on amplification to spread false claims and establish narratives to discredit prominent voices. This research brings attention to the way civil rights movements in general, and feminism in particular, are hijacked to polarize and disrupt democratic action, ultimately harming gender equality and stifling women's ability to advocate for social change.

Chisala-Tempelhoff, Sarai and Monica Twesiime Kirya. 2016. "Gender, law, and revenge porn in Sub-Saharan Africa: A review of Malawi and Uganda." *Palgrave Communications* 2 (1): 1-9. <https://doi.org/10.1057/palcomms.2016.69>.

This article explored legal responses to "non-consensual pornography" in the Global South and highlights the inadequacy of legal regimes as they relate to gender-based violence. It uses case studies from Malawi and Uganda to illustrate the incidence of revenge porn in a non-Western context. At the time of writing, neither country had laws dealing specifically with revenge pornography, although both countries had anti-pornography or anti-obscenity provisions in the law. The legal discourse for both countries was concerned with regulating sexuality and controlling women's bodies. This was constructed in legal language of obscenity, undesirability, depravity, gross indecency and the corruption of morals. These terms work to legitimize "slut-shaming" and electronic sexual violence.

Women in Malawi and Uganda who are victims of non-consensual pornography are vilified rather than offered sympathy or justice. One of the patriarchy's tools for the creation and maintenance of gender hierarchy in African societies is the obscuring of sexuality in secrecy and taboos. The harmful and lasting effects that revenge porn has on the lives of affected individuals demand a swift and specific response to counter this growing issue. The researchers suggested that revenge porn, and other forms of "cyber violence" against women, require specific legislation or a nuanced interpretation of existing laws to curb their incidence rates and to ensure redress for victims.

Choi, Jungtae, Mihye Seo, Jae-Won Kim and Kihyun Kim. 2023. "The Relationship of Risky Online Behaviors and Adverse Childhood Experiences to Online Sexual Victimization Among Korean Female Adolescents." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 38 (3-4): 3637-60. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08862605221109888>.

This study investigated the association of female adolescents' risky online behaviours and offline victimization with online sexual victimization (OSV). A survey of 509 female adolescents aged 13-18 and their mothers was conducted within six South Korean metropolitan cities and provinces. Multivariate regression was used to assess the association of risky online behaviours and offline victimization with the experience of OSV. Results showed that harassing behaviour, talking with someone met online, and sexual behaviour were significantly associated with OSV. Additionally, adolescents with higher exposure to maltreatment and family dysfunction during childhood were more likely to experience OSV than those with lower exposure to adverse childhood experiences. These findings suggest that addressing the effects of risky online behaviours and offline victimization on female adolescents' OSV is essential. Identifying the factors associated with OSV can help researchers and practitioners better understand the online victimization of female adolescents in the context of offline and online dynamics.

Citron, Danielle Keats. 2014. *Hate Crimes in Cyberspace*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt7zsws7.

Danielle Keats Citron argues that cyber harassment has become a contemporary civil rights concern that needs social and legal responses to transform perceptions about cyber hate. She reviews the previous success of two women's rights movements to highlight the much-needed advocacy to address this issue in the context of power and marginalization in which it occurs. The internet amplifies the effects of gendered

hatred; for instance, online abuse is generally ignored or is dismissed in the sense that women are blamed for their online victimization. Victims cannot stay online if they are constantly under assault. Citron asserts that the law needs to be a source of protection, as there are sparse legal protections available to women to address this global issue. She explores a wide range of legal protections, including criminal, civil rights and copyright law, and finds that federal and state laws need updating. In most states, harassment and stalking laws only cover abuse sent directly to victims. They do not cover nude photos, threats and lies posted on third-party websites. Recognizing consumers' expressive interest does not make it any easier to regulate cyber harassment, as the law cannot and arguably should not censor offensive viewpoints.

Derechos Digitales. n.d. *COVID-19 and the increase of domestic violence against women in Latin America: A digital rights perspective.* www.derechosdigitales.org/wp-content/uploads/dd-violenciadegenero-covid.pdf.

This report emphasizes emerging trends and key challenges that women and LGBTQ+ groups in Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico face due to the lack of investments and policies to assist victims who experience gender-based violence — whether that be helplines or trustworthy or updated statistics, and so on. The situation was exacerbated during the pandemic, affecting low-income and historically marginalized groups — including Indigenous and Black women, migrants and many others. Due to the lack of response from states, civil society organizations are relying on their own tools and knowledge to help victims, spanning from digital to legal to psychosocial support. The report proceeds to highlight that “abusive digital rights restrictions and online gender-based violence appear as part of a new racist, misogynistic and patriarchal agenda in Latin America.” Future action will need to understand and respond to gender and domestic violence during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Devika, J. 2019. *Gender-Based Cyber Violence against Women in Kerala: Insights from Recent Research.* C Kerala, India: Centre for Development Studies. May. <https://cds.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/7Commentary-min.pdf>.

This report cited the difficulty of conducting research on the issue of gender-based violence and set out to collect useful and reliable data by administering surveys and focus group discussions in five prominent colleges in Kerala, India. Interviews were also conducted with a wide-ranging set of stakeholders, including police officers, lawyers and internet democracy activists. The research found that there is a wide gap between the young women surveyed and interviewed, and the police officials interviewed, about their views on the experience of OGBV and the appropriate responses to it. The work found that pervasive patriarchal attitudes existed across the state, civil society and families.

There are also drastic inadequacies in the law, as well as unpreparedness among police officers and institutions of law enforcement and justice, preventing effective measures to adequately address OGBV. Despite common attitudes toward the phenomenon of OGBV, police officers indicated that they are often hampered by the fact that cybercrime flows across national borders, making it difficult to tackle. It can be challenging to obtain evidence from intermediaries such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Gmail and so on, which are not bound by Indian law and have highly Western-centred “community standards.” Survivors, on the other hand, indicated that the trauma they suffered (humiliation and associated harm) was long term, highlighting that there needs to be better training and efficient evidence collection to address and prevent this form of cybercrime against women.

Digital Rights Foundation. 2017. *Measuring Pakistani Women's Experiences of Online Violence: A Quantitative Research Study on Online Gender-Based Harassment in Pakistan.* <https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Hamara-Internet-Online-Harassment-Report.pdf>.

This report from the Digital Rights Foundation provides a comprehensive overview of online gender-based harassment in Pakistan. The report focuses on quantitative research in order to measure the prevalence of online violence against women in the country. It found that 70 percent of respondents are afraid to post their own photos online because they worry that they will be misused. For instance, 39 percent of the

participants said it would tarnish their reputation, and 33 percent said that it would cause danger to them. The objective of the research was to fill the gap in existing data on online harassment against women and to analyze gendered access to technology. It strived to initiate politicized and informed discussion surrounding gender empowerment within the virtual space to instill improved advocacy tools for gendered digital rights.

———. 2017. *Surveillance of Female Journalists in Pakistan: A Research Study by Digital Rights Foundation*. <https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Surveillance-of-Female-Journalists-in-Pakistan-1.pdf>.

Pakistan ranks as one of the most dangerous countries in the world for journalists. This report builds on the experiences of female journalists in Pakistan and seeks to document the forms of state, political and social surveillance they have faced in their line of work. It also explores the impact the persistent monitoring can have in terms of its psychological effects, self-censorship, perpetuation of fear and ongoing ground threats. The dangers journalists experience are multi-faceted; however, gender is a rising concern. The disappearance of a female journalist in 2015 triggered an urgent need to understand and address this issue.

Dolev-Cohen, Michal, Inbar Nezer and Anwar Abu Zumt. “A Qualitative Examination of School Counselors’ Experiences of Sextortion Cases of Female Students in Israel.” *Sexual Abuse*, December 13. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10790632221145925>.

This study sought to gain insight into how school counsellors in Israel perceive the phenomenon of sextortion. Through 20 semi-structured in-depth interviews with counsellors working in middle and high schools, it was found that they had difficulty recognizing and defining sextortion cases, and that the harm was perceived to be slight. Furthermore, the counsellors attributed the causes to the victims and their backgrounds, and there were differences in treatment depending on the victim’s education sector. These findings demonstrate the need for providing counsellors with culturally appropriate knowledge and tools to better handle sextortion cases.

Dorokhova, Eugenia, Aida Mahmutović, hvale vale and Vasilika Laçi. 2021. *Cyber Violence against Women and Girls in the Western Balkans: Selected Case Studies and a Cybersecurity Governance Approach*. Geneva, Switzerland: Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance. www.dcaf.ch/sites/default/files/publications/documents/CyberVAWG_in_WB.pdf.

This report analyzed cyber violence against women and girls by focusing on case studies from Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia. Each case study highlights the difficulties for victims of online abuse in getting access to justice and emphasizes that laws and policies need to be better at identifying the ways in which cyber violence impacts women, men, girls, boys and people of diverse gender identities and expressions. The report stressed that there is also a need to conduct more targeted and region-specific research into the gendered aspects of different cybersecurity incidents and cyberattacks in the Western Balkan region. This could include the use of online tools to stalk and track women, and the important link to domestic abuse and gender-based violence, as well as the societal implications. Targeted online disinformation campaigns are also on the rise and present a further potential avenue of research within the realm of OGBV.

Douglas, Heather, Bridget A. Harris and Molly Dragiewicz. 2019. “Technology-facilitated Domestic and Family Violence: Women’s Experiences.” *The British Journal of Criminology* 59 (3): 551-70. <https://doi.org/10.1093/bjc/azy068>.

Domestic and family violence is a global issue that can have dramatic and sometimes fatal consequences for those affected by it. Technology-facilitated domestic and family violence (TFDV) has been a rapidly growing concern in recent years as perpetrators increasingly rely on various technological platforms to perpetrate violence. Based on interviews with nine women in Australia, this article examines their experiences of being subjected to TFDV. The researchers found that TFDV greatly impacted the women’s daily lives, with most reporting an overall feeling of insecurity and an inability to escape the abuse.

The women reported a wide range of experiences, including an increased sense of vulnerability, an inability to control how the perpetrator was using technology to watch their behaviour, and a lack of knowledge and understanding of technology safety. The study also found that TFDV is not limited to physical violence but includes non-physical forms as well. These non-physical forms of violence can be even more insidious because they can be difficult to recognize and even harder to escape. The authors conclude that further research is needed to better understand the complexity of TFDV and to improve services and policies to protect those affected.

Dunn, Suzie and Moira Aikenhead. 2022. “On the Internet, Nobody Knows You are a Dog: Contested Authorship of Digital Evidence in Cases of Gender-based Violence.” *Canadian Journal of Law and Technology* 19 (2): 371–409. <https://digitalcommons.schulichlaw.dal.ca/cjlt/vol19/iss2/7/>.

This article examines various aspects of digital evidence at gender-based violence trials by drawing on relevant Canadian criminal case law. It examines the many challenges surrounding the determination of authorship, and the ongoing practices within the criminal justice system that rely on gendered myths. It also draws on the responsibilities of police officers who are investigating cases and how digital evidence is gathered in such a way that it can negatively impact the trial outcome for victims of gender-based violence. The authors also conducted an in-depth review of the evidentiary rules for admitting and authenticating digital evidence at trial by discussing how these rules have been interpreted and applied within the gender-based violence context. The article concludes with a list of recommendations for various justice system actors on how to manage digital evidence in gender-based violence cases where authorship may be contested.

Dunn, Suzanne, Julie S. Lalonde and Jane Bailey. 2017. “Terms of Silence: Weaknesses in Corporate and Law Enforcement Responses to Cyberviolence against Girls.” *Girlhood Studies* 10 (2): 80–96. <https://doi.org/10.3167/ghs.2017.100207>.

This article examines the weaknesses in corporate and law enforcement responses to cyber violence against girls, which can include online bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation. It looks at the unique challenges that girls face when it comes to these issues, such as the lack of public understanding and the fear of speaking out. It then goes on to analyze the current approaches taken by corporations and law enforcement, and the ways in which they are inadequate in protecting girls from cyber violence. It illustrates this failure by drawing on lessons learned from co-author Julie S. Lalonde’s experiences in advocating online for gender equality. It also raises the troubling concern of law enforcement deference to corporate terms of service rather than to Canadian law.

The article suggests that in order to effectively combat cyber violence against girls, there needs to be a shift from a punitive approach to one that focuses on prevention and education. It also highlights the importance of creating a culture of respect and understanding, and of fostering safe and inclusive online spaces for girls. For instance, in the context of platforms, “well-designed reporting tools that are properly resourced, with staff committed to resolving complaints in a publicly transparent and accountable way, make up one component of an equality tool kit for creating an environment conducive to the free and equal exercise of girls’ rights to self-determination and autonomy” (91).

Fatafta, Marwa. 2022. “Unsafe anywhere: women human rights defenders speak out about Pegasus attacks.” *Access Now*, January 17. www.accessnow.org/women-human-rights-defenders-pegasus-attacks-bahrain-jordan/.

Many women human rights defenders (WHRDs) and journalists in the Middle East and North Africa region and beyond have been targeted with Pegasus spyware to perpetrate human rights abuses and repress activists and journalists. This article discusses two cases in Bahrain and Jordan that emphasize how traumatizing this can be given how governments have weaponized personal information to intimidate, harass and publicly smear the targets’ reputations. It is based on interviews with WHRDs in the region and documents how they were targeted with Pegasus spyware, the impact on their work and how they responded to the attacks. Marwa Fatafta also provides an overview of the legal and political circumstances

in which the attacks occurred, particularly in the context of state-sanctioned repression of WHRDs. The work offers practical recommendations to ensure the safety and protection of WHRDs in the region. Before the sale or transfer of any surveillance technology, there is a need to hold companies accountable for their human rights impacts by developing a legal framework that could require “companies to conduct human rights due diligence to identify, prevent, mitigate, and remedy any human rights impacts of the use of their products and services.”

Gámez-Guadix, Manuel, Miguel A. Sorrel and Jone Martínez-Bacaicoa. 2022. “Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence Perpetration and Victimization Among Adolescents: A Network Analysis.” *Sexuality Research and Social Policy*, December 9. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13178-022-00775-y>.

This study examined the relationships between different forms of technology-facilitated sexual violence (TFSV) perpetration and victimization, including gender- and sexuality-based harassment, digital sexual harassment, and image-based sexual abuse. Results showed that girls had higher victimization scores, while boys had higher scores in the perpetration of several forms of TFSV. Gender- and sexuality-based victimization were clustered with digital sexual harassment victimization, while sextortion and non-consensual pornography victimization formed a differentiated cluster. The findings suggest that TFSV is a gendered form of abuse, and preventive programs should address various forms of TFSV.

García, Diana and Maricarmen Sequera. 2021. *Gender Violence on the Internet in Paraguay – An Exploratory Study*. Asunción, Paraguay: TEDIC. July. TEDIC. www.tedic.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Violencia-Digital-TEDIC-WRO-2021-EN.pdf.

This qualitative study on online violence against women in Paraguay describes experiences of intimidation, violence and abuse in addition to the damage caused. The objectives of the study were to identify available national legal remedies to be applied in cases of technology-related violence against women; provide contextual information based on data that will make it possible to expand studies and design public policies to combat online violence; and provide qualitative information on perceptions, knowledge and attitudes toward situations or experiences of online violence. Among the many findings, it was clear that the digital divide in Paraguay has led to significant social inequalities, leaving aside the basic needs of women and girls with respect to their digital rights, especially affecting Indigenous and rural women.

Garrido V., Mariateresa, ed. 2022. *Mapping Online Gender-Based Violence*. San José, Costa Rica: University for Peace. www.upeace.org/files/Publications/Garrido-Mapping%20online%20gender-based%20violence%20FULL%20BOOK.pdf.

Virtual tools are also widely being transformed into weapons of war, which have a global multiplier effect. This book was produced by the University for Peace and consists of 10 chapters. It examines new expressions of online and virtual violence, that mainly, but not exclusively, affect women and girls. The work provides deep-dive analyses on topics such as online harassment, revenge pornography, the role of civil society, the prevention of digital violence, the role of social networks and the construction of digital communities. Specific case studies on South Africa, India and Brazil are cited. The publication emphasizes the importance of furthering knowledge within this area to make it possible to design prevention policies and recommendations on the regulation of the digital sphere. The new threats require new and better approaches to effectively meet the 2030 Agenda and, in particular, Sustainable Development Goal 5: achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Gervasius, Nashilongo. 2021. *Online Violence Against Women and Girls in Namibia: A Country Situational Assessment*. Internet Society Namibia Chapter. <https://isocnamibia.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Ovaw-Digital.pdf>.

This study relied on existing data available through news articles and policies to explore how Namibian women and girls are affected by internet behaviours — specifically online violence. The work emphasized that the absence of disaggregated data by gender in ICT makes it difficult to advocate and lobby for

legislative and policy reform. Among the many challenges, the report highlighted that social media platforms often do not understand local issues entirely; in addition, Namibian law enforcement officers often do not take it seriously when someone has been abused on the internet. Policies and legislation to address online harassment and intimidation are yet to be implemented to their fullest degree.

Gilchrist, Gail, Martha Canfield, Polly Radcliffe and Anna Flavia Pires Lucas D'Oliveira. 2017. "Controlling behaviours and technology-facilitated abuse perpetrated by men receiving substance use treatment in England and Brazil: Prevalence and risk factors." *Drug and Alcohol Review* 36 (1): 52–63. <https://doi.org/10.1111/dar.12521>.

This article examines the prevalence and risk factors of controlling behaviours and technology-facilitated abuse perpetrated by men receiving substance use treatment in England and Brazil. The study was conducted through a cross-sectional survey of 398 male substance users from both countries. The results showed that over half of the sample reported some form of controlling behaviour or technology-facilitated abuse. The study also identified a number of risk factors associated with perpetration, including age, alcohol use, unemployment and a history of relationship violence. The authors conclude that substance use treatment may be an important context for the identification of controlling behaviours and the implementation of interventions to reduce the prevalence of such behaviours.

Gurumurthy, Anita and Amshuman Dasarathy. 2022. *Profitable Provocations: A Study of Abuse and Misogynistic Trolling on Twitter Directed at Indian Women in Public-political Life*. Bengaluru, India: IT for Change. July. <https://itforchange.net/sites/default/files/2132/ITfC-Twitter-Report-Profitable-Provocations.pdf>.

This research study sought to undertake a systematic analysis of misogynistic speech on Twitter directed at women in public-political life in India. All women in the sample, regardless of whether they belong to opposition or ruling parties, whether they are perceived to be dissenters or sympathetic to the current dispensation, received some amount of abuse on the platform. Those who were perceived to be ideologically left-leaning, dissenters and women from opposition parties received a disproportionate amount of abusive and hateful messages as well. Most of the abusive messages took the form of trolling, jokes and remarks, especially through the sharing of misogynistic memes. Trolls often questioned women's credentials or trivialized their role in politics. Not every post by a public commentator/politician in the study received the same attention or response from trolls. The report concludes with a strong call to establish a minimum standard across stakeholders regarding what constitutes gender-based violence online, as this will help to evolve regulatory standards to fight against the normalization of misogynistic speech.

Gurumurthy, Anita, Amrita Vasudevan and Nandini Chami. 2019. *Born digital, Born free? A socio-legal study on young women's experiences of online violence in South India*. Bengaluru, India: IT for Change. https://itforchange.net/sites/default/files/1662/Born-Digital_Born-Free_SynthesisReport.pdf.

Young women are disproportionately impacted by cyber violence. Through a quantitative survey with 881 women aged 19–23 and additional qualitative explorations with their male peers and key stakeholders, this study set out to analyze how young women experience this form of harm. The work demonstrated that more than 80 percent have faced a form of online sexual harassment. Consequently, 30 percent noticed a drop in their academic performance, 29 percent continued to fear for their safety, 28 percent reported anxiety and depression and 11 percent expressed a sense of helplessness. Despite facing cyber violence, very few (10 percent) approached the police. The report concluded with several recommendations that are required at the formal institutional levels, including legal reform, survivor-centred institutional responses and platform governance. One of the recommendations included the need to shift institutional cultures of formal redress mechanisms — police, court systems and committees on sexual harassment — so that patriarchal protectionism is replaced by survivor-centredness.

Harris, Bridget. 2021. "Technology-Facilitated Domestic and Family Violence." In *Reflections on Prevention Policies for Gender Based Violence Against Women and Girls: Debates in Brazil and Australia*, edited by Thiago Pierobom de Ávila, Aline Yamamoto, Cristina Elsner de Faria, Jude McCulloch and Kerry Carrington, 162–69. UN Women and Ministério Público do Distrito Federal e dos Territórios. www.mpdft.mp.br/portal/pdf/nucleos/nucleo_genero/Reflections_Brazil_Australia.pdf.

This collection of articles is the product of a joint project implemented by Brazilian and Australian researchers and professionals with the aim of enhancing the debate on gender and family violence prevention. Its goal is to extract lessons from the countries' policy experiences. Specifically, the article "Technology-Facilitated Domestic and Family Violence" discusses perpetrator strategies, emphasizing the importance of distinguishing between "low tech" and "high tech" approaches used by perpetrators to execute cyber abuse and stalking. "Low-tech strategies do not require advanced technological knowledge or resources, whereas high-tech strategies can draw on specialised techniques and digital media (like spyware, screen-loggers, or keystroke loggers)" (164).

Gaining an understanding of these tactics is vital. The author referenced an Australian study on domestic and family violence, noting that more than 50 percent of the cases analyzed "included the abuser using technology to stalk the victim, such as persistent text messaging, checking the domestic violence victim's phone, and engaging with the victim on social media/dating sites under a false identity" (166). In Australia, criminal justice agents have taken several steps in response by adopting enhanced technology training, investigation techniques and regulation against domestic and family violence.

Hassan, Fatma Mohamed, Fatma Nada Khalifa, Eman D. El Desouky, Marwa Rashad Salem and Mona Mohamed Ali. 2020. "Cyber violence pattern and related factors: online survey of females in Egypt." *Egyptian Journal of Forensic Sciences* 10 (6): 1–7. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s41935-020-0180-0>.

This study aimed to identify the cyber violence pattern and the related factors among females in Egypt. It relied on a sample of 356 female participants from various educational, professional and social backgrounds. The results revealed that the most frequently reported type of cyber violence was receiving images or symbols with sexual content (41.2 percent), receiving insulting e-mails or messages (26.4 percent), receiving offensive or humiliating posts or comments (25.7 percent), receiving indecent or violent images that demean women (21.6 percent) and receiving infected files through e-mail (20.3 percent). Blocking the offender was the most common response. The majority of victims (76.9 percent) experienced psychological effects in the form of anger, worry or fear; social effects (13.6 percent), exposure to physical harm (4.1 percent) and financial losses (2.0 percent) were also reported. This study only targeted women who had a presence on Facebook and did not capture offenders or witnesses of cyber violence. The study highlights the need to arrange awareness programs for women centring on online safety, protecting identity and addressing cyber violence incidents.

Holladay, Kelley R., W. Bryce Hagedorn and David Boote. 2021. "The Influence of Cyber-Sexual Assault on the Mental Health Outcomes of Survivors." *Journal of Counseling Sexology & Sexual Wellness: Research, Practice, and Education* 2 (2), 93–103. <https://doi.org/10.34296/02021026>.

This is the first study to examine the psychological impact of cyber-sexual assault on survivors, offering several recommendations for clinicians. Depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are the most frequent and debilitating psychological outcomes of this form of harm, while emotional dysregulation exacerbates and lengthens symptomology among survivors. The sample consisted primarily of females residing in the United States (93.8 percent) who were aged 19–65 and identified mostly as heterosexual (83.5 percent), followed by bisexual (11.3 percent), gay/lesbian (2.1 percent) and other (1.0 percent). Based on the findings, depression is more likely to occur after posting, and PTSD is more likely to occur among individuals who continue to search for harmful material about themselves online. The researchers suggest that future work needs to focus on the creation of interventions specific to certain age groups. The limited size and diversity of the sample influenced generalizability of the findings, demonstrating that future work would benefit from expanding its demographic.

Iyer, Neema, Bonnita Nyamwire and Sandra Nabulega. 2021. *Alternate Realities, Alternate Internets: African Feminist Research for a Feminist Internet*. Association for Progressive Communications. August. www.apc.org/sites/default/files/Report_FINAL.pdf.

This report describes the experiences of African women in online spaces. It is reflective of five countries in Sub-Saharan Africa: Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Senegal and South Africa. One of the findings from the report highlighted that one in three women interviewed has experienced a form of OGBV, including hacking, impersonation, surveillance/tracking, harassment/spamming, recruitment and malicious distribution. The researchers highlighted that one of the issues they ran into was surrounding terminology, as there is no universally accepted definition of online violence and translating and discussing the content in local languages lead to research challenges.

While most reported an impact on their mental health in terms of depression, anxiety, fear and overall powerlessness, 53 percent of women in Senegal reported that they suffered from stress and anxiety. In response to personal experiences of online harm, 66.4 percent blocked or deleted the perpetrator. There is, however, evidence that violence in the online world spills over into the physical world. Further research should focus on the vulnerability of people with disabilities in online spaces. Research on institutional responses through governmental bodies and private sector agents is also lacking.

Khoo, Cynthia, Kate Robertson and Ronald Deibert. 2019. *Installing Fear: A Canadian Legal and Policy Analysis of Using, Developing, and Selling Smartphone Spyware and Stalkerware Applications*. Research Report No. 120. Toronto, ON: Citizen Lab. June. <https://citizenlab.ca/docs/stalkerware-legal.pdf>.

There is a growing marketplace for spyware products that are created to facilitate remote — and often covert — surveillance of mobile devices. Although the creation, use and sale of spyware or “stalkerware” may violate criminal, civil, privacy and regulatory laws in Canada, there is a significant gap between the law and legal and regulatory enforcement. This is largely due to a lack of socio-cultural and technological awareness, training, literacy and resources about TFGBV for law enforcement officers and other front-line workers, lawyers, courts and policy makers. This report recommends addressing these issues by focusing on the perpetrator of the abuse, rather than providing suggestions to the victim on how to remove themselves from digital spaces.

Kovacs, Anja, Richa Kaul Padte and Shobha SV. 2013. “Don’t Let It Stand!” *An Exploratory Study of Women and Verbal Online Abuse in India*. New Delhi, India: Internet Democracy Project. April. <https://internetdemocracy.in/reports/women-and-verbal-online-abuse-in-india#top>.

This report examined the verbal online abuse faced by women who are vocal on the internet in India, and the strategies they use to fight such abuse. The most heartening and important finding of the study was that, despite the high levels of abuse women face, they have and continue to develop a range of non-legal strategies for countering it. While some women ignore the abuse they received, believing that “feeding the trolls” only makes it worse, several women on Twitter use the strategy of either retweeting the abuse or naming and shaming their abusers. Speaking out about and confronting issues of abuse is neither simple nor easy — it must be balanced with the need for caution.

While support from others was often the most important factor for the women when dealing with gendered abuse, this raised questions around whether women with fewer followers or readers online would be able to successfully avail of such support. However, the choice to self-censor must be seen as legitimate and can be an indication of the severity of the threat of violence. While the law can be one way to address verbal abuse online, strategies that focus on awareness raising, support and collective organizing should also be considered, which might be far more empowering and effective.

Lenhart, Amanda, Michele Ybarra, Kathryn Zickuhr and Myeshia Price-Feeney. 2016. *Online Harassment, Digital Abuse, and Cyberstalking in America*. Report No. 11.21.16. New York, NY: Data & Society Research Institute. www.datasociety.net/pubs/oh/Online_Harassment_2016.pdf.

Conducted by the Data & Society Research Institute in collaboration with the Center for Innovative Public Health Research, this report is a comprehensive study of online harassment and digital abuse in the United States. It includes findings from a nationally representative survey of 3,000 young adults over the age of 15, as well as interviews and focus groups with young adults from diverse backgrounds, identities and experiences. The report covers a wide range of topics, including the prevalence, nature and impact of online harm among young adults, as well as the effectiveness of current strategies for addressing this issue.

It found that overall, 72 percent of American internet users have witnessed online harassment, and 48 percent had personally experienced one of the harassing behaviours outlined in the survey. While men were equally likely to face harassment, women experienced more serious violations. In addition, young people, and sexual minorities (respondents who identified as lesbian, gay or bisexual), were generally more likely to witness and/or experience online harassment or abuse. Twenty-seven percent of all respondents reported that they self-censor their online posts out of fear of harassment, and 65 percent of victims have used protective strategies such as changing their contact information, asking for help, reporting the content or disconnecting from online networks or devices. The findings suggest a need for more collective work to combat online harassment to protect the health and well-being of online users.

Lim, Serene. 2021. *Power Expression Violence: A Research on Women's Freedom of Expression on Social Media in Malaysia*. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: KRYSS Network. <https://kryss.network/2022/01/21/power-expression-violence/>.

This research set out to address two assumptions: namely, that access to, and exercise of, freedom of opinion and expression is equal for all; and that social media platforms enable social and political freedom for everyone, including women. To explore these views, it relied on interviews with 23 women who shared their personal experiences to generate new insights on OGBV. It also sought to understand feminists' collective resistance against gender discriminatory norms in digital spaces and emphasized that there needs to be a rethinking of current strategies surrounding this growing phenomenon, as it violates freedom of expression, the right to political participation, and the right to non-discrimination, dignity and safety.

Little, Nicolette. 2022. "Social media 'ghosts': how Facebook (Meta) Memories complicates healing for survivors of intimate partner violence." *Feminist Media Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14680777.2022.2149593>.

This article explores the impact of social media on survivors of intimate partner violence, arguing that Facebook Memories, which allows users to access past interactions and posts, can create a virtual "ghost" presence of their abuser that complicates the healing process. It contributes to feminist conversations by exploring the ways Facebook's Memories feature is problematic for survivors of gender-based violence. Through interviews with survivor-users and a walkthrough of Memories' settings, the article finds that the feature triggers survivors, makes their abuser seem inescapable and reduces survivors' sense of agency. The author argues that masculinist bias within the design of Memories leads to painful consequences and suggests possible measures to address the challenges it poses to survivor-users, such as an opt-in option, an altered interface and trauma-informed design practices.

Lokot, Tetyana. 2018. "#IAmNotAfraidToSayIt: stories of sexual violence as everyday political speech on Facebook." *Information, Communication & Society* 21 (6): 802-17. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369118X.2018.1430161>.

This study analyzed roughly 3,500 Facebook posts from the Ukrainian #IAmNotAfraidToSayIt online campaign that started as a single post by a Ukrainian activist in July 2016 and aimed to generate

conversations about gender-based violence in this understudied country. The campaign afforded users the opportunity for “meta voicing” and community building, as they reacted to personal stories through commenting and sharing. Gender activism and women’s rights are areas that are still viewed with a much skepticism in Ukrainian society. Although the campaign did not generate any legislative reform, it shifted the tone of public debate about sexual harassment from abstract and shameful to personal and persistent. From this perspective, the digital public has the capacity to facilitate mediated solidarity, while affording individuals the power to tell their personal stories freely without judgment or feeling ashamed.

Lopes Gomes Pinto Ferreira, Gisella. 2021. “Technology as Both a Facilitator of and Response to Youth Intimate Partner Violence: Perspectives from Advocates in the Global-South.” In *The Emerald International Handbook of Technology-Facilitated Violence and Abuse*, edited by Jane Bailey, Asher Flynn and Nicola Henry, 427–46. Bingley, UK: Emerald Publishing. www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/978-1-83982-848-520211032/full/html.

In this chapter, the advocates’ perspectives on technology and its use by young people to perpetrate digital coercive control defined as “the use of devices and digital media to stalk, harass, threaten and abuse partners or ex-partners” in Brazil and Australia were discussed. The leading platforms used by youth to interact with each other and to perpetrate violence were outlined, as well as how advocates in both countries have been incorporating technology into their own work and the work of others around the prevention of youth intimate partner violence (IPV). The main benefits of using technology to address youth IPV were identified, such as broad reach, talking to young people where they are, overcoming barriers, preserving anonymity and providing access to private networks in case of emergency. Challenges such as lack of resources, privacy concerns and lack of evaluation were also discussed. It was concluded that greater acknowledgement of youth IPV is needed, as most research targets adult IPV, and for future research to engage young people directly to inform prevention and evaluate prevention initiatives. Finally, countries need to prioritize IPV prevention and address the lack of funding in this area to allow advocates to develop medium- to long-term initiatives that can promote real change around ending IPV against women and girls.

Machirori, Fungai. 2017. “Towards a gender-just internet: Combating online violence against women.” *Africa Portal*, September 29. www.africaportal.org/features/gender-just-internet-how-do-we-combat-online-violence/.

Fungai Machirori examines the various forms of online violence against women and girls, and advocates for the adoption of effective policies and laws, as well as the implementation of initiatives such as gender-sensitive education and awareness-raising campaigns. She stresses the importance of providing support for victims and survivors of online violence and calls for greater collaboration between governments, civil society and the private sector. As telecommunications companies and technology firms continue to position themselves as consumers’ main points of access to the internet, new forms of collaboration and cooperation across sectors need to emerge in order to create a safe and secure online environment for women and girls.

Maddocks, Sophie. 2022. “Feminism, activism and non-consensual pornography: analyzing efforts to end ‘revenge porn’ in the United States.” *Feminist Media Studies* 22 (7): 1641–56. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14680777.2021.1913434>.

Utilizing reflexive thematic analysis, this research examined how feminist perspectives, issues and approaches are influencing activism against online sexual harassment, specifically non-consensual pornography, in a network of activists located in the United States. Data from a series of interviews conducted in 2017 and 2019 with non-consensual pornography activists, with an overrepresentation of respondents from the United States, showed patterns that necessitate further investigation for two reasons: first, their success compared to activists in other contexts; and second, their proximity to major gatekeepers in the United States, such as technology companies, social networks and porn sites.

Makinde, Olusesan Ayodeji, Emmanuel Olamijuwon, Nchelem Kokomma Ichegbo, Cheluchi Onyemelukwe and Michael Gboyega Ilesanmi. 2021. “The Nature of Technology-Facilitated Violence and Abuse among Young Adults in Sub-Saharan Africa.” In *The Emerald International Handbook of Technology-Facilitated Violence and Abuse*, edited by Jane Bailey, Asher Flynn and Nicola Henry, 83-101. Bingley, UK: Emerald Publishing. www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/978-1-83982-848-520211005/full/html.

This study provides evidence for the prevalence of technology-facilitated violence and abuse (TFVA) among young adults in Sub-Saharan Africa, specifically in terms of unwanted sexual images, comments, emails and text messages. The results suggest that the vast majority of both men and women experience at least one form of TFVA, with women more likely to experience sexual requests and gender-based offensive and/or degrading comments, and men more likely to experience online threats of violence. The most common coping mechanism reported was to block or delete one’s profile. This indicates that respondents may not have perceived the incident to be serious enough to merit reporting, or that they did not believe reporting would lead to any meaningful response. Future research is needed to adequately quantify the magnitude of TFVA in the region to inform government interventions to limit its negative impact.

Malanga, Donald Flywell. 2020. “Tackling gender-based cyber violence against women and girls in Malawi amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.” *African Internet Rights*. https://africaninternetrights.org/sites/default/files/Donald_Flywell.pdf.

This case study highlighted that TFGBV literature is limited to developed countries, stressing a need for more research in Malawi. The key objective was to document the forms of gender-based cyber behaviours that women and girls experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic and the responses and strategies that were available to victims. The researcher administered a survey questionnaire to 67 women and girls between the ages of 15 and 45; a select number of respondents were personally interviewed as follow-up. Additionally, a panel discussion was conducted with eight experts representing civil society organizations working in this area. The findings suggested that many women and girls are often reluctant to report their experience of online harm out of fear of social repercussions. Donald Flywell Malanga offered a series of recommendations, including regulatory standards to tackle the harmful effects of acts of gender-based cyber violence, educational campaigns to increase women and girls’ safety and privacy online, and the need for improved platform governance.

———. 2021. “Survey of Cyber Violence against Women in Malawi.” *Proceedings of the 1st Virtual Conference on Implications of Information and Digital Technologies for Development*. <https://arxiv.org/ftp/arxiv/papers/2108/2108.09806.pdf>.

This study examined the prevalence of cyber violence against women in Malawi. It surveyed 67 women to understand their experience of cyber violence, capturing behaviours such as bullying, cyber harassment, online defamation, cyberstalking, sexual exploitation, online hate speech and revenge pornography. The study found that this form of violence is becoming more common. Most respondents found perpetrators’ motivations were driven by revenge, anger, jealousy, sexual desire and political agenda, with the intentions to harm the victims socially, psychologically, economically and physically. The majority of respondents did not report any incidents to the police or seek support due to lack of awareness, and cultural and patriarchal factors. Coping measures included confronting and blocking the perpetrator or leaving the online platform.

McGrane, Caitlin. 2022. “It’s personal, not just political”: Gendered cyberhate towards women and gender diverse people in politics. *Gender Equity Victoria*. www.genvic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/GEN_VIC_GenderedOnlineHarassment_Report.pdf.

This report examines the experiences and impact of intersectional gendered cyberhate on women and gender-diverse people working in politics in Victoria. Twenty-four current or former political workers were interviewed, including politicians and staffers. The findings of this study reveal the need for action to address the prevalence of gendered cyberhate in politics and to protect the online safety of women

and gender-diverse people working in politics. The report presents key recommendations for political workplaces to ensure the online safety of their staff, and to create a safer and more inclusive culture for women and gender-diverse people in politics. The goal of having a safe and respectful online environment is a collective responsibility. To ensure this, organizations should provide mandatory training and development for online safety and respect at work, as well as establish robust, transparent and reliable complaint and support mechanisms. Perpetrators of online abuse should be held accountable, and workers managing social media pages must be trained to coordinate large-scale social media pages or groups. Politicians should be allocated workers to assist in dealing with social media and communications with constituents and should have separate public and private email addresses. Lastly, social media policies that define acceptable use and behaviour should be implemented.

Media Foundation for West Africa. 2017. *Baseline Report on Women's Rights Online — Issues in Ghana*. Accra, Ghana: Media Foundation for West Africa. December. www.mfwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Baseline-Report-WRO-Issues-in-Ghana.pdf.

Ghana has made significant strides in promoting and protecting women's rights; however, it still faces several challenges. For instance, in Ghana, women are more likely than men to experience cyberbullying, harassment, cyberstalking, body shaming, rape threats and revenge pornography. This is especially true for women in politics, as they often face a high degree of online harassment and abuse. Most of this abuse is directed at women who are vocal about their political views or who are otherwise perceived as challenging the status quo. There is a lack of understanding among the general public about the risks associated with using the internet, and how to protect oneself from online harassment and cyberbullying.

This lack of understanding can lead to women being more vulnerable to online abuse and exploitation. There is also a lack of legal protection since there are currently no specific laws in place that address online harassment and cyberbullying, meaning that victims are unlikely to seek legal recourse for their experiences. There is a need for more research that will provide scientific evidence to inform policies, interventions and advocacy that will foster a safer internet space for the public. Additionally, the study found that women's organizations are not optimizing the power of the internet to improve their advocacy and their impact prospects. These limitations are greatly impacting women's rights advocacy both offline and online in Ghana.

Mohsin, Amena and Nahian Reza Sabriet. 2022. "Extremism, Technology and Gender-Based Violence: Perspectives from Bangladesh." IMADR. <https://beyondbordershub.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/EGV%20Bangladesh%20Mohsin%20Sabriet.pdf>.

In this study, qualitative and quantitative data from Facebook, YouTube and the Bangladesh Peace Observatory were used to analyze social media profiles, gender, educational background and group affiliations. The sources were selected according to the Bangladesh National Information and Communications Technology Household Survey report (2018–2019), which indicated that Facebook, Viber and YouTube were the most popular social media sites in the country. Primary data from the Centre for Genocide Studies was also used to create a databank on violence called the Bangladesh Peace Observatory. This platform mapped and analyzed 26 categories of violence, including assault, sexual assault, gender-based violence, terror attacks, violent extremism and mob violence. This work examined how technology, especially social media, can be used to create a hypermasculine society and oppress women. It looked at how globalization has led to the spread of smart devices and internet access, and how this has been used to commit online abuse against women. It suggested that education and knowledge are important to challenge hegemonies and extremisms and calls for an inclusive strategy to face the challenges of gender-based violence. It also highlighted the need to map the sources of violence and address power dynamics in both personal and public domains. Finally, it emphasized the importance of knowledge and an informed society in overcoming violence against women and creating a demasculinized society.

Muhoro, Gloria. 2016. “Minding the Gaps: Identifying Strategies to Address Gender-Based Cyber Violence in Kenya.” African Development Bank Policy Brief. March. www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Generic-Documents/Policy_Brief_on_Gender_Based_Cyber_Violence_in_Kenya.pdf.

This policy brief provides an overview of gender-based cyber violence in Kenya, and examines the strategies used to address this issue. It covers the legal, policy and institutional frameworks that are in place to protect women and girls from cyber violence, the various forms it takes, and the social, economic and psychological consequences of it. Regarding online safety tips and procedures, the work found that the majority of respondents avoided engaging with strangers online. Most indicated that they do not read the policy guidelines, as well as the terms and conditions of networking sites, and few understood their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding their data to reduce cyberattacks. Future strategies for combatting gender-based cyber violence include stronger legislation that will provide avenues of redress for victims; capacity building at the grassroots level on what constitutes gender-based cyber violence and how women can protect themselves from it; creating awareness among law enforcement and the judiciary; and advocating that Kenya embrace and join international cybercrime agreements that reach the regional and global level.

Mumford, Elizabeth A., Emily F. Rothman, Poulami Maitra and Jackie Sheridan-Johnson. 2022. “U.S. Young Adults’ Professional Help-Seeking in Response to Technology-Facilitated Abuse.” *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08862605221140042>.

By conducting a cross-sectional survey of 1,215 young adults aged 18–35, this study examined how commonly victims of technology-facilitated abuse (TFA) seek help, and from which sources. Logistic regression was used to analyze the likelihood of survivors seeking help from health services, victim services, technological assistance and/or criminal justice/legal assistance. Results indicated that the use of a broader range of social media sites/platforms, plus several indicators of more severe TFA experiences, increased the likelihood of help-seeking. Additionally, survivors who identified the TFA perpetrator as a current or ex-intimate partner were less likely to seek technological assistance and/or criminal justice/legal assistance, and survivors who self-identified as Black were more likely than white survivors to seek victim services. This research can be used to inform the screening protocols of professionals who support survivors of interpersonal aggression, and to develop cross-disciplinary partnerships to address the harms associated with TFA.

Muya, Catherine. 2021. *The Law Should Work for Us: Addressing Kenya’s Regulatory Gap to Build a Safer Internet for Women and Girls*. Open Internet for Democracy Initiative, September 20. <https://openinternet.global/news/law-should-work-us-addressing-kenyas-regulatory-gap-build-safer-internet-women-and-girls>.

This report provides an overview of the legal, policy and institutional framework in Kenya designed to protect citizens against online violence. It found that existing legislation does not adequately protect against online violence, and there is a need to revise existing laws and policies. It also found that there is a lack of awareness about existing legislation and reporting mechanisms, leading to low reporting of online violence to both national authorities and platforms. The report suggests ways to increase awareness and advocacy on digital safety programs, reporting mechanisms and legislative reform. It encourages individuals to be active bystanders and stand up to harassers, and for civil society to prioritize creating awareness on reporting mechanisms, building safe communities for victims, training on cyber hygiene and advocating for legislative reform. Platform designers should prioritize safety and ensure reporting mechanisms are visible and easily accessible.

National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago and the International Center for Research on Women. 2022. “Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence in Bangladesh.” USAID. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00Z778.pdf.

This endeavour set out to assess TFGBV in Bangladesh, including programs and policies currently working to prevent, mitigate and respond to this form of harm, as well as gaps and recommendations for future

programming. While the study found that several civil society and government actions have been implemented to address this issue, there is a need to strengthen legal protection mechanisms, increase survivor-centric resources and support, and improve coordination between private and public sectors. Since there is a general lack of understanding of TFV due to existing norms and taboos surrounding sex and sexuality, survivors fear reputational damage, further discouraging cybercrime reporting. There is an underlying need to educate ICT users on safety and privacy best practices. For example, cyber-hygiene training in schools could be beneficial in helping to reduce the stigma surrounding gender-based violence.

Nguyen, Erica and Heather Barr. 2020. "Thinking Beyond Punishment to Combat Digital Sex Crimes in South Korea." Human Rights Watch, May 20. www.hrw.org/news/2020/05/20/thinking-beyond-punishment-combat-digital-sex-crimes-south-korea.

The South Korean government has taken important steps to combat digital sex crimes, including passing a law in 2019 that criminalizes the production, possession and distribution of sexually exploitative images and videos. The law, however, does not address the underlying causes of digital sex crimes. To truly combat this issue, the government must take a holistic approach that goes beyond punishment and addresses the root causes of these crimes. It should focus on prevention, such as through better public education and awareness campaigns in schools, mass media and online platforms to highlight the consequences of these harms. The government should also invest in services that support victims of digital sex crimes. This could include providing mental health services, shelters and other resources to help victims recover and move forward. Finally, the government should also invest in research and data collection, in order to better understand the scope and nature of digital sex crimes in South Korea. This data can be used to inform policy and program development and to help target resources in areas of greatest need in a meaningful and effective way.

Nova, Fayika Farhat, Mohammad Rashidujjaman Rifat, Pratyasha Saha, Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed and Shion Guha. 2019. "Online sexual harassment over anonymous social media in Bangladesh." In *Proceedings of the Tenth International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development*, 1-12. January. <https://dl.acm.org/doi/pdf/10.1145/3287098.3287107>.

An anonymous online survey was distributed to 291 participants and 27 semi-structured interviews were carried out. The study showed a high frequency of sexual harassment on anonymous social networks in Bangladesh, and the relationship between a close-knit communal culture, anonymous harassment and the lack of infrastructural support for victims. The most prevalent form of harassment was among women who had experienced harassing messages through sexual proposition, sexually objectifying content, romantic messages and dating inquiries. Even though some of the participants sought social support to cope with the harassment, due to the socio-cultural norms and biases against women in Bangladesh, they were often more victimized, shamed and humiliated. Consequently, many of the participants noted that they have stayed silent against this form of harassment or have stopped using anonymous social media more generally.

Nuttman-Shwartz, Orit, Rachel Dekel, Ohad Gilbar and Ruby Charak. 2022. "Perpetrating Cyber Intimate Partner Violence: The Role of Gender and Culture in an Israeli Sample." *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma* 32 (4): 487-504. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10926771.2022.2082906>.

This study investigated the rates of cyber intimate partner violence (CIPV) among 894 young-adult Jewish and Arab men and women in Israel. Results revealed that about 20 percent of the sample engaged in aggressive online behaviour, with cyberstalking being the most common form. Additionally, men employed a greater number of CIPV behaviours than women, and Arab men used the highest number of aggressive behaviours in the context of cyberstalking. These findings suggest that Arab men may be more susceptible to perpetrating CIPV, thus emphasizing the importance of gender- and culture-specific educational/preventive programs that raise awareness of CIPV and cyberstalking.

Nwaodike, Chioma and Nerissa Naidoo. 2020. *Fighting Violence Against Women Online: A Comparative Analysis of Legal Frameworks in Ethiopia, Kenya, Senegal, South Africa, and Uganda*. Internews and Pollicy. August. http://ogbv.policcy.org/legal_analysis.pdf.

This report provided an overview of the legal frameworks governing OGBV in Ethiopia, Kenya, Senegal, South Africa and Uganda. There exist ambiguities in the law and an absence of case law within the studied countries. Women are often forced to self-censor or abandon the platform altogether. Instances are severely underreported or trivialized by law enforcement and social media platforms. There is also a limited portfolio of civil remedies; as a result, governmental strategies for eliminating gender-based violence are not survivor-centred. Chioma Nwaodike and Nerissa Naidoo argued that there is a need to enact women-centred legislation that specifically targets gender-based violence, protects the legitimate expression of women — especially consensual sexual expression — and includes defined parameters for enforcement and redress mechanisms.

Odeh, Shahrazad. 2018. “A Violent Network: Gender-Based Violence Against Palestinian Women in Virtual Spaces.” *Kvinna till Kvinna in cooperation with 7amleh — The Arab Center for the Advancement of Social Media*. November. https://7amleh.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Report_GBV_-_KtK.pdf.

This study held several focus groups in areas throughout Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and Jerusalem, Haifa, and the Galilee, with girls and women whose ages ranged from 15 to 30 years old. A comprehensive survey and desk research was also conducted to strengthen the analysis. The study emphasized that gender-based violence in the virtual space generally mirrors violence in the public space, as women are still subjected to patriarchal authority in the virtual space, limiting their freedom of expression. Palestinian women and girls were exposed to various types of online harm; however, one of the most identified was the “surveillance tower.” This refers to instances of familial and/or social surveillance by intervening in or monitoring the individuals’ moves online, resulting in increased pressure to censor themselves. Most respondents who reported experiences of OGBV relied on their family to deter and deal with the violence they experienced in the virtual space, mainly due to the lack of trust in both Israeli and Palestinian institutions’ ability and willingness to solve such cases.

Parsons, Christopher, Adam Molnar, Jakub Dalek, Jeffrey Knockel, Miles Kenyon, Bennett Haselton, Cynthia Khoo and Ronald Deibert. 2019. *The Predator in Your Pocket: A Multidisciplinary Assessment of the Stalkerware Application Industry*. Citizen Lab Research Report No. 119. June. <https://citizenlab.ca/docs/stalkerware-holistic.pdf>.

This report found that stalkerware poses serious risks to those targeted by it, including psychological, emotional, social and financial harm. It recognizes that digital technologies are increasingly being used to perpetrate intimate partner and family violence, and that these uses are informed by socio-cultural norms. The report argues that even when developers do not design products for such use, the design decisions themselves are linked to potential problematic uses, which can reproduce historical power structures. The study also highlighted the limited “bite” of Canadian consumer privacy law regarding stalkerware, as well as the lack of meaningful consent and data access/deletion rights for those targeted. Furthermore, the majority of companies studied promoted the use of their software for malicious purposes. Recommendations to address these issues include improved accountability under Canadian consumer privacy law, increased data security and the establishment of business practices that protect people from inappropriate or unlawful surveillance.

Pasricha, Japleen. 2016. “Violence Online in India: Cybercrimes Against Women and Minorities on Social Media.” *The Communications Initiative Network*, May 31. www.comminit.com/content/violence-online-india-cybercrimes-against-women-and-minorities-social-media.

This study analyzed media reports involving online harassment of high-profile women. It surveyed 500 social media users residing in India and conducted 10 follow-up interviews with some of the respondents. It found that among the 500 people surveyed, 58 percent reported having faced some form of online

aggression, such as trolling, bullying, abuse or harassment. Thirty percent of respondents found online harassment “extremely upsetting” and 15 percent reported that it had an impact on their mental health — leading to depression, stress and insomnia. Thirty-six percent of respondents who had experienced harassment online took no action, and in terms of reporting mechanisms, over half wanted stricter community standards for content, as well as the ability to report and block abuse more quickly.

Philip, Shannon. 2018. “Youth and ICTs in a ‘new’ India: exploring changing gendered online relationships among young urban men and women.” *Gender & Development* 26 (2): 313–24. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13552074.2018.1473231>.

The rise of ICT in India has revolutionized the way young people use the internet to engage with one another, allowing for more fluid and open interactions. This paper explores the changing gendered online relationships among young urban men and women in India, focusing on the ways in which ICT has enabled new forms of communication, expression and connection. It also analyzes the implications of these changes in terms of gender roles, power dynamics and the overall social atmosphere. Shannon Philip recommends that having more online campaigns that encourage men to think critically about both personal and structural power within online spaces, could inspire more behavioural and systemic change within gender relationships.

Posetti, Julie, Nabeelah Shabbir, Diana Maynard, Kalina Bontcheva and Nermine Aboulez. 2021. *The Chilling: Global trends in online violence against women journalists*. United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. April. <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000377223/PDF/377223eng.pdf.multi>.

Online attacks on women journalists appear to be increasing significantly, as this study demonstrates, particularly in the context of the “shadow pandemic” of violence against women during the COVID-19 pandemic. This study relied on a global survey that was distributed to 901 journalists from 125 countries. It was conducted in five languages: Arabic, English, French, Portuguese and Spanish. Interviews were also conducted with 173 international journalists, editors and experts representing the fields of freedom of expression, human rights law and digital safety. Other methodologies included the assessment of more than 2.5 million posts on Facebook and Twitter; 15 detailed country case studies, a literature review and the contributions of 24 international researchers from 16 countries.

Among the many findings from this research, the report confirms that disinformation tactics are deployed in targeted multiplatform online attacks against women journalists; digital conspiracy networks and far-right extremism are triggers for reporting on disinformation and intertwined issues; and disinformation purveyors operationalize misogynistic abuse, harassment and threats against women journalists to weaken public trust in critical journalism.

Powell, Anastasia and Nicola Henry. 2019. “Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence Victimization: Results from an Online Survey of Australian Adults.” *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 34 (17) : 3637–65. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260516672055>.

This online survey was distributed to 2,956 Australian adults aged 18–54. It focused on experiences of technology-facilitated sexual violence victimization. The findings demonstrated that there are significant differences in victimization for younger (18–24) and non-heterosexual identifying adults. Interestingly, men reported higher rates of victimization through the distribution of non-consensual images, as well as gender- and/or sexuality-based harassment. While the study found that men and women do experience similar rates of technology-facilitated harm, the impact of these experiences differed for both genders in the context of offline sexual harassment.

Powell, Anastasia and Nicola Henry. 2015. *Digital Harassment and Abuse of Adult Australians: A Summary Report*. Melbourne, Australia: RMIT University. www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lcdocs/other/7351/Tabled%20Document%20-Digital%20Harassment%20and%20Abuse%20of%20A.pdf.

Anastasia Powell and Nicola Henry's report, *Digital Harassment and Abuse of Adult Australians*, provides an overview of the prevalence and impact of digital harassment and abuse on adults in Australia. In particular, the report, based on an online survey of 3,000 adult Australians, sheds light on the pervasiveness and extent of digital abuse and harassment across different population groups. It found that women overwhelmingly experienced digital harassment and abuse from male perpetrators. This abuse included a range of behaviours, such as naming calling, social embarrassment and offensive language, through to sexual harassment, unwanted sexual behaviours, exploitation, or abuse (such as taking or distributing intimate or sexually explicit images without permission), as well as threats and cyberstalking.

Gender-, race- and sexuality-based harassment were also notably common, with approximately one in six adults reporting that they had experienced each of these behaviours. Image-based sexual exploitation of adults, often referred to as "revenge pornography," is an important issue for further research, as one in 10 Australians, both women and men, reported that a nude or semi-nude image of them had been distributed without their permission. This is a highly significant finding — certainly there are gaps in the response to digital harassment and abuse, and these need to be addressed to protect victims of targeted abuse and revenge pornography. Overall, the findings of the study are consistent with emerging findings in the international literature on digital forms of harassment and abuse.

Powell, Anastasia, Adrian J. Scott, Asher Flynn and Nicola Henry. 2020. *Image-Based Sexual Abuse: An International Study of Victims and Perpetrators — A Summary Report*. Melbourne, Australia: RMIT University. <https://research.monash.edu/en/publications/image-based-sexual-abuse-an-international-study-of-victims-and-pe>.

This report describes the findings of a 2019 cross-national survey into image-based sexual abuse. There was a total of 6,109 respondents representing Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. High-level findings demonstrated that image-based sexual abuse is a growing phenomenon and that sexually and ethnically diverse groups experience higher victimization. Men are more often perpetrators, and the most common sites for distribution are social media, email and mobile messages. Consequently, LGBTQ+ individuals and women experience greater health, relational and harassing impacts. Most respondents agreed that image-based sexual abuse should be a crime in their country.

Radhakrishnan, Radhika. 2020. "I took Allah's name and stepped out': Bodies, Data and Embodied Experiences of Surveillance and Control during COVID-19 in India." *Data Governance Network Working Paper No. 12*. Internet Democracy Project. November. <https://internetdemocracy.in/reports/i-took-allahs-name-and-stepped-out-bodies-data-and-embodied-experiences-of-surveillance-and-control-during-covid-19-in-india>.

This paper examines the embodied experiences of surveillance and control during the COVID-19 pandemic in India. It draws on interviews with individuals and organizations that were subject to various surveillance technologies, including biometric and digital tracking, during India's extended lockdown period. The paper argues that the social, political and economic context of India in 2020, as well as the nature of the pandemic itself, has led to the deployment of data-driven surveillance technologies with varying degrees of effectiveness and legitimacy. The paper further examines how those who are already marginalized and vulnerable due to their caste, class, gender and other intersecting identities experience surveillance and control differently. It suggests that the deployment of surveillance technologies during the pandemic has led to a loss of autonomy and privacy, which is likely to have long-term implications for citizens, especially those who belong to marginalized communities.

Ramaseshan, Geeta, Sudaroli Ramasam, M. R. Sangeetha, S. Prabha, Nandita Krishna and Shreeja Kumar. 2019. *Towards a safer cyberzone: A study on gender and online violence in Tamil Nadu*. Bengaluru, India: IT For Change. https://itforchange.net/sites/default/files/add/TamilNadu-Report_Righting-Gender-Wrongs.pdf.

This analysis reflects in-depth field research on gender-based cyber violence that was carried out between October 2018 and March 2019 across one metropolitan city and three peri-urban areas of Tamil Nadu. It relied on findings from a survey, focus group discussions and key informant interviews with a range of stakeholders. It highlighted that 30 percent of the young women participants in the survey admitted to experiencing harassment, abuse or unwanted behaviour when online. The most common platforms where respondents faced harassment were WhatsApp (59 percent), Facebook (47 percent) and Instagram (21 percent).

The nature of the harassment included: sharing personal contact details; circulating a fabricated image of the victim; repeatedly contacting the individual and proposing and/or demanding a sexual relationship; and sharing a sexually explicit image, video or text sent without consent. Only nine percent of the women who were harassed approached the police, and two percent said they took legal action when they faced harassment or unwanted sexual behaviour. A series of recommendations was offered in the report, including the need for systematic and focused training with all branches of the criminal justice system (the police, public prosecutors and the judicial officers) on responses to OGBV.

Rashid Sheikh, Mamunur. 2019. “Technology Mediated Violence against Women in Bangladesh: Evidence from Contemporary literature.” In *Gender Equality through Mainstreaming*, edited by Sapna S. and Swati Sharma, 198–221. *Proceedings of International Conference on Gender Equality through the Strategy of Gender Mainstreaming*, September 6–7, 2018. Bengaluru, India: Presidency University. https://scholar.google.com/citations?view_op=view_citation&hl=en&user=GrByDqwAAAAJ&citation_for_view=GrByDqwAAAAJ:9yKSN-GCBOIC.

Violence against women is not a new phenomenon in Bangladesh, but the emergence of new technology has enabled it to take on more pervasive and dangerous forms. These can include using GPS devices to track a woman’s movements or using a mobile phone to send threatening messages, among many others. This form of violence is a major concern for the safety and well-being of women in the country. This paper examines the prevalence of cyber violence against women in Bangladesh, drawing on contemporary literature to explore the various forms of cyber violence, the motivations behind it and the impact it has on women’s lives. It discusses the various measures that have been taken to address this issue and suggests further steps that could be taken to reduce its prevalence. The paper highlights that there is limited literature and empirical research addressing this issue — there is a strong socio-cultural misrecognition as well as a strong legal orientation.

Sambasivan, Nithya, Amna Batool, Nova Ahmed, Tara Matthews, Kurt Thomas, Laura Sanely Gaytán-Lugo, David Nemer, Elie Bursztein, Elizabeth Churchill and Sunny Consolvo. 2019. “They Don’t Leave Us Alone Anywhere We Go’: Gender and Digital Abuse in South Asia.” *Proceedings of the 2019 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, 1–14. <https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/3290605.3300232>.

This qualitative study examined the online abuse experiences and coping practices among 199 cisgender and non-cisgender people who identified as women and six NGO staff members, across a diverse socioeconomic spectrum in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. It found that the majority had experienced primarily three types of abuse: cyberstalking, impersonation and personal content leakages. The abuse resulted in emotional harm, reputation damage and physical and sexual violence. Participants used informal channels to cope, rather than relying on technological protections or law enforcement. The study emphasized that improvements to women’s online safety in South Asia are needed — whether that be through legal reform, policies or the design of algorithms to advance a gender-equitable internet.

Samoh, Nattharat, Pimpawun Boonmongkon, Timo Ojanen, Ronnapoom Samakkeekarom, Kai J. Jonas and Thomas E. Guadamuz. 2018. "It's an ordinary matter': perceptions of cyberbullying in Thai youth culture." *Journal of Youth Studies* 22 (2): 240–55. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13676261.2018.1495835>.

Thai youth define cyberbullying in a similar manner as Global North youth. They believe that, in order for actions to be considered cyberbullying, they had to cause real harm or annoyance and be committed with malicious intent. However, even when this occurred, Thai youth considered cyberbullying to be “an ordinary matter.” The researchers suggested that this perspective may be connected to cultural and social perceptions of cyberspace as a platform for play and fun. They found that there is a need to raise awareness of cyberbullying as a societal problem with serious consequences to be addressed by various governmental and non-governmental bodies. The authors recommend further research, particularly longitudinal studies, to document instances of cyberbullying and various perpetuating factors including gender.

Sequera, Maricarmen. 2021. "Non-Consensual Image Dissemination in Paraguay: An Exploratory Research." TEDIC. May. www.tedic.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Imagen-no-consentida-Tedic-web-EN.pdf.

This exploratory research study found that legal provisions in Paraguay are insufficient in curbing the causes and consequences of non-consensual intimate image distribution. Maricarmen Sequera argued that to alter the current paradigm, there is a need to improve access to justice and training of delegates and judges to promote cultural changes. Often the victim is blamed in this instance of gender violence, and “sexting” is perceived as a negative expression of women’s freedoms and rights. Public policies need to comprehensively address this type of violence and be more efficient and fairer in the protection of and reparations for victims in the judicial system, as well as in other state institutions.

Sey, Araba. 2022. "Gender Security and Safety in the ASEAN Digital Economy." ERIA Discussion Paper Series No. 465. December. www.eria.org/uploads/media/discussion-papers/FY22/Gender-Security-and-Safety-in-the-ASEAN-Digital-Economy.pdf.

This paper examined the implications of gender-based cyber violence on digital equality and economic development in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region. By reviewing academic and grey literature, it assessed the extent of the issue and its economic and social effects. It also evaluated existing national, regional and global frameworks for addressing gender-based cyber violence and identifying gaps in data on the prevalence, economic costs and social impacts of the problem. Ultimately, the paper suggested the need for further research to better understand the full scope of gender-based cyber violence in the ASEAN region and to develop tailored policy responses that target the issue effectively.

Shokooch Valle, Firuzeh. 2021. "Turning fear into pleasure: feminist resistance against online violence in the Global South." *Feminist Media Studies* 21 (4): 621–38. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14680777.2020.1749692>.

Feminist resistance against online violence in the Global South has taken many forms, with activists using social media, activism and other strategies to challenge systems’ oppression-based violence. This paper explores how feminist activists in the Global South are responding to the growing threat of online violence. It examines the strategies and tactics used by activists to reclaim online spaces and create a sense of community and solidarity. The paper draws on various case studies and highlights the challenges faced by activists in navigating the unique socio-cultural realities of their countries.

The paper argues that by using digital media to foster a sense of solidarity, collectives of women can create a platform for united resistance against online violence and discrimination. It suggests that much of the literature focuses on the “Global North,” and on individually focused strategies, and thus lacks critical empirical and theoretical insights on different political geographies and other meanings of feminist technopolitical resistance. It concludes by suggesting that the struggle against online violence should be seen as part of the broader struggle for gender equality and human rights, and that the Global South is a key site for exploring new strategies and tactics for turning fear into pleasure.

Siba Yahaya, Mardiya and Neema Iyer. 2022. (In)Visible: The Digital Threats Muslim Women Human Rights Defenders Face in the Greater Horn of Africa. Pollicy and Musawah. www.musawah.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/InVisible-The-Digital-Threats-Muslim-Women-Human-Rights-Defenders-Face-in-the-Greater-Horn-of-Africa.pdf.

Muslim women human rights defenders (MWHRDs) in the Greater Horn of Africa (GHA) are increasingly becoming targets of digital threats and attacks. The region is home to several countries with high levels of gender-based violence and religious extremism, which further exacerbate the vulnerability of MWHRDs. This report examines the digital threats and attacks that MWHRDs in the GHA face, and the ways in which they are responding. It also reviews the legal and policy frameworks in the GHA countries that protect MWHRDs from such threats and attacks. The research recommends that online spaces be made safer by introducing secure communication tools, taking proactive measures to combat online violence and developing secure data storage systems.

This report also suggests that human rights organizations should create networks of support to provide MWHRDs with technical assistance, legal advice and psychological support. A holistic approach to enable better protection, including the promotion of gender-sensitive policies, increased access to education, and the creation of safe spaces both online and offline could be beneficial. There is a need to build an inclusive digital society, which should be based on respect for diversity and the empowerment of marginalized groups. This can be done by promoting intercultural dialogue, providing training on digital rights and digital literacy, and promoting the use of digital media to raise awareness of gender-based violence.

Sinha-Roy, Rahul and Matthew Ball. 2021. “Gay Dating Platforms, Crimes, and Harms in India: New Directions for Research and Theory.” *Women & Criminal Justice* 32 (1-2): 49–65. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08974454.2021.1970696>.

This article highlighted gay dating platform-related crimes and abuses in India, and the increased attention they are receiving. It argued that social structures in India, including family, neighbourhoods, criminal law and the police, perpetuate queerphobia and sex-negativity, which often leads to further abuse and crimes. This paper highlighted that there is an inherent need for further empirical research in this area, as there was a heavy emphasis on literature that does not pertain to the Indian context. This would provide new insights and a theoretical lens that could potentially facilitate greater access to social and legal justice for those impacted by this form of abuse.

Sívori, Horacio and Lorena Mochel. 2022. *Brazilian Feminist Responses to Online Hate Speech: Seeing Online Violence Through an Intersectional Lens*. Latin American Center on Sexuality and Human Rights. <https://firn.genderit.org/research/brazilian-feminist-responses-online-hate-speech-seeing-online-violence-through>.

In this report, Horacio Sívori and Lorena Mochel examine the responses of Brazilian feminists to online hate speech, in terms of strategies, and the implications of such measures for public policy. The research also looks at the intersectional dynamics of online violence, particularly how racism, sexism and homophobia interact in online environments, and argues that responses to online hate speech (in particular) must be intersectional in order to effectively address its complexity. It suggests that “the construct of intersectionality has allowed online and offline feminist and queer communities and people of colour to reappropriate their gendering, racialisation and sexual identities as forms of affirmation and resistance” (21).

Sívori, Horacio and Bruno Zilli. 2021. *Anti-rights discourse in Brazilian social media: Digital networks, violence and sex politics*. <https://firn.genderit.org/research/anti-rights-discourse-brazilian-social-media-digital-networks-violence-and-sex-politics>.

In recent years, Brazil has been witnessing an increase in the use of social media as a platform for the dissemination of anti-rights discourse. This report investigates how social media networks have been used to propagate forms of violence and sex politics rooted in gender-based discrimination and power

imbalances. It focuses on the period of the 2018 presidential election and the municipal elections in 2020, as well as during the COVID-19 pandemic. Persistent attacks activate the intersection of gender, sexuality and race, often in the form of hate speech, and operate as a form of political violence. Using mixed methods, digital engagement with anti-rights discourse in the Brazilian social media sphere was examined and assessed to understand the impact of this hostile climate on feminists, LGBTQ+ and their allies, as well as their individual and collective responses. Elaborate narratives were used to understand the online and offline boundaries and the self-regulation measures that some users take as a precaution when using the internet.

Thakur, Dhanaraj. 2018. “How do ICTs mediate gender-based violence in Jamaica?” *Gender & Development* 26 (2): 267–82. www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13552074.2018.1475044.

This study administered a survey to 909 women and men ages 18 years and older throughout Jamaica to understand experiences and perceptions of harassment and gender-based violence online. Sixty-five percent of the respondents indicated that they have observed online abuse, and 75 percent perceived online harassment as a major problem. A small proportion (20 percent) reported that they have been subjected to online abuse, suggesting that there is underreporting. Dhanaraj Thakur argued that OGBV in Jamaica is a real phenomenon. There is a need for further research that does a deeper dive into the experiences of girls, men and the LGBTQ+ community. Future research should also examine the differences across social media platforms and why some are viewed as safer spaces for women than others, in addition to the ways in which ICTs can potentially eradicate some of the challenges associated with OGBV.

Van Der Wilk, Adriane. 2018. *Cyber violence and hate speech online against women*. European Parliament’s Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality — Policy Department for Citizen’s Rights and Constitutional Affairs. [www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2018/604979/IPOL_STU\(2018\)604979_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2018/604979/IPOL_STU(2018)604979_EN.pdf).

This report offers a comprehensive overview of cyber violence and hate speech against women, focusing particularly on the impact of these phenomena on women’s rights. It suggests that this form of violence occurs on a variety of platforms, including social media, web content and discussion sites, search engines, messaging services, blogs, dating websites and apps, comment sections of media and newspapers, forums, chat rooms of online video games, and so on. While legal instruments at the EU level exist, they are quite limited in scope and do not always ensure the criminalization of the most pervasive forms of online harassment and hate speech, although the General Data Protection Regulation and the Electronic Commerce Directive, as well as directives on victim’s rights, trafficking and on sexual exploitation of children can cover some of these forms of violence.

Possible synergies between the Council of Europe’s Budapest, Istanbul and Lanzarote conventions and their respective committees could be explored when it comes to prevention of, protection from and prosecution of cyber violence against women and girls. Member states should also invest in technical expertise and develop sufficient infrastructural and financial capacity to conduct, and follow up on, complex cross-border investigations of cybercrimes directed at women.

Vitis, Laura. 2021. “Technology-Facilitated Violence Against Women in Singapore: Key Considerations.” In *The Emerald International Handbook of Technology-Facilitated Violence and Abuse*, edited by Jane Bailey, Asher Flynn and Nicola Henry, 407–25. Bingley, UK: Emerald Publishing. www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/978-1-83982-848-520211031/full/pdf.

This chapter discusses how technology is shaping Singaporean women’s experiences of gendered, sexual and domestic violence. It demonstrates the need for further qualitative research that draws on the insights of victim-survivors. Much of the current Singaporean research that centres on TFV has focused on service data and interviews with service providers. Contemporary empirical scholarship will need to include both large-scale surveys to highlight the prevalence of this problem, in addition to in-depth interviews to better understand the impact of communication, digital and internet technologies on experiences of

violence. This is of particular importance during this period of legislative reform in Singapore, as well as for designing effective prevention strategies and service responses.

———. 2023. “Surveillant assemblage: Overt, covert, movement and social surveillance in domestic and family violence in Singapore.” *Women’s Studies International Forum* 96 (January-February: 102664). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wsif.2022.102664>.

This study explored the use of surveillance technologies in domestic and family violence in Singapore. It found that covert and overt surveillance cameras were being used by abusers to control and monitor victims. It highlighted the need for further research with a larger sample size to better understand the nature and prevalence of surveillance technologies in Singaporean women’s experiences of domestic and family violence. This also demonstrated the need for more training and resources to help frontline workers gain knowledge on the use of technology to surveil and control women. Such training will help frontline workers better assess risk, implement safety plans and ensure that survivors are not responsible for developing these skills in the absence of technical support. Additionally, public awareness campaigns should be refreshed to emphasize non-physical abuse, and standardized assessment tools should be developed to improve frontline workers’ ability to identify and respond to family violence.

Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women’s Voices). 2022. *First Nations Women’s Safety Policy Forum Outcomes Report*. Australian Human Rights Commission. November. <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-social-justice/publications/wiyi-yani-u-thangani-6>.

The disproportionate rates of all forms of violence, including assault, murder and the disappearance of First Nations women and children, is a national crisis compounded by structural marginalization, discrimination and inequalities. The Australian Human Rights Commission organized a one-day virtual forum in September 2022 for First Nations community members, practitioners, researchers, specialist experts, government participants and women with lived experience to address the continuum of violence. The panels discussed the need for system reform, investment in holistic community-controlled models and the importance of guaranteeing First Nations women’s voices and expertise in the formation of national policy, legislation and programs.

After the forum, the commission compiled a report to be delivered to the Australian government with input from the collective of advisors and post-forum survey participants. The forum strongly recommended the establishment of an independent national commissioner for First Nations women and children to oversee the implementation of the stand-alone national plan. The commissioner should have the power to conduct investigations into systemic issues, and to provide evidence-based advice and recommendations to the government to ensure that the plan meets the needs of First Nations women and children. In summary, the Australian government needs to prioritize long-term investment and holistic, community-led preventive measures to end violence against First Nations women, children, those with a disability and LGBTQ+ individuals. The government must also commit to adequate funding for services on the ground; create a First Nations women and children’s safety policy think tank; develop a dedicated First Nations framework for data collection and evaluation; expand national data collection; and promote policy and legislative reforms across state, territorial and Commonwealth governments.

World Wide Web Foundation and World Association of Girl Guides and Girls Scouts. 2021. “Survey — Young people’s experiences of online harassment.” http://webfoundation.org/docs/2020/03/WF_WAGGGS-Survey-1-pager-1.pdf.

This global survey of young people’s experience of online abuse and harassment was conducted in partnership with the World Wide Web Foundation and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts using UNICEF’s U-Report platform. It captured 8,109 responses with 51 percent of respondents being female. Many of the respondents (40 percent) were between the ages of 20 and 24. The survey found that 52 percent of young women and girls have experienced online abuse, including threatening messages, sexual harassment and the sharing of private messaging without consent. Additionally, 64 percent of all respondents know someone who has experienced harassment, abuse or violence, and 87 percent of girls

think the problem is getting worse. Fifty-one percent of those who have experienced online abuse say it has affected their emotional and/or physical well-being.

Zagloul, Nancy M., Rasha M. Farghaly, Hossam ELKhatib, Sahar Y. Issa and Safaa M. El-Zoghby. 2022. "Technology facilitated sexual violence: a comparative study between working and non-working females in Egypt before and during the COVID-19 pandemic." *Egyptian Journal of Forensic Sciences* 12 (1). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s41935-022-00278-2>.

This study was conducted on 563 Egyptian females, of whom 283 participants (50.3 percent) reported being exposed to cyber violence. Overall, it found that misusing someone's online data, including photos and posts, was the most common form of online sexual harassment reported among the respondents (74.9 percent). Social media sites, including Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and Instagram, were among the worst platforms used to facilitate online sexual harassment. Some forms of technology-facilitated harm decreased after the COVID-19 pandemic, with a statistically significant reduction in non-consensual pornography, online sexual harassment and cyberstalking. Not surprisingly, media workers encountered more TFV g than all other reported professions.

Conclusion

While OGBV has been the topic of considerable research in recent years, concrete data regarding the pervasiveness and challenges of this issue in low- and middle-income countries is lacking, compared to research conducted in high-income nations. In response, the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) embarked on a multi-year project titled Supporting a Safer Internet, led by an international steering committee of leading experts.

This work has two main components. The first is a major international survey conducted by Ipsos, which maps out the prevalence of this form of online harm in 18 countries: Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Ecuador, France, Germany, India, Jordan, Kenya, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and the United States. The second is a series of papers and a special report analyzing existing literature in the field and the survey data with a view to constructing proposed programmatic, policy and legal options for mitigating OGBV for a safer online world.

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