

The Challenges of fighting cyber violence against Women & the CYBERSAFE Project

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Changing Attitudes among teenagers
on Cyber Violence against Women and Girls

The Challenges of fighting cyber violence against Women & the CYBERSAFE Project



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Agenda

- ▶ 15:00-15:05 - Introduction
- ▶ 15:05 – 15:15 - Definition of cyber violence against women
- ▶ 15:15 – 15:35 - Root causes of cyber violence against women
- ▶ 15:35 – 15:40 - The CYBERSAFE Project
- ▶ 15:40 – 15:45 - Q&A



Technical Aspects

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How to take part in the webinar

- ▶ Have a listen to the ,Presentation of the topic‘
- ▶ During ,Presentation of the topic‘, if any questions arise, please wait until the end of the presentation when we will have time to discuss any questions.
- ▶ During the questions and discussion time, please leave a message in the group chat so that I can read your comment or any contribution.
- ▶ Enjoy !



Why discuss cyber violence against women?

- ▶ Research shows women are specifically targeted
- ▶ New digital platforms provide new tools of abuse for perpetrators (both on and offline)
- ▶ In the EU:
 - ▶ 20% of young women have experienced cyber sexual harassment
 - ▶ 14% have experienced cyberstalking since the age of 15.



Definitions of cyber violence – how do different agencies define it?

▶ UN

- ▶ UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) General Recommendation 19
- ▶ CEDAW General Recommendation 35 extends the definition coined under General Recommendation 19
- ▶ The UN General Assembly (UNGA) 2013 Consensus Resolution on protecting women human rights defenders
- ▶ Report from the Special Rapporteur on Violence against women presented to the Human Rights Council in June 2018
- ▶ UN Human Rights Council voted on July 4th 2018 a number of resolutions regarding the “Promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet”



Definitions of cyber violence – how do different agencies define it?

▶ Council of Europe

- ▶ no commonly agreed set of definitions encompassing all forms of cyber violence and hate speech online against women
- ▶ Istanbul Convention contains several articles that can be applied to cyber violence and hate speech online against women
 - ▶ Article 3
 - ▶ Article 3.b
 - ▶ Article 33
 - ▶ Article 34
 - ▶ Article 40
- ▶ Council of Europe's Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cyber-crime
- ▶ Council of Europe's Cybercrime Convention Committee has proposed a framework to categorise forms of cyber violence.



Definitions of cyber violence – how do different agencies define it?

▶ European Union Institutions

- ▶ EC explicitly includes “cyber violence and harassment using new technologies” in its definition of gender-based violence but the phenomenon has not been captured in any of the European Union’s legal texts.
- ▶ The European Parliament has defined **cyberbullying** in a 2016 study as the “repeated verbal or psychological harassment carried out by an individual or group against others”
- ▶ Gender is not taken into account
- ▶ **Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)**
 - ▶ Cyber stalking
 - ▶ Cyber harassment

▶ European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)

- ▶ cyber violence: gender-based violence which is perpetrated through electronic communication and the internet
- ▶ Non-consensual pornography
- ▶ Cyber harassment
- ▶ Stalking



Definitions of cyber violence – how do different agencies define it?

▶ **Academics & Civil society**

- ▶ Need for reframing terminology used by media
- ▶ International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)
 - ▶ Project: „Technology-facilitated Gender-based violence: What is it, and how do we measure it?“ in partnership with World Bank



Technology-facilitated gender-based violence

PERPETRATOR



Motivation

- Revenge
- Jealousy
- Political agenda
- Anger
- Ideological agenda
- Sexual desire
- Monetary need/desire
- Maintain social status



Intent

- Psychological harm
- Physical harm
- Instrumental
- Norm enforcement



Behaviors

- Stalking
- Defamation
- Bullying
- Sexual harassment
- Exploitation
- Hate speech



Relationship

Personal
Impersonal
Institutional

VICTIM/SURVIVOR



Impact

- Physical
- Psychological
- Social
- Economic
- Functional



Help-seeking & coping

- Reporting
- Support services
- Social support
- Changing technology use
- Avoidance



Frequency

- No. of offenses
- No. of modes
- No. of behaviors
- Timeframe



Mode

- Social networking sites
- Dating sites
- Communication technology
- Entertainment sites
- Personal online accounts



Cross-cutting tactics

- Doxing
- Hacking
- Threatening
- Image-based abusing
- Gendertrolling
- Using fake accounts

CONTEXT: SOCIAL, GENDER, CULTURAL, LEGAL, POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS, TECHNOLOGICAL

Definitions of cyber violence – how do different agencies define it?

▶ Facebook

- ▶ ‘hate speech’ as “anything that directly attacks people based on what are known as their “protected characteristics”

▶ Twitter

- ▶ “abusive behavior’ as “an attempt to harass, intimidate, or silence someone else’s voice”
- ▶ “non-consensual nudity sharing” as “sharing explicit sexual images or videos of someone online without their consent”



Root causes of cyber violence against women

- **CONTINUUM OF VIOLENCE & MEDIA FRAMING OF VIOLENCE**
- **GENDER IMBALANCES IN TECH INDUSTRY**
- **SPECIFIC ARCHITECTURE OF DIGITAL PLATFORMS**



The Continuum of Violence

- ▶ **Continuum of violence between real-life & online domain**
 - ▶ Cyberstalking: 54% of the respondents had first met their abusers in real life
 - ▶ 20% of young women (18-29) in the EU have experienced cyber sexual harassment;
 - ▶ 77% of women who have experienced cyber harassment have also experienced at least one form of sexual or/ and physical violence from an intimate partner;
 - ▶ 70% of women who have experienced cyber stalking have also experienced at least one form of physical or/and sexual violence from an intimate partner;
 - ▶ 5% of women in the EU have experienced one or more forms of cyber stalking since the age of 15.



Media Framing of Violence

- ▶ **Media still victim-blames**
- ▶ **Internet intermediaries silence victims**
- ▶ **Between 63% and 83% victims made some changes to the way they used social media platforms.**



Gender Imbalances in the Tech Sector

- ▶ Only one third of women STEM graduates work in STEM occupations, compared to one in two men.
- ▶ Women in STEM work longer hours than women in other occupations.
- ▶ Across the EU, only 20% of women aged 30 and over who hold ICT-related degrees decide to stay in the technology industry. Research on women's motives for leaving STEM jobs points to the effects of workplace culture.



Sexual Harassment in the Tech Sector

- ▶ 53% of women as opposed to 16% of men have experienced harassment;
- ▶ 63% of harassment experienced by women was from a co-worker and 41% by their supervisor;
- ▶ 72% of the harassment was sexual harassment;
- ▶ 13% of women were propositioned for sex for a promotion vs 0% of men.



Algorithms and Gender Biases

- ▶ Toxic technoculture: toxic cultures that are enabled by and propagated through sociotechnical networks such as Reddit, 4chan, Twitter and online gaming
- ▶ non-human technological agents (algorithms, scripts, policies) can shape and are shaped by human activity



Specific Architecture of Digital Platforms

- ▶ **Privacy**
- ▶ **Anonymity**
- ▶ **Mob mentality**



The CYBERSAFE Project

- ▶ Changing Attitudes among teenagers on Cyber Violence against Women and Girls
- ▶ Launched December 2018
- ▶ CYBERSAFE's aim is to change behaviours towards violence against women, with specific focus on cyber VAWG aim of:
 - ▶ preventing it from happening through education
 - ▶ changing attitudes
 - ▶ encouraging victims and witnesses to report and address it



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Projected Results

- ▶ Evidence based, attitude-changing prevention educational intervention, for teenagers on Cyber Gender Violence Against Women and Girls (Cyber VAWG), applicable to all EU countries
- ▶ Address cyber VAWG as a form of violence against women and girls & develop a systematic gender sensitive approach to prevent it & promote healthy relationships and gender equality online
- ▶ Develop and promote innovative experiential as well as playful educational ICT tools that facilitate behavioural change among teenagers (12-18) on cyber VAWG;
- ▶ Facilitate professionals working with teenagers (12-18) to run and implement educational prevention programmes on cyber VAWG;



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Project Partners

- ▶ Union of Women Associations of Heraklion Prefecture (Greece)
- ▶ University of Tartu (Estonia)
- ▶ University of Ljubljana (Slovenia)
- ▶ Women Against Violence Europe
- ▶ International Child Development Initiatives (Netherlands)
- ▶ Serious Games Interactive APS (Denmark)
- ▶ Women's Support and Information Centre – Women's Support and Information Centre (Estonia)
- ▶ Azienda Speciale Retesalute (Italy)
- ▶ Northern Ireland Rape Crisis Association (United Kingdom)

Curious about CYBERSAFE?

- ▶ **Follow us on social media!**
- ▶ Facebook
 - ▶ [CYBERSAFE Project](#) (official)
 - ▶ [CYBERSAFE Space](#) (target group 12-18)
- ▶ Twitter: @CybersafeP
- ▶ Instagram: @cybersafe.project
- ▶ Hashtags: #endCyberVAWG #CYBERSAFESpace
- ▶ Sign up for our biannual newsletter: <http://eepurl.com/gl-sIP>
- ▶ Contact me if you want to become a **dissemination partner!**
 - ▶ Lina.piskernik@wave-network.org



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Questions regarding cyber violence against women and/or the CYBERSAFE project?

► Please send a message in the group chat.



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Thank you for joining the
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