



Open Research Online

Citation

Bakina, Ksenia; Bandara, Arosha; Black, Iona; Capdevila, Rose; Jurasz, Olga; Lazard, Lisa; Pavon Perez, Angel and Zhang, Min (2025). Human Rights Council's Advisory Committee Questionnaire on Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence against Women and Girls. Centre for Protecting Women Online, The Open University.

URL

<https://oro.open.ac.uk/103317/>

DOI

License

(CC-BY-NC-ND 4.0) Creative Commons: Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 4.0

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>

Policy

This document has been downloaded from Open Research Online, The Open University's repository of research publications. This version is being made available in accordance with Open Research Online policies available from [Open Research Online \(ORO\) Policies](#)

Versions

If this document is identified as the Author Accepted Manuscript it is the version after peer review but before type setting, copy editing or publisher branding

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**QUESTIONNAIRE ON TECHNOLOGY-FACILITATED GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
AND GIRLS**

Background

In accordance with Human Rights Council [resolution 56/19](#), the Advisory Committee (AC) is asked “to prepare a study on technology-facilitated gender-based violence and its impact on women and girls, including by developing a better understanding of the issue, highlighting good practices around the globe in tackling gender-based violence that occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology, and making recommendations on how to address the issue” to be presented to the Council at its sixty-third session.

In the preparation of this study, the AC was asked to seek the views and inputs from, and to take into account the relevant work already done by stakeholders.

Technology-facilitated gender-based violence is defined for the purpose of this study, as “all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls in the public and private spheres, occurring online and offline through or amplified by the use of digital technologies, including artificial intelligence” (resolution 56/19).

For the study, the AC intends to take in particular account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the UN Pact for the Future, including the Global Digital Compact, as well as previous studies and reports conducted by relevant stakeholders.

Deadline

Responses can be submitted until **28 February 2025**. Nonetheless, on exceptional basis, late responses to this questionnaire or further information relevant to the work of the AC on this topic may be accepted.

Dr. Ksenia Bakina, Professor Arosha Bandara, Iona Black, Professor Rose Capdevila, Professor Olga Jurasz, Professor Lisa Lazard, Dr. Angel Pavon-Perez, Dr. Min Zhang on behalf of the Centre for Protecting Women Online.

The Centre for Protecting Women Online (CPWO)¹ is a vehicle for understanding and addressing challenges posed to women's online safety through a novel, interdisciplinary and ambitious research agenda. It develops cross-sectoral, collaborative outputs and interventions which inform law, policy, technology development and practice to reduce online harms suffered by women and girls; minimise anti-social behaviours online whilst promoting pro-social behaviours and help build tech/ software that helps ensure accountability, credibility and helps facilitate justice.

The Centre is comprised of five interwoven work streams:

- Law & Policy,
- Human Behaviour,
- The Future of Responsible Tech,
- Ethical and Responsible Tech/AI and
- Policing.

Additionally, the Centre has partnered with numerous international and UK-based organisations to help achieve its core objectives.²

QUESTIONS

I. Core questions for all stakeholders

1. Which human rights are negatively impacted by technology-facilitated gender-based violence (hereafter: TFGBV) against women and girls? Identify the most impacted rights and briefly explain why.

¹ *The Centre for Protecting Women Online*, (2024) available at: <https://university.open.ac.uk/centres/protecting-women-online/#:~:text=About%20the%20Centre.interdisciplinary%20and%20ambitious%20research%20agenda>

² 'Partnerships' (*The Centre for Protecting Women Online*) available at: <https://university.open.ac.uk/centres/protecting-women-online/partnerships>

Technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) is one of the most pervasive human rights violations.³ It is underpinned by imbalances of power and reinforced through formal and informal institutions, structures and norms at all levels of society.⁴ TFGBV infringes on numerous human rights, including but not limited to, their freedom of expression, right to privacy and freedom from discrimination. Recent research indicates that globally, 85% of women have witnessed online violence and 38% of women were victims of it.⁵ A CPWO study, conducted by Olga Jurasz, exploring the prevalence of online violence in the United Kingdom, found that across the four nations, one in 10 women (15%) have experienced online violence, while 3 in 10 women (30%) have witnessed online violence.⁶

TFGBV violates the right to privacy and family life, as stipulated by Article 12 Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR).⁷ Instances of online harassment, cyber-stalking and doxing are prime examples of how TFGBV can violate the privacy of women and girls. Perpetrators often disclose identifying details and sensitive information about their victims, thereby violating privacy and data protection laws and undermining victims' online and offline safety. Further, women and girls often experience image based sexual abuse involving non-consensual sharing or creation of intimate images, including deepfakes.

TFGBV also poses a serious threat to women and girl's freedom of expression (Article 19 UDHR), leading to them becoming silenced and fearing to express themselves

³ The Global Partnership, 'Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based violence: Preliminary landscape analysis', (2023) Page 20 available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64abe2b21121040013ee6576/Technology_facilitated_gender_based_violence_preliminary_landscape_analysis.pdf

⁴ The Global Partnership, 'Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based violence: Preliminary landscape analysis', (2023) Page 20 available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64abe2b21121040013ee6576/Technology_facilitated_gender_based_violence_preliminary_landscape_analysis.pdf

⁵ 'Measuring the Prevalence of Online Violence against Women' (*The Economist*, 21 March 2021) available at: <https://onlineviolencewomen.eiu.com/>

⁶ O. Jurasz, 'Online violence against women: A Four Nations study' (The Open University, 2024) Page 33 available at: [https://oro.open.ac.uk/96398/1/OVAW_4N_full_report_\(March_2024\).pdf](https://oro.open.ac.uk/96398/1/OVAW_4N_full_report_(March_2024).pdf)

⁷ Article 12, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, United Nations, available at: [Universal Declaration of Human Rights | United Nations](https://www.un.org/en/declaration-of-human-rights/)

online.⁸ Smear campaigns, online harassment and use of spyware can have a chilling effect, leading to women and girls to leave or reduce their engagement and participation in online spaces.⁹ Considering that a lot of public discourse and information sharing occurs online, when engagement in online spaces is limited, it negatively affects their ability to access vital information, engage in activism, find employment and express their opinions.¹⁰

Freedom of expression online is not realised effectively when women and girls stop expressing their views online and withdraw their participation in public and political life due to threats and experiences of online abuse. The damaging effects of online abuse on freedom of expression – and, by extension, democracy – has been particularly highlighted in relation to women politicians,¹¹ human rights defenders,¹² and journalists.¹³ As noted by the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression, gender equality and freedom of expression are mutually reinforcing rather than standing in opposition with one another.¹⁴

TFGB also violates the right to be free from discrimination (Article 1 and 2 UDHR) as it relates to content that is sexist, misogynistic and/or incites violence against women and girls. It also reinforces gender inequality and social norms that discriminate on

⁸ [Jurasz, Olga](#) and [Barker, Kim](#) (2019). Online Misogyny: A Challenge for Digital Feminism? *Journal of International Affairs*, 72(2) pp. 95–114; [Barker, Kim](#) and [Jurasz, Olga](#) (2020). Online violence against women as an obstacle to gender equality: a critical view from Europe. *European Equality Law Review*, 2020(1) pp. 47–60

⁹ O Jurasz and K. Barker, Online Misogyny: A Challenge for Digital Feminism? *Journal of International Affairs* (2019), 72(2) pp. 95–114; K. Barker, and O Jurasz, Online violence against women as an obstacle to gender equality: a critical view from Europe. *European Equality Law Review*, 2020(1) pp. 47–60; UN General Assembly, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, 18 December 1979, United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1249 available at:

<https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/cedaw.htm>

¹⁰ ‘What Is Online Violence?’ (*Amnesty International*, 6 December 2024) available at: [https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/technology/online-](https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/technology/online-violence/#:~:text=Black%20women%20were%20disproportionately%20targeted,as%20such%20under%20international%20law)

[violence/#:~:text=Black%20women%20were%20disproportionately%20targeted,as%20such%20under%20international%20law](https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/technology/online-violence/#:~:text=Black%20women%20were%20disproportionately%20targeted,as%20such%20under%20international%20law)

¹¹ Bardall G, “‘The Role of Information and Communication Technologies in Facilitating and Resisting Gendered Forms of Political Violence’”, in M Segrave, L Vitis (eds) *Gender, Technology and Violence* (Routledge 2017) Pages 100-117

¹² ‘Femdefenders: The Hatred against Women’s Rights Activists (2014)’ (*The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation*, 13 November 2023) available at: <https://kvinnatillkvinna.org/publications/femdefenders-the-hatred-against-women-human-rights-defenders/>

¹³ UNESCO, The Chilling: Global trends in online violence against women journalists (May 2021) Page 5 available at: <https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/the-chilling.pdf>

¹⁴ UN OHCHR, ‘UN experts urge States and companies to address online gender-based abuse but warn against censorship’, (8 March 2017), available at: [UN experts urge States and companies to address online gender-based abuse but warn against censorship | OHCHR](https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2017/03/un-experts-urge-states-and-companies-to-address-online-gender-based-abuse-but-warn-against-censorship)

the basis of sex or gender. TFGBV is recognised as a form of discrimination and the UN Special Rapporteur for Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) has called for TFGBV to be considered within the broader context of gender-based violence and gender-based discrimination.¹⁵

2. Which specific groups within the wider population of women and girls are at risk of experiencing TFGBV (including on the basis of personal or group characteristics, professional occupation or contextual factors)?

According to the Global Partnership TFGBV Landscape Analysis Report, women and girls in all their diversity are disproportionately affected by TFGBV and can be affected through experiencing and witnessing abuse.¹⁶

Women and girls do not need to have access to or use the technologies to be targeted because they can be subjected to stalking and monitoring through perpetrators' use of technology and can have their private information published online without their consent, including their intimate images.¹⁷

However, some women and girls are more likely to experience TFGBV. The CPWO study, conducted by Olga Jurasz found that adolescent girls and young women are disproportionately targeted by TFGBV.¹⁸ Also LGBTQ+ and gender diverse people who

¹⁵ UN Human Rights Council (2018a). Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences on online violence against women and girls from a human rights perspective, June 2018, 38th session. available at: <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1641160>; Grevio General Recommendation No.1 on the digital dimension of violence against women, available at: <https://rm.coe.int/grevio-rec-no-on-digital-violence-against-women/1680a49147>; Directive (EU) 2024/1385 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on combating violence against women and domestic violence, available at: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ%3AL_202401385

¹⁶ The Global Partnership, 'Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based violence: Preliminary landscape analysis', (2023) Page 29 available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64abe2b21121040013ee6576/Technology_facilitated_gender_based_violence_preliminary_landscape_analysis.pdf

¹⁷ The Global Partnership, 'Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based violence: Preliminary landscape analysis', (2023) Page 29 available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64abe2b21121040013ee6576/Technology_facilitated_gender_based_violence_preliminary_landscape_analysis.pdf

¹⁸ O. Jurasz, 'Online violence against women: A Four Nations Study Survey Report' (The Open University, 2024), page 27 available at:

<https://oro.open.ac.uk/96398/1/OVAW%204N%20full%20report%20%28March%202024%29.pdf> ; Plan International (2020). Free to be online? Girls' and young women's experiences of online harassment. Surrey, UK: Plan International. <https://plan-international.org/publications/free-to-be-online/>; Martínez-Bacaicoa, J., Sorrel, M. A., & Gámez-Guadix, M. (2024).

Development and validation of technology-facilitated sexual violence perpetration and victimization scales among adults. *Assessment*. Scopus. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10731911241229575> (TFSA against women/girls primarily)

are subjected to intersecting forms of oppression, such as gender inequality are more likely to experience TFGBV.¹⁹ Additionally, politically active women and human rights defenders are more at risk.²⁰

Although Black and Afro-Caribbean women are no more likely than average to have experienced online violence, they are more likely to have witnessed it, according to the CPWO UK-wide study.²¹ Black and Afro-Caribbean women who experienced TFGBV are more likely to identify race/ethnicity as a contributor to online violence they experienced. Black and Afro-Caribbean women experience high levels of image-based violence online and they are the group where the violence is most likely to come from spouses, partners or friends. They are least likely to acknowledge that the violence they experienced had any impact on them.²²

This CPWO study also found that that most incidents of online violence that women experienced in the 12 months preceding the survey were text-based (82%) while approximately a third were image-based (33%). About half of all incidents in that period were not sexually explicit (45%) and they were committed by someone the woman did not know (81%). Women are most likely to experience online violence on Facebook (40%), Instagram (28%) and X/Twitter (33%).²³

¹⁹ O. Jurasz, 'Online violence against women: A Four Nations Study Survey Report' (The Open University, 2024), page 27 available at: <https://oro.open.ac.uk/96398/1/OVAW%204N%20full%20report%20%28March%202024%29.pdf>; Global Partnership Report, UK Government [Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence: Preliminary Landscape Analysis](#); Jacobs, K. (2024). DIY pornography and the deepfake coup. *Porn Studies*, 11(1), 91–98. Scopus.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/23268743.2023.2297691> (LGBTQ+/politically active women); O. Jurasz, 'Online violence against women: A Four Nations Study Survey Report' (The Open University, 2024) page 17 available at: <https://oro.open.ac.uk/96398/1/OVAW%204N%20full%20report%20%28March%202024%29.pdf>

²⁰ Jacobs, K. (2024). DIY pornography and the deepfake coup. *Porn Studies*, 11(1), 91–98. Scopus.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/23268743.2023.2297691>; Maddocks, S. (2020) 'A Deepfake Porn Plot Intended to Silence Me': exploring continuities between pornographic and 'political' deep fakes, *Porn Studies*, 7:4, 415-423, DOI: 10.1080/23268743.2020.1757499; Amnesty International. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/technology/online-violence/#:~:text=Black%20women%20were%20disproportionately%20targeted,as%20such%20under%20international%20law>; NORC at the University of Chicago and the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) (2022) Landscape Analysis of Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence: Findings from Asia <https://www.norc.org/research/projects/technology-facilitated-gender-based-violence.html>;

²¹ O. Jurasz, 'Online violence against women: A Four Nations Study Survey Report' (The Open University, 2024), page 27 available at: <https://oro.open.ac.uk/96398/1/OVAW%204N%20full%20report%20%28March%202024%29.pdf>

²² O. Jurasz, 'Online violence against women: A Four Nations study' (The Open University, 2024) Page 27 available at: <https://oro.open.ac.uk/96398/1/OVAW%204N%20full%20report%20%28March%202024%29.pdf>

²³ O. Jurasz, 'Online violence against women: A Four Nations study' (The Open University, 2024) Page 27 available at: <https://oro.open.ac.uk/96398/1/OVAW%204N%20full%20report%20%28March%202024%29.pdf>

3. Are there national, regional, or international norms, policy or measures, specific technologies and trends, practices or research findings you would like to highlight of particular relevance for:

- a) Enabling or creating an environment for TFGBV?

Numerous institutions and organisations rely on artificial intelligence (AI) systems using machine learning to find patterns and make predictive decisions. These could be used by law enforcement agencies, health organisations and financial institutions. For example, AI systems could be used to make decisions how much credit financial institutions offer or who to invite for job interviews. However, these systems are inherently biased against women and have negative impacts on women's lives. It can also reinforce and amplify existing harmful gender stereotypes and prejudices.²⁴ A study by the Berkeley Haas Center for Equity, Gender and Leadership found that 44% of AI systems exhibited gender bias, with 25% showing both gender and racial bias, further exacerbating the inequalities women face online.²⁵

Further, easy access to AI tools enables perpetrators to create deepfakes which are being weaponised against women and girls on a global scale.²⁶ Henry Ajder et al., identified that 96 per cent of deepfakes were 'pornographic' and featured women, illustrating the highly gendered nature of deepfake sexual content.²⁷ Another report by Security Hero highlights that there has been a 550% increase in creation of deepfakes between 2019–2023 and that 98% of those are sexualised deepfakes of women.²⁸

Another development that fosters the environment for abuse and promotes TFGBV are manosphere forum communities. These are misogynist movements which focus on men's rights and their common interest in masculinity and its alleged crisis. Communities like Pick Up Artists (PUAs), Men's Rights Activists (MRAs), Men Going Their

²⁴ G Smith and I Rustagi, 'When good algorithms go sexist: why and How to Advance AI Gender Equity' (Stanford Social Innovation Review, 2021) available at: [Genevieve Smith & Ishita Rustagi When Good Algorithms Go Sexist: Why and How to Advance AI Gender Equity](#)

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Mackenzie J and Choi L, 'South Korea: The Deepfake Crisis Engulfing Hundreds of Schools' (*BBC News*, 3 September 2024) available at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cpdlpj9zn9go>

²⁷ H. Ajder et al., 'The State of Deepfakes: Landscape, Threats and Impact' (2019) Page 5 available at: [deepfake_report.pdf](#)

²⁸ Security Hero, State of Deepfakes: 'Realities, State and Impact' (2023) [2023 State Of Deepfakes: Realities, Threats, And Impact](#)

Own Way (MGTOW), and Involuntary Celibates (Incels) have been growing in size and in their involvement in online harassment and offline violence.²⁹ Manosphere radicalisation is expanding, with newer communities becoming more toxic, misogynistic than the older ones.³⁰ Further, the algorithms and the interactions facilitated by online platforms have been used by misogynist radical groups to recruit vulnerable individuals to their cause. This has resulted in the sharp growth of violent events and deteriorating online discourse.³¹

Recent research also highlighted how social media platforms, and their algorithmic processes, are putting young people at risk through exposing them to increasingly harmful material, which is now presented as entertainment in young people's feeds.³² As a result, hateful and misogynistic ideologies are becoming normalised in young people's behaviours both online and offline. Regehr et al. highlight that the algorithms of social media platforms, actively amplify and direct harmful content to young people. This is because the algorithm of social media platforms often privileges more extreme material, and through increased usage, users are gradually exposed to more misogynistic ideologies which are presented and gamified through soft or humorous cultural forms.³³ Regehr et al. found that after only 5 days of TikTok usage, there was a four-fold increase in the level of misogynistic content being presented on the "For You" page on TikTok.³⁴ In this way, toxic, hateful or misogynistic material is pushed to young people, exploiting adolescents' existing vulnerabilities.

²⁹M. H. Ribeiro et al. The Evolution of Manosphere across the Web. (2020) Page 2 available at: <https://ojs.aaai.org/index.php/ICWSM/article/view/18053>

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Making a Radical Misogynist: How Online Social Engagement with the Manosphere Influences Traits of Radicalization, (2022) Page 1 available at: <https://dl.acm.org/doi/abs/10.1145/3555551>

³² K. Regehr et al. Safer Scrolling: How algorithms popularise and gamify online hate and misogyny for young people, (2024) Page 13 available at: [Safer-scrolling.pdf](#);

Regehr, K. In (cel) doctrination: How technologically facilitated misogyny moves violence off screens and on to streets. *New Media & Society*, 24(1), (2022) Pages 138-155. Available at: [In\(cel\)doctrination: How technologically facilitated misogyny moves violence off screens and on to streets - UCL Discovery](#)

³³ Ibid, page 5

³⁴ Ibid.

b) Preventing or eliminating TFGBV?

In 2021, the UK government introduced its strategy, “Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls” (the VAWG Strategy), which focused on online and offline violence and outlined a series of commitments:

- prevention – to deliver long-term cultural and societal change;
- supporting victims – to increase support for victims and survivors including providing support services that are run by and for the communities they serve;
- pursuing perpetrators – to transform the criminal justice response to ensure all perpetrators of offences against women are brought to justice;
- building a stronger system – working with multiple government departments to develop a joined-up system across health, justice, law enforcement, housing, social care and education.³⁵

The VAWG strategy included reference to some specific forms of TFGBV such as image based sexual abuse and upskirting. The UK Home Office leads the government’s efforts to address VAWG, but recent report from the National Audit Office highlighted that to date to date these efforts have not improved outcomes for the victims of these crimes or the safety of women and girls more widely.³⁶ Further, the National Audit Office report did not measure TFGBV specifically.

Despite some developments in law and policy on TFGBV in the UK, we are only scraping the surface of understanding and addressing this global phenomenon. Most importantly, inadequate, fragmented and partial responses to TFGBV not only exacerbate its impacts and delay access to justice and redress for women and girls who suffered online violence – they also enable normalisation of these forms of violence against women in everyday life.

³⁵ ‘Tackling Violence against Women and Girls in the UK - House of Lords Library’ (*House of Lords Library*, 2023) available at: <https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/tackling-violence-against-women-and-girls-in-the-uk/>

³⁶ ‘Tackling Violence against Women and Girls - Summary’ (*National Audit Office*, 2025) Page 7 available at: <https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/tackling-violence-against-women-and-girls-summary.pdf>

The Home Office is not currently leading an effective cross-government response. There is a lack of resources for tackling TFGBV specifically and a failure to establish co-designed and trauma informed responses that reflect realities of victims and survivors online experiences. The Home Office has a limited understanding of the extent of resources devoted to addressing VAWG across government and the impact this is having. Without this knowledge, the Home Office cannot be confident that the government is doing the best it can to keep women and girls safe. Successfully addressing the harms caused by VAWG and TFGBV requires the coordinated effort and commitment of many government departments. But the cross-departmental governance in place did not ensure all departments were prioritising the VAWG Strategy's aims and were pulling in the same direction.³⁷

c) Supporting victims of TFGBV?

The Centre for Protecting Women Online has numerous partnerships with organisations such as Refuge, End Violence Against Women RedDot Foundation among others that support victims of TFGBV.³⁸ Our partners support victims of TFGBV in various ways, by providing advice and support services, drive social change through campaigning and shaping policy and challenging wider cultural attitudes that tolerate and normalise this abuse.³⁹

RedDot Foundation also developed Safecity, a crowd-sourced platform designed to collect anonymous reports about sexual and gender-based harassment and abuse. These reports provide data to individuals, communities and policymakers.⁴⁰

Our partners and other civil society organisations fighting TFGBV need further funding for continuing to provide their ongoing support services such as helplines and advice to victims and survivors, assist with removal of image based sexual

³⁷ 'Tackling Violence against Women and Girls - Summary' (National Audit Office, 2025) Page 7 available at: <https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/tackling-violence-against-women-and-girls-summary.pdf>

³⁸ 'Partnerships' (The Centre for Protecting Women Online) available at: <https://university.open.ac.uk/centres/protecting-women-online/partnerships>

³⁹ End Violence Against Women, available at: <https://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/about/>

⁴⁰ RedDot Foundation, available at: <https://reddotfoundation.org/>

abuse from online platforms, conduct effective research, run campaigns and co-design policies. .⁴¹

4. What are the main international and national normative, regulatory and governance gaps that you have identified as regards TFGBV and human rights?

II. Specific questions relevant for all stakeholders

International framework

5. What is the impact of TFGBV on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)? Identify the most impacted goals and briefly explain why.

TFGBV has a clear impact on SDG 5 – gender equality. Specifically, TFGBV has shown to undermine women’s ability to participate in public and political life (which now increasingly happens online) but also to silence women’s voices. This should be viewed not only as a personal harm but also as a democratic harm (Barker & Jurasz, 2021). In conflict-affected contexts, TFGBV poses an obstacle to achieving lasting peace and justice (SDG 16). For instance, a study of online violence against women in Libya has shown a profound impact of this form of violence on women's participation in political process and peacebuilding (LFJL, 2021)⁴².

⁴¹ Tanczer, L. M., López-Neira, I., & Parkin, S. (2021). ‘i feel like we’re really behind the game’: perspectives of the united kingdom’s intimate partner violence support sector on the rise of technology-facilitated abuse. *Journal of gender-based violence*, 5(3), 431-450.

⁴² Barker K and Jurasz O, ‘Text-Based (Sexual) Abuse and Online Violence against Women: Towards Law Reform?’ in J Bailey, A Flynn, N Henry (eds) (Emerald Publishing, 2021) available at: <https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/978-1-83982-848-520211017/full/html>; Jurasz O et al ‘we will not be silenced:’ *online violence against women in Libya*, (2021) available at: [https://uploads-ssl.webflow.com/5a0d8805f2f99e00014b1414/6047a914cc7f78cd72e3c3ea_LFJL Online Violence Against Women Report_EN.pdf](https://uploads-ssl.webflow.com/5a0d8805f2f99e00014b1414/6047a914cc7f78cd72e3c3ea_LFJL%20Online%20Violence%20Against%20Women%20Report_EN.pdf); LFJL Report online Violence Against Women In Libya: [6047a914cc7f78cd72e3c3ea_LFJL Online Violence Against Women Report_EN.pdf](https://uploads-ssl.webflow.com/5a0d8805f2f99e00014b1414/6047a914cc7f78cd72e3c3ea_LFJL%20Online%20Violence%20Against%20Women%20Report_EN.pdf)

6. What actions at the international level would you advocate for to address these gaps and potential human rights impact?

There is a pressing need for states to address TFGBV as part of their due diligence obligations to tackle violence against women and girls. Whilst work of some of the UN human rights treaty bodies, especially CEDAW Committee, has made small progress in addressing TFGBV, there must be a greater effort to arrive at shared understanding of TFGBV, the need to address its root causes and to share good practice. States need clear guidance on how existing treaty provisions apply to instances of TFGBV and a wide spectrum of harms that TFGBV causes. Regionally, some institutions have undertaken such work – for example, the Council of Europe (through the work of the [Committee of Experts on combating technology-facilitated violence against women and girls](#) (GEC/PC-eVIO)) but more international fora for such action are required.⁴³

7. What international organizations, bodies, or agencies are best placed to tackle TFGBV? Further, are there instances of duplication of efforts to tackle TFGBV and how do you consider this could be overcome?

TFGBV is not just a ‘women’s issue’. Whilst, within the UN context, CEDAW appears to be the most suited to address this issue, TFGBV affects a number of human rights and its impacts are deeply felt – not only by women who experience it, but also broader society. As such, it is crucial that the UN promotes a conceptually broad understanding of TFGBV and harms resulting from it – including, but not limited to, freedom of expression, participation, health, education, misinformation. Therefore, TFGBV remains

⁴³ Jurasz O et al ‘we will not be silenced:’ *online violence against women in Libya*, (2021) available at: https://uploads-ssl.webflow.com/5a0d8805f2f99e00014b1414/6047a914cc7f78cd72e3c3ea_LFJL Online Violence Against Women Report_EN.pdf; LFJL Report online Violence Against Women In Libya: [6047a914cc7f78cd72e3c3ea_LFJL Online Violence Against Women Report_EN.pdf](https://uploads-ssl.webflow.com/5a0d8805f2f99e00014b1414/6047a914cc7f78cd72e3c3ea_LFJL Online Violence Against Women Report_EN.pdf)

an issue of relevance to a number of international organizations, bodies and agencies, beyond those specifically tasked with matters concerning violence against women.

National framework

8. Are there national or regional statistics or other data on the prevalence of TFGBV available in your country provided by the public sector, national human rights institutions (NHRIs), NGOs or academia?

A CPWO study conducted by Olga Jurasz, examined the scale, impact and societal attitudes towards online violence against women (OVAW). As of February 2025, it is the largest study on online violence against women carried out in the UK. It found that in the United Kingdom found that 1 in 4 women in England experience OVAW and 1 in 3 LGBT+ women experience online violence.⁴⁴ Similarly, in Scotland 1 in 3 young women in Scotland (aged 16–24 and 25–34) had experienced OVAWG. Whilst 1 in 2 LGB+ identifying women in Scotland had experienced OVAWG. Most of the incidents surveyed were of text-based abuse and sexually explicit.⁴⁵ In Wales, 1 in 3 young women aged 16–24 had experienced online violence. 1 in 3 LGB+ identifying women had experienced online violence. Young women also more commonly experience sexually explicit online violence. Overall, in the United Kingdom, across the four nations, one in 10 women (15%) have experienced online violence, while three in 10 women (30%) have witnessed online violence.⁴⁶

- 8.1. If yes, what is the prevalence and types of TFGBV in your national or regional context?

Research conducted by Olga Jurasz highlighted that majority of TFGBV that women in England experienced was text-based based abuse (82%), with image-based violence amounting to a third of all incidents (33%). Half of TFGBV committed was sexually

⁴⁴ O. Jurasz, 'Online violence against women: A Four Nations study' (The Open University, 2024).Page 33
<https://oro.open.ac.uk/96398/1/OVAW%204N%20full%20report%20%28March%202024%29.pdf>

⁴⁵ Ibid. Page 59

⁴⁶ Ibid. Page 16

explicit (45% sexually explicit, 45% not) and committed by someone the woman did not know (66%). The women are most likely to experience OVAWG on Facebook (34%), closely followed by X/ Twitter (33%) and Instagram (28%). Considering that significantly more surveyed women in England use Facebook multiple times a day (40%) and Instagram (31%) than X/ Twitter (13%), this finding suggests that X is the social media platform where women in England are most likely to experience TFGBV.⁴⁷

8.2. What gaps in research on TFGBV exist in your country or region?

Despite some developments in law and policy on TFGBV (both in the UK and internationally), we are only scraping the surface of understanding and addressing this global phenomenon which has real, global and local impact. The reported effects of online violence against women – including the impact on mental health; the silencing effects; the decreased ability to participate in public and political life; and, in case of many women journalists and human rights defenders, hate, threats of extreme physical violence and death, defamation, disinformation (to name but a few) – are truly chilling. Most importantly, however, inadequate, fragmented and partial responses to TFGBV not only exacerbate its impacts and delay access to justice and redress for women and girls who suffered online violence – they also enable normalisation of these forms of violence against women in everyday life.⁴⁸

There is a lack of systematically collated data on TFGBV, especially large-scale studies. Whilst there have been several empirical studies on TFGBV, these tend to focus on selected types of online violence (e.g. image-based sexual abuse), particular context (e.g. violence against women in politics) or location (e.g. only England rather than all four nations in the UK), allowing a valuable but only partial insight into the problem. These data gaps stand in the way of fully understanding the phenomenon

⁴⁷ Ibid, page 38

⁴⁸ Ibid. Page 13

of TFGBV and bringing forward a meaningful, coherent, evidence-based, and cross-sectoral set of responses to the multi-layered challenges posed by it.⁴⁹

This is further exacerbated by the linguistic fragmentation in the field of TFGBV whereby “discourses and approaches to abusive behaviour online and harms perpetrated via technology are marked by terms that are used interchangeably or inaccurately, creating a fragmentation that is reinforced by the diversity of aims and perspectives of the different stakeholders that are currently shaping the narrative”.⁵⁰ This, in turn, leads to a failure to capture the full extent of harms arising from specific and distinct acts of TFGBV which, by extension, has impact on women and, in the legal context, the available avenues of redress.⁵¹

This is especially acute when considered through an intersectional lens, where factors such as race, sexual orientation and disability intersect with gender to create distinctive vulnerabilities. This makes it more difficult to develop effective preventions and strategies but also further marginalises more vulnerable women and girls.

The lack of information on perpetrator profiles leads to difficulty in developing preventative measures. Having an adequate understanding of whether the main perpetrators of TFGBV are known to the victims, part of organised networks or unrelated individuals. The Four Nations study indicates that many of reported

⁴⁹ Ibid. Page 12

⁵⁰ Council of Europe (2021) Paragraph 28, GREVIO General Recommendation No. 1 on the digital dimension of violence against women adopted on 20 October 2021, available at: <https://rm.coe.int/grevio-rec-no-on-digital-violence-againstwomen/1680a49147>; Jurasz, O., Barker, K., ‘Online text-based (sexual) abuse’ in P Ali and M Rogers (eds.), *Gender-Based Violence: A Comprehensive Guide* (Springer 2023) 541- 554;

Barker, K., Jurasz, O. (2021). “Text-based (sexual) abuse and online violence against women: towards law reform?” In *The Emerald International Handbook of Technology-Facilitated Violence and Abuse*, eds. Jane Bailey, Nicola Henry, and Asher Flynn, 247-264. Leeds: Emerald Publishing.

⁵¹ Barker, K., Jurasz, O. (2021). “Text-based (sexual) abuse and online violence against women: towards law reform?” In *The Emerald International Handbook of Technology-Facilitated Violence and Abuse*, eds. Jane Bailey, Nicola Henry, and Asher Flynn, 247-264. Leeds: Emerald Publishing; ‘#MeToo, Sport, and Women: Foul, Own Goal, or Touchdown? Online Abuse of Women in Sport as a Contemporary Issue’ (*The Open University*, 2023) available at:

<https://oro.open.ac.uk/100190/1/100190.pdf>

incidents were committed by someone the victim did not already know.⁵² However, due to the ease of securing and maintaining online anonymity, this data may not be entirely reliable.

Further research on the effectiveness of interventions is crucial to be able to determine effective strategies and preventions to deter TFGBV. Evaluating existing legislation and policies aimed at addressing TFGBV will establish how legal framework can be adapted and strengthened whilst ensuring perpetrators are further deterred from participating in online violence.⁵³ –

9. Has your country introduced any policy, legislation or other initiative to address TFGBV and its impact on women and girls at the national level? If so, please share any relevant information in particular, has your country implemented any action on:
 - a) Technology-facilitated gender-based sexual violence?

The UK government implemented the Online Safety Act 2023 (OSA 2023).⁵⁴ This legislation addresses online harms such as harassment, image-based sexual abuse and other communications offences. There are provisions which require online platforms to prevent and remove any harmful material relating to TFGBV. However, the Online Safety Act 2023 has been criticised for failing to provide any enforcement mechanisms to ensure that the online platforms comply with requirements to prevent and remove harmful content. Whilst the Act criminalised sharing of sexual deepfakes, there are numerous gaps that remained. It did little to combat a social phenomena of creating deepfakes, removing them from online platforms and limiting accessibility of

⁵² O. Jurasz, 'Online violence against women: A Four Nations study' (The Open University, 2024) Page 38; Page 59; Page 84; Page 109 available at: [https://oro.open.ac.uk/96398/1/OVAW_4N_full_report_\(March_2024\).pdf](https://oro.open.ac.uk/96398/1/OVAW_4N_full_report_(March_2024).pdf)

⁵³ The Global Partnership, 'Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based violence: Preliminary landscape analysis, (2023) Page 41 available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64abe2b21121040013ee6576/Technology_facilitated_gender_based_violence_preliminary_landscape_analysis.pdf

⁵⁴ Online Safety Act 2023 available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2023/50>

cheap apps and websites offering to create these images. . As a result, the UK government have also proposed amendments to existing legislation to criminalise the creation of 'deepfakes'.⁵⁵ However, the Online Safety Act 2023 doesn't demand any responsibility from social media companies and other digital services associated with deepfake abuse. It only requires a UK regulator, OFCOM, to provide guidelines for best practices which are unlikely to have enough legal force to be respected.

Also, the Online Safety Act 2023 did not compel search engines like Google to de-rank harmful and violating sites and make them far less accessible. This is despite Google being the single largest driver of traffic to deepfake porn websites, and so laws that demand the company tweak its ranking system would have a huge effect on the accessibility of deepfake sites; far more than any content takedown measures would have.⁵⁶

However, the UK government is continuing to fund projects addressing TFGBV. For example, in 2024 the Preventing TFGBV project has been given 27m in funding from the government to support victims of TFGBV, and to research and data-collect to further understand TFGBV.⁵⁷ The UK government is also a participant in The Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse. This partnership is designed to understand, address and prevent TFGBV.⁵⁸

- b) Technology-facilitated gender-based harassment and bullying?
- c) Technology-facilitated gender-based trafficking and exploitation?

⁵⁵ 'Government Crackdown on Explicit Deepfakes' (*GOV.UK*, 7 January 2025) available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-crackdown-on-explicit-deepfakes>

⁵⁶ D'Anastasio C and Alba D, 'Google, Microsoft Tools behind Surge in Deepfake Ai Porn' (*Bloomberg.com*, 24 August 2023) available at: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-08-24/google-microsoft-tools-behind-surge-in-deepfake-ai-porn>

⁵⁷ 'Tough New Action to Tackle Violence against Women and Girls as Government Marks 16 Days of Activism' (*GOV.UK*, 2024) available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tough-new-action-to-tackle-violence-against-women-and-girls-as-government-marks-16-days-of-activism#:~:text=The%20project%2C%20called%20Safe%20Online,and%20minimise%20women%27s%20exposure%20to>

⁵⁸ 'Accelerated Efforts to Tackle Online and Technology Facilitated Violence Against Women and Girls (WAVG)' (UN Women, 2022) Page 10 available at: https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/Accelerating-efforts-to-tackle-online-and-technology-facilitated-violence-against-women-and-girls-en_0.pdf

d) Technology-facilitated gender-based privacy violations?

10. Are there national or regional initiatives that address specific groups of women and girls?

The UK Women Peace and Security National Action Plan 2023-2027 focuses on preventing gender-based violence whilst increasing women's contribution to spaces.⁵⁹ It also aims to support victims and implement a world-leading approach to prevention and response to VAWG. Further, the Council of Europe set up a Committee of Experts on Combating Technology-Facilitated VAWG in 2024, tasked with drafting a recommendation detailing a comprehensive approach towards addressing technology facilitated violence in Europe and beyond.⁶⁰ The Centre for Protecting Women Online is involved in this initiative as its Director, Prof. Olga Jurasz is a member of the CoE Committee of Experts.

11. From a human rights perspective, what are the key regulatory and legislative gaps at the national level? In addition, what new legal or other measures are required to address TFGBV and what obstacles hinder their implementation?

There is a lack of comprehensive legislation concerning TFGBV. Existing legislation covers specific offences and does not tackle all forms of TFGBV. It also lacks recognition and protection of intersectional TFGBV. The use of AI for abuse and exploitation is not adequately regulated by current legislation. Having one comprehensive legislation for TFGBV would provide better protection for victims whilst ultimately deterring perpetrators from engaging in harmful behaviour online. Any legal measures addressing TFGBV would need to ensure that it is flexible enough to withstand any future technological developments and new ways of abuse. Further, any law tackling TFGBV must include effective mechanisms to ensure

⁵⁹ The UK Women Peace and Security National Action Plan 2023-2027, available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-women-peace-and-security-national-action-plan-2023-to-2027>

⁶⁰ Council of Europe, Expert Panel on Addressing Technology Facilitated Violence Against Women and Girls (2024) available at: <https://www.coe.int/fr/web/genderequality/committee-of-experts-on-combating-technology-facilitated-violence-against-women-and-girls-gec/pc-evio-1>

that platforms and apps that host this harmful content are required to adopt preventive measures and remove the harmful content.

12. What specific mechanisms are in place to support victims of TFGBV?

In particular:

- a.) What current legal remedies and actions are available for victims of TFGBV in your country?

Currently, there are both criminal and civil remedies available for victims of some forms of TFGBV. These are covered, for example, in the Online Safety Act 2023, the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 and the Sexual Offences Act 2003. However, like in many cases, the process is not time efficient. TFGBV can often be difficult to investigate due to lack of resources surrounding online anonymity, this can have a negative impact on the victim. Further, the police often lack relevant training in relation to TFGBV, thereby further hindering victims' ability to obtain justice. The civil remedies available are restraining orders and injunctions as well as legal actions rooted in privacy, data protection and defamation law. However, these are very costly and are not currently subject to legal aid.

As previously mentioned, the key problem in tackling TFGBV is that the legal responses have been largely fragmented⁶¹ typically prioritising certain forms of online violence (such as image-based sexual abuse) over others (e.g. text-based abuse or the use of deepfakes). In some jurisdictions, including the UK, law reforms focusing on online safety have been proposed and implemented– however, as demonstrated by the Online Safety Act 2023, they do not go far enough to fully protect women and girls online and to prevent OVAW.⁶²

⁶¹ Barker, K., Jurasz, O., 'Online violence against women as an obstacle to gender equality: a critical view from Europe' (2020) Pages 47-60 1 European Equality Law Review

⁶² End Violence Against Women, 'Online Safety Bill becomes law with guidance to protect women and girls' (26 October 2023) available at: <https://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/online-safety-bill-becomes-law-with-guidance-to-protect-women-and-girls/>;

Eagelton, J., 'The Online Safety Bill – what does it mean for women and girls?' (Refuge, 2023) available at: <https://refuge.org.uk/news/the-online-safety-bill-what-does-it-mean-for-women-and-girls/>

- b.) Are there specific authorities or entities, such as equality bodies or NGOs, that support victims of TFGBV at the national level? If so, how do they tackle TGBV and support victims?

Ofcom is the UK regulator for communication services. They assist victims of TFGBV by monitoring and regulating social media platforms compliance with the Online Safety Act 2023, victims of TFGBV can also report any harmful content through Ofcom. The regulator is in the process of designing best practice guidelines for social media platforms. However, to date they do not have any enforcement mechanism to ensure that the platforms comply with their guidelines, reducing their requirements to soft law.

There are numerous NGOs in the UK that support victims and tackle TFGBV, such as Glitch UK⁶³, Rape Crisis⁶⁴, Refuge⁶⁵, SAASBMK⁶⁶, Cyberhelpline⁶⁷, Chayn⁶⁸ and many others. The way they provide support differs with some providing advice or helplines victims can contact, others develop trauma informed toolkits.

13. Is your country collaborating at the international level with regional or international organizations to address TFGBV? If yes, specify which organizations and provide relevant information if possible.

The UK government is a participant of the Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse. The Global Partnership aims to work with other countries on researching the risk and finding gaps of interventions.⁶⁹ The UK government also engages with UN Women to promote gender equality.⁷⁰ Further the

⁶³ 'About' (*Glitch*, 6 November 2023) available at: <https://glitchcharity.co.uk/about/>

⁶⁴ 'Rape Crisis England & Wales' (*Rape Crisis England & Wales*) available at: <https://rapecrisis.org.uk/>

⁶⁵ 'How We Can Help You' (*Refuge*) available at: <https://refuge.org.uk/i-need-help-now/how-we-can-help-you/>

⁶⁶ (*Sexual Assault and Abuse Support Service Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes*) available at: <https://saasbmk.org.uk/>

⁶⁷ (*The Cyber Helpline*) available at: <https://www.thecyberhelpline.com/>

⁶⁸ 'Free Tools and Resources for Healing from Abuse and Trauma' (*Chayn*) available at: <https://www.chayn.co/>

⁶⁹ 'Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse Calls for Urgent Action on Countering Gendered Disinformation' (*GOV.UK*, 24 September 2024) available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/global-partnership-for-action-on-gender-based-online-harassment-and-abuse-calls-for-urgent-action-on-countering-gendered-disinformation>

⁷⁰ 'Our Work' (*UN Women UK*, 26 November 2024) available at: <https://www.unwomenuk.org/our-work/>

UK is also a part of the Council of Europe Committee of Experts addressing technology facilitated violence against women and girls.⁷¹

III. Specific questions relevant for national human rights institutions (NHRIs), victim support organisations and/or help lines, industry, and academic institutions

Questions specific to technology and industry practices

14. Are there any specific technology, industry practices or policies relevant that either enable, increase, prevent or tackle TFGBV?

Responsible Artificial Intelligence (AI) encompasses a framework of principles designed to guide the design, development, deployment, and use of AI systems. These principles aim to build trust in AI solutions by ensuring they align with societal values, legal standards, and ethical considerations, thereby mitigating risks and maximising positive outcomes. They can also help to tackle some instances of TFGBV. The main principles of responsible AI include the following:

1. *Fairness*: Ensuring AI systems operate without bias and provide equitable outcomes for all users.
2. *Transparency*: Making AI systems understandable and their decision-making processes clear to stakeholders.
3. *Explainability*: Providing clear, understandable reasons for AI decisions to foster trust and accountability.

⁷¹ Council of Europe, Expert Panel on Addressing Technology Facilitated Violence Against Women and Girls (2024) available at: <https://www.coe.int/fr/web/genderequality/committee-of-experts-on-combating-technology-facilitated-violence-against-women-and-girls-gec/pc-evio-1>

4. *Privacy*: Safeguarding individual data and ensuring AI systems respect user confidentiality.

5. *Accountability*: Ensuring that individuals and organisations involved in the design, development, and deployment of AI systems are answerable for their actions and the outcomes of these systems.

Neglecting these principles can disproportionately impact vulnerable groups, including women. For instance:

- *Fairness*: AI systems trained on biased data can perpetuate gender stereotypes, leading to unfair treatment of women.⁷²
- *Transparency, Explainability and Accountability*: Opaque AI systems can obscure discriminatory practices, making it difficult to identify and address biases that adversely affect women. AI systems can be "black boxes" it is often unclear to somebody why a system makes a certain decision about him or her. Because of the opaqueness of such decisions, it is difficult for people to assess whether they were discriminated against on the basis of, for instance, gender.⁷³
- *Privacy*: AI applications in reproductive health may process sensitive data related to fertility, contraception, or pregnancy. If not properly managed, this could lead to privacy breaches, especially in regions with restrictive reproductive rights, thereby endangering women's safety and turning women's body into a crime scene.⁷⁴

By adhering to the pillars of Responsible AI, organisations can develop systems that promote fairness, transparency, explainability, and privacy, thereby reducing the risk of technology-facilitated gender-based violence and ensuring equitable treatment for all users.

⁷² Rustagi GS& I and others, 'When Good Algorithms Go Sexist: Why and How to Advance AI Gender Equity (SSIR)' (*When Good Algorithms Go Sexist: Why and How to Advance AI Gender Equity*, 2021) available at:

https://ssir.org/articles/entry/when_good_algorithms_go_sexist_why_and_how_to_advance_ai_gender_equity#

⁷³ Zuiderveen Borgesius F (*Discrimination, Artificial Intelligence, and algorithmic decision making*, 2018) available at: <https://rm.coe.int/discrimination-artificial-intelligence-and-algorithmic-decision-making/1680925d73>

⁷⁴ 'Health Data Privacy Post-Roe: Can Our Information Be Used against Us?' (*The Guardian*, 24 June 2023) available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/jun/24/health-data-privacy-protection-roe-abortion-tech-laws>

Further, social media platforms can enable the spread of TFGBV through widespread anonymity, poor content moderation and algorithms promoting harmful content as discussed above. Further, free access to generative AI technologies and online manosphere communities also contribute to the spread of TFGBV.⁷⁵

15. What is the role of self-regulation of industry in addressing TFGBV and are there good practices in that regard?

16. Are there established or promising good practices or new developments by industry, including regarding cooperation with civil society, academia or other stakeholders preventing or tackling TFGBV?

There are numerous reporting tools that are used by our partner Refuge. These include the following:

- Stop non-consensual intimate image abuse, which assists with removal of image based sexual abuse from websites.⁷⁶
- Report Remove initiative helps young people under 18 in the UK to confidentially report sexual images and videos of themselves and remove them from the internet.⁷⁷
- Report Harmful Content assists everyone to report harmful content online and provides up to date information on community standards and direct links to the correct reporting facilities across multiple platforms.⁷⁸

⁷⁵ Robinson, S., Buckley, J., Ciolfi, L., Linehan, C., McInerney, C., Nuseibeh, B., Twomey, J., Rauf, I. and McCarthy, J., 2024. Infrastructural Justice for Responsible Software Engineering. *Journal of Responsible Technology*, p.100087

⁷⁶ 'What Do You Do If Someone Is Threatening to Share Your Intimate Images?' (*Stop Non-Consensual Intimate Image Abuse* | *StopNCII.org*) available at: <https://stopncii.org/>

⁷⁷ 'Report Remove' (*Childline*) available at: <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/report-remove/>

⁷⁸ 'We're Here to Help Everyone Report Harmful Content Online' (*Report Harmful Content - We Help You Remove Content*) available at: <https://reportharmfulcontent.com/>

17. Are there specific initiatives addressing TFGBV against certain groups of women and girls (including on the basis of personal or group characteristics, professional occupation or contextual factors) that you consider as good or promising practices or actions?

There are numerous initiatives addressing TFGBV against certain groups of women, including the following:

- For women in politics, #ShePersisted designs and implements comprehensive communications strategies for women leaders, including tailored training on how to respond to gendered information attacks and online abuse.⁷⁹
- For black women, Misogynoir Online Project at the Open University aims to explore how misogynoir (online hate towards black women) manifests online and how it could be mitigated.⁸⁰
- For minors and young people, Report Remove is a tool to help young people under 18 in the UK to confidentially report sexual images and videos of themselves and remove them from the internet.⁸¹
- For women journalists, the Coalition Against Online Violence provides advice and support for those experiencing online violence.⁸²

18. Are there mechanisms or good practices on assessing the impact of new technology (at the development or functioning) on TFGBV (e.g. impact assessments)?

The responsible AI principles outlined in question 14 are relevant in this question too. Further, AI auditing project⁸² aims to map, develop and pilot tools that help evaluate the GDPR compliance of AI systems and applications. Additionally, UK government's guidance on safety by design framework and how its implementation can assist in preventing online harms.⁸³

⁷⁹ '#shepersisted - Home' (*She Persisted*, 13 January 2025) available at: <https://she-persisted.org/>

⁸⁰ 'Misogynoir Online' (*Misogynoir Online*) available at: <https://misogynoironline.kmi.open.ac.uk/>

⁸¹ 'Report Remove' (*Childline*) available at: <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/report-remove/>

⁸² 'Home' (*Coalition Against Online Violence*, 17 June 2024) available at: <https://onlineviolenceresponsehub.org/>

Questions specific to the work of national human rights institutions (NHRIs), help lines and survivors and survivor centred-organizations, civil society in general and academia

19. Does your institution or organisation develop any practices, policies, campaigns or research relevant to understanding, preventing, raising awareness or tackling TFGBV?

The Centre for Protecting Women Online engages in research to better understand, prevent and address TFGBV. Some of our recent work include an extensive UK wide study addressing online violence against women.⁸³ We also investigate how machine learning models can become biased, particularly in the financial sector, with a focus on gender bias.⁸⁴ Our research follows Responsible AI frameworks to identify and analyse online hate speech directed at Black women.⁸⁵ Additionally, our research explores the emergence and impact of radicalised online communities, such as the manosphere, which propagate misogynistic narratives and contribute to online harm against women.⁸⁶ The Centre is happy to provide further expertise and input to the Human Rights Council's Advisory Committee as its work in relation to TFGBV develops.

20. Has your institution or organisation developed any practices, policies, campaigns or research relevant to supporting victims of TFGBV?
21. Are there specific good or promising civil society initiatives, campaigns or research addressing TFGBV against certain groups of women and girls (including on the basis of personal or group characteristics, professional occupation or contextual

⁸³ O. Jurasz, 'Online violence against women: A Four Nations study' (The Open University, 2024) available at: [https://oro.open.ac.uk/96398/1/OVAW_4N_full_report_\(March_2024\).pdf](https://oro.open.ac.uk/96398/1/OVAW_4N_full_report_(March_2024).pdf)

⁸⁴ Pavón Pérez Á et al, 'Tracking Machine Learning Bias Creep in Traditional and Online Lending Systems with Covariance Analysis' (*Open Research Online*, 30 April 2023) available at: <https://oro.open.ac.uk/88769/>

⁸⁵ Kwarteng J et al, 'Misogynoir: Challenges in Detecting Intersectional Hate' (2022) 12 *Social Network Analysis and Mining* available at: <https://oro.open.ac.uk/85874/>

⁸⁶ *Ibid.*

IV. Specific questions relevant for the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, United Nations Treaty Bodies, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

22. What work are you, your body or the OHCHR currently carrying out in the field of TFGBV and human rights? Please provide any relevant information such as links to reports, background material, sections or units involved, etc.
23. What are the gaps, if any, in the existing international human rights protection framework to address the impact of TFGBV? How could they be best addressed?
24. How could the current international human rights framework be best used or developed to address the impact and challenges of TFGBV with regard to the promotion and protection of all human