



# **UN WOMEN STRATEGY: PREVENTING AND ELIMINATING TECHNOLOGY-FACILITATED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS**



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Produced by UN Women, New York, November 2025.

Please cite this publication as: UN Women. 2025. UN Women Strategy on Preventing and Eliminating Technology-Facilitated Violence against Women and Girls. New York.

Cover photo illustration: UN Women/Ryan Brown

# **UN WOMEN STRATEGY: PREVENTING AND ELIMINATING TECHNOLOGY-FACILITATED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS**

**Ending Violence Against Women Section**

**UN Women**

New York, 2025



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With growing use of digital technologies, new forms of online violence against women and girls have emerged. Global research suggests that the prevalence of technology-facilitated violence against women and girls (TF VAWG) ranges from 16 per cent to 58 per cent.<sup>1</sup> Such violence has multiple political, social and economic impacts, particularly for already marginalized women and girls. And anti-rights actors are increasingly using online spaces to spread misogyny and push back against women's rights.

Global frameworks are evolving to tackle these emerging threats, and Member States are taking action to tackle TF VAWG, but significant gaps and challenges remain including tensions at the intersection of digital users' rights to freedom of expression, access to information, privacy and data protection, and a life free from violence. This is undermining a comprehensive approach to fully address and eradicate TF VAWG.

UN Women's approach to preventing and eliminating TF VAWG recognizes that online and digital violence does not occur in a vacuum but is part of a continuum of multiple, recurring and interrelated forms of VAWG that are often connected to violence offline. It identifies driver and challenges that need to be addressed to accelerate efforts to eliminate

TF VAWG, namely: gender inequality; harmful social norms; pushback on women's rights; women's underrepresentation in technology;; weak regulation and accountability; limited capacities and evidence of what works to prevent and respond to TV VAWG as well as limited data, evidence and knowledge particularly in relation to marginalized groups of women and girls.

To accelerate action on TF VAWG, UN Women has drafted the current strategy to provide a clear vision for UN Women's human rights-based, gender-responsive, intersectional and multisectoral approach to addressing TF VAWG across the continuum of online-offline gender-based violence. It seeks to scale-up UN Women's role as a thought leader and innovator in comprehensive solutions to address TF VAWG by addressing knowledge and implementation gaps, influencing global discourse, developing normative frameworks and coordinating with the UN system and other key stakeholders. It also aims to bolster efforts to prevent and respond to TF VAWG and its consequences by further integrating this topic across the organization's triple mandate through a more focused approach. As such, it aims to strengthen local, national and regional efforts to counter TF VAWG, and mobilize new strategic partnerships to support UN Women's work in this area.

*UN Women's triple mandate remains its strength and comparative advantage in driving systemic change and strategically positioning its work on TF VAWG. As such, this strategy seeks to: leverage UN Women's normative mandate to strengthen global norms and standards and their implementation at country level; leverage UN Women's work on gender statistics and VAW data, including to close the data and knowledge gaps on TF VAWG; build on existing frameworks and internal capacities for preventing and responding to TF VAWG; and bridge silos by leveraging UN Women's in-house expertise across cross-cutting areas and harnessing its coordination mandate.*

## THE STRATEGY

This current strategy is aligned with and will reinforce work under [UN Women's Strategic Plan \(2026–2029\)](#), which reinforces the need to advance digital transformation, close the digital divide and prevent the harmful use of technology. To accelerate impact and close critical gaps in preventing and responding to TF VAWG, UN Women will leverage its institutional strengths across five interlinked pathways, to deliver transformative change across normative, programmatic and coordination functions:

- 1 Advance norms and standards to strengthen accountability for TF VAWG;**
- 2 Expand data, evidence and knowledge to drive policy and action on TF VAWG;**
- 3 Transform social norms and digital ecosystems to prevent TF VAWG;**
- 4 Strengthen access to survivor-centred and justice-focused responses to TF VAWG; and**
- 5 Amplify women's voice, agency, digital resilience and leadership in digital spaces.**

The strategy articulates three main outcomes, key areas of work, global products and strategic partners:

**Under Outcome 1 – Protect, strengthen and advance normative frameworks, laws and policies that uphold the rights of all women and girls** – UN Women will shape global standards and drive their translation into enforceable national frameworks and mechanisms to strengthen accountability for perpetrators of TF VAWG as well as technology companies. This will include developing guidance on TF VAWG legislation.

**Under Outcome 2 – Strengthen institutions to drive accountability, through financing, data and practices advancing gender equality** – UN Women will advance robust measurement frameworks and methodologies, and innovative, intersectional and actionable research on TF VAWG, to strengthen policy and practice. This will include research on understanding men's behaviour and work on transforming social norms, with a focus

on countries in the global South. UN Women will also operationalize an integrated model framework for preventing and responding to TF VAWG that can be localized across contexts, including humanitarian, development and peace settings.

**Under Outcome 3 – More women and girls can exercise their agency and have equitable access to quality services, resources and assets** – UN Women will enhance coordinated responses across justice, law enforcement, social services and the tech sector to ensure survivors can access timely, safe and effective remedies, including by promoting gender-responsive policing of TF VAWG. UN Women will also strengthen the agency, leadership and resilience of women and girls, particularly those at heightened risk in digital spaces, including through strengthened multi-stakeholder partnerships and collaboration.

This TF VAWG strategy and its five pathways for action will be implemented by UN Women at global, regional and country levels. A number of strategic



levers will enable the achievement of results, namely: cross-thematic collaboration; UN system coordination, inter-agency work and joint programming; strategic multi-stakeholder partnerships, including with the private sector; and resource mobilization.

UN Women's programming framework 2026–2029 will enable a more transformative approach to TF VAWG that will move beyond a siloed or single-issue approach towards a more integrated model, offering multiple entry points to tackle TF VAWG, based on

the five Gender Equality Accelerator programmatic entry points – ending VAWG; leadership, empowerment, access and protection in humanitarian action; women lead; women and the world of work; and women, peace and security.

This strategy will be monitored in line with the UN Women Strategic Plan 2026–2029 and progress will be tracked against the indicators in the Integrated Results and Resources Framework and in UN Women's Results Management System.



Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown





Photo: UN Women/Emad Karim

# 1

## INTRODUCTION



# INTRODUCTION

## BACKGROUND

This strategy on technology facilitated violence against women and girls (TF VAWG) has been developed at a pivotal moment as UN Women transitions to a new Strategic Plan (2026–2029) that reinforces the importance of advancing digital transformation, closing the digital divide and preventing the harmful use of technology.

Technology and digitalization offer enormous potential to advance gender equality, expand access to education, employment and essential services and strengthen women's collective organizing, activism and advocacy. Yet, these same tools are increasingly weaponized to inflict harm, perpetuate

discrimination and silence women's voices, particularly those in public life.

UN Women's approach to preventing and eliminating TF VAWG recognizes that online and digital violence does not occur in a vacuum but rather is part of a continuum of multiple, recurring and inter-related forms of violence against women and girls, which are often connected to violence offline. This approach builds on the existing frameworks and standards in place to prevent and respond to VAWG, while at the same time recognizing that there are specific features of digital spaces that require dedicated focus and solutions.

## TF VAWG, LIKE ALL FORMS OF VAWG, IS A HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE AND IT IS ALSO A CAUSE AND CONSEQUENCE OF GENDER INEQUALITY AND DISCRIMINATION

Therefore, this strategy reinforces the Global Programming Framework on the Prevention of and Response to Violence against Women and Girls of the Strategic Plan 2026–2029 by positioning TF VAWG as a significant challenge affecting

all spheres of women's lives. It is relevant across all impact areas of UN Women's Strategic Plan: Ending Violence against Women (EVAW), Economic Empowerment, Leadership & Decision-Making, and Women, Peace & Security and Humanitarian Action.

- » *Women and girls make up most of the 2.6 billion people who remain offline.*
- » *The prevalence of TF VAWG ranges from 16 per cent to 58 per cent.*
- » *28 per cent of women surveyed in five sub-Saharan African countries had experienced online gender-based violence.*
- » *6 in 10 women in the Arab States had been exposed to online violence in 2024.*
- » *53 per cent of women online in Eastern Europe and Central Asia had experienced TF VAWG at least once.*

The strategy supports integrated violence prevention efforts, the provision of survivor-centred and trauma-informed services, transformative norms change, resourcing of feminist movements and ensuring digital spaces are considered part of the EVAWG continuum. It also provides key directions for UN Women's work globally as well as in regional and country offices, recognizing that countries will adapt to specific contexts, prioritizing the pathways that respond to particular needs given that TF VAWG has different manifestations across countries and regions and solutions need to be shaped through the direct engagement of national stakeholders.

Implementing this strategy will directly contribute to SDG 5 (Gender equality and women's empowerment). At the same time, eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls, including TF VAWG, is a critical enabler for achieving all the SDGs. This strategy will also contribute to achieving targets under SDG 3 (Good health and well-being), SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth) and SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions).

### **Conceptualizing technology-facilitated violence against women and girls**

Women and girls make up most of the 2.6 billion people who remain offline.<sup>2</sup> In the least developed countries, only 29 per cent of women use the Internet, compared to 41 per cent of men.<sup>3</sup> But the global gender digital divide is narrowing, with 70 per cent of men versus 65 per cent of women online.<sup>4</sup>

Yet, while access to technology and digital tools has

increased, it has also exacerbated existing forms of violence against women and girls – such as sexual harassment, intimate partner violence and trafficking for sexual exploitation – and given rise to new forms, including non-consensual image sharing, doxing or deepfake pornography, to name a few.<sup>5</sup>

TF VAWG is not a new problem; however, the COVID-19 pandemic put the issue in the spotlight and exposed the inadequacies of our current laws, policies and programming to address these forms of violence. As lives shifted online for work, school, access to services and social activities, reports emerged of a surge in violence against women and girls in digital contexts.<sup>6</sup> As technology and its usage continues to rapidly evolve, so too do the forms and patterns of VAWG.

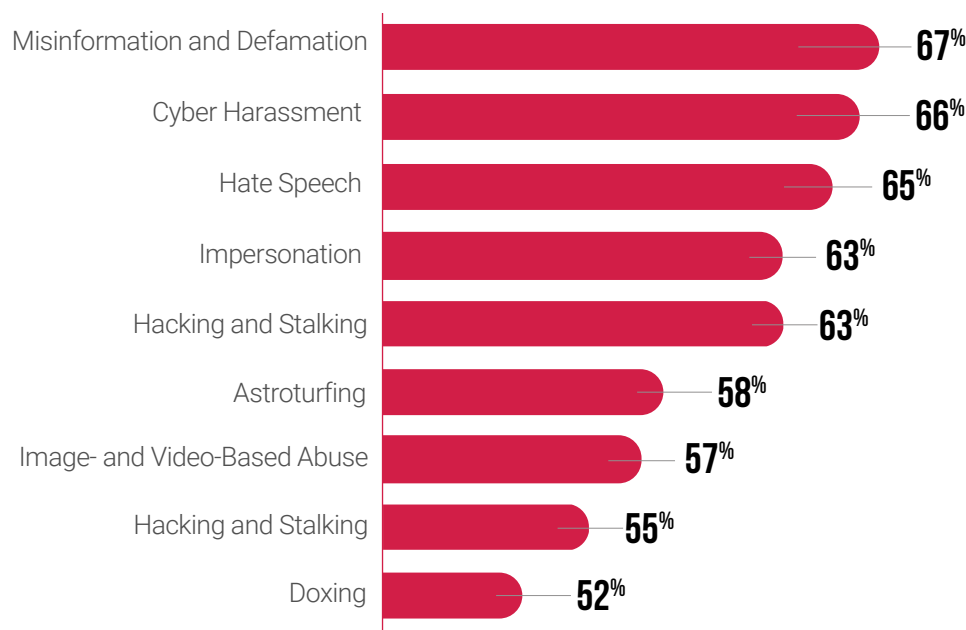
Although the patterns and forms of VAWG in digital spaces can be unique, they occur as part of a continuum of multiple, recurring and interrelated forms of VAWG, which are often connected to violence offline. Women's and girls' experiences of violence in digital contexts reflect the broader societal problem of unacceptably high levels of gender-based violence across all contexts.

The connection between online and offline VAWG is not linear. In many cases, violence can start online, then escalate and transition offline (e.g. when young women are targeted online through fake profiles or groomed for sexual exploitation that can transition offline). In other cases, it may start offline (e.g. intimate partner violence or domestic violence perpetrators, including partners or family members, using digital surveillance tools to track a survivor as a form of coercive control).

### **Defining technology-facilitated violence against women and girls**

TF VAWG<sup>8</sup> is any act that is committed, assisted, aggravated or amplified by the use of information communication technologies or other digital tools which results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual, psychological, social, political or economic harm or other infringements of rights and freedoms. These are forms of violence that are directed against women because they are women and/or that affect women disproportionately.

## Most common forms of TF VAWG



Source: *The Economist Intelligence Unit 2021*

There is currently no internationally agreed definition of violence that occurs through or is amplified by technology, and a range of different terms continue to be used interchangeably – including digital violence, online violence, violence in digital contexts, cyberviolence and technology-facilitated gender-based violence or technology facilitated violence against women. As such, this strategy will use the working definition of technology-facilitated violence against women and girls that was recommended at a UN Women-convened Expert Group Meeting in 2022.<sup>7</sup>

### Trends in technology-facilitated violence against women

TF VAWG is a growing problem that can affect all women and girls across all regions and countries of the world. While there continue to be significant gaps in data, a global rapid assessment suggests that the prevalence of TF VAWG ranges from 16 per cent to 58 per cent.<sup>9</sup> Another global study found that 38 per cent of women have personal experiences of online violence, with 85 per cent of women who

are online having witnessed digital violence against other women.<sup>10</sup>

### Regional and country-based trends

Regional and country-based studies also demonstrate the pervasive nature of the problem. A study undertaken in 2020 in five countries across sub-Saharan Africa found that 28 per cent of the women interviewed had experienced online gender-based violence.<sup>11</sup> A multi-country study conducted in the Arab States in 2021 found that 6 out of 10 women respondents had been exposed to online violence in the past year.<sup>12</sup> A 2023 study in Eastern Europe and Central Asia found that more than half of women respondents present online in the region (53 per cent) had experienced some form of technology-facilitated violence at least once.<sup>13</sup>

### Forms of TF VAWG

According to one global study,<sup>14</sup> the most common forms of TF VAWG globally are misinformation and defamation<sup>15</sup> (67 per cent), cyber harassment (66

## Women at higher risk of TF VAWG



### Women facing intersecting discrimination

Women who are racialized, from religious or ethnic minorities, living in poverty or with disabilities face disproportionately high levels of TF VAWG.



### Young women and girls

Over half of girls and young women have experienced online violence, often starting between ages 14 and 16.



### Women in politics

Up to 4 in 10 local and 7 in 10 national women candidates face online abuse.



### Women journalists

75 per cent of women journalists report online violence.



### Women human rights defenders

Women human rights defenders, activists and women in conflict and post-conflict settings are specifically targeted through disinformation, smear campaigns and digital repression.

per cent), hate speech (65 per cent), impersonation (63 per cent), hacking and stalking (63 per cent), astroturfing<sup>16</sup> (58 per cent), image- and video-based abuse (57 per cent), doxing<sup>17</sup> (55 per cent) and violent threats (52 per cent).

### Groups of women and girls at higher risk

While all women and girls who are online or who use digital tools may face TF VAWG, some groups of women are at greater risk. Women who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination – including racialized women and women belonging to religious or ethnic minorities, poor women, and women with disabilities – face disproportionate levels of TF VAWG.<sup>18</sup> In addition, women living in rural contexts or remote communities may also face greater risks because of their limited digital literacy making them more vulnerable to online exploitation.<sup>19</sup> Young women and girls are particularly targeted and findings from recent research show that that **more than half of girls and young women surveyed globally had experienced online violence**, with most reporting their first experience

of social media harassment between the ages of 14 and 16.<sup>20</sup>

Women with high levels of public visibility – including women candidates and office holders at national and local levels, journalists, human rights defenders, and feminist activists – are also at heightened risk of digital violence. For instance, women in public life can experience violence because their participation threatens the dominance of male power structures, which often occurs in digital spaces as a form of backlash for not conforming to gender roles assigned to women. As women become more visible in politics and their numbers increase, there is a correlating increase in VAW that impacts their leadership, such as women politicians 'de-platforming,' fewer women aspiring for office and the forced resignation of elected women.<sup>21</sup>

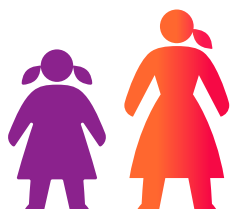
As many as 4 in 10 women candidates in local elections experience gender-based negative discourse, hate speech, disinformation, sharing of private information and threats while campaigning. For parliamentary elections, the prevalence of violence is even higher, affecting up to 7 in 10 women candidates.<sup>22</sup>



More than

# 50%

of girls and young women globally have experienced online violence.



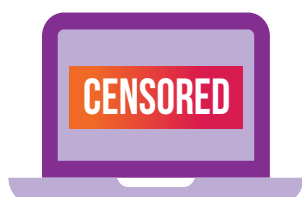
# 42%

of women journalists have been attacked or abused offline in connection with online violence.



# 90%

of non-consensual pornographic images shared online depict women.



Online violence is also frequent among other actors in public life. **A UN Women study in 2025 found that 70% of women human rights defenders, activists and journalists have experienced online violence.**<sup>23</sup> In conflict and post-conflict settings, armed groups use information and communications technologies to target specific groups based on their real or perceived identities, to spread disinformation and oppress peaceful narratives.<sup>24</sup>

### **Risks for women and girls across the online- offline continuum**

The 2024 [report](#) of the UN Secretary-General on the Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: technology-facilitated violence against women and girls found that rapid technological change continues to create new risks for women and girls across the online-offline continuum. Perpetrators are using a range of digital tools and platforms to inflict gender-based harm, abuse, hate speech, control, harassment and violence, while the proliferation of misogynistic content in online spaces, including the “manosphere”<sup>25</sup> is increasingly permeating mainstream platforms, perpetuating harmful masculinities and discriminatory social norms that fuel violence against women and girls. Experts have increasingly found that the manosphere not only normalizes violence against women and girls, online misogyny and TF VAWG are key drivers of and often a gateway to radicalization and violent extremism.<sup>26</sup>

### **Escalating risks linked to artificial intelligence**

The recent growth in generative artificial intelligence (AI) through deep-learning models that create voice, text and image, are also impacting VAWG by reinforcing and intensifying the misogynist norms that justify, excuse and normalize harmful gender biases and VAWG. Generative AI is also facilitating the proliferation of image-based abuse deep-fake pornographic videos based on deceptive and non-consensual sexually explicit content.<sup>27</sup> **An estimated 90 to 95 per cent of all online deepfakes are non-consensual pornographic images, with around 90 per cent of these depicting women.**<sup>28</sup>

### *Impacts of digital violence*

Despite the growing recognition of the negative impacts of digital violence, at present it continues to be normalized and not considered as serious as offline violence by authorities and society at large.<sup>29</sup> Yet the impacts of TF VAWG on the health, well-being and the safety of survivors are significant and can include anxiety, depression, self-harm and suicide. Online VAWG often precedes violence carried out against women and girls offline. **For instance, one global study found that 42 per cent of women journalists had been attacked or abused offline in connection with online violence.**<sup>30</sup> A regional study in the Arab States found that 44 per cent of women reported online violence moving offline.<sup>31</sup> There is also growing concern surrounding online violence being linked to femicide or gender-related killings.<sup>32</sup>

**Online violence also has multiple political, social and economic impacts. It limits women's public participation and leadership, and can have a "chilling effect" as women's voices are often silenced, discredited and censored. For instance, social media can be a powerful tool for campaigning.**

However, a quarter of women candidates in national and local elections reported avoiding using social media in their campaigning activities.<sup>33</sup> Research by IPU across five regions found that social media has become the number one place where women parliamentarians experience violence, from sexist and misogynistic remarks to humiliating images, mobbing, intimidation and threats of death, rape, assault or abduction towards them or their families.<sup>34</sup> For many, such acts of violence have undermined their ability to fulfil their mandates and freely express their opinions.<sup>35</sup> Another study found that 30 per cent of women journalists interviewed self-censored on social media because of online gender-based violence.<sup>36</sup>

## **DIGITAL VAWG CAN RESULT IN WOMEN AND GIRLS RESTRICTING THEIR ONLINE ACTIVITY, INHIBITING THEIR ACCESS TO THE INTERNET, THUS INCREASING THE DIGITAL GENDER DIVIDE.**

Gendered disinformation campaigns shift the discourse from policy issues to the personal and create barriers for women in politics to succeed. Women may reconsider their political ambitions when they witness disinformation campaigns against other women in politics and there are also intergenerational impacts, as young women and girls may be deterred from entering professions such as politics and journalism.<sup>37</sup> **Online violence also has serious professional and work impacts, with women missing work to recover from violence or abandoning careers altogether.** A European Union (EU) study estimates the economic costs of online VAWG across the EU to be between EUR 49 to 89.3 billion per year.<sup>38</sup> As more economic activity shifts online, TF VAWG is also a barrier to women accessing digital jobs, e-commerce, the platform economy and access to online marketplaces or professional networks, exacerbating existing systemic barriers to women's economic participation and professional growth. TF VAWG also impacts women-led businesses and women entrepreneurs, who face additional financial burdens – such as security costs and legal fees – because of safety issues they face on digital platforms that are essential to sustaining and expanding their businesses.<sup>39</sup>



Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown

# 2

## **KEY DRIVERS OF TECHNOLOGY- FACILITATED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS**

# KEY DRIVERS OF TF VAWG

Like all forms of violence against women and girls, TF VAWG is rooted in gender inequality and discriminatory gender norms. Digital spaces reflect, reinforce and exacerbate systemic structural gender inequality as well as patterns of harmful masculinities that drive all forms of VAWG.

**Deep-seated cultural and social norms that reinforce male authority, entitlement, power and control over women, and that trivialize or excuse violence and stigmatize survivors, contribute to the persistence of such violence. At the same time, there are unique features of digital spaces that create a particularly conducive context for VAWG – such as the scale, speed and ease of communication and anonymity or pseudonymity, combined with automation, affordability and impunity.<sup>40</sup>**

The expansion of the manosphere and growing mobilization of incels<sup>41</sup> in recent years is further amplifying sexist stereotypes, fuelling misogyny, and perpetuating attitudes that normalize and justify VAWG with growing evidence of a convergence of extremist ideologies including racism, anti-feminism and homophobia. This phenomenon is also part of the pushback on gender equality and women's rights. For the first time, a study across 31 countries found younger men to be more conservative than previous generations, with 60 per cent of Gen Z men believing that women's equality discriminates against men.<sup>42</sup>

Around the world, there are growing barriers to advancing gender equality and women's rights that are manifesting through regressions in laws and protections, barriers in building consensus in global

policymaking spaces, the polarization of views, growing support for actors engaged in advocacy against long-established and universal human rights standards and the shrinking of civic freedom and civic space. The Secretary-General's 30-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action<sup>43</sup> found that one in four countries reported backlash as an obstacle to implementing the Platform for Action. All of this is aggravated by rampant misinformation and disinformation fuelled by technology and the surveillance, censorship and violence enabled by the digital sphere.<sup>44</sup> Anti-rights actors are increasingly using online spaces to pushback against women's rights. This is creating a hostile digital environment for women and girls, particularly marked by cyberbullying, harassment and threats of violence, targeting women human rights defenders, women's rights activists and women engaged in public life. In this context, digital violence is being used as a political tool to restrict civic spaces, delegitimize and silence women's voices, undermine their advocacy and activism across online-offline spaces and weaken progress on women's rights, VAWG prevention and accountability efforts.

There is also growing evidence of the linkages between violent pornography and violence against women.<sup>45</sup> As highlighted in the Secretary-General's report on the Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of Violence against women, the ubiquity of sexual aggression and gendered violence in pornography that is freely available on the Internet has been linked to the normalization of intimate partner violence towards women and girls. In addition, men and boys who consume violent pornography

*The expansion of the manosphere and growing mobilization of incels in recent years is further amplifying sexist stereotypes, fuelling misogyny, and perpetuating attitudes that normalize and justify VAWG with growing evidence of a convergence of extremist ideologies including racism, anti-feminism and homophobia.*



are also more likely to pressure a partner into acting out what they see in pornography and more likely to perpetrate sexual abuse.<sup>46</sup>

A key structural challenge is the significant underrepresentation of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) professions, and in technology in particular.

Despite efforts to improve gender balance, the technology sector remains a male-dominated industry.

For instance, women make up just 28.2 per cent of the science, technology, engineering and mathematics workforce<sup>47</sup> and only 30 per cent of the AI workforce.<sup>48</sup>

**The absence of women, and their perspectives, in the technology sector affects the extent to which technologies are designed to be inclusive of, and safe for, women.**

Furthermore, as AI is based on data that are often gender-biased, it risks replicating and exacerbating gender-based discrimination and promoting online violence against women, while content moderation algorithms often fail to detect violence against women.<sup>49</sup> The recent growth of generative AI, through deep-learning models, is exacerbating existing harms, including through more convincing false media that can be generated and disseminated automatically and at scale.

Finally, women are also underrepresented in the cybersecurity sector, representing just 24 per cent of the global cybersecurity workforce.<sup>50</sup> The severe underrepresentation of women in this sector means there may be blind spots in identifying, preventing and responding to online harms disproportionately targeting women and girls, allowing TF VAWG to proliferate unchecked.

## THE LACK OF WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVES IN THE CYBERSECURITY SECTOR REINFORCES GENDER-BLIND STRATEGIES, INCLUDING SECURITY AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS, THREAT-DETECTION MODELS AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES, ULTIMATELY DRIVING HIGHER RATES OF TF VAWG AND UNDERMINING CAPACITIES TO ENSURE SAFE DIGITAL ENVIRONMENTS.



### KEY NORMATIVE AND POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

Over the last decade, there has been an emerging normative framework at the international and regional level to guide action to ensure that technological advances do not create new risks of violence and harm for women and girls and instead can be leveraged to achieve gender equality. In 2016, a Human Rights Council (HRC) resolution noted that

human rights should apply in online spaces, as they do offline, reinforcing the importance of safeguarding the rights of women and girls against gender-based violence in all areas of life.

In 2017, [CEDAW General Recommendation 35](#) on gender-based violence against women recognized

## Advocacy on feminist principles for the Global Digital Compact

UN Women, together with feminist CSO partners and UNFPA, has spearheaded global advocacy to ensure that women's rights and the elimination of TF VAWG are integrated in the Global Digital Compact (GDC). At CSW67, UN Women and Equality Now convened women's rights organizations, including grass-roots organizations, from different regions to develop a joint position on the GDC consultation. This culminated in the development of [feminist principles for the GDC](#), which have since informed its collective advocacy and engagements with Members States in the lead-up to the Summit of the Future and the adoption of the GDC. Together with the Action Coalition on Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality, UN Women also developed a position paper on [Placing Gender at the Heart of the Global Digital Compact](#), taking forward CSW67 recommendations.

gender-based violence against women as a continuum that includes digital, online and tech-mediated violence. It also expanded States' obligations to include technology-mediated settings in prevention and response efforts. More recently, [CEDAW General Recommendation 40](#), on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems, includes provisions for the prevention of and defence against online violence for women in decision-making roles.

In 2023, at its sixty-seventh session, the Commission on the Status of Women focused on innovation, technological change and digital education for gender equality as its priority theme and, in its [Agreed Conclusions](#), Member States expressed deep concern at the scale and impact of VAWG that occurs or is amplified by the use of technology. They called for comprehensive preventive and eliminatory measures targeting gender-based violence in technology-mediated environments.

Over the past two years, there has been significant global progress in establishing norms to address TF VAWG, including: the [UN Statistical Commission](#) (2024) mandate for UN Women, WHO, UNFPA and other partners to propose a statistical framework to measure TF VAWG in a more standardized, internationally comparable manner; [UN Security Council resolution 2686](#) (2023) expressed deep concern at

instances of violence fuelled by hate speech, misinformation and disinformation, including through social media platforms and underscored the importance of strategic communications to contribute to countering disinformation; [UN General Assembly resolution A/78/213](#): Human Rights in the Context of Digital Technologies (2023) recognized sexual exploitation, harassment, stalking, bullying and non-consensual image-sharing as forms of gender-based violence and required States, platforms and stakeholders to uphold due diligence obligations for preventing harm, especially in AI contexts; and UN General Assembly resolution [A/RES/79/152](#) (2024) on eliminating violence against women and girls in digital spaces, recognized the continued prevalence of VAWG across offline and online settings, including the interrelation of these settings.

In addition to these resolutions, the adoption of the [Global Digital Compact](#) (2024) created the first comprehensive global framework for digital technology and AI governance. Through the Global Digital Compact, Member States agreed to take immediate, effective action to prevent and eliminate VAWG that occurs or is amplified using digital technologies, through strengthened legislation, investigation, prosecution and enhanced protection and support for all victims, as well as strengthened prevention, regulation of platforms, safety by design and accountability.



Photo: UN Women/Gaganjit Singh

[Inter-Parliamentary Union Resolution \(2024\)](#), on the impact of AI on democracy, human rights and the rule of law, underscores the need for parliaments to prioritize the prevention and elimination of, and response to all of forms of gender-based violence and discrimination generated or facilitated by AI, including legislative action to prevent the creation and distribution of deepfake intimate images, and other AI-generated content that fuels hate speech and incites violence, especially against women and girls.

Meanwhile, the [Convention against Cybercrime](#) (2024), the most recent global binding instrument on TF VAWG, establishes an international legal framework to combat cybercrime, addresses crimes such as unauthorized access, fraud, malware as well as gender-based violence that occurs or is amplified through the use of an information and communications technology system. Member States also agreed to criminalize the non-consensual dissemination of intimate images.



## Measures adopted by member states to prevent and respond to TF VAWG



### » 69%

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



Only

### » 27%

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



### » YOUNG PEOPLE

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



### » POLICE SERVICES

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

Member States reported more than

### » 200 MEASURES

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



The adoption and/or amendment of

### » RELEVANT LAWS

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



Specific initiatives have targeted

### » WOMEN WITH PUBLIC ROLES

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



Some initiatives targeted

### » VULNERABLE WOMEN

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





## Regional-level normative developments

Substantial progress has also been achieved at regional levels in recognizing TF VAWG as an emerging form of violence. The European Union has made significant strides in recent years. This includes the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO)'s [General Recommendation 1 \(2021\) on the Digital Dimension of Violence against Women](#), which informed the [EU Digital Services Act](#) that requires online platforms and digital services to prevent and address illegal and harmful content, remove non-consensual images that are disseminated online, as well as to prevent the spread of disinformation. [The European Union's Directive 2024/1385](#) on combating violence against women and domestic violence<sup>51</sup> establishes criminal law, victim-support, procedural and enforcement obligations on cyberviolence against women. [The African Union Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy](#) addresses safety and security including multiple forms of technology-facilitated gender-based violence. [The African Union Convention on Ending Violence against Women and Girls](#), adopted in February 2025, explicitly covers violence occurring in cyberspace. In the Americas, the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belem do Pará Convention (MESCEVI), is currently developing an Inter-American Model Law to Prevent, Punish

and Eradicate Gender-Based digital Violence against Women.

At the national level, according to the [UN Secretary-General's report on the 30-year review and appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#), 65 per cent of countries have reported prioritizing the issue of TF VAWG in the past five years. The most common measures reported by States include: awareness-raising initiatives (76 per cent) legal reforms, (67.6 per cent) and strengthening institutional capacities (49 per cent); while only 29 per cent have engaged with technology-providers to promote human rights-based design and development.

While binding regulatory frameworks for the technology sector remain limited, a number of normative instruments are helping set global standards on platform accountability and online safety. For instance, the [EU Code of Conduct on Countering Illegal Hate Speech Online](#) is a voluntary initiative with major platforms to rapidly remove illegal hate speech. The [Christchurch Call](#), a multi-stakeholder pledge includes commitments from governments, civil society and online service providers, such as social media companies to eliminate terrorist and violent extremist content online emphasizes crisis responses protocols, transparency and rights based governance of online content. However, while these frameworks provide an entry point for strengthened regulation, they do not address the specific issues related to TF VAWG.



## GAPS AND CHALLENGES

While Member States have advanced actions to tackle TF VAWG, there remain significant gaps and challenges, undermining a comprehensive approach to fully address and eradicate TF VAWG.

### Legislation and regulation

Inadequate laws and regulatory frameworks also uphold a culture of impunity for perpetrators, as

does weak regulation and a lack of accountability on the part of the technology sector. In recent years, thanks to feminist mobilization and advocacy, [international and regional frameworks](#) have increasingly recognized the need for legislation on TF VAWG. However, major gaps persist in legal protections at the national level, with more than half of the global population of women still unprotected.<sup>52</sup> Fewer than 40 per cent of countries worldwide provide legal

protections against cyberharassment, 93 per cent of which provide criminal penalties and only 14 per cent offer civil remedies.<sup>53</sup> Even where legislation does exist, laws do not usually include the full spectrum of TF VAWG and have failed to keep pace with rapid technological change, or the emerging forms and scale of harm introduced by digital tools and AI. One of the key challenges in developing laws addressing TF VAWG is the lack of a universally agreed definition and standardized terminology, which would be key for consistent legislation and protection globally.<sup>54</sup> Given the borderless nature of cyberspace and digital platforms, transnational cooperation is required to effectively address TF VAWG and this makes a common language and framework of protection paramount.<sup>55</sup>

Normative language and standards are being discussed and developed to regulate and govern the Internet and other digital technologies in a global context marked by a backlash against gender equality and women's rights. While more countries have introduced laws and strategies to criminalize TF VAWG, tensions at the intersection of digital users' rights to freedom of expression, access to information, privacy and data protection, and a life free from violence, continue to pose challenges.<sup>56</sup> In some cases overly broad laws have been misused to silence civil society voices or human rights defenders or anyone criticizing the authorities by removing legitimate online content, thereby infringing upon freedom of expression.<sup>57</sup>

## **THE RAPID EXPANSION OF DIGITAL PLATFORMS HAS FAR OUTPACED THE DEVELOPMENT OF EFFECTIVE REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS, LEAVING SIGNIFICANT GAPS IN ACCOUNTABILITY ACROSS THE TECHNOLOGY SECTOR. MOST PLATFORMS CONTINUE TO OPERATE WITH LIMITED TRANSPARENCY, WEAK OBLIGATIONS TO PREVENT HARM AND BUSINESS MODELS THAT REWARD ENGAGEMENT AT ALL COSTS — EVEN IF ENGAGEMENT IS DRIVEN BY ABUSE OR MISOGYNY.**

This has led to online harms proliferating with very limited oversight. Platform-specific regulatory frameworks can help to shift the onus for staying safe online from the individual to the owners of platforms where the abuse takes place. For example, rather than relying on individuals to come forward with reports, advocates are calling for legal obligations on online providers, such as social media platforms, to proactively assess, detect and mitigate the risk of child sexual abuse on their platforms. The latest SG report on TF VAWG identified some

emerging promising practices in tech-sector regulation and accountability, including the EU's Digital Services Act, and more recently the EU's AI Act; however, overall the legal and regulatory landscape remains highly fragmented and uneven across regions.<sup>58</sup> While some countries have started regulate tech platforms for instance through Online Safety Acts in Australia and the UK; the Information Technology Act in India and emerging provisions on platform accountability through laws in Brazil, Mexico and other countries in Latin America, overall

very few jurisdictions have binding obligations for platforms. Finally, even where laws and regulations do exist, legal systems and law enforcement in many jurisdictions have not yet caught up and may therefore ignore or not take TF VAWG reports as seriously.<sup>59</sup> Limited regulatory and enforcement capacity is a key barrier as implementing robust regulations of the tech sector requires digital forensic capability, specialized units, algorithmic auditing capacity making oversight of tech giants very challenging for many member states.

## Prevention and responses

While many evidence-based VAWG prevention and response strategies may also be relevant to tackling TF VAWG, there are specific features of digital spaces that require dedicated focus and solutions and, at present, there is very little evidence on what works to prevent TF VAWG. For example, there is insufficient evidence on what is driving perpetration and what potential protective factors or effective pathways to prevention might look like.

Also, responding to TF VAWG and ensuring access to support and justice is particularly challenging as digital violence cases often involve multiple offenders and the anonymity of perpetrators, victims and platforms across different jurisdictions. Law enforcement and justice systems often fail to treat online violence as seriously as offline, or have limited capacities to investigate and prosecute crimes effectively, resulting in re-traumatization for survivors. In most countries, there are limited specialized support services that can respond to the specific needs of survivors, particularly of some of the more novel forms of TF VAWG, as highlighted in

the [Secretary-General's report](#) on technology-facilitated violence against women and girls.

Efforts by the technology sector to prevent and respond to technology-facilitated violence against women remain insufficient and inconsistent, as voluntary and self-regulatory approaches lack independent oversight, minimum standards, and meaningful sanctions for non-compliance. Platform policies and safety features—including automated content moderation or AI-driven detection tools—are often discretionary, opaque, and unevenly implemented across regions, languages, and user groups, disproportionately disadvantaging women and girls in the global majority. Meanwhile, the limited representation and participation of women—particularly those from marginalized groups—across the design, development, and governance of digital technologies means that products and systems are rarely inclusive of or safe for their needs. These challenges are compounded by business models and algorithms optimized for engagement rather than safety, which frequently amplify misogyny, hate, and sensational content, and by persistent gaps in accountability and enforcement, as regulators often lack the capacity to audit compliance, enforce penalties, or compel changes to platform design even when platforms fail to uphold their own commitments.<sup>60</sup>

## Data and research gaps

The absence of internationally agreed definitions and methodologies for measuring VAWG in digital contexts, together with widespread underreporting, has hampered efforts to understand the true extent of this problem. A common definition for TF VAWG and a measurement framework is critical for the

*Law enforcement and justice systems often fail to treat online violence as seriously as offline, or have limited capacities to investigate and prosecute crimes effectively, resulting in re-traumatization for survivors.*

production of accurate, reliable and comparable data and knowledge.<sup>61</sup> Existing research has methodological limitations, such as small sample sizes, limited mixed-methods research and disaggregated

data. Without a universal measurement framework, the field lacks standardized definitions, terminology and methodologies that would allow for the collection of reliable and comparable data.

## **NOT ENOUGH IS KNOWN ABOUT THE PERPETRATORS OF TF VAWG, OR ABOUT HOW MUCH IS PERPETRATED BY INTIMATE PARTNERS/FORMER PARTNERS OR OTHER PEOPLE KNOWN TO THE /SURVIVOR (FRIENDS, ACQUAINTANCES, FAMILY MEMBERS, ETC.) OR WHETHER ONLINE VIOLENCE IS PERPETRATED BY STRANGERS OR ORGANIZED AND NETWORKED ATTACKS THROUGH ONLINE MISOGYNIST NETWORKS.**

Most of the existing research continues to be from countries in high-income economies. There are significant gaps in regional knowledge – including in Central or Eastern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean. In particular, there are gaps in research and knowledge of how TF VAWG manifests in humanitarian and conflict contexts and crisis situations as well as the specific vulnerabilities and potential responses in such settings.

Existing research indicates that TF VAWG disproportionately impacts women with intersecting identities including young women and girls, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and other (LGBTQI+) women and women of colour. However, few studies have looked at the experiences of women with disabilities, migrant or refugee women, rural or

Indigenous women, women from racial or religious minorities, or women and girls who suffer multiple intersecting forms of discrimination,<sup>62</sup> to better understand the obstacles they face in reporting, accessing support services or in identifying potential entry points for effective prevention.

Women in public life, including women in politics and women journalists, have repeatedly been identified as groups of women at heightened risk, but there continues to be limited data on the experiences of women's rights activists or women human rights defenders. These data and knowledge gaps need to be filled to better understand the different manifestations and impacts of TF VAWG on the lives of women and girls in all their diversity, as well as to better understand how prevention and responses can be shaped according to their diverse needs.





## OPPORTUNITIES: WHERE UN WOMEN CAN ACCELERATE PROGRESS

For 15 years, UN Women has successfully leveraged its triple mandate – of normative, programmatic and UN system coordination – to promote integrated approaches to end VAWG. UN Women has supported 90 countries, home to three billion women and girls, through improved access to quality support services against violence. UN Women has been scaling-up and consolidating its work on TF VAWG in recent years to respond to emerging threats and risks for women and girls and to ensure that TF VAWG is elevated as a policy priority for Member States and in global, regional and national agendas. It is also a key priority in [UN Women's Strategic Plan 2026–2029](#).

As outlined in the previous section, TF VAWG is gaining traction globally, becoming an emerging normative framework that is no longer a peripheral issue. It is a defining challenge for the achievement of gender equality in the digital age. The Beijing+30 review of progress on the implementation of the Platform for Action found that despite the lack of comprehensive gender-responsive measures to prevent and respond to TF VAWG, over 200 measures on

online safety, cyberviolence and cyberharassment were reported by Member States in the Beijing+30 progress review. This is paving the way for opportunities to deepen existing approaches and to build on national responses to cyberviolence and online safety more broadly.

UN Women's triple mandate remains its strength in driving systemic change and strategically positioning its work on TF VAWG. UN Women has distinctive areas of comparative advantage, by which it can accelerate progress on addressing TF VAWG. As such, this strategy will seek to:

### 1 **Leverage UN Women's normative mandate to strengthen global norms and standards and their implementation at country level.**

UN Women has been playing a critical role in ensuring that gender equality and eliminating TF VAWG are at the heart of global developments in digital governance and shaping a policy landscape to create a global enabling environment to advance action to eliminate TF VAWG. To achieve this, UN Women

## Opportunities for UN Women to accelerate progress in preventing and eliminating TF VAWG

- 1 *Leverage UN Women's normative mandate to strengthen global norms and standards and their implementation at country level.*
- 2 *Leverage UN Women's work on gender statistics and VAW data, including to close the data and knowledge gaps on TF VAWG.*
- 3 *Build on existing frameworks and internal capacities for preventing and responding to TF VAWG.*
- 4 *Bridge silos by leveraging UN Women's in-house expertise across cross-cutting areas and harnessing its coordination mandate.*

has elevated the demands of women's rights organizations into intergovernmental processes related to the Global Digital Compact, the UN Statistical Commission, the Cybercrime Convention, CSW 67 Agreed Conclusions, Human Rights Council resolution [A/HRC/RES/56/19](#) on TF GBV, among others. UN Women also informed the first-ever UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/79/152 on the Intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, which provides a comprehensive framework for preventing and eliminating VAWG in the digital environment. It also contributed to drafting the [Secretary-General Report on Violence against Women in Digital Contexts](#) in 2022 and on TF VAWG in 2024.

UN Women will leverage the pivotal it plays in mainstreaming gender perspectives in human rights mechanisms – including the HRC, treaty bodies, the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), Independent Expert Mechanisms and Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council – by embedding gender equality, women's rights, principles of non-discrimination and intersectionality into frameworks and processes on TF VAWG, as well as related areas such as digital governance, AI and cybersecurity, among others.

UN Women is also contributing to translating global norms into regional- and country-level

frameworks and laws. Under the current strategic plan, UN Women has supported 83 countries to strengthen legal protections for more than 2.9 billion women and girls. Leveraging its strong partnership with Member States, parliamentarians, civil society and human rights mechanisms, UN Women will provide technical support and use its convening power to ensure the adoption and implementation of national legislation and policies addressing the full spectrum of TF VAWG.

## **2 Leverage UN Women's work on gender statistics and VAW data, including to close the data and knowledge gaps on TF VAWG.**

UN Women has a demonstrated ability to produce high-quality research and data, through in-house expertise and strong relationships with leading researchers and global experts. UN Women has been leading efforts to respond to critical gaps in research and data on TF VAWG, which are critical to understanding the prevalence and forms of violence, how it connects with offline VAWG, and providing key insights on methodologies that can be used to close these gaps, while also producing innovative studies at regional levels to inform future work. Furthermore, UN Women was mandated by the UN Statistical Commission to develop a statistical framework on the measurement of TF VAW at its 55th Session in 2024 in collaboration with WHO and UNFPA.

### **Leading efforts to close data gaps on TF VAWG<sup>63</sup>**

UN Women has conducted numerous studies at the regional level to understand the extent and the impact of TF VAWG, including in the [ECA region](#), [Arab States](#) and in [Asia Pacific](#), as well as on women in politics in [Türkiye](#), [Uruguay](#) and [Ecuador](#). Furthermore, through [Women Count](#), UN Women has worked closely with national statistical offices and national institutions to support prevalence surveys in Albania, Georgia, Grenada, Guyana, Morocco, Mozambique, Senegal and Uganda that produced data on different forms of TF VAWG, including sexual cyberharassment, cyberstalking and controlling behaviours of partners. The [Shared Research Agenda](#) on TF GBV developed by the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI), UN Women, the Association of Progressive Communications (APC) and the Global Partnership on Online Gender-Based Violence and Abuse represents a key milestone towards closing evidence gaps in a coordinated and strategic manner.

### **3 Build on existing frameworks and internal capacities for preventing and responding to TF VAWG.**

Over the last 15 years, UN Women has led normative, programmatic and coordination efforts on EVAWG across the UN system, resulting in the establishment of global standards and frameworks for implementing a comprehensive approach to ending VAWG from the Essential Services Package to the RESPECT Framework, among other key guidance and tools. These tools and interventions have laid the foundations for transformative multi-stakeholder approaches to evidence-based ERAW programming, with women's rights organizations at the centre. This work can be built upon and adapted to address the digital dimensions of violence against women and girls. UN Women has also developed programming guidance on violence against women in politics and in public life more broadly.

### **4 Bridge silos by leveraging UN Women's in-house expertise across cross-cutting areas and harnessing its coordination mandate (see annex 1)**

As the entity dedicated to achieving gender equality and women's empowerment, UN Women is well-positioned to leverage expertise across multiple issue areas that intersect with TF VAWG given the cross-cutting nature of digital violence and the pathways to change. UN Women's institutional capacity to bridge issue areas, such as peace and security, ending violence against women, political participation and leadership, and economic empowerment distinguishes it from actors that focus on single issues. Its convening mandate enables UN Women to play a bridge-building role, bringing public and private sector actors together with civil society organizations and other development actors. Further, UN Women is mandated to coordinate gender equality efforts across the UN system and is uniquely positioned to work with UN entities to ensure that gender and strategies to tackle TF VAWG are mainstreamed across their work on digital development as well as to ensure that any normative strategies, focused on cyberviolence or digital safety take into consideration the specific needs of women and girls.



Photo: UN Women/Christopher Herwig





Photo: UN Women/Gheorghe Vasluian

# 3

**THE STRATEGY:  
ARTICULATING  
A VISION AND  
FOCUS TO  
PREVENT AND  
ELIMINATE TF  
VAWG**



# THE STRATEGY

UN Women's approach to preventing and eliminating TF VAWG recognizes that online and digital violence, or violence that occurs through or is amplified by technology, does not occur in a vacuum but rather is part of a continuum of multiple, recurring and inter-related forms of VAWG that are often connected to violence offline. Its approach has been to build upon the existing frameworks and standards in place to prevent and respond to VAWG, while at the same time recognizing that there are specific features of digital spaces that require dedicated focus and solutions.

Through its triple mandate of normative, coordination and programmatic functions, UN Women is already playing a lead role in contributing to the advancement of global and regional normative frameworks. It is also coordinating different actors and partnerships to catalyse action, including through the Generation Equality Action Coalitions on Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality and Gender-Based Violence, and the Global Partnership

for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse, while at the same time operationalizing global and regional normative developments through programming at the country level. This work cuts across different thematic areas and teams, including: Ending Violence against Women and Girls; Data and Research; Technology and Innovation; Leadership and Decision-Making; Women, Peace and Security; and Women's Economic Empowerment. Given the multidisciplinary nature of TF VAWG and the cross- sectoral approaches required to effectively address it, UN Women, as the lead entity on gender equality and women's empowerment within the United Nations, is ideally positioned to coordinate and accelerate efforts to prevent and respond to the growing challenges posed by technological developments on a woman's right to live free from violence and discrimination.

This strategy is aligned with and will reinforce work under UN Women's upcoming [Strategic Plan \(2026–2029\)](#).

## Purpose of the strategy:

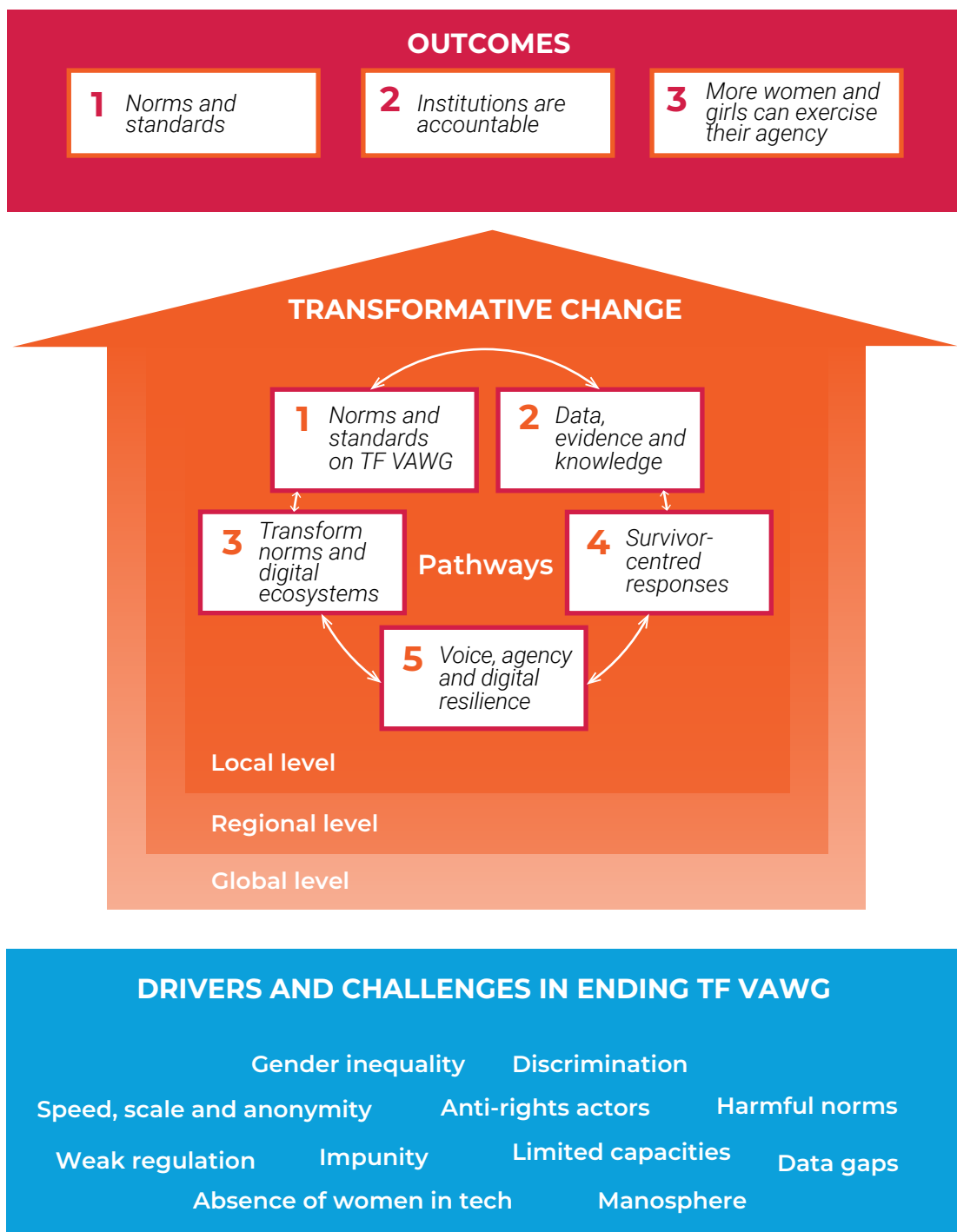
- 1 *To provide a clear vision for UN Women's human rights-based, gender-responsive, intersectional and multisectoral approach to addressing TF VAWG across the continuum of online-offline VAWG.*
- 2 *To scale-up UN Women's role as thought leader and innovator in comprehensive solutions to address TF VAWG by addressing knowledge and implementation gaps and by influencing global discourse by developing normative frameworks and coordinating with the UN system and other key stakeholders.*
- 3 *To accelerate action to prevent and respond to digital violence and its consequences for women and girls by further integrating TF VAWG across UN Women's triple mandate through a more coordinated and focused approach.*
- 4 *To strengthen local, national and regional efforts to prevent and respond to TF VAWG.*
- 5 *To mobilize new strategic partnerships to support UN Women's work on TF VAWG.*

## Priority areas and pathways to accelerate action to end TF VAWG:

UN Women will leverage its triple mandate and thematic areas on which it is strategically positioned

to influence transformative change. The organization has identified five pathways to change, using six cross-cutting thematic programmatic frameworks, or Gender Equality Accelerators (refer to figure below).

## UN Women strategic plan to accelerate impact and close gaps in preventing and responding to TF VAWG in 2026–2029



## FIVE PATHWAYS FOR ACTION:

To accelerate impact and close critical gaps in preventing and responding to TF VAWG, UN Women will leverage its triple mandate and institutional strengths across five interlinked pathways. Each pathway reflects UN Women's comparative advantage and is designed to deliver transformative change across normative, programmatic and coordination functions.

### The five pathways will drive efforts to:

- 1 *Advance norms and standards to strengthen accountability for TF VAWG.*
- 2 *Expand data, evidence and knowledge to drive policy and action on TF VAWG.*
- 3 *Transform social norms and digital ecosystems to prevent TF VAWG.*
- 4 *Strengthen access to survivor-centred and justice-focused responses to TF VAWG.*
- 5 *Amplify women's voice, agency, digital resilience and leadership in digital spaces.*

These pathways align with and will contribute to the three systemic outcomes of UN Women's Strategic Plan (2026–2029):

- » **Norms and standards** that uphold the rights of all women and girls are protected, strengthened and implemented in laws and policies. (Pathway 1: Advance norms and standards to strengthen accountability for TF VAWG)
- » **Institutions are accountable** to all women and girls, with financing, data and practices that advance equality. (Pathway 2: Expand data, evidence and knowledge to drive policy and action on TF VAWG & Pathway 3: Transform social norms and digital ecosystems to prevent TF VAWG)
- » **More women and girls can exercise their agency** and have equitable access to quality services, resources and assets. (Pathway 4: Strengthen access to survivor-centred and justice-focused responses to TF VAWG & Pathway 5: Amplify women's voice, agency, digital resilience and leadership in digital spaces).

They will also contribute to the four impact areas of the Strategic Plan, in particular the impact area of: women and girls live free from violence and also women's leadership and decision-making; women's economic empowerment in resilient economies; and women, peace and security and humanitarian action.



## OUTCOME 1. PROTECT AND ADVANCE NORMATIVE FRAMEWORKS, LAWS AND POLICIES THAT UPHOLD THE RIGHTS OF ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

### **PATHWAY 1: Advance norms & standards to strengthen accountability for TF VAWG**

**UN Women will build on its leadership by continuing to shape global standards as well as to drive their translation into enforceable national frameworks and mechanisms to strengthen accountability for perpetrators of TF VAWG as well as technology companies.** This will include:

- » Collaborating with Member States and human rights mechanisms to provide technical inputs and assistance to develop global and regional norms and standards to regulate technology and digital platforms, including AI. This will be grounded in existing human rights standards, principles of due diligence and non-discrimination. This work will seek to provide clear international standards and a framework for responding to TF VAWG (see box below).
- » Working with national and local governments to operationalize global and regional norms (CSW67 Agreed Conclusions, GDC, UN Convention against Cybercrime and UNGA/HRC resolutions, among others) through concrete laws, policies and action at country level.
- » Working with Member States, including ministries of gender equality, digital development, and justice, and parliamentarians, to promote the adoption of legal and policy frameworks criminalizing different forms of TF VAWG. It will also entail supporting their capacity to put in place measures and mechanisms for prevention, protection, risk mitigation, responses and reparations, as well as robust oversight and regulatory frameworks for the technology sector.

### **Guidance on TF VAWG legislation**

*UN Women has leveraged long-standing partnerships with UN human rights mechanisms to shape global legal and policy frameworks on TF VAWG. Regionally, it is supporting the development of a Model Law on TF VAWG in Latin America and the Caribbean with MESECVI, establishing minimum standards to guide national legal reforms. Through collaboration with the [EDVAW Platform](#), UN Women is also elevating this model law to inform global standards, including a forthcoming TF VAWG legislation supplement to the [Handbook on Legislation on Violence against Women](#), which will provide comprehensive guidance to States worldwide.*



- » Working with UN agencies and women's rights experts to develop global standards for the technology sector and regulators grounded in principles of due diligence and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights to proactively detect, assess and address TF VAWG and create a safe and enabling environment online, free from discrimination, misogyny and violence. This may include through the development of model policies and standard operating procedures/protocols for content moderation, codes of conduct, prevention and safety by design requirements, response mechanisms and transparency reporting requirements. These standards need to explicitly address and clarify the tensions and relationship between the right to freedom of expression and privacy and the rights to freedom from violence and discrimination to avoid punitive approaches for women human rights defenders and civil society organizations.
- » Working with tech companies, feminist tech, CSOs and governments to develop an accountability scorecard to track progress annually on online safety standards and measures implemented by tech companies to prevent and address TF VAWG.
- » Framing TF VAWG as a peace and security issue, given the growing evidence of online misogyny and that the manosphere is often a gateway to radicalization and violent extremism. This will involve advocating for the UN Security Council and relevant counter-terrorism and peacebuilding bodies to recognize TF VAWG as part of the global security agenda, so as to ensure that responses to violence extremism integrate gender perspectives and address the online-offline continuum of violence.

## Key global products:

- » *Supplement to the [Handbook on Legislation on Violence against Women, on TF VAWG worldwide, and regional guidance to adapt to different contexts.](#)*
- » *Guidance for oversight and regulation of the technology sector, with a specific focus on TF VAWG.*
- » *A model framework with clear standards for the technology sector in responding to TF VAWG.*
- » *An accountability scorecard for the tech Sector on TF VAWG.*
- » *Cross-regional learning and exchange platforms to harmonize approaches.*

## Key partners:

The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UNFPA; Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU); human rights mechanisms (HRC, UPR, treaty bodies, regional mechanisms); EDVAW Platform of Independent Expert Mechanisms on Discrimination and Violence against Women; African Union; MESCEVI; Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse; feminist tech/women's rights organizations; and Member States.



## OUTCOME 2: STRENGTHEN INSTITUTIONS TO DRIVE ACCOUNTABILITY, THROUGH FINANCING, DATA AND PRACTICES ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY

### **PATHWAY 2 Expand data, evidence and knowledge to drive policy and action on TF VAWG**

**UN Women will close critical gaps by advancing robust measurement frameworks/ methodologies, and innovative, intersectional and actionable research on TF VAWG, with a focus on global South countries.** This pathway prioritizes:

- » Leading the development, piloting and roll out of a statistical framework, in collaboration with WHO and UNFPA, through a collaborative and inclusive process to provide guidance on all data sources and methods (survey, administrative, social media, big data) to generate quality, comparable global data on TF VAWG.
- » Continuing to generate quality data on TF VAWG through the Women Count Programme and VAWG prevalence surveys at the country level and by prioritizing further research on TF VAWG aligned with the Shared Research Agenda that UN Women developed in partnership with SVRI, APC and the Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse.
- » Generating data on specific groups of women including Leave No One Behind (LNOB) groups and at-risk groups where limited data exists, including Indigenous women, women with disabilities, women in rural contexts and other groups whose online experiences are unknown.
- » Continuing to prioritize data collection on violence against women in politics and public life through existing prevalence surveys, including regarding online violence, to generate critical data regarding the specific experiences of women in public life.

### **Understanding men's online behaviours to strengthen policy and practice**

*In partnership with Equimundo and the Institute of Strategic Dialogue, UN Women is undertaking new groundbreaking research examining online misogyny, the manosphere and how this is shaping harmful masculinities, social norms and attitudes on gender equality, women's rights and violence against women. Through a multi-country survey of men and boys, it seeks to better understand men's online behaviour, attitudes, exposure to online misogynistic ideologies, and perpetration of online-offline violence. Through a digital ethnographic mapping of misogynistic networks, the research will generate context-specific evidence to inform prevention programming and digital policy.*

- » Undertaking research on online violence against women human rights defenders and feminist activists in online spaces to better understand the prevalence, manifestations and impacts of online violence against women human rights defenders. This will also entail exploring the responses from different sectors and bystanders and exploring the linkages between online and offline violence. This will feed into broader work on developing early warning mechanisms to detect and prevent the potential escalation of online violence to physical threats against women human rights defenders and activists, providing needed support and protection.
- » Closing data and knowledge gaps related to the perpetration of TF VAWG to better understand the drivers, behaviours, tactics and motivations of men and boys that perpetrate online violence and the pathways into the manosphere and/or misogynistic online networks.
- » Strengthening the accessibility and use of data by regularly updating the Women Count data portal, the Global Database on Violence against Women and the forthcoming EVAWG Index to promote evidence-based and data-informed policymaking.

## Key global products:

- *UN Statistical framework on TF VAWG and a guidance/implementation package, as well as capacity-strengthening tools.*
- *Guidance on innovative methodologies for data collection to capture real-time data on emerging trends, including through big data, social listening and AI tools.*
- *Global, regional/multi-country and country studies on TF VAWG prioritizing at-risk groups, including LNOB groups, women in public life, women in politics and women human rights defenders.*
- *Evidence and data on perpetrators of TF VAWG and the manosphere across different countries with regional and global analyses.*
- *Platforms for knowledge-exchange, including communities of practice, policy dialogues and cross regional/South-South collaboration*

## Key partners:

WHO; UNFPA; the UN Inter-agency Group on VAW statistics; global, regional and national research experts.

### **PATHWAY 3: Transform social norms and digital ecosystems to prevent TF VAWG.**

**UN Women will operationalize an integrated model framework for preventing and responding to TF VAWG that can be localized across contexts, including humanitarian, development and peace settings.** This pathway prioritizes:

- » Preventing TF VAWG by addressing the root causes and drivers and transforming social norms through the development and/or adaptation of evidence-based prevention programming to TF VAWG. This includes building on existing evidence-based strategies, including through the RESPECT framework. It also entails implementing pilots to test the effectiveness of prevention interventions and undertaking robust evaluations to bridge the gap in knowledge of what works to prevent TF VAWG.
- » Building on its work on transforming social norms and harmful masculinities across individual, community, institutional and societal levels, UN Women will work with Member States and other partners to develop, pilot and evaluate different approaches to transforming misogynistic norms and harmful masculinities, and implement good practices in promoting positive masculinities and engaging men and boys as allies in VAWG prevention. This will include working to shift organizational cultures and promoting positive norms across institutions, including in male-dominated sectors, such as police and justice.
- » Developing dedicated communications strategies to shift harmful narratives and engage the “moveable middle” cohort. This will include developing innovative approaches to engaging bystanders to intervene in cases of online VAWG.

## **Transforming social norms**

*Transforming social norms is a central, cross-cutting priority in UN Women’s Strategic Plan 2026–2029. Building on its existing work on VAWG prevention and transforming patriarchal masculinities, the organization will leverage the power of social media and digital platforms to scale evidence-based approaches that challenge discriminatory practices that restrict women’s rights and roles, including through narratives that promote and value women of all ages as leaders, workers, agents of change and by embedding strategies for engaging men and boys.*

*Existing strategies and initiatives on social norms change, including HeForShe and the Unstereotype Alliance, a globally established marketing and communications industry partnership, will be leveraged to promote shifts in social norms. Furthermore, innovative practices that UN Women has piloted in Latin America and the Caribbean using behavioural sciences to more effectively encourage bystanders to intervene in cases of online VAWG will also be leveraged.*



- » Developing dedicated sectoral guidance and interventions for preventing and responding to TF VAWG in the world of work to ensure that women are not pushed out of digital jobs, e-commerce, marketplaces and the platform economy. This could include guidance for the technology sector and regulators on employer codes of conduct, due diligence, gender-responsive procurement and supply chain standards. It entails ensuring that standards are in place for survivors to safely re-enter the paid workforce or entrepreneurial activities.
- » Harnessing technology to enhance prevention of VAWG across the online-offline continuum by establishing feminist tech platforms (globally, regionally and at country level) to bring together feminist tech experts, women's rights organizations, ending VAWG specialists, and the tech sector to co-create innovative, participatory and evidence-based solutions across social media, gaming, dating apps and other digital platforms.

## Key global products/activities:

- » *Compendiums of emerging practices, updating the RESPECT framework and developing sectoral guidance on prevention (e.g. world of work, gaming, social media, dating platforms etc.)*
- » *Evidence-based social media engagement, advocacy campaigns and guidance/toolkits for engaging with men and boys through digital platforms and bystanders/society at large.*
- » *Global Feminist Tech Platform and model framework for similar approaches to be implemented at regional or country levels.*
- » *Evaluations of innovative tech solutions piloted through UN Women programming to build evidence of what works.*
- » *Convening communities of practice to translate research into scalable programming and accelerate the uptake of promising practices.*

## Key partners:

Feminist tech prevention experts; UNFPA, International Telecommunication Union (ITU), UNESCO and other UN agencies; women's rights organizations; High-Level Network on Gender-Responsive Policing; SVRI Community of Practice on TF GBV.



## OUTCOME 3: SUPPORT WOMEN'S AGENCY AND ACCESS TO QUALITY SERVICES, RESOURCES AND ASSETS

### PATHWAY 4: Strengthen access to survivor-centred and justice-focused responses to TF VAWG

**UN Women will enhance coordinated responses across justice, law enforcement, social services and the tech sector to ensure survivors can access timely, safe and effective remedies.** This will involve:

- » Working with UN system to build on existing guidance and standards for survivor-centred responses to violence against women and girls, such as the [Essential Services Package](#), and [Safe consultations with survivors of violence against women and girls](#). It will also entail strengthening the capacities of service-providers across key sectors (health, justice, social services and technology) to respond to TF VAWG by applying an intersectional approach that responds to the needs of women and girls in all their diversity.
- » Developing and implementing a supplement on TF VAWG to the [Handbook on Gender-Responsive Police Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence](#) (in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Association of Women Police (IAWP). The supplement will include guidance on TF VAWG investigation, the role of police in TF VAWG prevention, key competencies for effective police responses to TF VAWG, and survivor-centred approaches for first responders. The supplement will be designed to inform the development of national and local level guidance by country offices to adapt to specific contexts and jurisdictions.
- » Identifying and promoting innovative promising practices for victims/survivors, including through the design of innovative, technological solutions and digital tools to enhance responses to TF VAWG.

## Gender-responsive policing of TF VAWG

*The High-Level Network on Gender-Responsive Policing, currently consisting of 18 Member States<sup>64</sup>, is a key platform to strengthen the capacities of police and other law enforcement agencies globally in operationalizing gender-responsive policing, with special attention to addressing sexual and gender-based violence, including VAWG. Expanding its focus on TF VAWG will be instrumental in ensuring the guidance is adopted at the country level and in spearheading important developments in this area of work – including addressing violent radicalization and hate speech against women in the cyber context.*

## Key global products/activities:

- » *Supplement on TF VAWG to Handbook on Gender-Responsive Police Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence*
- » *Guidance for prosecutors on investigating TF VAWG crimes*
- » *Cross-sectoral guidance to strengthen responses to victim-survivors of TF VAWG*
- » *Model framework with clear standards for the technology sector in responding to TF VAWG.*
- » *Evaluations of innovative tech solutions piloted through UN Women programming to build evidence of what works in responding to TF VAWG.*

## Key partners:

Feminist tech prevention experts; UNFPA, UNODC, UNDP and other UN agencies; women's rights organizations; High-Level Network on Gender-Responsive Policing; SVRI Community of Practice on TF GBV.



Photo: UN Women/Emad Karim

## **PATHWAY 5: Amplify women's voice, agency, resilience and leadership in digital spaces**

**UN Women will strengthen the agency, leadership and resilience of women and girls, particularly those facing heightened risk in digital spaces.** This pathway focuses on:

- » Working in partnership with and supporting women leaders, parliamentarians and feminist activists to undertake evidence-based advocacy for effective laws and policies to prevent and address TF VAWG, aligned with global standards.
- » Enhancing and expanding digital self-defence and resilience training for women in politics, journalism, activism, and in the world of work, to help create an enabling environment to support women's participation in public life.
- » Building on existing platforms and approaches led by women human rights defenders, UN Women will support and promote the development of early warning systems and rapid response mechanisms, particularly for high-risk groups such as women human rights defenders.
- » Enhancing digital literacy, capacities, safety and resilience, prioritizing intersectional approaches that equip marginalized groups – including young women, Indigenous women, women with disabilities, LGBTQI+ communities, migrant and refugee women – to safely navigate and shape digital spaces.
- » Rolling out a feminist Technology and Innovation Lab and designing strategies to bolster skills of women's rights organizations and activists in technology and innovation. It also entails supporting movement-building, monitoring and tech accountability work, advocacy and campaigning efforts and building bridges across sectors – including EVAWG, feminist tech and digital rights movements.

### **Reclaiming AI: Skills, Safety and Justice for Women**

***UN Women's AI School:** UN Women's Asia-Pacific Regional Office AI school is a regional movement that has engaged 2,000+ participants including civil society, youth leaders, UN staff and policymakers across Asia and the Pacific to learn, build and govern safe, gender-inclusive AI. Through a shared core curriculum on AI foundations, responsible use and prompt craft – plus weekly Expert Talks and hands-on Innovation Labs – participants turn ideas into policy briefs, tools and data sets that serve communities across the region. A 24/7 Companion GPT supports practice and catch-up, and the Grand Challenge spotlights stand-out projects. All toolkits and templates are open for replication across Asia and the Pacific. Replicating the model developed by UN Women's Asia Pacific office, UN Women has expanded the AI school, through the support of the EU-funded ACT programme, to equip women's rights organizations and activists with the skills to use AI to end VAWG. With a cohort of over 150 participants, the AI school covers responsible AI, exposing the many risks and biases within AI and how to be in the driving seat of shaping this technology and making it work for women.*



- » Mobilizing core, flexible and sustainable funding for feminist movements to position, fund and strengthen women's rights organizations as watchdogs, innovators and advocates in digital governance processes, as well to incubate feminist tech initiatives by creating spaces for co-creating digital tools and solutions to prevent and respond to TF VAWG.

## Key activities/products::

- » *Digital self-defence and resilience training tailored to different groups of women.*
- » *Digital literacy training for grass-roots women and marginalized groups.*
- » *Early warning system and rapid response mechanism*
- » *Tech and Innovation Lab and learning modules*
- » *Cross-sectoral movement-strengthening toolkits*
- » *Communities of Practice*

## Key partners:

Australia's eSafety Commissioner; IPU; UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women; feminist tech experts; CSOs/WROs.



Photo: UN Women/James Ochweri



Photo: Media Active/Nopporn Liengjai

# 4

## MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS

Strategic partnerships are essential to advancing all five pathways to action, given the complexity of TF VAWG and the need for coordinated, multi-sectoral action. As the UN's lead entity on gender equality, UN Women will strengthen UN system-wide coordination on TF VAWG and deepen its role as a bridge-builder among governments, UN agencies, civil society, EVAWG practitioners, feminist movements, digital rights groups and the tech sector to strengthen collaboration and cooperation across the ecosystem of actors that have a role to play in the elimination of TF VAWG.

As the technical and policy lead of the [Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse](#), and through UN Women's partnerships with SVRI's TFGBV Community of Practice, as well as its work with women's rights movements under the ACT to End VAWG Programme, UN Women is driving global alignment and shared learning on key policy priorities.

UN Women has built and leveraged influential multi-stakeholder platforms – including the Generation Equality Action Coalitions on Technology and Innovation and on Gender-Based Violence, which have strengthened collective advocacy and opened critical entry points with the technology sector.

Partnerships with women-led and feminist organizations remain a core comparative advantage. UN Women will continue to facilitate cross-sectoral movement-strengthening and elevate grass-roots women's rights organizations and feminist tech actors – particularly from global majority countries – ensuring their leadership in feminist AI spaces and global digital governance processes.

Under this strategy, UN Women will establish structured engagement mechanisms to strengthen collaboration with the technology sector from global to local levels to accelerate efforts to eliminate TF VAWG. This will include building on existing mechanisms established under the child online safety field (e.g. the Tech Coalition for Child Safety Online). Such platforms can play a role in defining and promoting self-regulation measures, aligned to best practice principles and global standards to enhance prevention, responses and transparency on TF VAWG.

By bringing together technology companies, regulators and women's rights organizations to anticipate risks – including through emerging, disruptive and frontier technologies (e.g. generative AI, immersive platforms, robotics and automation, nanotechnology etc) – UN Women will coordinate system-wide efforts to ensure safety-by-design, and co-create solutions to prevent harms through the roll-out and scale-up of such technologies.

*Partnerships with women-led and feminist organizations remain a core comparative advantage. UN Women will continue to facilitate cross-sectoral movement-strengthening and elevate grass-roots women's rights organizations and feminist tech actors – particularly from global majority countries – ensuring their leadership in feminist AI spaces and global digital governance processes.*





Photo: UN Women/Emad Karim

# 5

**TAKING  
ACTION,  
MONITORING  
RESULTS**

This TF VAWG strategy and its five pathways for action will be implemented by UN Women at global, regional and country levels.<sup>65</sup> A number of strategic levers will enable the achievement of results across the five pathways for action under this strategy.

## Levers for strategy implementation:

- 1 *cross-thematic collaboration.*
- 2 *UN system coordination, inter-agency work and joint programming;*
- 3 *strategic partnerships with the private sector; and*
- 4 *resource mobilization.*

### Cross-thematic collaboration

Ending violence against women and girls is a cross-cutting issue that requires a comprehensive, whole-of-society cross-sectoral approach at national and local levels. Ending VAWG is deeply intertwined with all of UN Women's areas of work, as women and girl's rights cannot be fulfilled while they are not safe, online or offline. UN Women's programming framework 2026–2029<sup>66</sup> will enable a more transformative approach to TF VAWG that will move beyond a siloed or single-issue approach towards a more integrated model, offering multiple entry points to tackle TF VAWG.

### UN system coordination and inter-agency work and joint programming

UN Women's unique triple mandate positions it to mainstream gender equality in the UN system, including by promoting the mainstreaming of efforts

to eliminate VAWG across different policy areas and working with other agencies to deliver their own mandates in relation to ending VAWG. Given the cross-cutting nature of this strategy and the role of other UN agencies in addressing TF VAWG – including UNESCO work on freedom of expression and women journalists, UNICEF work on online safety for children, UNODC work on the Cybercrime Convention, and the UNFPA Making All Spaces Safe programme – a key focus in implementing this strategy will be to strengthen coordination around TF VAWG through the development of a dedicated workplan on TF VAWG under the inter-agency mechanism on EVAWG. This will ensure coordinated advocacy, the development of joint positions on key digital governance issues, the co-creation of UN-wide frameworks on prevention and responses to inform UN programming on TF VAWG, as well as the co-development of knowledge products across complementary mandates and identification of opportunities for joint programming, leveraging the comparative advantage of different mandates.



## Strategic partnerships with the private sector

UN Women will develop a strategic approach to engaging with the technology sector to strengthen cooperation between tech platforms and intermediaries, Member States and civil society organizations to provide technical assistance to strengthen policies, practices and self-regulation measures to enhance accountability as well as to leverage their expertise in designing innovative solutions.

## Resource mobilization

UN Women will mobilize non-core resources to support the implementation of its TF VAWG strategy at global, regional and country levels and will develop a resource mobilization strategy with diverse funding streams across different entry points to address TF VAWG across its different programmatic entry points.

## MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING

This strategy will be monitored in line with the UN Women Strategic Plan 2026–2029. Progress will be tracked against the indicators in the Integrated Results and Resources Framework (IRRF) and in UN Women's Results Management System (RMS). Results will be tracked through biennial work plans at HQ and in regional and country offices, aggregated at the global level during the annual reporting

process and published on the Transparency Portal. Furthermore, the biannual Report of the Secretary-General on the Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, the UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women, and the forthcoming EVAWG Index will also enable monitoring of progress made in this area.



Photo: UN Women/Gaganjit Singh Chandok

## ANNEX 1: GENDER EQUALITY ACCELERATOR PROGRAMMATIC

Gender Equality Accelerator	Programmatic entry points
Ending violence against women and girls	<p>Prevention of and response to TF VAWG</p> <p>UN Women has been deepening its work on TF VAWG to incorporate the new and emerging forms of technology-facilitated violence into existing ERAW work by building on existing tools and frameworks, recognizing that women's lives are not compartmentalized into online and offline spaces and effective strategies are those that work more holistically across the continuum.</p>
Leadership, empowerment, access and protection (LEAP) in humanitarian action	<p>Addressing the digital dimensions of VAWG in fragile settings</p> <p>Online violence against women and girls in crisis and humanitarian settings can manifest in different ways. Women and girls may be vulnerable to trafficking or sexual exploitation through online recruitment scams that deceive women and promise their safe passage, aid or work. Women's human rights defenders in these contexts are often attacked with online gendered disinformation or smear campaigns</p>
Women lead	<p>Creating an enabling environment for women's leadership and decision-making</p> <p>UN Women's work on women's political participation and leadership provides entry points for addressing the disproportionate levels of online and TF VAWG experienced by women in public life building on social norms change work and efforts to strengthen digital resilience of women in public life.</p>
Women and the world of work	<p>Women's economic empowerment is a powerful strategy to prevent VAWG</p> <p>As economic activity shifts online, TF VAWG is a barrier for women accessing digital jobs, e-commerce and the platform economy. Ensuring an enabling environment for women to access online employment and business opportunities is key, including through the adoption and implementation of international instruments such as the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 190 on Violence and Harassment in the World of Work.</p>
Women, peace and security	<p>Addressing the linkages between TF VAWG and security issues</p> <p>As online violence, the manosphere, gendered hate speech and growing radicalization increasingly intersect with violent extremism, UN Women will play a critical role in positioning TF VAWG as a core security threat and in advancing accountability for women's rights through the women, peace and security agenda, ensuring the gender-responsive rule of law, security sector reform, counter-terrorism, response to conflict-related sexual violence, and transitional justice mechanisms.</p>

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

As the lead UN entity on gender equality and secretariat of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, we shift laws, institutions, social behaviours and services to close the gender gap and build an equal world for all women and girls. Our partnerships with governments, women's movements and the private sector coupled with our coordination of the broader United Nations translate progress into lasting changes. We make strides forward for women and girls in four areas: leadership, economic empowerment, freedom from violence, and women, peace and security as well as humanitarian action.

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



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