



#HerNetHerRights

Resource Pack on ending online violence
against women & girls in Europe



EUROPEAN WOMEN'S
LOBBY
EUROPEEN DES FEMMES

Contents

Introduction

1. Executive Summary

2. Policy Recommendations

3. Activist Toolkit

Social Media Visuals

Credits

EWL President: Edith Schratzberger-Vécsei

EWL Secretary General: Joanna Maycock

Consultants: Adriane van der Wilk and Marianne Niosi

Editorial and project coordination: Pierrette Pape

Publication coordinator: Irene Rosales

Graphic design: Elvira Buijink

Contributors: Asha Allen, Giannina Raffo, Rachael Stockdale

The EWL would like to give special thanks to the many knowledgeable women from across Europe who made valuable contributions to this report:

- The EWL members and EWL Observatory experts who took part in the different sessions at the last EWL Observatory meeting and the last Board meeting, and those of you who have sent their comments and contributions. Special thank you to Essa Reijmers and Isabel Ventura, EWL Observatory experts from the Netherlands and Portugal respectively, for having presented the #HerNetHerRights project in different key events.
- All the participants interviewed members of the European Women's Lobby- experts to the EWL Observatory on violence against women, members of the Youth 4 Abolition network, members of EWL Board of Administration-, as well as with Members of the European Parliament and politicians, academics, activists and other stakeholders.
- Agora 2017 participants who took part in the workshop on online violence against women and girls.
- All the contributors, speakers, activists and survivors who took part at the EWL Online Conference.
- The EWL Secretariat members for their support at all stages of the project.

@European Women's Lobby, November 2017
Creative Commons



Supported by Google.



This publication has been produced with the financial support of the Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) Programme of the European Commission. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the European Women's Lobby and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Commission.

Introduction

As we have entered the second wave of the digital age, the growing reach of internet-based technologies, virtual contents and the wide diffusion of social media have not only reinforced existing forms of male violence, but have also created new tools to inflict harm on women and girls.

The rise of online violence against women and girls (VAWG) has denied women autonomy over their own bodies and voices in cyberspaces, causing not only severe social implications on their online and offline lives but also on their financial resources (in terms of legal fees, online protection services and missed wages, among others). Online VAWG often also has lifelong consequences in terms of mental and physical health and well-being.

Despite research showing that women and girls in Europe experience violence in digital spaces, there is very little known about the specific characteristics or extent of the problem. The available information often remains spotty and is rarely aggregated on a European level.

About the project

From April to November 2017, the European Women's Lobby (EWL) has led **#HerNetHerRights**: a six-month project that aims at analysing the current state of online violence against women and girls in Europe. In order to raise awareness on the problem, the EWL has brought together diverse actors from across Europe to come up with innovative solutions and policy recommendations to fight this pervasive violation of women's human rights and create a safer, more inclusive web for all women and girls.

Funded by Google, a set of activities have been carried out in order to stock of the reality of online violence against women and girls in Europe. Adriane van der Wilk and Marianne Niosi, consultants, under the coordination and input of Pierrette Pape, European Women's Lobby Policy and Campaigns Director, have been conducting the project activities and the research drawing from the expertise and contributions from EWL members, EWL Observatory experts and various key stakeholders.

Who we are

The European Women's Lobby (EWL) brings together the women's movement in Europe to influence the general public and European Institutions in support of women's human rights and equality between women and men.

We are the largest European umbrella network of women's associations representing a total of more than 2000 organisations in all EU Member States and Candidate Countries, as well as 19 European-wide organisations representing the diversity of women and girls in Europe. EWL envisions a society in which women's contribution to all aspects of life is recognised, rewarded and celebrated - in leadership, in care and in production; all women have self-confidence, freedom of choice, and freedom from violence and exploitation; and no woman or girl is left behind.

Online Conference

On 13 October 2017, and in the framework of the [European Week of Action for Girls](#), the EWL organised an online conference which brought together the main actors on the issue of online violence against women and girls in Europe: researchers and activists, decision-makers and youth, survivors and women's organisations. On our website, [you can find the video of the conference](#) and more info on the speakers, including video messages of decision-makers. The online conference was followed by a tweetchat discussion. Find here a fantastic summary of the online conference and the tweetchat, [via a Storify presentation](#). At the end of this Resource Pack can find the visuals we used to showcase 12 types of online abusers in the run up to the online conference.

Resource Pack

This Resource Pack contains the following:

1. An **Executive Summary** of the #HerNetHerRights Report mapping the state of Online Violence against Women and Girls in Europe. The full #HerNetHerRights report can be found on our website www.womenlobby.org
2. Our **Policy Recommendations** to fight this pervasive violation of women's human rights and create a safer, more inclusive web for all women and girls.
3. An **Activist Toolkit** to empower women on the internet and combat male cyberviolence, to know one's rights and develop strategies to resist to and combat abusers online and bring structural change.

With the #HerNetHerRights project, the EWL calls on the decision-makers to prevent online VAWG, protect its victims and prosecute its perpetrators.

The European Union and its institutions, and the EU member states, should enforce and develop laws and policies to end all forms of violence against women, to ensure a gender perspective in the other policy areas dealing with the digital world, and to make private companies accountable and contribute to ending online violence against women and girls.

www.womenlobby.org @EuropeanWomen

1. Executive Summary

The #HerNetHerRights report “Mapping the state of Online Violence Against Women and Girls in Europe” is the result of a desk research/literature review which has been completed and enriched by a series of interviews with members of the European Women’s Lobby, experts to the EWL Observatory on violence against women, members of the Youth 4 Abolition network, members of EWL Board as well as with Members of the European Parliament and politicians, academics, activists and other stakeholders.

The European Women’s Lobby #HerNetHerRights report shows that online violence against women and girls (VAWG) is a prevalent and growing phenomenon. In Europe, 9 million girls have experienced some kind of cyber violence by the time they are 15 years old. Globally, women are 27 times more likely to be harassed online. The Internet, like all other spaces, is a place of gendered violence¹.

Online threats to women and their rights are serious, pervasive and deserving of the same attention as other forms of violence, since the virtual world sexism is indistinct from real world sexism.

Online VAWG is a part of the continuum of violence against women and girls and aims to maintain male domination in the digital sphere. It is another strategy for gender inequality to persist, and must therefore be addressed in any policy aiming to realise gender justice.

Despite the prevalent belief in the liberating and empowering potential of a new, democratic digital sphere, women and girls experience violence in many appalling ways on the internet and via the use of new technologies. They are targeted because of their sex/gender and encounter diverse forms of violence by different types of perpetrators, among them intimate partners. These include online harassment, sexist hate speech, online stalking, online bullying, multiple threats, impersonation or non-consensual sharing of graphic contents.

Digital spaces are also used to lure women and girls into prostitution and pornography, or can contribute to further intimate partner violence. In all cases, academics and practitioners have highlighted the need for reframing the terminology used by media to describe the various forms of online abuse from a feminist perspective.

As in real life, women and girls are targeted online because of their gender and because of the patriarchal stereotypes underlying gender inequality.

Women are attacked because of their identities and their status: among them are self-identified girls and women, female members of LGBTQI communities, women and girls of color, women with economic vulnerabilities, women with disabilities, rural women or women from small communities, migrant women, women with multiple traumas, women with mental health issues, etc. Those identities and/or vulnerabilities or specific visibilities, when they intersect, amplify the risks of violence.

Women and girls are also targets because of what they do: feminist activists and feminist women and girls, artists, (press) cartoonists, women in male dominated industries, women Human Rights defenders, journalists, NGO activists, lawmakers, members of parliament, academics, bloggers, lawyers, teachers, decision makers, etc.

While the abusers use different tactics and means, the goal remains the same: to embarrass, humiliate, scare, threaten, silence women and girls, or to encourage mob attacks or malevolent engagements against women and girls. Mob mentality, anonymity and the online permanency of outrage are the three pillars of impunity regarding cyber harassment.

The EWL report also describes the root causes of online violence against women and girls. These causes are linked to the unequal distribution of power and roles between women and men in society, on the one hand; and to the structure of the Tech industry and the nature of online spaces, on the other.

Offline, the Tech companies are male-dominated industries where, in Europe, women account for 1 in 10 app developers and 1 in 5 executives. Online, rape culture is just as prevalent as it is in the real world. For instance, at least 30% of all internet traffic constitutes porn: research also reveals that 88.2% of top rated porn scenes contain aggressive acts and 94% of the time the act is directed towards a woman. **While this content is regularly denounced for inciting violence against women or using private images without consent², the response by Tech companies and governments is completely inadequate when it comes to prevention and protection of women.**

Online spaces are being considered spaces where the individual is free from constraints and law. This leads to situations where many users have no information about their rights, and lack self-protection knowledge.

Furthermore, big internet corporations have often argued that they are tech companies and not media, failing to recognize that they contribute greatly to shaping and influencing perceptions and behaviours via their community standards and moderating practices. Women’s and girl’s’ rights to safety and visibility are therefore at stake.

Finally, the report takes stock of existing legislation and policies at International, EU and national level demonstrates that the situation is evolving, mostly at the national level. For instance, several European countries have adopted laws specifically intended to curb online gendered violence. Tech companies have agreed to a Code of Conduct with the European Commission. **These initial steps show that an awareness on online VAWG has started to grow. However, we are still far from offering a comprehensive response to violence against women and girls in the digital sphere.**

Read the full report on our website www.womenlobby.org

¹ Online violence has persistently been considered gender neutral in the media, and in several national campaigns. While it is true that people of all genders report being targets of violence, the figures are clear, women and girls are - compared to men - the main targets of online violence: they suffer the most violent forms of aggression and are the most affected by their consequences.

² Consent is also being manipulated in online spaces: it is one thing to consent to publish one’s pictures on one’s personal page, but it is another thing to see one’s pictures shared by others with others without one’s consent. In the digitalised world of data, what is personal and public data gets blurred. Dissemination of personal data, even in the public domain, must be conditioned by a clear consent.

Online violence against women and girls in the EU

THE TECH INDUSTRY IS MALE DOMINATED THIS GENDER GAP SHAPES SPACES WHERE WOMEN ARE NOT WELCOME



Only 9 in 100 European app developers are female



Only 19% of ICT managers are women

Only 19% of ICT entrepreneurs are women (54% women in other service sectors)



Less than 30% of the ICT workforce is female



Source: Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men

RECENT SURVEYS SHOW THAT MORE THAN 9 MILLION WOMEN IN EUROPE HAVE EXPERIENCED ONLINE VIOLENCE



11% of women have been victims of cyber harassment since the age of 15



18% of women have experienced a form of serious Internet violence since the age of 15



46% of women received sexually explicit emails or SMS messages by an unknown person



73% of women received inappropriate advances on social networks by an unknown person

Source: Cyber Violence against Women and Girls - A report by the UN Broadband Commission for Digital Development Working Group on Broadband and Gender

2. Policy Recommendations

Digitalisation impacts on the whole society, on women and men. The digital sphere should be a space of equality, justice, respect, rule of law, non-discrimination, freedom of expression and safety.

Online threats to women and their rights are serious, pervasive, and deserving of the same attention as other forms of violence. Participation free of harassment, exclusion, and marginalization is crucial to integrated social change movements in which women feel they can participate - and lead.

Let's stand in defence of women's rights, their psychological bandwidth, and their freedom to live online!

Recommendations on ending violence against women

- **Policy responses should be formulated in recognition of the fact that cyber VAWG is a form of violence against women.** Strategies for addressing cyber VAWG must also include the voices of women who are victims of the phenomenon.
- **The EU and the Member States should aim towards agreeing on definitions of forms of cyber VAWG** and incorporate these forms of violence into EU and national legislation, to ensure that victims of cyber VAWG in Member States have access to justice and specialised support services.
- **The EU and its Member States should put their efforts in designing legal instruments and policy strategies** to punish and prevent Online VAWG and protect its victims, through legal provisions, law enforcement mechanisms, awareness raising campaigns and the diffusion of reporting and self-protection tools.
- **The EU institutions should work towards a Directive that specifically addresses Violence Against Women and Girls including online violence.** The EU institutions shall make sure victims of online violence are protected by all the rights of the Victims' Rights directive.
- **The EU and its member states should ratify and implement the [Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence](#), the Istanbul Convention.**
- **The EU should establish an EU coordinator to end violence against women and girls**, within the umbrella of the EU's work on equality between women and men.
- **A priority should be to improve gender-disaggregated data at EU and national level on the prevalence and harms of cyber VAWG** (including in fields where there lacks a gender perspective, such as Cybercrime and Media), with information on the sex/gender of the victim and the perpetrator and the relationship between them, and to develop indicators to measure the effectiveness of interventions.
- **Specific and trained support lines and services** should be created and funded in a sustainable way in order to support,

help and protect women and girls victims of online violence. Whether managed by governmental services or women's organisations, they should ensure a deep understanding of the continuum of violence against women and girls.

- **There should be systematic consultation of and sustainable funding** for women's organisations providing support to women and girls victims, and developing advocacy and awareness raising campaigns, at EU, national and local levels.

Recommendations to end online violence against women and girls

- **All forms of online violence against women and girls should be criminalized.**
- The provisions of the Council of Europe Istanbul Convention should apply to cases of **cyberviolence**.
- **The police and justice systems and professionals should be trained** to detect, respond and prosecute such violence.
- The State is responsible to set up an **independent entity that is authorized to hear and decide on cases** involving online violence against women and issue effective remedies for the victim/survivor.
- Both **perpetrators and re-transmitters should be held responsible** for the re-transmission of violating materials.
- States should also set out clearly the expectation that all business enterprises domiciled in their territory and/or jurisdiction protect, **respect and remedy human rights throughout their operations**.
- **Internet intermediaries should ensure that their platforms are not abused to perpetrate and perpetuate violence against women**, and if they are, take immediate action to remedy it. Moderation should have clear guidelines to exclude sexism and racism, and ensure respect for women's rights.

Other EU policies dealing with the digital world

- **The EU should adopt a directive prohibiting sexism and gender inequality in the fields of education and the media, extending the Equal Treatment Directive.**
- In the immediate future, **definitions of cybercrime** by the European Commission's DG Migration and Home Affairs should include forms of cyber VAWG, or at the minimum, should include misogyny in the third part of its definition.
- **Training on cyber VAWG** with a gender perspective should be introduced to police responses to cybercrime.
- It is important for EU level institutions and agencies combatting cybercrime **to tackle gendered forms of cybercrime**; particularly the online luring or 'recruitment' of women and girls into harmful situations such as trafficking.

- **Prevention measures** should be developed that include the ICT sector, including adoption of self-regulatory standards to avoid harmful gender stereotyping and the spreading of degrading images of women, or imagery that associates sex with violence.
- **The EU institutions should implement a systematic gender perspective** (gender mainstreaming, including gender budgeting) in the following EU policies and programmes: EU Digital Agenda, Digital Single Market Strategy, Safer Internet Programme, European Safer Internet Centres, EU Cybersecurity Strategy, Europol Cybercrime Centre, EU Directive on child pornography and sexual exploitation³, as well as all policies dealing with trade, competition, ICT and development.
- **The European Code of Good Practices for Women in ICT** should be vitalised, implemented, and completed to include online VAWG and eliminate it⁴.
- **Legislative measures shall be implemented against sexist advertising** as well as an obligation for the advertising industry to provide information on any retouching of images.
- Evidence-based research and Civil Society Organization Programs on gender equality in media shall be **supported and funded**.
- Mandatory **gender training** shall be included in programs and courses for journalists.
- **Education on media and ITC literacy** shall be part of the schools curricula. Education should include gender equality awareness and an understanding how gender stereotyping has a negative impact on the achievement of gender equality overall. When people are trained to critically evaluate, use, consume and produce media information, they are empowered to participate effectively in the public debate.

Recommendations towards tech companies and internet providers

- All segments of the internet industry, including internet intermediaries and platform providers, **should respect and protect human rights**.
- Tech companies should **recognise online VAWG** and better cooperate with existing law enforcement instruments.
- They should put additional efforts in fully implementing the **EC code of conduct**.
- They should contribute to **producing data** on online VAWG and proof due diligence in responding to it.

Recommendations regarding media and advertisement

- **Annual media barometers** shall be developed, with goals, targets and indicators, based on consistent and comparable data that give tangible proof of the participation of women in the media in terms of recruitment, content, perspective etc.
- It shall be insured that **goals include targets and indicators** on participation in management and decision-making, the working conditions; such as gender equal wages and mechanisms to prevent sexual harassment and other forms of discrimination.
- Policy and law makers shall review how female journalists, elected officials, researchers and culture workers can be offered **improved legal protection**, especially when targeted by organized hate campaigns.
- Public media distributors shall be given the task to **ensure gender equality** by implementing a model for participation and non-stereotypical representation that can also be used by private media actors.

Recommendations regarding pornography

- **Pornography should be recognised as a form of male violence against women and girls**.
- All internet providers shall install **Opt-in filters** that block pornographic material as standard. Consumers who want to access pornographic material should actively have to choose to remove the filter (Opt-out). Ensure porn-free school environments for children.
- Legislators shall adopt measures **to limit the distribution of online pornography**.

³ European Parliament, "Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2004/68/JHA", available online at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32011L0093>

⁴ European Commission, Digital single market, Reports and studies, Code of best practices for women in ICT, January 30 2013, available online at <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/code-best-practices-women-ict>

Activist Toolkit for Internet Security

Tired of getting trolled, stalked, harassed when you speak up online about issues that matter to you? Worried about who could get their hands on your personal information and use it against you? Don't know where to begin?

Follow this European Women's Lobby activist toolkit for internet security to empower women on the internet and combat male cyberviolence. With this we want to contribute to a safer, louder, more empowering and solidary internet for women and girls.

This toolkit offers an overview of some of the most pertinent feminist advice. Throughout these pages you will find links to different useful toolkits produced by various organizations and groups. Find all these resources at the end of the document.

What dangers could you face?

« As a sexual educator, I need to understand what sexual violence looks like on platforms that I don't use every day. » Finka, Poland.

The Internet facilitates, enhances and sometimes just plainly allows violence against women and girls to occur.

The **troll** comments or posts with the objective of creating discord and outraged reactions, such as tone-policing; victim blaming; slut-shaming; sexist; racist; classist; ableist and homophobic hate speech; gaslighting; the use of alt-facts and doxxing, these are all techniques used by trolls to expel women from online spaces, making those spaces unwelcoming and threatening. Trolls often acts in hordes, massively engaging their victims and making the attacks all the more overwhelming.

You can find below a list of the different forms of abuse that women and girls could face on the internet⁵:

- **Sexist hate speech** is defined by the Council of Europe as "expressions which spread, incite, promote or justify hatred based on sex ". Typically, these are the rape, death and torture threats women and girls can receive because they are (self-)identified as women and bear the stereotypes enforced by rape culture and patriarchy.
- **Cyberbullying** consists of repeated behaviour such as sending mean text messages, starting rumours, or posting images with the objective of frightening and undermining someone's self-esteem or reputation, which sometimes pushes vulnerable individuals to depression and suicide.
- **Cyber harassment** is the use of digital means to communicate or interact with a non-consenting person. Cyberbullying occurs the most between minors. Online sexual harassment can take the form of comments, videos, photos, and graphic images of sexual nature aimed at vilifying women and creating conditions of humiliation and sexualisation, because they are women. Offensive sexist and insulting words such as "slut", "whore", "cunt", "bitch" can be used, as well as commentaries on women's physical appearances.

- **Cyberstalking** is the act of spying, fixating or compiling information about somebody online and to communicate with them against their will.
- **Doxxing** refers to the online researching and publishing of private information on the internet to publicly expose and shame the person targeted.
- **Creepshots** are also called **digital voyeurism**. Creepshots consist of perpetrators surreptitiously taking photos or videos of women's private areas for the purpose of sexual gratification. In some cases, the act of taking the image without the victim's knowledge, and the subsequent violation of their privacy and agency, is what provides the sexual '*gratification*'.
- **Revenge porn**, or "**image-based sexual abuse**" is the fact of using private pictures and videos of sexual character, given or exchanged, and posting them online to shame and humiliate the victim. It can be the extension of intimate partner violence to online spaces. Images can also be obtained by hacking into the victim's computer, social media accounts or phone, and can aim to inflict real damage on the target's 'real-world' life (such as getting them fired from their job).
- **Hacking**, the act of intercepting private communications and data, can target women and girls, especially in the form of web-cam hacking.
- **Online impersonation** is the fact of using the name or identity of someone else with the intend to harm, defraud, intimidate, or threaten any person, online impersonation may be used to discredit targeted women with their social and professional peers or for criminal purposes similar to offline identity theft.
- **Malicious distribution** is the use of tech tools to distribute defamatory material related to the victim and/or organizations; e.g. by using new technologies as a propaganda tool to promote violence against women, call for violence against abortion providers, etc.
- **Mob attacks and cyber mobs**: hostile mobs include hundreds, sometimes thousands of people, systematically harassing a target.
- **Abusive sexting**: Sexting is the consensual electronic sharing of naked or sexual photographs. This is different, however, from the non-consensual sharing of the same images. While teenage boys and girls sext at the same rates, boys are between two and three times more likely to share images that they are sent.

Some forms of online VAWG are directly linked to prostitution and sex trafficking. Because of the anonymity provided by the Internet, and because the internet has the characteristics of an opaque transnational marketplace, victims can be sold numerous times to multiple buyers on a daily basis. Social media profiles and other new technologies allow clients to "shop" for women and girls.

⁵ The European Women's Lobby noticed a great interest among activists and researchers in coining a feminist lexicon of online VAWG. Moreover, both academics and practitioners highlight the need for reframing the terminology used by media to describe the diverse forms of online abuse and online crimes victimising women and girls. Terms like "Revenge Porn" or "Grooming", are challenged by scholars and activists as they describe the reality of the abuser rather than the victim's abuse and the attacks on women and girls' dignity, safety, integrity and health. Terms like "image-based sexual abuse" or "child sexual abuse" should be used. This is why the list includes the alternate terms that illustrate a women-centred approach. All reference to this list are in the full #HerNetHerRights report.

- **Recruitment** is the use of technology to lure potential victims into trafficking and prostitution. Social media is used by traffickers to sell people whose photographs they share, without their consent, often including photographs of their abuse of women as an example to others.
- **Online grooming** is the process of building an online abusive relationship with a child, in order to lure the child into sexual abuse, child-trafficking situations, child prostitution, or child documented rape. The term "grooming" is widely criticised by survivors themselves, as it fails to name explicitly the child sexual abuse dimension of the act.

New technologies can also be misused to perpetrate violence against women and girls:

- **In Real Life Attacks** describe incidents where online abuse either moves into the "real" world or is already part of an ongoing stalking or intimate partner violence interaction. IRL trolling can also mean simply trying to instil fear by letting a target know that the abuser knows their address or place of employment.
- **Abuse of new technologies** can coincide with online violence but can also be different and foster offline violence: for example, installing spyware; misusing private/family accounts for online services; changing passwords. In the context of domestic and family violence, smart homes

What can you do to protect yourself?

« One evening, my LGBTQI organisation posted about Pride. The next morning, we had more than 1200 hate messages on our wall. How do you deal with that? », Glorija, Bulgaria.

Our identities on the web:

» How much personal information about us is out there for everyone to see? Our addresses, our phone numbers... It can be useful to **Google yourself regularly or to set a Google alert for our name**. Know exactly how much information people can garner through a simple research is a great way to know how vulnerable you are.

» Check out this link to know more about « **doxxing** » and how to make your devices secure: <https://onlinesafety.feministfrequency.com/en/>

» **Encrypt your devices and files**: trolls are looking for compromising information that they can use against individuals online. Ensuring that no one can access your private computer and electronic devices is not very complicated and it can be free. Check out Hackblossom's security Cheat Sheet: <https://hackblossom.org/cybersecurity/>

» Some other questions one may ask are: **what traces** does your communication leave? Check here: <https://myshadow.org/trace-my-shadow>

» What **information do social networks collect**? What do they do with it? Check here: <https://securityinabox.org/en/>

Our bodies on the web:

» Real-life and cyber-life are not separate spheres. We may want to share pictures to show ourselves online. However make sure that images of you cannot be used against you: anonymize the pictures and the data they contain and use channels that are safe. Several programmes allow you to exchange **encrypted messages** that are difficult to download and that self-destruct. Some more advice here: <https://www.codingrights.org/safernudes/>

Having an opinion:

« **When we make political statements on Facebook, we get comments from men who delegitimize my opinions by attacking our sexual behaviour, or our morality** », Cicek, feminist activist, Cyprus.

» From ignoring to taking on: how do we respond to hate speech? There is no right way to respond to cyber-harassment. **Some women prefer to ignore it, others expose their tormentors**. Others will find a safe space to seek support and understanding. Check out Take Back the Tech <https://www.takebackthetech.net/be-safe/hate-speech-strategies> and Hollaback <https://www.ihollaback.org/blog/2017/09/27/counterspeech-dos-donts/> for some advice.

» One thing is for sure, **taking on the haters requires a firm grasp of their tactics and a strong defense of our personal information**: find more info in the Feminist's Guide to Digital Security <https://medium.com/thelist/9-ways-to-dodge-trolls-a-feminists-guide-to-digital-security-471f66b98c79>

» **Create an alternative identity** « To use these identities (...) requires a certain level of technical skills and knowledge because of the number of variables, technologies, systems, and actors involved. This is really about making good decisions about the threats you are facing or are likely to face in the future. », https://gendersec.tacticaltech.org/wiki/index.php/Complete_manual#Counterspeech

» Protect yourself from disgruntled exes and real-life aggressors: sometimes the dangers feel like it's flowing from the Internet into our real lives, but the opposite can also be true. Many of the tactics listed above may be useful to you. But in the case of a real-life aggressor, there can be some particular issues:

- **your location** can be broadcast via your iphone or your computer. Learn how to switch off location sharing.
- your harasser has or has had access to your phone or computer. **Spyware** may be an issue.
- they also know your friends and may have a window into your **social life** via social networks.

» Find via these links some advice specifically designed for **survivors of domestic violence** <https://www.techsafety.org/resources-survivors> and <https://hackblossom.org/domestic-violence/>



What to do if it happens to you?

« **The police often don't understand the nature of women's internet use. They often tell women to switch off. But that doesn't work and it would just leave them feeling more isolated** », **Salma, activist against online violence, Paris.**

» Remember: **you are not to blame.**

» Talk to a person you trust, call a help line or find an outreach group. Some **supportive communities online** dedicate themselves to the fight against online VAW: iheartmob <https://iheartmob.com>, Féministes vs CyberH <https://feministesvscyberh.tumblr.com/> (in French), Hollaback <https://ihollaback.org>

» **Signal and block the author.** Twitter, Facebook and other social platforms offer the possibility to block authors of abuse and signal abuse. An interesting tool to block harassers online: www.blocktogether.com

» **Collect proof.** Screenshots are a basic tool to save information that you have gathered on the Internet and that could serve your case.

» Other tools can save you some time. **Print screening**, saving internet pages, applications exist to help you achieve this quickly: <https://addons.mozilla.org/fr/firefox/addon/scrapbook/> and <http://plugin.webpreserver.com/> **Unearth deleted pages** using: <http://archive.org/web/>

» **Report to the authorities.** In many countries, the distribution of images without consent is only criminal if the sexually-explicit content is of a minor or of an obvious criminal activity, such as a sexual assault. When the victim is not a minor or when the images were originally taken with the consent of the victim, the laws are often not as protective when those images are then shared by someone else with the intent to harm.

In the absence of laws to address this type of intentional abuse and violation of privacy, many survivors are left without resources. Activists have also noted that authorities are not always aware of the ways in which the laws that do exist can be used to protect women online.

Be aware that victims of online sexist violence often report that the authorities do not understand the place that the Internet occupies in women's lives and the real consequences that harassment, revenge pornography or stalking can have.

» **Take a trusted person along with you.** Get help from women's organizations, find here the European Women's Lobby member organisations in your country <https://www.womenlobby.org/-our-membership-?lang=en>. Can also reach out to your country's Ombudsperson or Equality body via Equinet: http://www.equineteurope.org/IMG/pdf/equinet_print_3mm.pdf or legal institutions in your country.

Find out more

To find out more about good practices and policy recommendations for a safer and more empowering internet for all women and girls, **read the full report “#HerNetHerRights: Mapping the state of Online Violence Against Women and Girls in Europe” on our website www.womenlobby.org**

Or find more info on Feminist internet security here:

- <https://gendersec.tacticaltech.org/>
- <https://iheartmob.org/>
- <https://feministesvscyberh.tumblr.com/> (in French)
- <https://www.apc.org/en/pubs/icts-feminist-movement-building-activist-toolkit>
- <https://securityinabox.org/en/>
- <https://hackblossom.org>
- <https://es.hackblossom.org/cybersecurity/> (in Spanish)
- <http://chayn.co/> (Russian, Italian, English and French language Guides to Internet security)
- <https://www.codingrights.org> (Portuguese, English, Spanish)
- <https://www.feministfrequency.com>
- <https://troll-busters.com/>
- <https://yoursosteam.wordpress.com/what-to-do-mobile-graphic/>
- <https://www.hackharassment.com>
- <http://www.crashoverridenetwork.com>
- <http://www.womensmediacenter.com/speech-project/>

Social Media Visuals



Did you know?
In Europe, 9 million girls experience online violence by the age of 15.

They are confronted with online abusers. Meet the cyber sexual harasser *also known as*

THE TROLL

TACTICS Attacks women who assert their opinions online.

HABITAT Comments sections, forums, chatrooms.

Join @EuropeanWomen online conference
13 October 2017 www.womenlobby.org/hernetherrights

Save the date and join us to say NO to online violence against women & girls in Europe!

Google  EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY
EUROPÄISCHES FRAUENLOBBY

#HerNetHerRights
#ExposeTheAbusers
#SayNoToOnlineViolence

Funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme



Did you know?
Across continents, women are 27 times more likely to be harassed online.

They are confronted with online abusers. Meet the digital voyeur and violator *also known as*

THE CREEPSHOTTER

TACTICS Photographs women and girls without their consent and publishes their photos online.

HABITAT Offline public places, Reddit, dedicated websites, social networks.

Join @EuropeanWomen online conference
13 October 2017 www.womenlobby.org/hernetherrights

Save the date and join us to say NO to online violence against women & girls in Europe!

Google  EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY
EUROPÄISCHES FRAUENLOBBY

#HerNetHerRights
#ExposeTheAbusers
#SayNoToOnlineViolence

Funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme



Did you know?
93% of image-based sexual abuse (revenge porn) victims say they suffer significant emotional distress.

They are confronted with online abusers. Meet the digital rapist *also known as*

THE REVENGE PORNOGRAPHER

TACTICS Posts private pictures or videos of a sexual nature to shame and humiliate the victim. Extension of male intimate partner violence.

HABITAT Social networks.

Join @EuropeanWomen online conference
13 October 2017 www.womenlobby.org/hernetherrights

Save the date and join us to say NO to online violence against women & girls in Europe!

Google  EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY
EUROPÄISCHES FRAUENLOBBY

#HerNetHerRights
#ExposeTheAbusers
#SayNoToOnlineViolence

Funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme



Did you know?
56 % of children solicited online are asked for a picture.

They are confronted with online abusers. Meet the child sex abuser *also known as*

THE ONLINE GROOMER

TACTICS Builds a relationship with a child via the Internet to bring them into sexual abuse and sex trafficking.

HABITAT Social networks, forums.

Join @EuropeanWomen online conference
13 October 2017 www.womenlobby.org/hernetherrights

Save the date and join us to say NO to online violence against women & girls in Europe!

Google  EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY
EUROPÄISCHES FRAUENLOBBY

#HerNetHerRights
#ExposeTheAbusers
#SayNoToOnlineViolence

Funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme



Did you know?
70% of women victims of cyberstalking also experience at least one form of physical or/and sexual violence from an intimate partner.

They are confronted with online abusers. Meet the obsessive abuser *also known as*

THE CYBERSTALKER

TACTICS Spies, fixates on and compiles information about women online to scare them and blackmail them.

HABITAT Social networks.

Join @EuropeanWomen online conference
13 October 2017 www.womenlobby.org/hernetherrights

Save the date and join us to say NO to online violence against women & girls in Europe!

Google  EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY
EUROPÄISCHES FRAUENLOBBY

#HerNetHerRights
#ExposeTheAbusers
#SayNoToOnlineViolence

Funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme



Did you know?
1 out of 10 sex offenders use online dating to meet their victims.

They are confronted with online abusers. Meet the sexual predator *also known as*

THE DATING WEBSITE MANIPULATOR

TACTICS Seeks power and control over their victim by charming them online and luring them towards a dangerous situation.

HABITAT Dating websites, social networks, chatrooms, communication apps.

Join @EuropeanWomen online conference
13 October 2017 www.womenlobby.org/hernetherrights

Save the date and join us to say NO to online violence against women & girls in Europe!

Google  EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY
EUROPÄISCHES FRAUENLOBBY

#HerNetHerRights
#ExposeTheAbusers
#SayNoToOnlineViolence

Funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme



Did you know?
1 out of 4 European teenage girls experience cyberbullying.

They are confronted with online abusers. Meet the humiliator *also known as*

THE CYBERBULLY

TACTICS Repeatedly sends hurtful messages and starts rumors to shame and humiliate.

HABITAT Social networks, communication apps.

Join @EuropeanWomen online conference
13 October 2017 www.womenlobby.org/hernetherrights

Save the date and join us to say NO to online violence against women & girls in Europe!

Google  EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY / EUROPEEN DES FEMMES
#HerNetHerRights
#ExposeTheAbusers
#SayNoToOnlineViolence
Funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme



Did you know?
37% of feminist women and girls experience threats of sexual violence online.

They are confronted with online abusers. Meet the woman hater *also known as*

THE MASCULINIST

TACTICS Negates and though perpetuates systemic sexism by "defending men's rights".

HABITAT Dedicated websites, women's groups' websites, social networks.

Join @EuropeanWomen online conference
13 October 2017 www.womenlobby.org/hernetherrights

Save the date and join us to say NO to online violence against women & girls in Europe!

Google  EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY / EUROPEEN DES FEMMES
#HerNetHerRights
#ExposeTheAbusers
#SayNoToOnlineViolence
Funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme



Did you know?
In 2015, 31 women human rights defenders were murdered.

They were confronted with online abusers. Meet the dangerous defamator *also known as*

THE MALICIOUS DISTRIBUTOR


TACTICS Uses new technologies and a propaganda tool to promote violence against women or women's rights groups.

HABITAT Social networks.

Join @EuropeanWomen online conference
October 13th, 2017 www.womenlobby.org/hernetherrights

Save the date and join us to say NO to online violence against women & girls in Europe!

Google  EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY / EUROPEEN DES FEMMES
#HerNetHerRights
#ExposeTheAbusers
#SayNoToOnlineViolence
Funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme



Did you know?
Half a billion digital identities were stolen or at least exposed in 2015.

They are confronted with online abusers. Meet the data chief and criminal shamer *also known as*


THE DOXXER

TACTICS Researches and publishes private information online as to publicly expose, out, and shame victims.

HABITAT Victim's social networks profiles, google searches.

Join @EuropeanWomen online conference
13 October 2017 www.womenlobby.org/hernetherrights

Save the date and join us to say NO to online violence against women & girls in Europe!

Google  EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY / EUROPEEN DES FEMMES
#HerNetHerRights
#ExposeTheAbusers
#SayNoToOnlineViolence
Funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme



Did you know?
Hacking discussion sites count millions of posts with the images of female "slaves" stolen by hackers on women's webcams.

They are confronted with online abusers. Meet the invador *also known as*

THE HACKER

TACTICS Intercepts private information and communication, i.e. webcams.

HABITAT Can be everywhere.

Join @EuropeanWomen online conference
13 October 2017 www.womenlobby.org/hernetherrights

Save the date and join us to say NO to online violence against women & girls in Europe!

Google  EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY / EUROPEEN DES FEMMES
#HerNetHerRights
#ExposeTheAbusers
#SayNoToOnlineViolence
Funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme



Did you know?
76% of trafficked persons are girls and women and the Internet is now a major sales platform.

They are confronted with online abusers. Meet the rape seller or trafficker *also known as*

THE RECRUITER

TACTICS Uses new technologies to lure victims, traffic, sell and prostitute them.

HABITAT Sales websites, dedicated platforms, social media, communication apps.

Join @EuropeanWomen online conference
13 October 2017 www.womenlobby.org/hernetherrights

Save the date and join us to say NO to online violence against women & girls in Europe!

Google  EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY / EUROPEEN DES FEMMES
#HerNetHerRights
#ExposeTheAbusers
#SayNoToOnlineViolence
Funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme