



Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence

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Guro Wiik

GBV and Inclusive Governance Specialist UNDP Gender Team

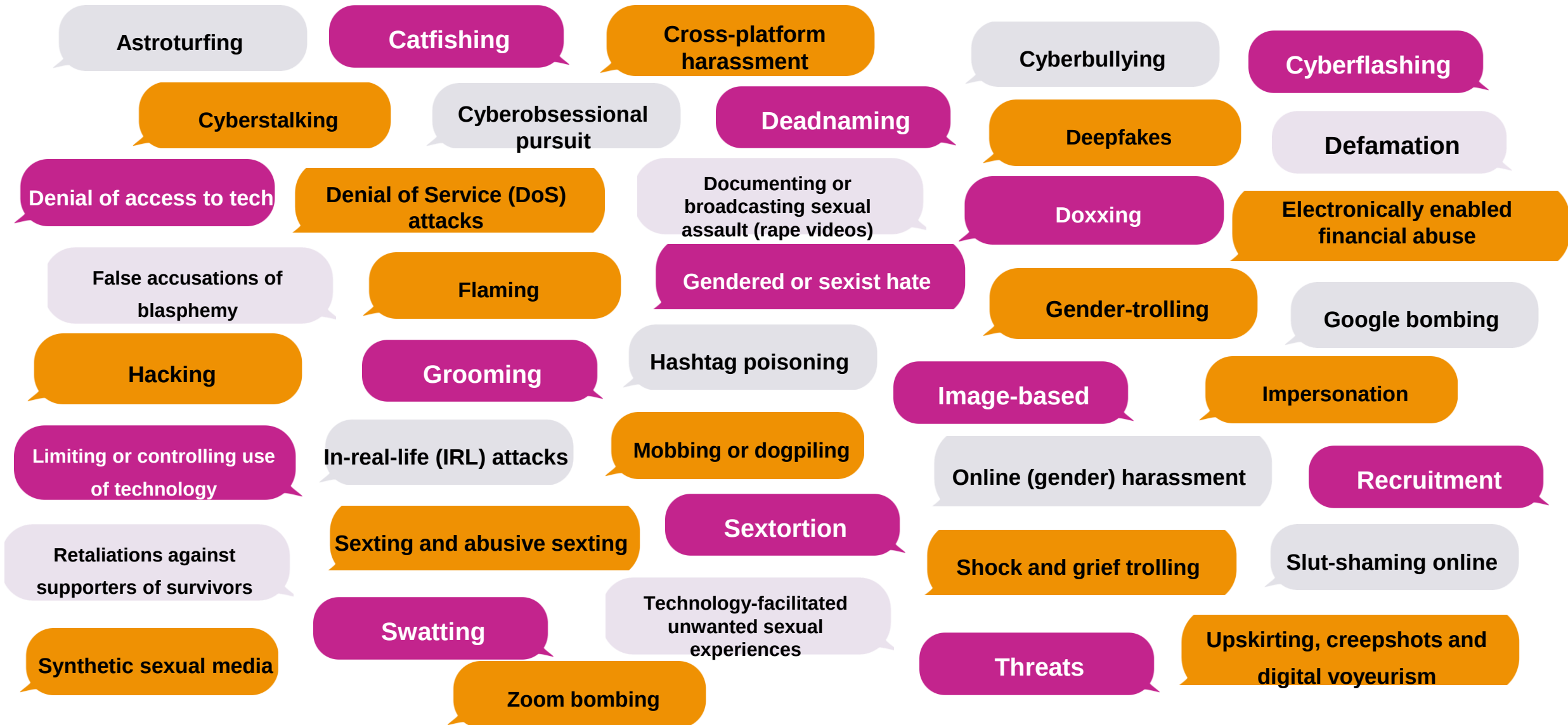
What is Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV)



An act of violence perpetrated by one or more individuals that is committed, assisted, aggravated and amplified in part or fully by the use of information and communication technologies or digital media, against a person on the basis of their gender.

UNFPA, 2021

Types of TFGBV (online & offline)



Context & Root Causes of GBV

- Rising level of authoritarianism and democratic backlash
- Gender inequality and power imbalances
- Patriarchal norms and misogyny
- Disproportionally affecting women and girls
- Intersectionality
- Continuum offline and online

76%

North America

91%

Latin America
and Caribbean

90%

Africa

74%

Europe

98%

Middle East

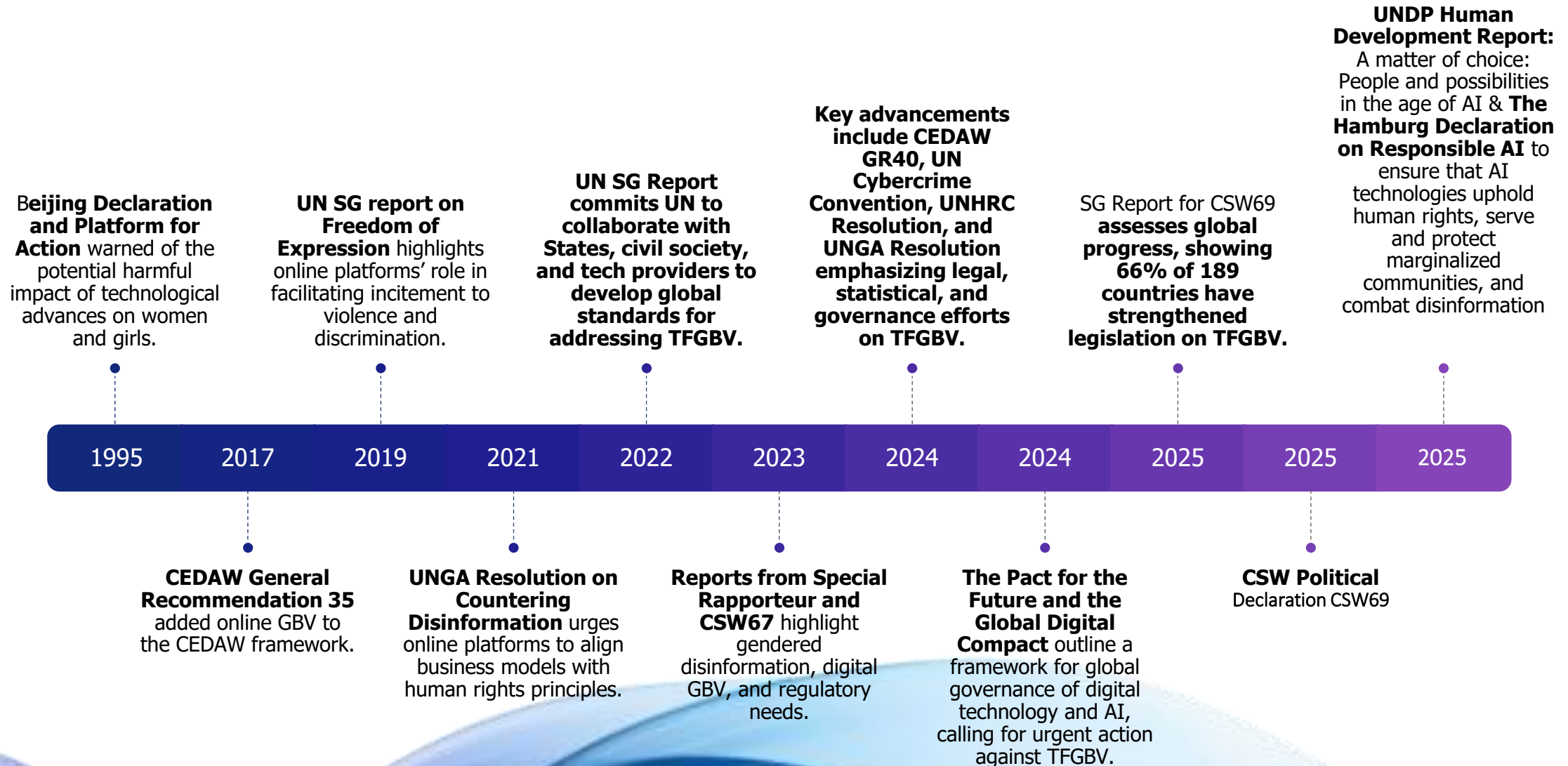
88%

Asia Pacific

Global & Regional Trends

Our study covered the top 51
countries by number of persons online

Global Normative Advances



Legislation at Country Level on TFGBV



While progress is slow, legislative advancement is evident across various countries with new laws and regulations to prevent and respond to TFGBV:

- The rise of AI-driven abuse, particularly deepfakes, have led to new legal responses. **ROK revised its 'Act on Special Cases Concerning the Punishment of Sex Crimes'** to criminalize non-consensual deepfake content.
- **Australia's Online Safety Act (2021, effective 2022) and UK's Online Safety Act (2023)** strengthen accountability and reporting pathways for TFGBV victims-survivors.
- Many laws focus on countering image-based sexual abuse. The **Philippines pioneered specific legislation in 2009; Kenya's 2019 Data Protection Act prohibits** unauthorized image sharing.
- Challenges persist, including slow remedial action, low prosecution rates, and lack of globally harmonized legal definitions.
- A comprehensive mapping of TFGBV laws is needed for better global coordination. UN Women and the Association for Progressive Communications are leading a global legal mapping initiative in 2025.

What is UNDP Doing?



TFGBV as a development challenge

The digital revolution is expanding civic participation and opening space for women's voice and leadership. Yet the same technologies are increasingly weaponized to intimidate, silence, and exclude women from public and political life.

Digital attacks against women leaders are rising and are now a defining feature of democratic backsliding and organized pushback against gender equality — aimed at preserving power imbalances and limiting women's rights and participation.

Ensuring women can participate safely in digital and civic life is fundamental to democratic governance, human rights, and inclusive development.

UNDP's Strategic Plan 2026-29

UNDP's Strategic Plan 2026 -29 is anchored in global commitments — including the **Pact for the Future, the Global Digital Compact, the UN Cybercrime Convention, and Beijing+30** — and recognizes the risks posed by digitalization and AI, especially the rising violence against women in politics and public life.

The Plan commits UNDP to support countries **prevent and respond to digital harms**, strengthening **institutional, legislative, and accountability systems** to protect rights and democratic participation.

Digital & AI transformation and **gender equality** are two of the Plan's three accelerators, driving efforts to advance **human-rights-based democratic governance** and ensure women's **protection, participation, and leadership** in the digital age.

Global Policy and System Reform to Address TFGBV



UNDP's work is both global and country-specific, with tailored interventions and ongoing advocacy to ensure systemic change.

Legal Reform: Many country initiatives focus on reviewing and strengthening laws to address digital forms of gender-based violence.

Capacity Building: Training for law enforcement and judicial actors is a common theme, aiming to improve investigation and prosecution of TFGBV cases.

Data and Advocacy: UNDP strengthens evidence on TFGBV by working with partners to collect data on digital attacks against women in public life. Through tools like **eMonitor+** and **iVerify**, we use AI-enabled monitoring to track online abuse, inform advocacy, and drive national action.

Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships: Collaboration across sectors, including civil society, tech sector, academic and UN entities [including UNFPA, UN Women, UNODC etc] is key to developing comprehensive responses and survivor support systems.

Focus on Women's Leadership: Initiatives often emphasize protecting women in leadership and political life from digital violence.

Country & Regional [list no exhaustive]



Pakistan: National TFGBV

Strategy: UNDP supported the development of a national strategy to address TFGBV, including legal reviews and proposed amendments to the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA). The focus is on survivor-centered, rights-based reforms to close protection gaps and address emerging threats like deepfake pornography and cyberstalking

Indonesia: Law Enforcement

Training: UNDP delivered advanced training for police officers on TFGBV investigation, including AI-based digital reporting and deepfake detection. This capacity-building effort aims to improve the response to digital gender-based violence and strengthen institutional mechanisms

Wester Balkan: Legal Review: UNDP supported a comprehensive review of the legislative frameworks has been undertaken to inform law reform.

Tunisia: Legal Reform and

Advocacy: UNDP has worked with national partners to review and strengthen legal frameworks addressing TFGBV, focusing on women's protection in digital spaces and supporting advocacy for survivor-centered policies.

Sierra Leone: Capacity Building: UNDP has supported training and knowledge exchange for law enforcement and judicial actors to strengthen responses to TFGBV, with a focus on women in leadership and political lif

Sri Lanka: Institutional Strengthening: UNDP has supported national partners to strengthen institutional, legislative, and accountability mechanisms to prevent and respond to TFGBV, especially in the context of women's political participation

Global Level



- **Global Policy Leadership:** convening a global policy dialogues on TFGBV (Nov 2024 & No 2925) to shape standards and coordinated action.
- **Knowledge & Evidence:** policy briefs and working paper on TFGBV [forthcoming] and UNDP's value-add; **2025 Human Development Report** on digitalization, rights, and inclusion and **research on administrative mechanisms in parliaments** (codes of conduct, complaint channels, HR protocols, sanctions, digital safety policies) to prevent and address TFGBV/VAWP against women MPs and staff.
- **Operational Guidance: Global Police Guide on TFGBV & Cybercrime** (with UN Women & UNODC) to strengthen investigation, referral, and survivor-centred response.
- **Joint UN Advocacy:** leadership during **16 Days of Activism** and year-round campaigns to drive policy uptake and resources.

