



# Understanding Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence

**Making Institutions Safer: Addressing Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV)**

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# Outline

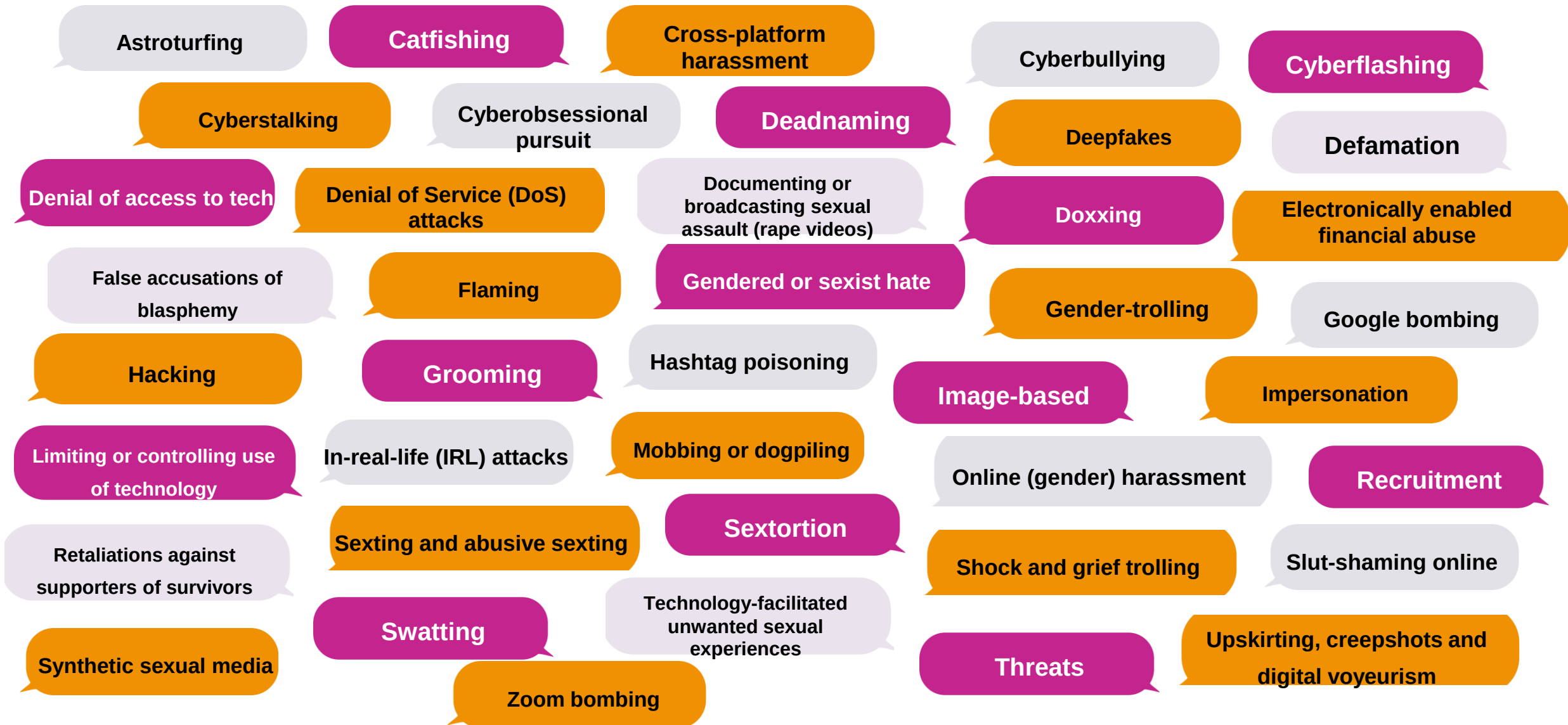


1. Definitions, types and root causes
2. Global and Regional Trends
3. Consequences at Individual, Community, Societal & Institutional levels
4. Legal & Normative Frameworks to address TFGBV
5. Solutions

*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)



# Root Causes of TFGBV

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

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

- **Consequences at individual,  
community, societal & institutional  
levels**

# Women and Girls at Risk

- **80% of child sexual abuse images are of girls aged 11–13**; 58% of young women globally report online harassment, 85% experience multiple types.
- **44% of women parliamentarians** face death, rape, or assault threats on social media.
- **73% of women journalists** experience online violence; **20% face offline attacks** linked to online abuse.
- **Intersectionality:**
  - Women of ethnic minorities, LGBTQAI+, or have disabilities face higher abuse rates:
  - 41.8% of women politicians have been targets of defamatory sexual content.
  - 47% of young women face attacks for opinions on politics, feminism, or health.

# Individual Level

- **Psychological Impact:** Trauma, stigma, anxiety, depression, PTSD
- **Physical Impact:** Stress-induced health issues
- **Economic Impact:** Lost job opportunities, medical expenses
- **Social Impact:** Isolation, fear of using technology

# Societal & Institutional Levels

- **Erodes trust in digital platforms** and increases the digital divide between men and women [ITU 2023: Global gap 65% to 70%, Low-income 20% to 34%, LDCs 30% to 41%, SIDS and middle/high income lowers the gap]
- **Hinders equality between men and women** by disempowering women and girls
- **Hampers democratic participation** and participation in all aspect of public life.
- **High social and economic costs [GBV costs up to 3.7% of national GDP]**, including healthcare, law enforcement, and productivity losses that is hampering sustainable and inclusive development.

- **Legal & Normative Frameworks to Address TFGBV**

# Global Normative Advances

**1995: Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action** warned of the potential harmful impact of technological advances on women and girls.

**2017: CEDAW General Recommendation 35** added online GBV to the CEDAW framework.

**2019: UN SG report on Freedom of Expression** highlights online platforms' role in facilitating incitement to violence and discrimination.

**2021: UNGA Resolution on Countering Disinformation** urges online platforms to align business models with human rights principles.

**2022: UN SG Report** commits UN to collaborate with States, civil society, and tech providers to develop global standards for addressing TFGBV.

**2023: Reports from Special Rapporteur and CSW67** highlight gendered disinformation, digital GBV, and regulatory needs.

**2024: Key advancements include CEDAW GR40, UN Cybercrime Convention, UNHRC Resolution, and UNGA Resolution** emphasizing legal, statistical, and governance efforts on TFGBV.

**2024: The Pact for the Future and the Global Digital Compact** outline a framework for global governance of digital technology and AI, calling for urgent action against TFGBV.

**2025: SG Report for CSW69** assesses global progress, showing 66% of 189 countries have strengthened legislation on TFGBV.

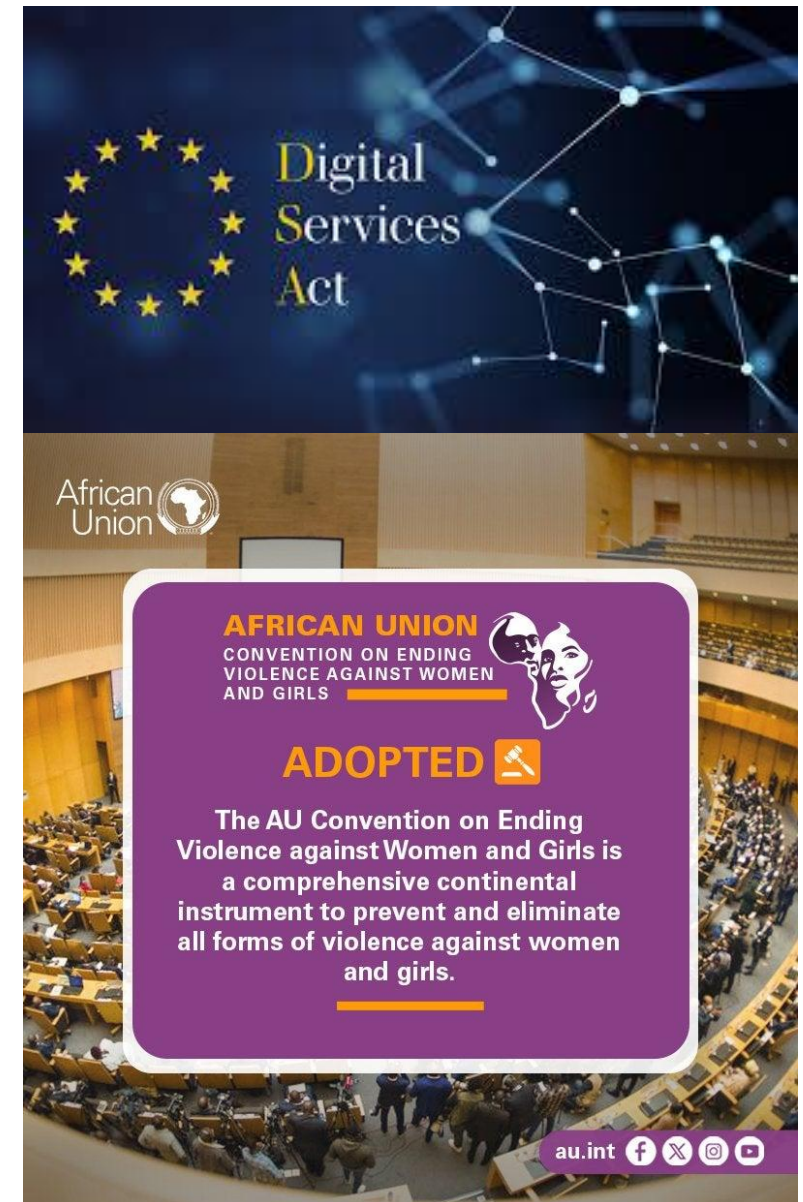
**2025: CSW Political Declaration**

# Regional Frameworks on TFGBV

**African Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (Feb 2025):** A landmark legal instrument recognizes that violence against women and girls manifests in various environments, including **online platforms**.

**European Union's Digital Services Act (2022):** The DSA represents a significant step by the EU to create a safer online environment by holding platforms accountable for preventing and addressing technology-facilitated gender-based violence

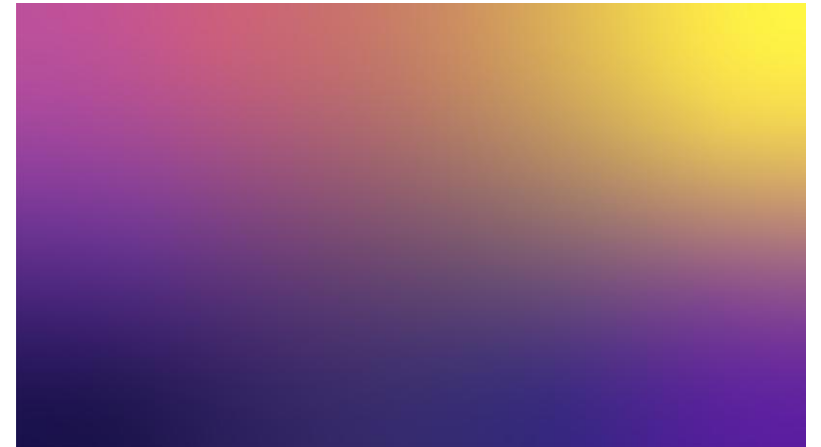
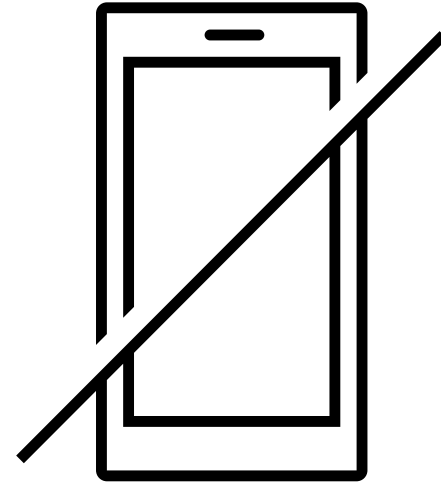
**Latin America and the Caribbean:** MESECVI is developing a 'Comprehensive Model Law to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate TFGBV'. It builds on the 2017 'Inter-American Model Law on Violence Against Women in Political Life.'



# 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:

- **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.
- 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.
- 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.



# UNDP and Gender-Based Violence

*UNDP takes a holistic, whole-of-society approach, helping governments develop legal and policy frameworks and build capacities to prevent violence, end impunity for perpetrators, and ensure access to justice and protection. UNDP promote institutional environments that prevent violence and support survivors, especially women facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, such as those living with disabilities, migrants and survivors of sexual exploitation.*

**UNDP Gender Equality Strategy 2022 - 2025**

# **Solutions to Address TFGBV**

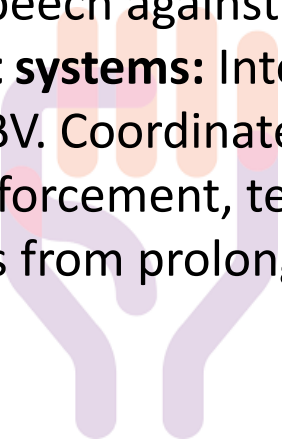
# Solutions to Address TFGBV

- **Collaborate with Ministries of Women's Affairs and CSOs to Raise Awareness on TFGBV:** Promote campaigns on the impact of TFGBV for the general public to make all spaces offline and online spaces safe for women and girls.
- **Update EAW legislation:** To recognize and address all forms of violence against women and girls in line with normative frameworks.
- **Strengthen Policies and SoPs:** Develop policies and codes of conduct to respond to TFGBV.
- **Establish Reporting Mechanisms for Victims [hotlines]:** Provide accessible reporting channels and partner with law enforcement for accountability and content drawdown, if available.



# Solutions to Address TFGBV [cont.]

- **Collect & Analyse Data:** Collect disaggregated data to inform interventions and reform, by highlighting TFVAW's impact on individuals, institutions, economies, democracies etc.
- **Capacity building and knowledge sharing on TFGBV:** Train national actors [police, justice, health workers, psychosocial support, shelter operators/CSOs, legislators, teachers ] on the phenomenon of TFGBV, including on digital safety skills.
- **Integrate TFVAW in National Health Surveys:** Develop indicators and use tools, such as national health surveys on prevalence and impact; use innovative solutions to monitor prevalence [eMonitor+] to track online harassment, disinformation, and hate speech against women;
- **Survivor-centered services and support systems:** Integrated support services are critical for survivors of TFGBV. Coordinated frameworks for rapid content removal—bridging law enforcement, technology companies, governments and CSOs—protect victims from prolonged harm.



# Promising Progress in PALOP-TL

| Angola                                                                                                                   | Timor-Leste                                                                                                                                                                                                  | São Tomé and Príncipe                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Cabo Verde                                                                                           | Guinea-Bissau                                                                                                                                                                     | Mozambique                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| EVAW legislation and free hotlines aimed at protecting women and children from sexual violence, both online and offline. | Strengthened gender-responsive budgeting resulting in increased allocations for gender equality and enhanced confidence among civil society organizations in monitoring and overseeing budget implementation | Women (43%) and men (40%) share similar views on need to address GBV. Majority—81% of citizens—say it is never justified for a man to use physical force against his wife. This contrasts sharply with the global average, where UNDP's Social Norms Index shows that 9 in 10 people justify violence against women. | 19% of women report having experienced GBV—significantly lower than the global average of around 30% | Ministry of Women, Family and Social Solidarity has reactivated the Gender Thematic Group (GTG) in partnership with UNFPA to strengthen coordination for gender equality efforts. | Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action, together with the Ministry of Economy and Finance, is harnessing implementation of EVAW legislation by strengthening response mechanisms, improving services for GBV survivors, and promoting prevention including by addressing social norms. |



**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS**