The Challenges of fighting cyber violence against Women & the CYBERSAFE Project

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Agenda

- 15:00-15:05 - Introduction
- 15:05 – 15:15 - Definition of cyber violence against women
- 15:15 – 15:35 - Root causes of cyber violence against women
- 15:35 – 15:40 - The CYBERSAFE Project
- 15:40 – 15:45 - Q&A
Technical Aspects

- The webinar participants are muted
- The facilitators cannot see the participants
- If somethings does not work, close out of the webinar and login again by clicking the link in your registration confirmation e-mail
- The webinar is being recorded
How to take part in the webinar

- Have a listen to the 'Presentation of the topic'.

- During 'Presentation of the topic', if any questions arise, please wait until the end of the presentation when we will have time to discuss any questions.

- During the questions and discussion time, please leave a message in the group chat so that I can read your comment or any contribution.

- Enjoy!
Why discuss cyber violence against women?

- Research shows women are specifically targeted
- New digital platforms provide new tools of abuse for perpetrators (both on and offline)

In the EU:
- 20% of young women have experienced cyber sexual harassment
- 14% have experienced cyberstalking since the age of 15.
Definitions of cyber violence – how do different agencies define it?

UN

- UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) General Recommendation 19
- CEDAW General Recommendation 35 extends the definition coined under General Recommendation 19
- The UN General Assembly (UNGA) 2013 Consensus Resolution on protecting women human rights defenders
- Report from the Special Rapporteur on Violence against women presented to the Human Rights Council in June 2018
- UN Human Rights Council voted on July 4th 2018 a number of resolutions regarding the “Promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet”
Definitions of cyber violence – how do different agencies define it?

**Council of Europe**

- no commonly agreed set of definitions encompassing all forms of cyber violence and hate speech online against women
- Istanbul Convention contains several articles that can be applied to cyber violence and hate speech online against women
  - Article 3
  - Article 3.b
  - Article 33
  - Article 34
  - Article 40
- Council of Europe’s Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cyber-crime
- Council of Europe’s Cybercrime Convention Committee has proposed a framework to categorise forms of cyber violence.
Definitions of cyber violence – how do different agencies define it?

- **European Union Institutions**
  - EC explicitly includes “cyber violence and harassment using new technologies” in its definition of gender-based violence but the phenomenon has not been captured in any of the European Union’s legal texts.
  - The European Parliament has defined **cyberbullying** in a 2016 study as the “repeated verbal or psychological harassment carried out by an individual or group against others”
  - Gender is not taken into account

- **Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)**
  - Cyber stalking
  - Cyber harassment

- **European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)**
  - **cyber violence**: gender-based violence which is perpetrated through electronic communication and the internet
  - Non-consensual pornography
  - Cyber harassment
  - Stalking
Definitions of cyber violence – how do different agencies define it?

- **Academics & Civil society**
  - Need for reframing terminology used by media
  - International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)
    - Project: „Technology-facilitated Gender-based violence: What is it, and how do we measure it?“ in partnership with World Bank
Technology-facilitated gender-based violence

Motivation
- Revenge
- Jealousy
- Political agenda
- Anger
- Ideological agenda
- Sexual desire
- Monetary need/desire
- Maintain social status

Intent
- Psychological harm
- Physical harm
- Instrumental
- Norm enforcement

Behaviors
- Stalking
- Defamation
- Bullying
- Sexual harassment
- Exploitation
- Hate speech

Impact
- Physical
- Psychological
- Social
- Economic
- Functional

Help-seeking & coping
- Reporting
- Support services
- Social support
- Changing technology use
- Avoidance

Relationship
- Personal
- Impersonal
- Institutional

Frequency
- No. of offenses
- No. of modes
- No. of behaviors
- Timeframe

Mode
- Social networking sites
- Dating sites
- Communication technology
- Entertainment sites
- Personal online accounts

Cross-cutting tactics
- Doxing
- Hacking
- Threatening
- Image-based abusing
- Gendertrolling
- Using fake accounts

CONTEXT: SOCIAL, GENDER, CULTURAL, LEGAL, POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS, TECHNOLOGICAL

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Definitions of cyber violence – how do different agencies define it?

**Facebook**
- ‘hate speech’ as “anything that directly attacks people based on what are known as their “protected characteristics”

**Twitter**
- “abusive behavior’ as “an attempt to harass, intimidate, or silence someone else’s voice”
- “non-consensual nudity sharing” as “sharing explicit sexual images or videos of someone online without their consent”
Root causes of cyber violence against women

- Continuum of violence & media framing of violence
- Gender imbalances in tech industry
- Specific architecture of digital platforms
The Continuum of Violence

- Continuum of violence between real-life & online domain
  - Cyberstalking: 54% of the respondents had first met their abusers in real life
  - 20% of young women (18-29) in the EU have experienced cyber sexual harassment;
  - 77% of women who have experienced cyber harassment have also experienced at least one form of sexual or/and physical violence from an intimate partner;
  - 70% of women who have experienced cyber stalking have also experienced at least one form of physical or/and sexual violence from an intimate partner;
  - 5% of women in the EU have experienced one or more forms of cyber stalking since the age of 15.
Media Framing of Violence

- Media still victim-blames
- Internet intermediaries silence victims
- Between 63% and 83% victims made some changes to the way they used social media platforms.
Gender Imbalances in the Tech Sector

- Only one third of women STEM graduates work in STEM occupations, compared to one in two men.
- Women in STEM work longer hours than women in other occupations.
- Across the EU, only 20% of women aged 30 and over who hold ICT-related degrees decide to stay in the technology industry. Research on women’s motives for leaving STEM jobs points to the effects of workplace culture.
Sexual Harassment in the Tech Sector

- 53% of women as opposed to 16% of men have experienced harassment;
- 63% of harassment experienced by women was from a co-worker and 41% by their supervisor;
- 72% of the harassment was sexual harassment;
- 13% of women were propositioned for sex for a promotion vs 0% of men.
Algorithms and Gender Biases

- Toxic technoculture: toxic cultures that are enabled by and propagated through sociotechnical networks such as Reddit, 4chan, Twitter and online gaming.

- Non-human technological agents (algorithms, scripts, policies) can shape and are shaped by human activity.
Specific Architecture of Digital Platforms

- Privacy
- Anonymity
- Mob mentality
The CYBERSAFE Project

- Changing Attitudes among teenagers on Cyber Violence against Women and Girls
- Launched December 2018
- CYBERSAFE’s aim is to change behaviours towards violence against women, with specific focus on cyber VAWG aim of:
  - preventing it from happening through education
  - changing attitudes
  - encouraging victims and witnesses to report and address it
Projected Results

- Evidence based, attitude-changing prevention educational intervention, for teenagers on Cyber Gender Violence Against Women and Girls (Cyber VAWG), applicable to all EU countries
- Address cyber VAWG as a form of violence against women and girls & develop a systematic gender sensitive approach to prevent it & promote healthy relationships and gender equality online
- Develop and promote innovative experiential as well as playful educational ICT tools that facilitate behavioural change among teenagers (12-18) on cyber VAWG;
- Facilitate professionals working with teenagers (12-18) to run and implement educational prevention programmes on cyber VAWG;
Project Partners

- Union of Women Associations of Heraklion Prefecture (Greece)
- University of Tartu (Estonia)
- University of Ljubljana (Slovenia)
- Women Against Violence Europe
- International Child Development Initiatives (Netherlands)
- Serious Games Interactive APS (Denmark)
- Women’s Support and Information Centre – Women’s Support and Information Centre (Estonia)
- Azienda Speciale Retesalute (Italy)
- Northern Ireland Rape Crisis Association (United Kingdom)
Curious about CYBERSAFE?

- **Follow us on social media!**
  - Facebook
    - [CYBERSAFE Project](https://www.cybersafe-project.eu) (official)
    - [CYBERSAFE Space](https://cybersafe-space.eu) (target group 12-18)
  - Twitter: @CybersafeP
  - Instagram: @cybersafe.project
  - Hashtags: #endCyberVAWG #CYBERSAFEspace
  - Sign up for our biannual newsletter: [http://eepurl.com/gl-slP](http://eepurl.com/gl-slP)
  - Contact me if you want to become a **dissemination partner!**
    - Lina.piskernik@wave-network.org
Questions regarding cyber violence against women and/or the CYBERSAFE project?

Please send a message in the group chat.
Thank you for joining the webinar!
Sources

Sources


