

AN INFOGRAPHIC GUIDE TO

TECHNOLOGY-FACILITATED GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



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INTRODUCTION

Technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) is gaining significant attention from the international community as an increasingly pervasive and concerning form of gender-based violence (GBV). When we think of TFGBV, the Internet typically comes to mind. However, TFGBV encompasses a wide variety of actions and behaviours, enabled by both hardware and software, and sustained by harmful social and gender norms. In its 2021 report, entitled *Making All Spaces Safe*, UNFPA defined TFGBV as “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”.¹

TFGBV has devastating effects on the lives of survivors, including on their mental and emotional health and their social well-being. It can cause distress, anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and even self-harm and suicide attempts. Survivors may experience the deterioration of social relationships, stigmatization and/or pervasive feelings of insecurity, isolation, fear and mistrust. TFGBV also has a detrimental impact on the meaningful participation of women and girls* in society and economic life: women

and girls may self-censor their online activities, limit their use of technology and their participation in public life overall. This silencing effect means that TFGBV is a major barrier to achieving gender equality.

UNFPA, together with local, national and international stakeholders and partners, has mobilized to prioritize advocacy, policy development, research and programme implementation to mitigate and respond to the increasingly urgent need to address TFGBV. **This series of infographics has evolved as a result of work to communicate the meaning of TFGBV and its impact upon women and girls, who remain at the centre of all our work at UNFPA.**

This booklet provides visual representations of key concepts related to TFGBV. **The infographics are intended to be adapted and translated, in partnership with local GBV and digital rights partners, for use in training, awareness-raising, information, education, communications and advocacy.** To facilitate their use, each infographic is presented alongside a brief explanation of its content and key messages.

¹ UNFPA, *Technology-facilitated Gender-based Violence: Making All Spaces Safe* (New York, 2021). Available at: <https://www.unfpa.org/publications/technology-facilitated-gender-based-violence-making-all-spaces-safe>.

* “Women and girls” refers to women and girls in all their diversity, including those who are discriminated against on the basis of age, race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and other intersecting identities.

What is technology-facilitated gender-based violence?

WHAT IS TFGBV?



Technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) is a continuation of existing unequal gender norms being reproduced in digital spaces

A DEFINITION

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.

RECOGNIZING TFGBV

There are multiple forms of TFGBV: online harassment, misogynistic hate speech, cyberstalking, image-based abuse, hacking, doxing, defamation, impersonation, and controlling one's use of technology are some examples.

WHO EXPERIENCES IT?

Women and girls at the intersection of multiple forms of discrimination, including adolescent girls, LGBTQI+, women and girls with disabilities and women in public life.

WHO PERPETRATES IT?

TFGBV can be committed by an individual, such as an (ex) intimate partner, groups of strangers or trolls, organized movements, or state actors. Poorly designed technology amplifies the threat and risk of TFGBV.

HOW COMMON IS IT?

Almost 2 in 3 women globally have been subjected to TFGBV. Globally, 85% of women have witnessed online violence being committed against another woman, with significant variation between regions. Nearly all women in the Middle East have witnessed online violence; in Latin America, this figure is 9 in 10 women; in Asia Pacific it is 8 in 10; in North America and Europe it is over 7 in 10.

The infographic serves as a resource to understand the overarching concept and experience of TFGBV.

TFGBV is “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”. Currently, online harassment, misogynistic hate speech, cyberstalking and image-based abuse, among many others, are considered to be forms of TFGBV. However, TFGBV is continuously evolving as new technologies emerge and new means of using old technologies to perpetrate harm unfold. The definition of TFGBV will continue to be adapted to align with the experiences of survivors and is currently subject to international and national consultation and validation,² including an ongoing global Delphi study.³

TFGBV is alarmingly widespread. It has profound and far-reaching consequences on the health, well-being and opportunities of survivors, disproportionately impacting women and girls at the intersection at various forms of discrimination

(e.g. age, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender identity) and women in public and political life. A study across 18 countries globally found that 59.9 per cent of women had experienced at least one form of TFGBV.⁴ Regional data also indicates that nearly all women in the Arab States, 9 out of 10 women in Latin America and Africa, 8 out of 10 women in the Asia Pacific region, and 7 out of 10 women in North America and Europe have encountered instances of TFGBV online.⁵

Perpetrators of TFGBV may be known or unknown to survivors and range from intimate partners to strangers and trolls. They may act individually, as well as in organized groups or movements that promote coordinated TFGBV campaigns. These violent behaviours are amplified by poorly designed technology that exposes women and girls to an increased risk of harm.

- » TFGBV is “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.”
- » TFGBV manifests in various forms, many of which are evolving as new technologies develop and new ways of perpetrating harm with existing technologies emerge. Those presented in the image represent a snapshot of readily identifiable forms of TFGBV only.
- » Women and girls are the most frequent and negatively impacted targets of TFGBV. Women in public life or women who use online spaces for their personal or professional lives are particularly at risk of harm.
- » Anyone can perpetrate TFGBV and the risk of harm is amplified by poorly designed technology.
- » TFGBV is a global phenomenon. It can potentially lead to the normalization of harmful and violent behaviours in online spaces.

2 UN Women and the World Health Organization, *Expert Group Meeting Report: Technology-facilitated Violence against Women – Towards a Common Definition* (New York, 2023). Available at: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2023/03/expert-group-meeting-report-technology-facilitated-violence-against-women>.

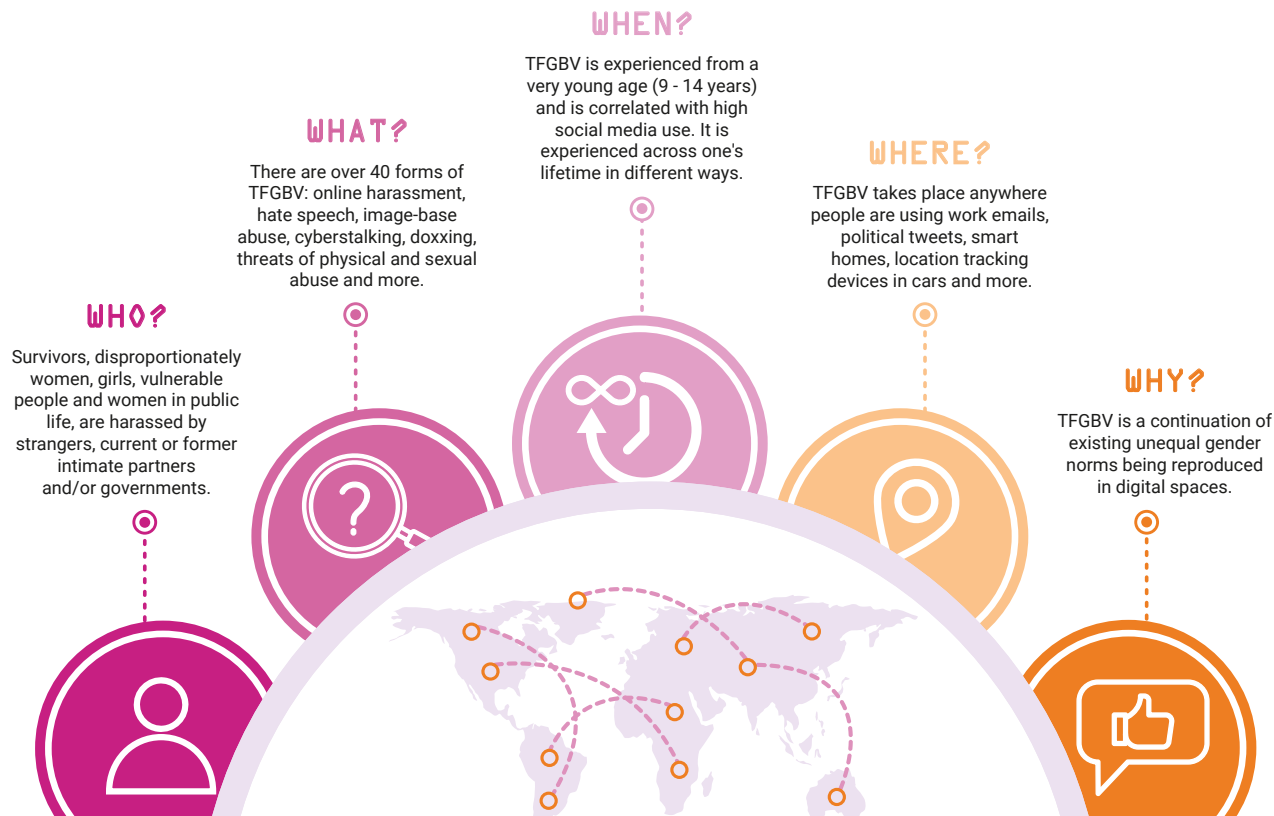
3 Melbourne Research Alliance to End Violence Against Women and their Children, “Technology-facilitated abuse: Preliminary findings of a global Delphi study”, webinar, November 2023. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eqSh1v9T4RM&t=1s>.

4 Suzie Dunn, Tracy Vaillancourt and Heather Brittain, *Supporting Safer Digital Spaces* (Waterloo, Canada, Centre for International Governance Innovation, 2023). Available at: <https://www.cigionline.org/publications/supporting-safer-digital-spaces/>.

5 The Economist Intelligence Unit, “Measuring the prevalence of online violence against women”, infographic, 2021. Available at: <https://onlineviolencewomen.eiu.com/>.

The five Ws of technology-facilitated gender-based violence

THE 5 WS OF TFGBV



HOW DOES TFGBV OCCUR? POORLY DESIGNED AND MANAGED TECHNOLOGY

<https://www.unfpa.org/TFGBV>

This infographic provides a foundation to understand TFGBV by answering five essential questions.

WHO? While anyone can be a target of TFGBV, women, girls and marginalized groups are disproportionately targeted. Perpetrators are usually men who may be known to the survivor or completely anonymous, and who may act individually or in coordinated groups. States and governments may also be perpetrators of TFGBV.

WHAT? TFGBV manifests in hundreds of different forms. New forms continually emerge as technology evolves and old technologies are used in different and harmful ways.

WHEN? TFGBV transcends age and it may occur multiple times throughout an individual's lifetime. Children as young as 9 years may be subjected to TFGBV, particularly forms such as online grooming and online child sexual exploitation and abuse.

WHERE? TFGBV has no geographical constraints: it manifests wherever individuals are connected to the Internet or using technology devices.

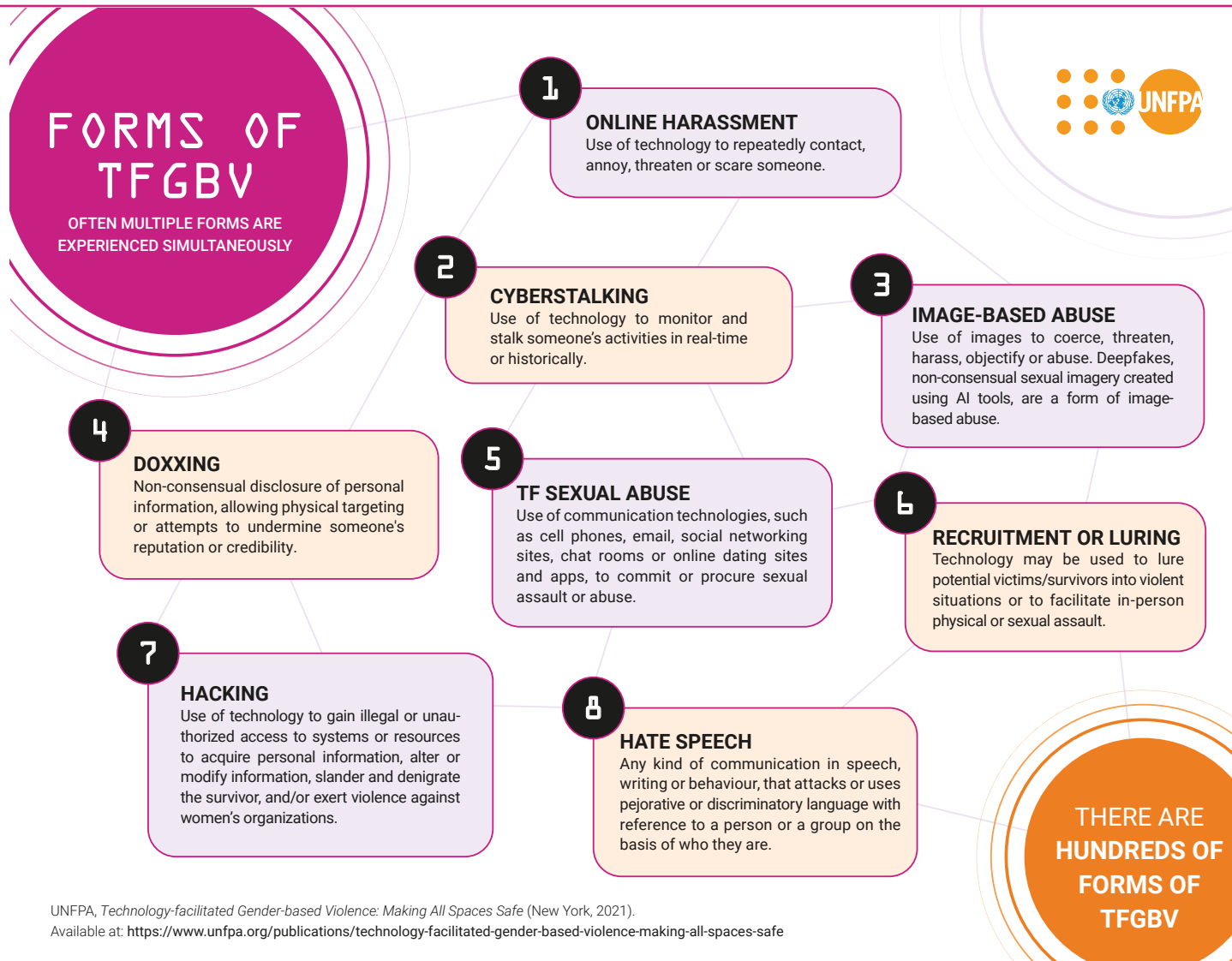
WHY? To perpetuate and amplify existing harmful gender norms, also in the digital space.

- » Women and girls, particularly women in public life, are disproportionately impacted by TFGBV. Perpetrators can be both known and anonymous individuals, groups or movements, and institutions or governments.
- » There are hundreds of forms of TFGBV, with new forms constantly emerging as technology evolves.

- » TFGBV can happen anywhere, at any age and throughout the lifetime.
- » TFGBV is a continuation of existing harmful gender norms being reproduced in digital spaces.



Different forms of technology-facilitated gender-based violence



The infographic presents and defines some forms of TFGBV.

TFGBV encompasses multiple forms of violence. These can be classified according to the behaviour of the perpetrator (e.g. *cyberstalking*), the tactics used to commit the abuse (e.g. *image-based abuse*), the nature of the relationship between survivor and perpetrator (e.g. *tech-facilitated intimate partner violence*) and the technology tools used (e.g. *artificial intelligence (AI)-generated abuse*).

The infographic shows the classification outlined in the report *Making All Spaces Safe*, although research related to the forms and prevalence of TFGBV is nascent and continues to evolve.

Only some forms of TFGBV have been included in the infographic, including online harassment, cyberstalking, image-based abuse, doxxing, technology-facilitated sexual abuse, recruitment or luring, hacking and hate speech. These forms of TFGBV can take place as isolated incidents, repeatedly over time, or even happen concurrently with other experiences of GBV and TFGBV.

- » TFGBV can take many forms, which are constantly evolving.
- » TFGBV can be classified according to the behaviour of the perpetrator, the tactics used, the nature of the survivor–perpetrator relationship or the technology used.
- » TFGBV can take place as an isolated incident, repeatedly over time or can be experienced simultaneously with other forms of GBV or TFGBV.
- » TFGBV may be propagated through multiple platforms and devices, easily and cheaply.



A snapshot of forms of technology-facilitated gender-based violence

A SNAPSHOT OF FORMS OF TFGBV WITH NEW FORMS EMERGING REGULARLY



Astroturfing. Catfishing. Cross-platform harassment. Cyberbullying. Cyberflashing. Cyberstalking. Cyberobsessional pursuit. Deadnaming. Deepfakes. Defamation. Denial of access. Denial of service (DoS) attacks. Documenting or broadcasting sexual assault (rape videos). Doxxing. Electronically enabled financial abuse. False accusations of blasphemy. Flaming. (Gender or sexist) hate speech. Gender-trolling. Google bombing. Grooming (online). Hacking. Hashtag poisoning. Image-based abuse. Impersonation. In-real-life (IRL) attacks. Limiting or controlling use of technology. Mobbing or dogpiling. Online (gender) harassment. Recruitment. Retaliations against supporters of survivors. Sexting and abusive sexting. Sextortion. Shock and grief trolling. Slut-shaming online. Swatting. Synthetic sexual media. Technology-facilitated unwanted sexual experiences. Threats. Upskirting, creepshots and digital voyeurism. Zoom-bombing.

UNFPA, *Technology-facilitated Gender-based Violence: Making All Spaces Safe* (New York, 2021).
Available at: <https://www.unfpa.org/publications/technology-facilitated-gender-based-violence-making-all-spaces-safe>

The infographic presents the multiple forms of TFGBV identified in the report, *Making All Spaces Safe*. Rather than providing an exhaustive list, the infographic is intended to illustrate the diversity in which TFGBV may manifest itself.

TFGBV encompasses a broad spectrum of harmful actions and behaviours perpetrated in online spaces, through digital technologies, as well as using offline technologies such as phones or GPS devices.

In 2021, UNFPA identified over 40 distinct forms of TFGBV (listed in the image), showing its alarming prevalence and diverse manifestations. The list is not exhaustive, since new forms of TFGBV are continually emerging with the development, deployment and widespread use of new and old technologies.

For example, since the popularization of AI in 2023, there has been a particular upsurge of AI-generated abusive content, including image, audio and video deepfakes. Research has revealed a 550 per cent increase in deepfake videos online between 2019 and 2023, 98 per cent of which are considered “deepfake pornography” and 99 per cent of which target women.⁶ Aside from AI, unintended consequences of new technologies and the widespread use of the Internet of Things, such as smart cars and home devices, to track or surveil women and girls are emerging as new forms of TFGBV.

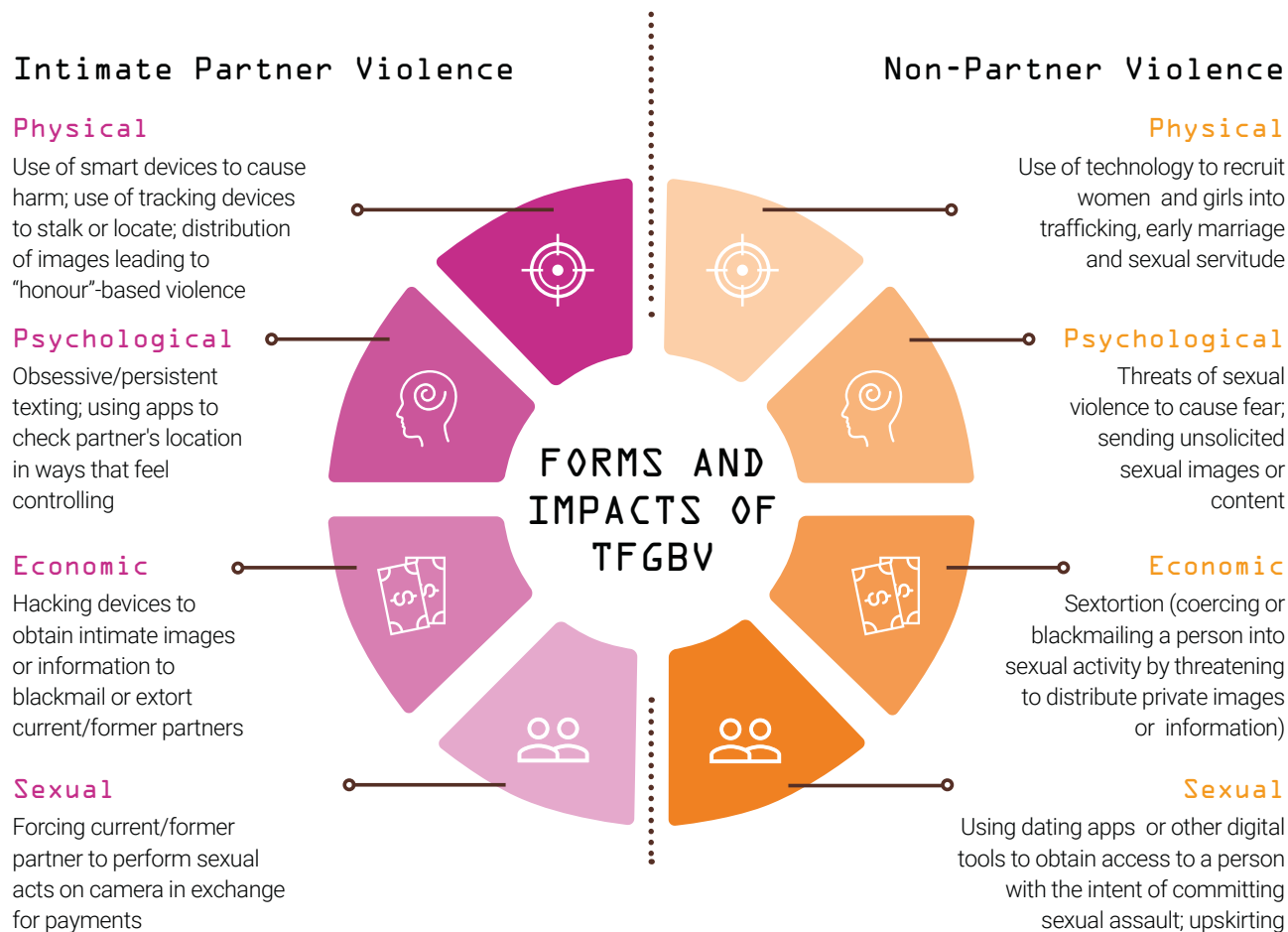
The ever-changing nature of TFGBV warrants constant vigilance and proactive measures to prevent, mitigate and respond to the harms that may be inflicted upon women and girls.

- » In 2021, UNFPA identified a non-exhaustive list of 40 distinct forms of TFGBV. This is only a snapshot of the multiple manifestations of TFGBV. An ongoing Delphi study has already identified hundreds of terms that refer to forms of TFGBV.⁷
- » TFGBV evolves rapidly, as a result of emerging technologies and new ways in which old technologies are weaponized.
- » The advent of AI is serving as a significant contribution to the propagation and speed at which TFGBV may be perpetrated.

6 Home Security Heroes, “2023 State of deepfakes: Realities, threats, and impacts”, review, 2023. Available at: <https://www.homesecurityheroes.com/state-of-deepfakes/>.

7 Melbourne Research Alliance to End Violence Against Women and their Children, “Technology-facilitated abuse: Preliminary findings of a global Delphi study”, webinar, November 2023. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eqSh1v9T4RM&t=1s>.

Forms and impact of technology-facilitated gender-based violence



University of Melbourne and UNFPA, *Measuring Technology-facilitated Gender-based Violence: A Discussion Paper* (2023). Available at: <https://www.unfpa.org/publications/measuring-technology-facilitated-gender-based-violence-discussion-paper>



The infographic depicts a classification of TFGBV according to the relationship between the survivor and perpetrator (i.e. intimate partner or non-partner violence), and to the type of violence inflicted on survivors (i.e. physical, psychological, economic, sexual).

It illustrates how technology can be used to perpetuate dynamics of violence in contexts of both intimate partner and non-partner violence, resulting in variations in the methods and patterns by which these forms of abuse are perpetrated.

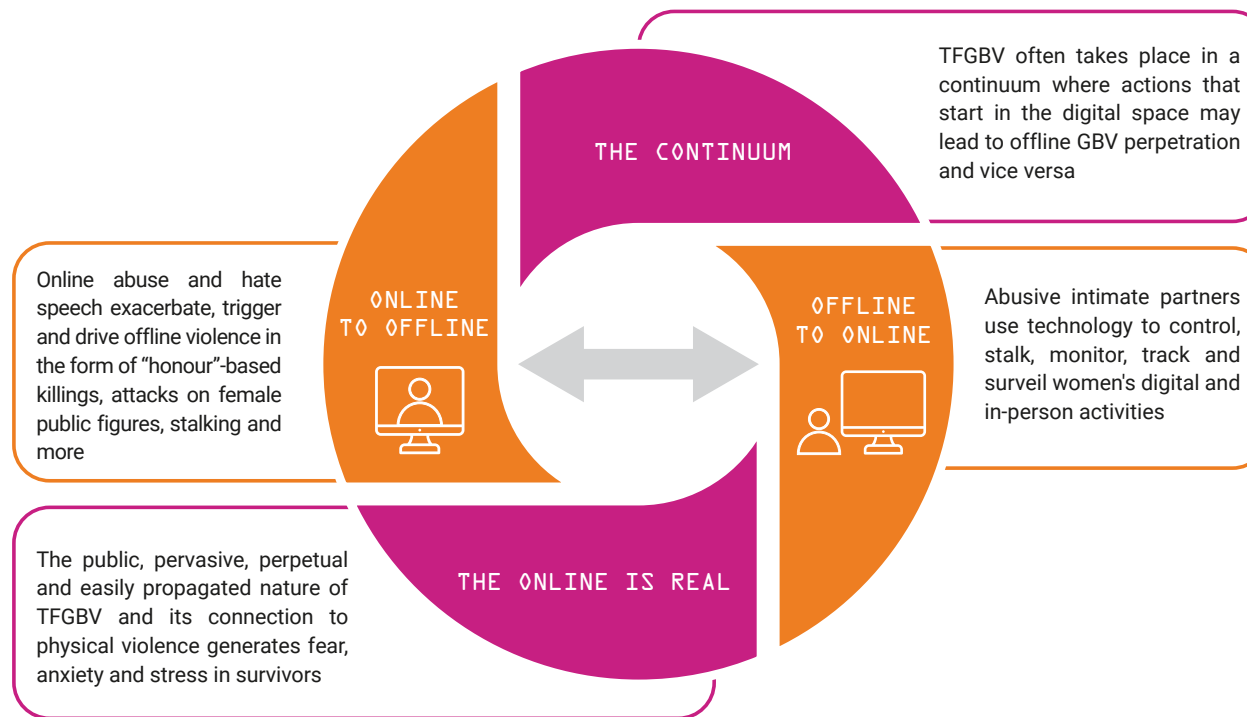
- » It has long been recognized that GBV can incorporate acts of physical, sexual, psychological and/or economic abuse. Increasingly, there is recognition that these forms of violence may be committed, assisted, amplified or aggravated by the use of technology.
- » TFGBV intersects with physical, psychological, sexual and economic violence, and causes social, political and other harms.

- » TFGBV is experienced in a range of contexts, including dating and intimate partner relationships and non-partner violence, and is most commonly perpetrated by men against women. It takes different shapes depending on the relationship between the survivor and the abuser.



The online-offline continuum of technology-facilitated gender-based violence

THE ONLINE-OFFLINE CONTINUUM OF TFGBV



The infographic illustrates the online–offline continuum of violence in which TFGBV takes place: violence that starts in the digital space may lead to offline violence and vice versa.

Experiences of TFGBV, despite often being considered less severe than physical forms of GBV, are equally real and harmful. TFGBV is often part of a continuum of violence against women and girls that spans both online and offline realms.

For example, TFGBV can facilitate the perpetration of physical or economic violence as part of a broader pattern of intimate partner violence. In cases of abusive intimate relationships, technology may be wielded by perpetrators to exert control, stalk, monitor, track and surveil survivors, thereby extending the reach of abuse from the physical realm to the digital and technology domain. In the UK, a study showed that 45 per cent of survivors of intimate partner violence had been abused via technology during the relationship, and 48 per cent experienced TFGBV even after the relationship ended.⁸

Conversely, instances of online abuse targeting public figures frequently escalate to offline violence, manifesting as physical attacks. In Malawi, research revealed that 54 per cent of women experienced physical abuse exacerbated by online violence, while 34 per cent were physically harmed or injured as a consequence of it.⁹

The consequences of TFGBV are devastating for survivors. For example, a global study by Plan International showed that among young women and girls, 42 per cent experienced mental or emotional stress and lower self-esteem or loss of confidence as a result of TFGBV.¹⁰

This continuum of violence underscores the need to integrate TFGBV into existing case management systems and multisectoral GBV response services, to ensure survivor-centred and comprehensive support for survivors of TFGBV.

- » TFGBV takes place across a continuum of violence that spans both online and offline spaces.
- » It is common for survivors to experience TFGBV alongside other forms of offline GBV.
- » TFGBV can result in real life emotional stress and physical harm, impacting the way survivors lead their lives, as well as their economic, social and educational opportunities.
- » TFGBV programming must always be considered as part of a broader programme of work to address GBV.

8 Women's Aid, *Virtual World, Real Fear. Women's Aid Report into Online Abuse, Harassment and Stalking*. (Bristol, UK, 2014) Available at: https://www.womensaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Women_s_Aid_Virtual_World_Real_Fear_Feb_2014-3.pdf.

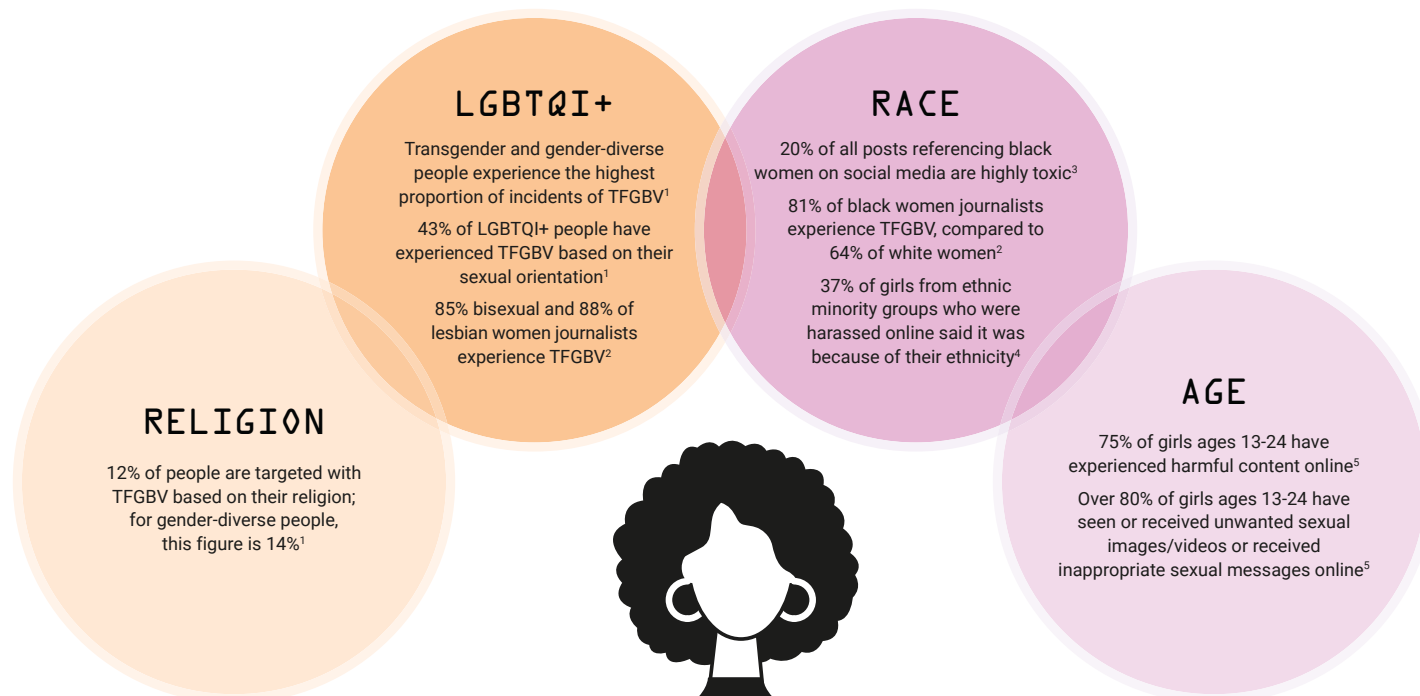
9 Suzie Dunn, *Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence: An Overview* ((Waterloo, Canada, Centre for International Governance Innovation, 2020). Available at: <https://apo.org.au/node/309987>.

10 Plan International, *Free to be Online? Girls' and Young Women's Experiences of Online Harassment* (Woking, UK, 2020). Available at: <https://plan-international.org/publications/freetobeonline>.

Technology-facilitated gender-based violence and intersectionality

TFGBV AND INTERSECTIONALITY

Intersectionality refers to the idea that every individual has a series of overlapping identities that, in total, influence their experiences and opportunities



1 Suzie Dunn, Tracy Vaillancourt and Heather Brittain, *Supporting Safer Digital Spaces* (Waterloo, Canada, Centre for International Governance Innovation, 2023)

2 Julie Posetti and others, *The Chilling: Global Trends in Online Violence Against Women Journalists* (Paris, UNESCO, 2021)

3 Glitch, *The Digital Misogynoir Report* (London, 2023)

4 Plan International, *Free to be Online? Girls' and Young Women's Experiences of Online Harassment* (London, 2020)

5 Plan International and CNN As Equals, *Building Digital Resilience* (London, 2024)

*This data is derived from various small-scale studies conducted among different population groups. The percentages cannot be extrapolated to indicate prevalence across populations and are not comparable between populations.

*List of factors influencing intersectional discrimination is not exhaustive

The infographic provides snapshots of data from recent research that demonstrate the compounded effects of various forms of discrimination, including discrimination on the basis of gender, age, race/ethnicity and sexual orientation, on the risk of being subjected to TFGBV.

Intersectionality is a framework to understand the interconnected nature of different forms of discrimination, based on factors such as race, disability, gender, sexuality, age, socioeconomic class and religion. It is the idea that overlapping forms of discrimination create unique experiences of disadvantage for individuals who belong to multiple marginalized groups. For example, a black woman in a position of power may face discrimination in a way that is distinct from an indigenous man from a low socioeconomic background or a white homosexual woman. Intersectionality shapes the experience and impact of violence, including TFGBV.

Research highlights that women, adolescent girls and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning and intersex (LGBTQI+) women face a disproportionate level of TFGBV. Women who use and rely upon online spaces for their professional lives, including journalists, politicians and human rights defenders, are also at particular risk of TFGBV.

A recent global study on TFGBV prevalence underscores these disparities.¹¹ For example, 67 per cent of young people aged 25 and under reported having personally experienced at least one form of TFGBV, compared to people over the

age of 25 (57 per cent). Young people are also more likely to be targeted based on identity factors, such as gender identity, gender expression, their age or sexual orientation. The LGBTQI+ community is frequently targeted, with 43 per cent experiencing TFGBV based on their sexual orientation compared to 7 per cent of heterosexual people. Similarly, a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) study revealed that 88 per cent of lesbian women journalists report experiencing TFGBV compared to 72 per cent of heterosexual women journalists.¹²

Black women and women who belong to racial or ethnic minorities are also disproportionately targeted with online hate speech and harassment, often facing a compounded form of TFGBV steeped in both racist and sexist tropes.¹³ The same UNESCO study showed that while 64 per cent of white women journalists report experiencing TFGBV, this figure rises to 81 per cent for their black counterparts, 86 per cent for indigenous women journalists and 88 per cent for Jewish women journalists. Reflecting the online-offline continuum of violence, over half (53 per cent) of Arab women journalists experience offline attacks and harassment linked to the abuse they face online, compared to 11 per cent of white women journalists.¹⁴

The research findings indicate that these populations require urgent and tailored survivor-centred support.

» The intersectional nature of discrimination impacts the way in which women and girls experience TFGBV.

» TFGBV is disproportionately experienced by adolescent girls, LGBTQI+ people, women in public life and black women.

11 Suzie Dunn, Tracy Vaillancourt and Heather Brittain, *Supporting Safer Digital Spaces* (Waterloo, Canada, Centre for International Governance Innovation, 2023). Available at: <https://www.cigionline.org/publications/supporting-safer-digital-spaces/>.

12 Julie Posetti and others, *The Chilling: Global Trends in Online Violence Against Women Journalists* (Paris, UNESCO, 2021) Available at: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000377223>.

13 Glitch, *The Digital Misogynoir Report* (London, 2023) Available at: https://glitchcharity.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Glitch-Misogynoir-Report_Final_18Jul_v5_Single-Pages.pdf.

14 Julie Posetti and others, *The Chilling: Global Trends in Online Violence Against Women Journalists* (Paris, UNESCO, 2021) Available at: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000377223>.

Collaborative and multi-stakeholder action to address technology-facilitated gender-based violence

WE CAN ALL PLAY A ROLE IN ENDING TFGBV



The infographic illustrates the collaborative efforts required from a diversity of stakeholders to address TFGBV.

Contributions to combat TFGBV can come from individuals, schools, employers, support service organizations, civil society organizations and networks – including feminist and digital rights movements – big and smaller technology companies, technology professionals, researchers and policymakers, as well as

a range of additional stakeholders. Each of these stakeholders can take specific actions to effectively contribute to responding to, preventing and mitigating TFGBV. For example, individuals can support the voices of women and girl online and engage in community activism, while tech companies can centre safety, privacy and security by design approaches in all their products.

» Effectively addressing TFGBV necessitates the collective engagement of diverse stakeholders. Individuals, educational institutions, technology companies, tech experts, employers, researchers, policymakers and other relevant groups, all have a role to play in combating TFGBV.

» Ending TFGBV is a shared responsibility that extends across different sectors and roles in society.



What types of technology-facilitated gender-based violence data can be safely created?

WHAT TYPES OF TFGBV DATA CAN BE SAFELY CREATED?



PREVALENCE

- Provides trends data for advocacy and policy
- Underestimation is likely, due to no standard definition that is inclusive of all TFGBV forms and no cross-country indicators
- Trends data is useful but will miss emergent TFGBV
- Frequency data does not capture the intersections of multiple forms of TFGBV nor account for TFGBV in perpetuity or as a series
- Surveys often only include adolescents 15 years and older, meaning that young experiences of TFGBV are not captured

QUALITATIVE

- Captures rich description of the interactions between "online" and "offline" violence, their consequences and impacts, especially those that lead to physical GBV and new forms of TFGBV
- Documents the strategies survivors use to stay safe or prevent abuse; manage the personal impact of TFGBV; identify who seeks and receives help and their experiences
- Evidences how and why TFGBV survivors respond
- Difficult to generalize about the state of TFGBV

SERVICE

- Evidences how many people, and who, access specialist services for TFGBV versus other services (legal, health, etc.)
- Documents referral pathways to specialist support for TFGBV
- Catalogues technology companies' responses, including type and speed
- Captures service providers' knowledge and capacities to support TFGBV survivors
- Documents who seeks help and outlines the need for TFGBV services
- Misses TFGBV survivors who do not report

LAW/POLICY

- Analyses the regulatory frameworks and responses across levels
- Catalogues policies and practices of technology and data storage companies
- Identifies who makes and enforces TFGBV legislation and regulations
- Outlines needs for institutional attention to training TFGBV service providers
- Clarifies how law reflects in business practices and identifies gaps
- Does not evidence implementation challenges

The infographic provides a visual representation of four different sources of TFGBV data – prevalence surveys, qualitative research, service and administrative data, and law and policy analysis – and their corresponding advantages and limitations. This information is described in more detail in the discussion paper, *Measuring Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence*.

Collecting, analysing and using GBV data safely and ethically is crucial for protecting survivors' privacy and fostering trust in reporting. Data and research in general can assist in understanding the consequences of the experience of TFGBV, as well as identify help-seeking behaviours. Robust GBV and TFGBV data enables accurate analysis and informed decision-making, aiding policymakers and service providers in addressing the issue effectively.

Each source of data presents a number of advantages and limitations that makes them suitable for specific and complementary purposes. For example, prevalence trends are useful for national level policy and advocacy purposes, while gathering qualitative insights allows a deeper understanding of women and girls' experiences of TFGBV. Administrative data collected through service provision informs effective and improved case management and response systems, and the analysis of laws and policies helps identify gaps in systems of accountability and redress.

- » UNFPA emphasizes the importance of employing a variety of sources to gather data on TFGBV safely and ethically. There is a need for a comprehensive approach to collecting TFGBV data, encompassing both quantitative and qualitative methods, as well as multidimensional perspectives.
- » The data collected on TFGBV serves various purposes, such as advocacy efforts, informing policies, improving services for survivors, influencing technology companies' responses and shaping legal frameworks.
- » Each source of data supports different components of understanding the experience of TFGBV, and each has its advantages and limitations.
- » It is critical when undertaking research to identify whether existing data can be used, to determine the necessity of the research, and to ensure safe and ethical data collection and use at all times.
- » Regardless of whether data is available or research undertaken in any given locale, programming must continue to be designed and implemented.

The potential of safe and ethical technology to prevent and respond to gender-based violence



The infographic shows the positive aspects that safe and ethical technology can bring to GBV programmes, including improved service delivery and access to services.

Technology has immense potential to strengthen GBV programmes and address the root causes of gender inequality, including harmful social and gender norms. For example, technology can support GBV research by enabling more robust data collection, analysis and dissemination of findings, with advanced data analytics able to uncover trends and patterns that were previously obscured, providing deeper insights and evidence to help tailor interventions more effectively.

Furthermore, digital tools and applications, such as GBV hotlines and self-help service delivery apps, can expand accessibility to essential GBV services and information, while digital solutions such as online case management and online support platforms can facilitate and enhance remote or in-person service delivery.

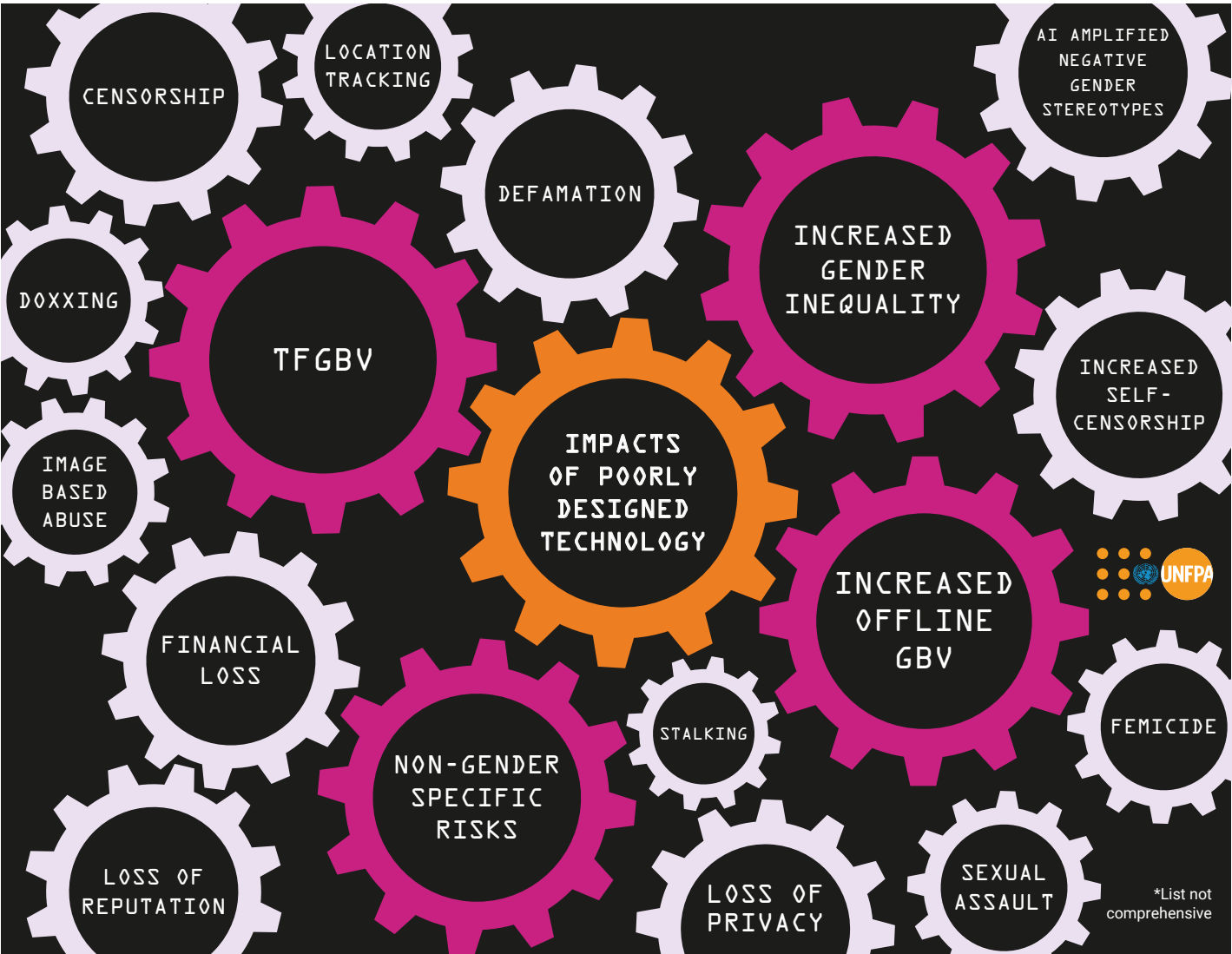
However, to fully realize this potential, it is crucial that technology is developed and implemented in a safe and ethical manner, grounded in human rights and the experiences of survivors.¹⁵

- » By leveraging safe and ethical technology, GBV programmes can address the immediate needs of survivors as well as initiate long-term gender and social norm transformation that underpin TFGBV and GBV more broadly.
- » The integration of technology into GBV programming can positively impact different areas of work, from research and evidence gathering to improving access and quality of services.
- » Technology for GBV programming must be grounded in safe and ethical principles, and take into account further harms it may cause, in particular with the production, storage and sharing of new data. Understanding the balance of risk and benefit and following “do no harm” principles are crucial.

NOTE: This infographic should be used together with the infographics: *The impacts of poorly designed technology* and *Safe and ethical design is key to mitigating technology-facilitated gender-based violence*.

¹⁵ UNFPA, *Guidance on the Safe and Ethical Use of Technology to Address Gender-based Violence and Harmful Practices: Implementation Summary* (New York, 2023). Available at: <https://www.unfpa.org/publications/implementation-summary-safe-ethical-use-technology-gbv-harmful-practices>.

The impacts of poorly designed technology



The infographic shows the risks (in pink) posed by poorly designed technology and the harms (in lilac) in which these risks manifest.

Poorly designed technology does not consider women's and girls' unique risks, their gendered identities or how these may play out when up against malicious actors, individuals or groups, who use technology weaknesses and data trails as opportunities. Even when driven by good intentions, poorly designed technology can lead to catastrophic outcomes for both service providers and users/survivors. Poorly designed technology, whether developed for malicious or positive purposes, can pose the same risk of harm and inadvertently facilitate the persistence of TFGBV.

Poorly designed technology does not take into account the intentional or unintentional harm it may have on its users, particularly women and girls and other marginalized groups. These technologies can lead to a variety of risks (in pink), including TFGBV, increased gender inequality, increased offline GBV and non-gender-specific risks, such as reputational, financial or privacy loss due to cybercrime. The harmful consequences (in lilac) associated with these risks are far-reaching; women and girls may self-censor due to the hate speech they experience or witness online or may receive threats of offline violence as an extension to the TFGBV they experience.

- » Poorly designed technology can have far-reaching consequences, including TFGBV, heightened gender inequality, escalated offline GBV and other risks that affect individuals regardless of gender.
- » These negative outcomes contribute to a host of unintended effects, such as defamation, compromised privacy, financial loss, censorship or femicide, among others.
- » Key considerations linked to privacy, safety and security must be embedded in the initial concept, design and deployment of new and existing technologies, to ensure they do not pose further risks for survivors of GBV.

NOTE: This infographic should be used together with the infographics: *The potential of safe and ethical technology to prevent and respond to gender-based violence* and *Safe and ethical design is key to mitigating technology-facilitated gender-based violence*.

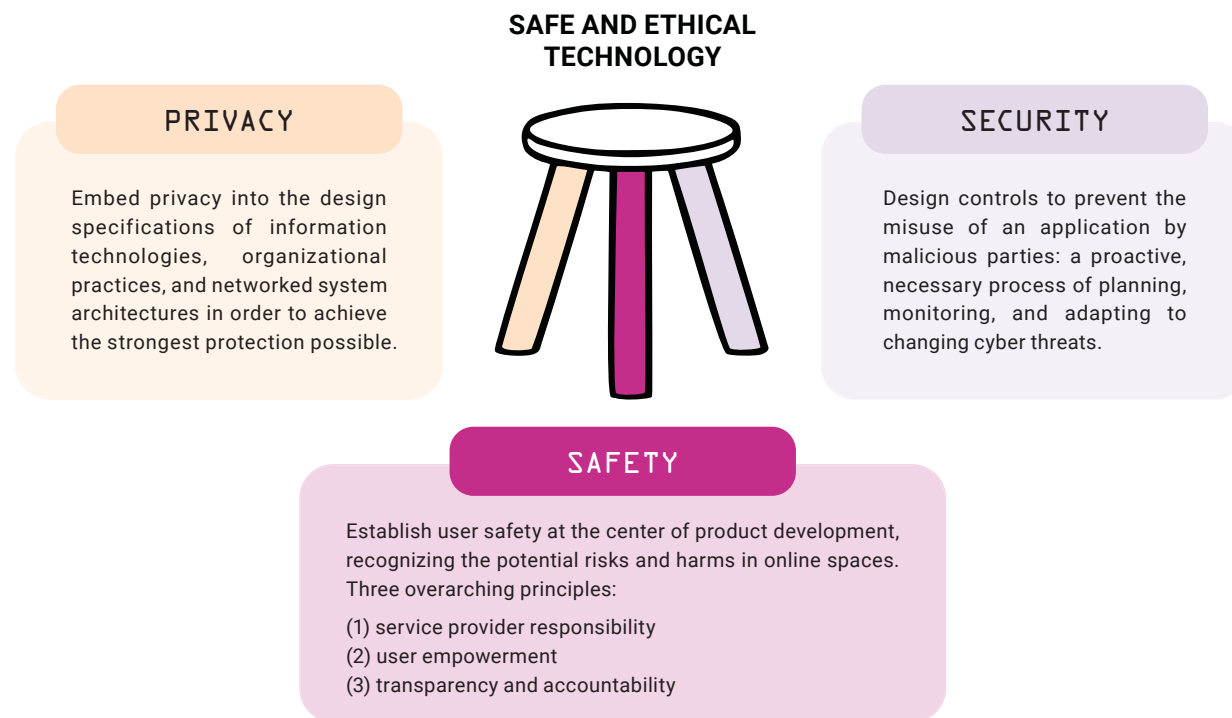


Safe and ethical design is key to mitigating technology-facilitated gender-based violence

SAFE AND ETHICAL DESIGN IS KEY TO MITIGATING TFGBV



It combines safety, privacy and security by design principles



eSafety Commissioner, *Safety by Design Overview* (Belconnen, Australia, 2019).

UNFPA, *Technology-facilitated Gender-based Violence: Making All Spaces Safe* (New York, 2021)

This infographic illustrates the need to consider safety, privacy and security in the development of technology, to ensure it is safe and ethical. The image depicts safe and ethical technology as a three-legged stool that stands on safety, privacy and security. If one of these legs is broken or missing, the stool will fall over, that is, the technology will not be safe or ethical.

Safe and ethical design of technology means prioritizing and building user safety, privacy and security into the design and deployment of technology. The principles of safety, security and privacy by design, are central to building technology that prevents and mitigates TFGBV.

Achieving safety by design means placing individual user safety at the core of product development, centring on and mapping their actual needs, risks and harms, both online and offline. Privacy by design means embedding and respecting privacy in the development of technology, as well as in organizational practices, policies and network system architecture. Finally, security by design is about implementing controls to prevent or mitigate the malicious misuse of technology, specifically for TFGBV, which can be by intimate partners or organized misogynistic groups. Although these three elements intersect, finding an intentional balance of all three that is “by design” is crucial to creating technology for women and girls that is not doing more harm than good.

- » Prioritizing safe and ethical design of technology is a key component to prevent and mitigate the risk of TFGBV, as well as ensure that technology is not doing more harm than good.
- » Identifying and embedding individual privacy considerations into technology design, organizational practices and network architecture is crucial for preventing TFGBV.
- » Placing users’ online and offline safety at the centre of product development involves understanding and recognizing unique online risks and harms associated with technology use, in particular with data being produced, stored and shared.
- » Service providers play a role in ensuring safety, empowerment and transparency for users and must be accountable for the services they offer.
- » Implementing design controls and setting up safeguarding guardrails is vital to prevent malicious misuse of technology.

NOTE: This infographic should be used together with the infographics: *The potential of safe and ethical technology to prevent and respond to gender-based violence* and *The impacts of poorly designed technology*.

Key takeaways from the UNFPA 'Guidance on the safe and ethical use of technology to address GBV and Harmful Practices'

Key takeaways from UNFPA's

GUIDANCE ON THE SAFE AND ETHICAL USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO ADDRESS GBV AND HARMFUL PRACTICES

Creating a path where tech, innovation and GBV can meet



Understand the gaps

- GBV practitioners need to understand the **harms of even well-intentioned tech**.
- There are wide gaps between tech and GBV/ violence against women fields. The importance of **GBV data protection is not equally valued** across fields.
- **Tech does not often place women and survivors at the centre** of design processes; tech and GBV stakeholders are not in the same room and rarely speak the same language.

Data really matters!

- **WHY?** Any data associated with GBV is categorically sensitive because if an individual or group were identified, it could be **life-threatening**.
- **HOW? Everyone is at risk** when we do not explicitly know and consider what data we collect, how it is stored, for how long and who has access (intentional or unintentional).

Security \neq Safety

- No matter how strong the security system, **no data is 100% safe**. GBV data is **highly sensitive** and if accessed **can be used to name, shame, blame, and even harass or re-offend survivors**.
- **All of us have the responsibility** to understand, prevent and mitigate risks, **either by choosing not to go forward with a project or by cautiously moving forward**.

The infographic identifies and addresses the existing gaps between tech and GBV areas of work, placing special attention on data privacy and protection for GBV, as well as on technology security and safety.

The UNFPA *Guidance on the Safe and Ethical Use of Technology to Address Gender-Based Violence and Harmful Practices* is intended to support practitioners in developing and using safe and ethical technology that prevents TFGBV. It emphasizes the need for GBV practitioners to recognize the potential harms of well-intentioned technology and provides avenues for practitioners to prevent such harms. GBV data is sensitive and requires careful consideration regarding collection, storage and access to protect individuals from harm. In addition, while security measures are important and can reduce risks of harm, no data is entirely safe, and the creation of new or mismanagement of existing GBV data can lead to harm or harassment. If malicious actors, individuals or groups,

gained access to individual data points or data sets of survivors or women and girls seeking services, then they could target them. Targeting could result in anything from online or offline stalking and harassment of survivors and service providers, locating shelters, tracking women's rights movements or women's organizations, silencing by disrupting Internet connections, impersonating to discredit, widely sharing personal information of survivors and providers or their families to cause further targeting (doxxing), femicide or any other form of TFGBV. It is the responsibility of all to understand, prevent and mitigate risks when working with technology and GBV issues. In particular, anyone developing or managing technology for GBV programming has the responsibility to know when the potential benefits do or do not outweigh the risks and then decide either not to go forward with a project or cautiously move forward.

- » There are gaps between the technology and GBV areas of work. While technology can be a powerful tool, data protection and GBV concerns are not always given equal priority.
- » Placing women and survivors at the heart of technological design processes is crucial. However, collaboration between technology and GBV stakeholders remains limited.
- » GBV data is categorically sensitive in any legal risk scale and demands careful handling in terms of collection, storage and access.
- » While security measures are essential to decreasing the risk of harm and setting up safeguards, no data is entirely immune to breaches, especially if targeted. Access to GBV data or any data associated with providing or supporting GBV

- services or women's empowerment could lead to being targeted by malicious actors and result in any form of TFGBV. Data minimization must be practised, in addition to not collecting data without conducting thorough risk-benefit analysis and ensuring strong safeguards are in place to find the right balance between accessibility and protection.
- » Everyone has a shared responsibility to comprehend, prevent and mitigate risks when addressing technology and GBV issues.



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