

Redefining Safety in a Digital World

How Women's Organizations are Shaping the Future of Digital Safety

Digital violence against women and girls is rising, creating new forms of harm that outpace existing laws and protections. Women's rights and civil society organizations are at the forefront of responding to these risks – supporting survivors, documenting emerging patterns of abuse, and pushing for stronger policies and safer digital environments. Their work is shaping how safety, accountability, and prevention must evolve in the digital age.



5 WAYS WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS ARE FLIPPING THE SCRIPT ON DIGITAL VIOLENCE

1

SAFETY FIRST: PROTECTING WOMEN, GIRLS & STAFF

Stronger proactive internal safety systems to anticipate digital attacks and prevent escalation into offline harm.

→ Secure tools, protocols, and evidence-based risk matrices; documenting incidents.



2

ADAPTING SERVICES TO DIGITAL HARMS

Holistic, trauma-informed responses tailored to digital violence and its offline impacts.

→ Adapted hotlines and psychosocial/legal support; coordination with cybercrime & digital safety authorities; help with recognising abuse, preserving evidence and takedowns requests.



4

USING EVIDENCE TO PRESS GOVERNMENTS & PLATFORMS TO ACT

Lived-experience data and evidence for advocacy and systemic change.

→ Monitoring digital harms; original research; pushing legal reforms; challenging restrictive "online safety" laws; platform accountability; using case evidence.



CROSS-CUTTING ENABLERS

Partnerships with cybercrime and digital safety authorities, digital rights groups, schools, youth leadership networks, feminist collectives, mental health providers, and platform moderators.

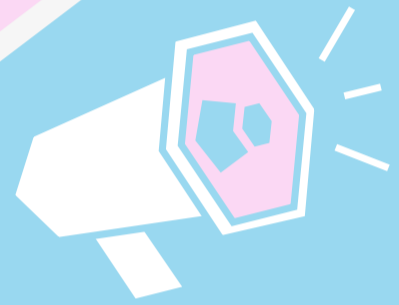


3

MOBILIZING COMMUNITIES AGAINST ONLINE ABUSE

Collective action to counter online attacks as a societal issue—not an individual burden.

→ Solidarity responses; community research on harmful narratives; survivor, and youth-led visibility strategies; stigma-breaking initiatives; support for offline harm.



5

BUILDING DIGITAL LITERACY & SAFER ONLINE HABITS

Digital and socio-emotional skills while shifting norms around respect, consent, and equality.

→ Training on safe online behaviour, privacy and critical thinking; work with schools; building empathy, power-awareness and survivor confidence; youth-led and peer learning models.



8 INSIGHTS NOT TO OVERLOOK

- 1 Digital violence is an online-offline continuum
- 2 Marginalized women (e.g. young women, LGBTIQ+, minorities) face compounded digital risks
- 3 Coordinated attacks silence women in public life and harms service providers
- 4 Evidence generation is essential to track emerging trends & drive reform
- 5 Survivors need rapid safety—not retraumatizing processes
- 6 Official mechanisms remain slow, unclear, and outdated
- 7 Laws exist but are inconsistently applied
- 8 Digital risks stem from system design and evolving tactics



WHERE TO START

A PRACTICAL CHECKLIST FOR ORGANIZATIONS

PREPARE YOUR ORGANIZATION

- Build safety protocols before a crisis
- Strengthen staff digital literacy to reduce internal vulnerabilities
- Strengthen cross-platform takedown knowledge
- Cultivate key partnerships (cybercrime units, digital-safety authorities, educators)

SUPPORT SURVIVORS SAFELY AND COLLECTIVELY

- Follow survivors' priorities – including non-legal routes
- Respond collectively – no woman should face digital violence alone
- Use low-visibility strategies when public exposure increases risk
- Co-design solutions with structurally marginalized women

INFLUENCE SYSTEMS AND INSTITUTIONS

- Document institutional failures to push for reform
- Use case evidence to identify legal gaps and advocate change
- Advocate for rights-based digital governance

