

CSW67 Recommendation Briefs
NGO CSW Global Advocacy & Research Group

2. Tech impact on women's human rights

Develop international standards and guidelines to address and eliminate the risks to the digital privacy and safety, autonomy, and dignity of women and girls in all their diversity. Women and girls of all ages are particularly at risk for online abuse, cyberbullying and gender-based violence.

Relevant UN Precedent Language

[Agreed Conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on ...](#)

2. Achieving the goal of equal participation of men and women in decision-making and ensuring equal political, economic and social participation of women in all spheres would provide the balance that is needed to strengthen democracy

P.48. Promote the responsible use of new information technologies, in particular the Internet, including the encouraging of steps to prevent the use of these technologies for discrimination and violence against women, and for trafficking in women for the purposes of sexual exploitation, including the exploitation of prostitution of women and girls;

5. The Commission acknowledges the important role played by regional conventions instruments and initiatives in their respective regions and countries, and their follow-up mechanisms, in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls including in the context of innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age.

9. Reaffirms the need to take measures to ensure that every person is entitled to participate in, contribute to and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development and that equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the promotion, protection and full realization of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, in the context of innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age. (Based on CSW66 (para 17), CSW65 (para 11), CSW63 (para 8), CSW62 (para 9), CSW61 (para 10), CSW60 (para 3))

Humanitarian emergencies and access to safe, confidential ICT platforms for forcibly displaced women and girls

The [Global Compact on Refugees](#) calls upon on UN Member States to affirm their commitments to promoting inclusive and equitable learning opportunities for all, and to share responsibility with the host countries and to improve access to education for refugee children. This includes providing innovating approaches to accelerate learning for refugee girls and adolescent women, for women and girls living in temporary resettlements, and are affected by conflict and natural disaster. Increasing access to ICT platforms and ensuring safety and freedom from harassment and discrimination online is critical in these contexts.

Ensuring safe and equitable access to digital technologies for diverse women and girls who are forcibly displaced, and those living in refugee settlements, is essential. Digital technologies allow delivery of health and social service information, psycho-social support, and formal education and training. As demonstrated among refugee women and girls in [Lebanon \(2020\)](#)¹ gender discrimination in access and use of ICT can also place women and girls at heightened risk for technology-facilitated harassment and violence, and prevent them from accessing life-saving information and services. In developing and implementing international standards and guidelines to eliminate risks in ICT use, UN Member States must account for how gender discrimination and harmful gender norms impact ICT access and use.

Data and Statistics

- [UN Women](#) reports that 73% of women worldwide have been exposed to or have experienced some online violence. In addition, 23% of women reported having experienced online abuse or harassment at least once in their lifetime, and 1 in 10 women, aged 15 and older, have been victims of some form of online violence.
- [UN Women](#) says that 1 in 5 female Internet users live in countries where harassment and abuse of women online is extremely unlikely to be punished.
- According to the [International Telecommunication Union](#) (ITU), in 2020, only 57% of women in the world had access to the internet compared to 62% of men.
- In 2020 in [Mexico](#), for example, around 9.4 million women over the age of 12 have suffered online harassment, mainly through unwanted sexual advances or propositions, with girls and adolescents between the ages of 12 and 19 being the most targeted.
- According to a study conducted by [Plan International](#), women and girls are most exposed to threats and humiliation. Insults and offensive language are the most common form of harassment experienced by young women between the ages of 15 and 25 (59% of those interviewed). the most common form of harassment experienced by young women between the ages of 15 and 25 (59% of those interviewed); followed by humiliation (41%); negative comments about their physique (39%), and threats of sexual violence (39%). In terms of platforms, they report that Facebook is the social network where they suffer the most harassment (39%), but not the only one: Instagram (23%), WhatsApp (14%), Snapchat (10%), Twitter (9%) and TikTok (6%).

Good Practice

Mexico's [Olimpia Law](#) on digital violence was enacted in 2020. It expands upon existing legislation that secures a woman's right to life free from violence and offers legal remedies to harassment, persecution and all forms of sexual and gender-based violence online. Formulation

¹ Crabtree, K., & Geara, P. (2018). Safety planning for technology: Displaced women and girls' interactions with information and communication technology in Lebanon and harm reduction considerations for humanitarian settings. *Journal of International Humanitarian Action*, 3(1), 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s41018-018-0031-x>

and enactment of the law resulted from grassroots activism among survivors of online gender-based violence. The Olympia Law is a model for legal reform that can be replicated by Member States who have domestic criminal laws against gender-based violence that do not yet address cyber-violence or gender-based violence online. The successful adoption of the Olympia Law further demonstrates how national governments can respond to civil society and work in partnership with grassroots activists to address the most urgent needs for protection, safety and wellbeing.