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Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: technology-facilitated violence against women and girls

Report of the Secretary-General*

Summary

The present report, submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [77/193](#), provides information on measures taken by Member States and activities carried out within the United Nations system to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls. In the report, recent trends, developments and promising practices are highlighted and concrete recommendations are made for eliminating violence against women and girls, with a specific focus on technology-facilitated violence against women and girls.

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I. Introduction

1. Violence against women and girls persists as one of the most prevalent human rights issues globally, with serious impacts on women's and girls' health and lives, families, communities and society at large. More than five women or girls are killed every hour by someone in their family.¹ Interlocking crises, including economic crises, conflicts and climate change, wreaking havoc across the world, are further exacerbating and intensifying violence against women and girls.

2. Rapid technological change continues to create new risks with regard to violence against women and girls. As examined in the previous report of the Secretary-General on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls (A/77/302), violence against women and girls is increasingly experienced across the online and offline continuum. Perpetrators are using a range of digital tools and platforms to inflict gender-based harm, abuse, hate speech, control, harassment and violence, while the proliferation of misogynistic content in online spaces, including the "manosphere" (ibid., para. 8), is increasingly permeating mainstream platforms, perpetuating harmful masculinities and discriminatory social norms that fuel violence against women and girls.² The recent growth in generative artificial intelligence (AI) is also having an impact on violence against women and girls by reinforcing and intensifying the misogynist norms that justify, excuse and normalize violence against women and girls and facilitating the proliferation of image-based abuse.³ There is evidence that such trends, in addition to having an impact on the perpetration of online violence, are linked to offline violence, including gender-related killings or femicides.⁴

3. Like all forms of violence against women and girls, these forms of technology-facilitated violence against women and girls are rooted in gender inequality and discriminatory gender norms. While all women and girls are at risk, some groups are disproportionately affected, including women who are most visible online, such as women in public life, journalists, human rights defenders, politicians, feminist activists, young women who are more present online and those who challenge gender norms and patriarchal structures. Women with limited access to quality digital technologies and connectivity, such as women in rural contexts, may also be at greater risk owing to limited digital literacy.

4. There have been important normative advances in recent years, in recognition of the harm of technology-facilitated violence against women and girls and the need for strengthened action to address it. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, in her landmark report on online violence against women and girls from a human rights perspective (A/HRC/38/47), set a framework for examining the impact of emerging technologies on violence against women and girls, including prevention of, protection from, prosecution of and redress for such violence. In the agreed conclusions of its sixty-seventh session, the

¹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), "Gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide): global estimates of female intimate partner/family-related homicides in 2022", 2023, p. 3.

² Ibid.; and Emma A. Jane, "Systemic misogyny exposed: translating rape-gish from the manosphere with a random rape threat generator", *International Journal of Cultural Studies*, vol. 21, No. 6 (2017).

³ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), "*Your Opinion Doesn't Matter, Anyway*": *Exposing Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence in an Era of Generative AI* (Paris, 2023).

⁴ Bridget Harris and Laura Vitis, "Digital intrusions: technology, spatiality and violence against women", *Journal of Gender-Based Violence*, vol. 4, No. 3 (2020).

Commission on the Status of Women expressed deep concern about the magnitude of various forms of violence, including gender-based violence that occurs through or is amplified by technology, and the significant physical, sexual, psychological, social, political and economic harm it causes to women and girls (E/2023/27-E/CN.6/2023/14, chap. I, para. 53), and called for comprehensive measures to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence, including gender-based violence that occurs through or is amplified by the use of technologies. In its resolution 78/265 on seizing the opportunities of safe, secure and trustworthy artificial intelligence systems for sustainable development, its first resolution on AI, the General Assembly recognized that the improper or malicious use of AI systems posed a risk for reinforcing structural inequalities and discrimination. The Global Digital Compact, adopted at the Summit of the Future, held in September 2024, and the United Nations cybercrime treaty, on which discussions are under way, also present important opportunities to advance the normative framework on technology-facilitated violence against women and girls.

5. Against this backdrop, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 77/193, the present report is focused on eliminating violence against women and girls, with a specific focus on technology-facilitated violence against women and girls. In the report, recent trends, developments and promising practices are highlighted and concrete recommendations are made for accelerating progress in the elimination of violence against women and girls. The report is based on, inter alia, information received from Member States,⁵ entities of the United Nations system and other organizations.⁶

II. Emerging issue: how technological change is creating new platforms for violence against women and girls

6. In his previous report on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls (A/77/302), the Secretary-General found that the forms and patterns of violence against women and girls have evolved in recent years and continue to intensify as technology advances in a context of rapidly expanding digitalization accelerated by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.⁷ Technology and online spaces continue to be important levers for empowerment and participation in public life, and online spaces are important platforms for women's rights activism (see E/CN.6/2023/3). At the same time, women and girls across the world continue to lack equal access to technology or lack access to quality technology.⁸ Since the issuance of the previous report of the Secretary-General, technology-facilitated violence against women and girls has continued to intensify and manifest itself in new ways, causing significant harm to women and girls in violation of their fundamental rights.

⁵ Submissions received from Argentina, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Croatia, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Israel, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Peru, Romania, Senegal, Singapore, the Sudan, Türkiye, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates and Zimbabwe.

⁶ Submissions received from the European Union, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, the Spotlight Initiative, the United Nations trust fund in support of actions to eliminate violence against women, UN-Women, the United Nations Development Programme, UNESCO, the United Nations Population Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund and UNODC.

⁷ Florence Jaumotte and others, "How pandemic accelerated digital transformation in advanced economies", International Monetary Fund, blog, 21 March 2023.

⁸ International Telecommunication Union, "The gender digital divide", in *Measuring Digital Development: Facts and Figures 2023* (Geneva, 2023).

7. Although the newer patterns of technology-facilitated violence against women and girls, such as deepfake pornography, are unique, they are part of the continuum of multiple, recurring and interrelated forms of violence across online and offline spaces. As highlighted in the previous report of the Secretary-General, the unique features of digital spaces that create an enabling context for violence against women and girls include the scale, speed and ease of communication and anonymity, combined with automation, affordability and impunity. The recent growth of generative AI, through deep learning models, is exacerbating existing harms, including through more convincing false media that can be generated and disseminated automatically and at scale.⁹ A newly emerging threat is compositional deepfakes.¹⁰ Despite efforts to improve gender balance, the technology sector remains a male-dominated industry. For instance, women make up just 29.2 per cent of the science, technology, engineering and mathematics workforce and only 30 per cent of the AI workforce.¹¹ The absence of women, and their perspectives, in the technology sector affects the extent to which technologies are designed to be gender-responsive and inclusive of and safe for women. Furthermore, as AI is based on data that are often gender-biased, it risks replicating and exacerbating gender-based discrimination.¹²

8. The sections below build on the examination of violence against women and girls in digital contexts in the previous report of the Secretary-General, focusing on new evidence and emerging trends.

A. Definitions of violence against women and girls in digital contexts are still evolving

9. The absence of agreed definitions and methodologies for measuring violence against women and girls in digital contexts, coupled with widespread underreporting, has hampered efforts to understand the true extent of the issue.¹³ As there is currently no internationally agreed definition of violence against women in digital contexts, in the previous report of the Secretary-General, “violence against women and girls in digital contexts” was used to describe a wide range of violence committed against women in digital spaces and/or using information and communications technologies. In the present report, the term “technology-facilitated violence against women and girls” has been utilized to align with the language recently used by the Statistical Commission at its fifty-fifth session, and in General Assembly resolution 77/193, entitled “Intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: gender stereotypes and negative social norms”. Technology-facilitated violence against women and girls is also known interchangeably as “information and communications technology-facilitated violence”, “online violence”, “tech-facilitated or related violence”, “digital violence” or “cyberviolence”.

10. Over the past two years, there have been some important developments in further refining definitions. An expert group meeting convened by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) built on the definition offered in 2018 by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, defining technology-facilitated violence against women and technology-facilitated gender-based violence as “any act that is committed, assisted, aggravated, or amplified by the use of information communication

⁹ UNESCO, “*Your Opinion Doesn’t Matter, Anyway*”, p. 19.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ World Economic Forum, *Global Gender Gap Report 2023* (Geneva, 2022), p. 44.

¹² UNESCO, International Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence, “Challenging systematic prejudices: an investigation into gender bias in large language models”, 2024, p. 3.

¹³ UN-Women, “Accelerating efforts to tackle online and technology facilitated violence against women and girls”, 2022, p. 4.

technologies or other digital tools, that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual, psychological, social, political, or economic harm, or other infringements of rights and freedoms”.¹⁴

11. However, developing globally-agreed definitions and measurement frameworks that are responsive to the ever-changing nature of technology and its impact on violence against women and girls remains a key priority. As noted in the previous report of the Secretary-General, technology-facilitated violence against women and girls takes many forms, including sexual harassment, stalking, zoombombing, image-based abuse, trolling, doxing, misogynistic or gendered hate speech, misinformation and “astroturfing” (the artificial impression of widespread support for an idea), among others. Some forms of violence against women and girls, such as intimate partner or domestic violence and trafficking, are also facilitated through different digital tools, including mobile phones, Global Positioning Systems and tracking devices. The growth of AI is creating new forms of violence against women and girls and new avenues to entrench the normalization of harmful social norms and violence against women and girls, which will need to be factored into definitions and measurement tools.

B. Data show that technology-facilitated violence against women and girls persists and continues to intensify the continuum of gender-based violence

12. Despite a lack of recent global data to understand the nature and extent of the issue, available data from a range of studies point to the scale of the problem, with studies showing that the prevalence of technology-facilitated violence against women and girls ranges from 16 to 58 per cent,¹⁵ and younger women are especially affected, with Generation Z (born between 1997 and 2012) and Millennials (born between 1981 and 1996) the most affected.¹⁶ Even if a woman has not experienced it, she has more than likely witnessed this kind of violence perpetrated against another woman or girl online.

13. Globally, data on the forms of violence, abuse and harassment experience indicate that misinformation and defamation are the most prevalent forms of online gender-based violence affecting women, with 67 per cent of women and girls who have experienced online violence encountering this tactic.¹⁷ Cyberharassment (66 per cent), hate speech (65 per cent), impersonation (63 per cent), hacking and stalking (63 per cent), astroturfing (58 per cent), image- and video-based abuse (57 per cent), doxing (55 per cent) and violent threats (52 per cent) are among the other most common forms.¹⁸

14. A recent global study on the prevalence of online child sexual exploitation and abuse found that over 300 million children, i.e. persons under the age of 18 years, have been affected by online child sexual exploitation and abuse in the past 12 months. Furthermore, one in eight children globally have been subjected to online solicitation in the past 12 months, including unwanted sexual talk, which can include

¹⁴ UN-Women, “Technology-facilitated violence against women: towards a common definition”, report of the meeting of the expert group, New York, November 2022, p. 4.

¹⁵ Jacqueline Hicks, “Global evidence on the prevalence and impact of online gender-based violence”, Institute of Development Studies, 8 October 2021, p. 2.

¹⁶ See <https://onlineviolencewomen.eiu.com/>.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ UNESCO, “*Your Opinion Doesn’t Matter, Anyway*”, p. 11.

non-consensual sexting, unwanted sexual questions and unwanted sexual act requests by adults or other young people.¹⁹

15. In the past two years, regional and country studies of technology-facilitated violence against women and girls continue to show the extent and nature of the problem. For example, a 2023 study of women’s experiences in Eastern Europe and Central Asia found that more than half of women present online in the region (53 per cent) have experienced some form of technology-facilitated violence at least once.²⁰ The most prevalent forms of violence included receiving unwanted or offensive content or messages, receiving inappropriate sexual advances or content on social networking and hacking of women’s accounts and web pages.

16. A 2023 Libya-based study of 7,015 posts and the 91,978 associated comments on 20 relevant public social media pages identified by women activists found, using AI models, that 76.5 per cent of comments were “misogynistic” and 36.5 per cent of comments were classified as offensive.²¹

C. Women in the public eye and marginalized women and girls continue to be most affected by technology-facilitated violence against women and girls, with significant impacts

17. Mirroring trends offline, online gender-based violence disproportionately affects women and girls. As noted in the previous report of the Secretary-General, women experiencing intersecting forms of discrimination – for example, women of colour, and lesbian or bisexual women – are more likely to experience online gender-based violence (A/77/302, para. 16). Women living in rural contexts or remote areas or in communities that lack quality access to digital technologies and connectivity may also be at greater risk of technology-facilitated violence against women and girls due to limited digital literacy making them more vulnerable to online scams and other forms of exploitation. They are also less likely to be aware of their rights and available safety resources.

18. Women with high levels of public visibility, such as journalists, politicians and activists, continue to be at significant risk.²² A 2021 report by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) found that 73 per cent of women journalists interviewed reported having experienced online violence, with election periods leading to an intensification of violence towards both women journalists and politicians.²³ Technology-facilitated violence against women and girls is often directed towards women who challenge gender norms and patriarchal structures, for example, those who defend women’s human rights.²⁴ Threats of

¹⁹ Childlight Global Child Safety Institute, *Into the Light Index on Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Globally: 2024 Report* (Edinburgh, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 2024).

²⁰ UN-Women, *The Dark Side of Digitalization: Technology-Facilitated Violence against Women in Eastern Europe and Central Asia* (2024), p. 40.

²¹ UN-Women, “Using big data analytics for insights on online violence against women in Libya”, May 2023, p. 5.

²² Julie Posetti and others, *The Chilling: Global Trends in Online Violence against Women Journalists* (UNESCO, 2021), p. 21.

²³ *Ibid.*

²⁴ World Wide Web Foundation, “‘Women shouldn’t be expected to pay this cost to participate’. Online gender-based violence and abuse: consultation briefing”, 2021, pp. 4–7.

violence against family members of women in public life, including rape threats against their young children, are also a significant concern.²⁵

19. The harms caused by technology-facilitated violence against women and girls at the individual level can be physical, sexual, psychological, social, political or economic. Violence in the online space may transition offline in various ways, including coercive control, surveillance, stalking, physical violence or even death. At present, violence in online settings is not considered as serious as some other forms of violence or crime, despite the significant harms that may result.²⁶

D. Anti-rights actors are increasingly using online spaces to push back against women’s rights, including with regard to violence against women

20. Anti-rights actors are increasingly utilizing online platforms to propagate narratives that challenge gender equality and women’s rights, with tactics that include creating a hostile digital environment for women and girls marked by cyberbullying, harassment and threats of violence.²⁷ This phenomenon is deeply intertwined with the escalation of violence against women, particularly through gendered attacks targeting women human rights defenders, women’s rights activists and women engaged in public life.²⁸ The alarming prevalence of online gendered attacks serves to silence women’s voices and undermine their participation in public discourse.

21. Gendered disinformation, online threats, abuse and violence also lead to women’s self-limiting or non-participation online, eroding democratic processes and further strengthening misogynistic norms. In this respect, online violence against women and girls exacerbates the digital gender divide by deterring women from participating in online environments, especially in the context of political engagement, in order to avoid abuse.²⁹ Witnessing online violence experienced by high-profile women has also been shown to deter young women from entering public-facing professions. As a result, disinformation campaigns and other forms of technology-facilitated violence against women and girls can have an intergenerational, regressive impact on the human rights of women and girls, and undermine democracy and the rule of law.³⁰

E. The rapid growth of artificial intelligence has serious implications for violence against women and girls

22. AI is intensifying violence against women and girls in numerous ways, both through the deliberate spread of targeted disinformation and through the automated, large-scale and often-unintended promulgation of misinformation. Content produced by generative AI can reinforce and intensify the misogynist norms that justify, excuse and normalize violence against women and girls and can enable and intensify the

²⁵ Lucina Di Meco, “Monetizing misogyny: gendered disinformation and the undermining of women’s rights and democracy globally”, *She Persisted*, February 2023, pp. 12–13.

²⁶ Lisa Sharland and Ilhan Dahir, “Ending violence against women and girls in digital contexts: a blueprint to translate multilateral commitments into domestic action”, *Stimson Centre*, 2023.

²⁷ Valerie Dickel and Giulia Evolvi, “‘Victims of feminism’: exploring networked misogyny and #MeToo in the manosphere”, *Feminist Media Studies*, vol. 23, No. 4 (2023).

²⁸ Ruth Lewis, Michael Rowe and Clare Wiper, “Online abuse of feminists as an emerging form of violence against women and girls”, *British Journal of Criminology*, vol. 57, No. 6 (November 2017).

²⁹ UN-Women, “Accelerating efforts to tackle online and technology-facilitated violence against women and girls”, p. 6.

³⁰ *Ibid.*

spread of gendered misinformation and disinformation, including more convincing fake news, hate speech, harassment and attacks that fuel such violence. The sheer volume of media created using ever more advanced generative AI is obscuring the distinction between genuine, good information and “fakeries”.³¹ As a result, there are many legal, social, regulatory, technical and ethical challenges.

23. Generative AI has also facilitated the proliferation of image-based abuse, deepfake pornographic videos and interactive deepfakes based on deceptive and non-consensual sexually explicit content.³² Deepfakes are perpetuating the harmful norms that continue to enable and justify violence against women and girls.³³ Alarming, deepfakes are being used for image-based abuse and harassment, including by children in school settings.³⁴ According to Sensity AI, between 90 and 95 per cent of all online deepfakes are non-consensual pornographic images, with around 90 per cent of those images depicting women.³⁵ The rise of “sextortion” using deepfakes is also a growing concern, where non-consensual fabricated images are shared widely on pornographic sites to threaten or blackmail people, inflicting significant harm.³⁶ Victims of deepfakes can suffer devastating consequences, including lasting psychological trauma, reputational damage, social isolation, financial harm and, in some cases, loss of life. This harm disproportionately affects women and girls.

24. Deepfakes can also be fabricated by synthesizing misinformation and disinformation across several media types that corroborate one another, facilitating coordinated gendered disinformation campaigns and sexist hate speech which reinforce deeply ingrained gender biases.³⁷ Gendered disinformation undermines efforts to prevent violence against women and girls by reinforcing rigid stereotypes and harmful norms.

25. As with other forms of online violence, the anonymity of perpetrators is a barrier to ensuring that victims of deepfakes have access to justice. Inadequate laws and regulatory frameworks also uphold a culture of impunity for perpetrators. Remedies for victim-survivors are often limited and expensive and do not take into account the long-term impacts of abuse.³⁸ While online hate speech is sometimes detected and censored by AI bots as part of platforms’ safety features, these guardrails are often not up to standard. The adoption of coded language – such as epithets to refer to specific individuals – can help perpetrators escape detection, resulting in widespread impunity and ongoing amplification.³⁹

³¹ UNESCO, “*Your Opinion Doesn’t Matter, Anyway*”.

³² Ibid.

³³ Seerat Khan, “How AI exacerbates online gender-based violence”, Organization for Ethical Source, 25 September 2023.

³⁴ Michael Safi, Alex Atack and Joshua Kelly, “Revealed: the names linked to ClothOff, the deepfake pornography app”, *The Guardian*, 29 February 2024.

³⁵ Karen Hao, “A horrifying new AI app swaps women into porn videos with a click”, MIT Technology Review, 13 September 2021.

³⁶ Felipe Romero Moreno, “Generative AI and deepfakes: a human rights approach to tackling harmful content”, *International Review of Law, Computers and Technology*, vol. 38, No. 3 (2024).

³⁷ Di Meco, “Monetizing misogyny”.

³⁸ Social Development Direct, *Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence: Preliminary Landscape Analysis* (2023).

³⁹ UNESCO, “*Your Opinion Doesn’t Matter, Anyway*”, p. 13.

F. Digital contexts are also enabling widespread misogyny and entrenching the normalization of violence against women and girls

26. In recent years, attention has been increasingly paid to new online spaces that fuel misogyny and perpetuate attitudes that normalize and justify violence against women and girls. The “manosphere” (A/77/302, para. 8) is a decentralized cross-platform collection of online communities – such as chat groups, forum discussions and blogs – united by an opposition to feminism. In the “manosphere”, men are presented as the victims of the current societal climate, with content focused on several themes, including denigrating portrayals of women, dismissive rhetoric about women’s movements and harmful myths about gender equality and violence against women and girls.⁴⁰ The “manosphere” amplifies sexist stereotypes in popular, shareable formats that gain traction at scale with limited accountability given the perpetrators’ anonymity.

27. The recent expansion of the “manosphere” is particularly concerning because of the increasing engagement and mobilization of young men and boys, and coincides with a growing conservatism among young men with regard to their views on gender equality.⁴¹ A study of different generations across 31 countries found that younger men are more conservative than men of older generations and are more likely to consider that promoting women’s equality is discriminating against men.⁴²

28. Another concerning trend is the growing mobilization of “incels” (a group who self-identify as “involuntary celibates”) in online spaces, espousing a convergence of extremist ideologies, including racism, misogyny, anti-feminism and homophobia.⁴³ This perpetuates a culture of pro-rape discourse which exacerbates harmful attitudes and normalizes violence against women and girls and child sexual abuse.⁴⁴ A 2022 study found an increase of 59 per cent in violent rhetoric over the previous year and content that encourages and excuses child sexual exploitation.⁴⁵ The repercussions extend beyond online spaces, contributing to gender-based violence both online and offline, including femicides and gender-related killings.⁴⁶

29. As well as online spaces that are spreading misogyny, the ubiquity of sexual aggression and gendered violence in pornography that is freely available on the Internet has been linked to the normalization of intimate partner violence towards women and girls.⁴⁷ Men and boys are statistically more likely to consume violent pornographic material, and more often, than their female counterparts; men and boys

⁴⁰ Craig Haslop and others, “Mainstreaming the manosphere’s misogyny through affective homosocial currencies: exploring how teen boys navigate the Andrew Tate effect”, *Social Media + Society*, vol. 10, No. 1 (2024), pp. 2 and 7.

⁴¹ Ipsos, “International Women’s Day 2024: global attitudes towards women’s leadership”, March 2024, p. 2.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Shannon Zimmerman, “The ideology of incels: misogyny and victimhood as justification for political violence”, *Terrorism and Political Violence*, vol. 36, No. 2 (2024).

⁴⁴ Centre for Countering Digital Hate, “The incelosphere: exposing pathways into incel communities and the harms they pose to women and children”, 2022.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Australia, National Research Organization for Women’s Safety, “Working across sectors to meet the needs of clients experiencing domestic and family violence”, ANROWS Horizons, 05/2020, 2020; and Esli Chan, “Technology-facilitated gender-based violence, hate speech, and terrorism: a risk assessment on the rise of the incel rebellion in Canada”, *Violence against Women*, vol. 29, No. 9 (2022).

⁴⁷ Whitney L. Rostad and others, “The association between exposure to violent pornography and teen dating violence in Grade 10 high school students”, *Archives of Sexual Behaviour*, vol. 48, No. 7 (2019).

who consume violent pornography are also more likely to pressure a partner into acting out what they see in pornography and more likely to perpetrate sexual abuse.⁴⁸

G. Laws, policies and practices needed to respond to emerging trends

30. As outlined in the previous report of the Secretary-General, the rapidly evolving nature of technology requires robust legal, policy and accountability frameworks. Addressing the issue of technology-facilitated violence against women and girls requires a comprehensive approach, including: laws consistent with international human rights law, regulatory frameworks and effective implementation; a focus on prevention and response from technology intermediaries; investments in better quality data as well as actions to improve transparency; and partnerships between Governments, technology providers and women's rights organizations.

31. While more countries have introduced laws and strategies to criminalize technology-facilitated violence against women and girls, tensions at the intersections of the rights of digital users to freedom of expression, access to information, privacy and data protection, and a life free from violence, continue as a challenge. Furthermore, laws that address technology-facilitated violence against women and girls continue to lack clear and consistent definitions and have not kept pace with technological developments and emerging forms of such violence. While there has been some progress in Internet intermediaries taking action, the lack of independent oversight, unclear or different standards between platforms and inconsistent enforcement remain challenges.

32. The implications of emerging trends, such as generative AI, also require a holistic approach and cooperation across the ecosystem of actors, in particular generative AI companies that are content generators. Content distributors, such as social media companies, also play a critical role. The due diligence principle continues to apply in the context of generative AI where States have the obligation to ensure that both State and non-State agents refrain from engaging in any act of discrimination or violence against women and girls, including due diligence obligations to prevent, investigate and punish acts of violence against women and girls committed by private companies, such as Internet intermediaries (see [A/HRC/38/47](#)).

33. At the centre of all responses, including legal and policy frameworks, should be a commitment to zero tolerance in the digital environment for all forms of violence against women and girls and for harmful behaviours and narratives that undermine and discredit women's and girls' online and offline presence and expression, or that justify or normalize violence against women and girls (see [E/CN.6/2023/3](#), para. 45 (aa) and (cc)). As well as enacting laws that reflect international standards, Governments can also play a key role in establishing oversight and regulatory bodies that take reports from those harmed by AI-generated content and ensure redress for victims while ensuring enforcement and accountability for content generators and distributors. Such bodies can also conduct public information and awareness campaigns.⁴⁹

34. Platform-specific regulatory frameworks can help to shift the onus for staying safe online from the individual to the owners of platforms where the abuse takes place. For example, rather than relying on individuals to come forward with reports,

⁴⁸ Gemma Mestre-Bach, Alejandro Villena-Moya and Carlos Chiclana-Actis, "Pornography use and violence: a systematic review of the last 20 years", *Trauma, Violence and Abuse*, vol. 25, No. 2 (2023).

⁴⁹ UN-Women, "Placing gender equality at the heart of the global digital compact", 2024, p. 9.

advocates are calling for legal obligations on online providers, such as social media platforms, to proactively assess, detect and mitigate the risk of child sexual abuse on their platforms.⁵⁰ Such reforms should be extended to all forms of violence against women and girls. Laws and frameworks should also reflect the different approaches required in handling acute (intense, short-term) and more chronic cases.⁵¹

35. There are examples of legal frameworks adapting to emerging trends. For example, the Online Safety Act of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, passed in 2023, has made it illegal to share explicit images or videos that have been digitally manipulated. However, this only applies in circumstances where they have intentionally or recklessly caused distress to an individual. The Act does not prevent the creation of pornographic deepfakes or the sharing of them where intent to cause distress cannot be proved.⁵² The European Union's AI Act promotes transparency by requiring the creators of deepfakes to inform the public about the artificial nature of their work and providers of general-purpose AI tools to tag AI-generated content and identify manipulations, enabling users to better understand the information.⁵³

36. Actions by content distributors and content generators are also important, such as: developing robust methods of identifying generated media; openly sharing their terms of service, safeguards and approaches to monitoring use for inappropriate content; and responding swiftly to reports of harmful content and analysing the account generating or distributing the images.⁵⁴ All responses should ensure that women and girls harmed by AI-generated content are not pushed out of the public sphere.

37. Content distributors can also play a role in interrupting pathways, particularly for young men, into online forums that are fuelling misogynistic views, by removing channels and content that promote misogyny or de-ranking such online forums in search engines. Policies that seek to counter hate speech and violent extremism should address incel content and forums.⁵⁵ Risk assessment frameworks for detecting the activity of extremist groups as a threat to national security – both online and offline – should also explicitly refer to incels and gender-based violence, the continuum of online and offline harm and the use of technology to perpetuate harmful misogynistic ideology as risk factors.⁵⁶

38. Enhanced international cooperation and policy coherence for addressing the impacts of emerging technological trends for violence against women and girls are also necessary. At the global level, the negotiation of the Global Digital Compact offers a unique opportunity to build political momentum, recognize violence against women and girls as a barrier to women benefiting from the digital revolution and call for women's right to safe digital environments.

39. Finally, the increased participation of women in the technology sector remains vital, especially women who experience intersectional discrimination and inequalities and are most likely to experience technology-facilitated violence against women and

⁵⁰ End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking in Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT) and National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) of the United Kingdom, "Online safety poll", 2023, p. 5. Available at <https://ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/UK.pdf>.

⁵¹ UNESCO, "*Your Opinion Doesn't Matter, Anyway*", pp.14–15.

⁵² Manasa Narayanan, "The UK's Online Safety Act is not enough to address non-consensual deepfake pornography", Tech Policy Press, 13 March 2024.

⁵³ Moreno, "Generative AI and deepfakes", p. 4.

⁵⁴ UNESCO, "*Your Opinion Doesn't Matter, Anyway*", p. 30.

⁵⁵ Centre for Countering Digital Hate, "The incelsphere", p. 43.

⁵⁶ Chan, "Technology-facilitated gender-based violence".

girls. It would ensure that women’s perspectives shape the design of technology, mitigating the risk of technology replicating and exacerbating gender bias.

H. Technology can also be harnessed for the prevention of and response to violence against women and girls

40. There are growing examples of AI being used for positive social change and to prevent or respond to violence against women and girls. For example, the French technology firm Bodyguard has developed an application that uses AI to filter out online abuse.⁵⁷ Researchers are also developing “machine learning” algorithms to detect, intervene against and prevent online gender-based violence.⁵⁸ There is also a growing movement for “feminist AI”, which seeks to make visible the gendered power imbalances reflected in generative AI and calls for elevating the voices and perspectives of marginalized groups in the design of AI as well as making visible and addressing the inherent gender bias in data that underpin AI, which drives gendered outcomes.⁵⁹

41. Digital tools are increasingly being used for the prevention of and response to violence against women and girls. For example, there has been a proliferation of applications that help women connect with others, share location, reach emergency services and access specialist services related to violence against women and girls.⁶⁰ Furthermore, online spaces can also play a critical role in the healing and recovery of survivors through virtual communities and connection with others.⁶¹ The use of online spaces to collectively mobilize against violence against women and girls and advance discussions on everyday sexism and gender-based violence has also been effective.⁶² Advances in technology can also be harnessed for prevention, for example, through the use of digital channels to complement or replicate in-person connections in workshops to foster respectful and safe relationships; the use of technology-enabled services, such as a chatbot, to support young women to navigate unhealthy relationships; and experiential learning to engage young people in prevention through video games and virtual reality.⁶³ Collaboration with and investments in the expertise of women’s organizations and specialist services related to violence against women and girls are critical to inform these technology-based tools.

III. Measures and initiatives reported by Member States and United Nations entities, with a focus on impacts of technological change on violence against women and girls

A. Strengthening of laws, policies, regulatory frameworks and accountability

42. Global and regional normative commitments, in particular international and regional human rights instruments, provide standards for States to legislate for

⁵⁷ See www.bodyguard.ai/en.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ Sara Colombo, “Feminist AI: transforming and challenging the current AI industry”, TU Delft, n.d.

⁶⁰ Alison J. Marganski and Lisa A. Melander, “Technology-facilitated violence against women and girls in public and private spheres: moving from enemy to ally”, in *The Emerald International Handbook of Technology-Facilitated Violence and Abuse*, Jane Bailey and others, eds. (Leeds, United Kingdom, Emerald Publishing, 2021).

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ UN-Women, “Innovation and prevention of violence against women”, 2023, pp.7–8.

preventative measures and effective justice responses to violence against women and girls. States continue to make improvements to legal and policy frameworks that address such violence. Several States have reformed penal and criminal laws to improve protections on different forms of violence against women and girls (Bahrain, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Croatia, Ecuador, France, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon and Türkiye). Ecuador has introduced a new national protocol for the investigation of femicides and other violent deaths of women and girls. In Singapore, amendments to the Women's Charter strengthen enforcement relating to breaches of violence-related court orders. In Uganda, the Law Reform Commission has undertaken to review the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act to improve the handling of cases by duty-bearers, including the police and the judiciary. Similarly, Israel has reformed its laws to improve protection from domestic violence and is upskilling its judiciary through training on online sexual offences to enhance accountability. The new European Union directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence seeks to ensure that the rights of victims are strengthened. Since the launch of the Spotlight Initiative in 2017, 548 laws and policies to end violence against women and girls have been signed or strengthened with the Initiative's support.

43. Several States (Argentina, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, El Salvador, Romania and Zimbabwe) have specifically strengthened laws and frameworks to protect women and girls from technology-facilitated violence against women and girls, including image-based abuse. In Argentina, the new Olimpia Law establishes digital violence as a form of gender-based violence, and under the Mica Ortega Law, a new national programme was created to prevent grooming and cyberharassment of children and young people. To improve access to justice for survivors, a pilot project was launched in 2023 in several public prosecutors' offices throughout Austria, stationing police-trained, specialized cybercrime officers whose focus is on combating digital violence against women. Similarly, Chile has also prioritized capacity-building for police on technology-facilitated violence against women and girls. France has strengthened its protection from online violence through a digital age of majority, requiring online social network service providers to refuse registration to minors under 15 years of age, unless expressly authorized by a parental authority. At the regional level, member States of the European Union have three years to comply with new directives related to online gender-based violence, including protocols for the removal of illegal content, minimum standards for cybercrimes and strengthened support for victims.

44. To support States in addressing online violence, the United Nations Children's Fund has developed a comprehensive global guide to protect children from online sexual exploitation and abuse, setting out minimum recommended standards based on international and regional conventions, general comments and guidelines of treaty bodies, model laws and good practices.

B. Expanding services to support survivors and improving access to justice

45. High-quality services across a range of sectors, such as health, housing and social protection, can play a significant role in addressing the impact of violence on the well-being, health and safety of women and girls, assist in their recovery and empowerment, and stop violence from recurring. Several States have prioritized the ongoing operation or expansion of shelters and service centres to provide access to support for women who have experienced violence (Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Croatia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Malaysia, Myanmar, Peru, Romania, Türkiye and Uganda). In the Sudan, the provision of support services for gender-

based violence and conflict-related sexual violence through health services has been a focus. Supporting women's organizations to deliver services also remains a focus for States. In Singapore, "SHE", a non-profit organization, provides support to victims of online harms. In Myanmar, women's rights organizations continue to deliver essential gender-based violence services in coordination with United Nations entities.

46. The deployment by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees of 18 gender-based violence specialists in 2023 accelerated the establishment of quality services for survivors in States affected by conflict, including Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, the Republic of Moldova, South Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic. Grantee partners of the United Nations trust fund in support of actions to eliminate violence against women supported 9,122 individual service providers, and 1,487 institutions improved their service provision for survivors and women and girls at risk of violence.

47. The provision of comprehensive support to survivors of violence against women and girls, both online and offline, remains a priority. Several States have made advances in this area, including counselling for victims of cyberviolence in Austria, crisis centres in Belarus, and reporting and advocacy support for victims in the United Arab Emirates. In Austria, psychosocial and legal assistance has been expanded for victims of online hate speech and underage witnesses of violence in their social environment. In Luxembourg, the BEE SECURE initiative promotes online safety and provides a helpline for Internet-related issues, an anonymous platform for reporting illegal content and continuous monitoring of online trends.

C. Investing in long-term prevention to transform social norms and behaviours

48. Long-term prevention of violence against women and girls requires, inter alia, the transformation of social norms to support non-violence and gender-equal relationships and promote women's empowerment through comprehensive and evidence-based multisectoral strategies. In this respect, States have continued to make progress on the transformation of social norms that perpetuate and normalize violence against women and girls, particularly through educational initiatives in schools and community groups (in Argentina, Austria, El Salvador, France, Luxembourg, Myanmar and Zimbabwe).

49. Awareness-raising also continues to be a focus for States (Kyrgyzstan), as well as campaigns to challenge gender stereotypes (Bhutan and Bosnia and Herzegovina), challenge attitudes and increase empathy among men (Croatia), raise awareness of sexism (France) and inform women new to digital environments of the risks to their safety online (Ecuador). Uganda has prioritized online safety, targeting marginalized groups, including using the SafePal application to prevent and respond to gender-based violence.

50. United Nations entities have made contributions to long-term prevention and social norm change. In 2023, 48,959 women and girls benefited from specialist violence prevention and response support services provided by grantee partners of the United Nations trust fund in support of actions to eliminate violence against women. The United Nations Development Programme, in partnership with national authorities, piloted social media monitoring tools, using AI, to track hate speech in several States and to develop prevention and response programmes around hate speech, gender-based violence and conflict prevention.

51. UN-Women has been working with the Pan American Health Organization and the World Bank to implement the RESPECT framework to prevent violence against women and girls in Chile and the Plurinational State of Bolivia, strengthening the capacities of 215 policymakers, service providers, civil society organizations and academics from at least 60 institutions.

52. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has supported women entrepreneurs in developing digital platforms to enhance women's safety across the Arab States, including the launch of the Safe YOU application in Iraq, providing emergency assistance and safe spaces for survivors, and Netopoly, an online board game promoting responsible online behaviour, in Tunisia.

53. United Nations entities have also recognized the connection between the prevention of gender-based violence and other policy goals. In 2023, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations partnered with UN-Women to conduct a global awareness-raising session on the link between gender-based violence and food insecurity. Furthermore, UNESCO jointly organized the 2023 World Anti-Bullying Forum, which also addressed online safety as a key issue.

D. Generating data and research

54. Effective strategies to end violence against women and girls rely on robust, regular and comparable data. To address current gaps, the Statistical Commission, at its fifty-fifth session, requested that UN-Women work with the World Health Organization and UNFPA to propose a statistical framework for standardized internationally comparable measures on technology-facilitated violence against women, further to technical consultations, testing and piloting in close collaboration with national statistical offices. A new directive requires European Union member States to collect data on violence against women and domestic violence.

55. In Uganda, user-generated data are being collected to complement official statistics on gender-based violence. Some States continue to improve platforms for the collection of data on technology-facilitated violence against women and girls, such as Senegal, through a newly developed cloud-based application, and Chile, through updated reporting mechanisms for cybercrime. There is a growing focus on the use of big data to gain a greater understanding of technology-facilitated violence against women and girls. UN-Women has introduced innovative data approaches to capture online violence against women in Libya and in Latin America and the Caribbean.

56. States have also continued to develop new data tools and products to improve the understanding of the nature and extent of all forms of violence against women and girls, such as the use of citizen-generated data on gender-based violence in Uganda and web-based reporting services in Senegal. Improving administrative data also remains a focus for several States (Bahrain, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Türkiye, Uganda and Zimbabwe). The International Labour Organization is continuing research to advance knowledge on the cost of violence and harassment at work.

E. Establishing global initiatives and partnerships, including with the private sector, technology providers, women's rights organizations and feminist technology experts

57. Partnerships and collaboration between technology and communications companies, civil society, Governments and experts are essential for tackling technology-facilitated violence against women and girls. In 2023, the Council of

Europe launched an initiative on combating digital and sexual violence against women in Bosnia and Herzegovina to resolve deficiencies in legal frameworks, policies and support services related to sexual violence and technology-facilitated violence against women and girls in that country. Global partnerships have continued to emerge and strengthen (see box).

58. There are also more examples of partnerships between States and technology providers. For example, the Government of Singapore, in partnership with multiple technology companies, developed the Online Safety Digital Resource Kit, collating online platforms' safety features to equip users with accessible information about how to manage their safety online and report harm. Building partnerships and collaboration with women's rights organizations to address technology-facilitated violence against women and girls remains an urgent priority.

59. In June 2023, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime organized a comprehensive expert group meeting on the removal of child sexual abuse material from the Internet, bringing together Governments, civil society organizations, development banks and the private sector to address child sexual exploitation and abuse online. Safety Showcase: Reimagine Gender in Tech is a new global coalition of feminist tech leaders, government representatives, the United Nations and civil society to promote the potential of technology to respond effectively to technology-facilitated violence against women and girls, with safety as a fundamental design principle.

Global partnerships to address technology-facilitated gender-based violence

The Action Coalition on Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality and the Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence, created as part of the Generation Equality Forum, continue to convene key actors to prevent and eliminate technology-facilitated gender-based violence, including by mobilizing stakeholders and publishing a position paper calling for gender equality to be at the heart of the Global Digital Compact.

The European Union funded a new programme called "ACT", which is focused on advocacy, coalition-building and transformative feminist action and includes strategies to strengthen alliances between women's rights movements working on gender-based violence and those working on digital rights.

The Global Partnership for Action on Gender-based Online Harassment and Abuse, formally launched at the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, in March 2022, has grown to 14 countries that together have committed to prioritize, understand, prevent and address the growing scourge of technology-facilitated gender-based violence. A key area of focus of the Global Partnership has been gendered disinformation.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

A. Conclusions

60. **Violence against women and girls is an urgent and pervasive global human rights issue, both offline and online, resulting in serious harm for individual women, communities and broader society. While there is growing attention to**

technology-facilitated violence against women and girls, the pace and nature of technological change and inadequate accountability continue to pose a significant challenge. As reflected in the agreed conclusions of the sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women, there is an urgent need to foster a policy of zero tolerance in the digital environment for all forms of violence against women and girls, harassment, stalking, bullying, threats of sexual and gender-based violence, death threats, arbitrary or unlawful surveillance and tracking, trafficking in persons, extortion, censorship and illegal access to digital accounts, mobile telephones and other electronic devices, in line with international human rights law (E/2023/27-E/CN.6/2023/14, chap. I, para. 57).

61. Advances in generative AI are providing new platforms for reinforcing and amplifying the misogynist norms that underlie violence against women and girls and are enabling the spread of gendered disinformation, perpetuating the drivers of violence against women and girls and undermining efforts to eliminate it. At the same time, the growth of online spaces that are promoting misogyny and engaging young men is an alarming trend that is not only putting a handbrake on efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls, but is also contributing to gender-based violence both online and offline. Such trends are resulting in significant harm to women and girls in all spheres of their lives.

62. While regulatory frameworks, laws and policies have developed in the past two years, current actions taken by Governments and technology actors fall short of what is needed to effectively prevent and respond to technology-facilitated violence against women and girls. Moreover, greater effort is needed to harness the positive potential of technology as a tool for strengthening survivor-centred responses to violence and discrimination, transforming social norms and mobilizing bystanders to prevent violence against women and girls, and to strengthen advocacy and activism to eliminate such violence.

63. The intensification of technology-facilitated violence against women and girls is taking place against a backdrop of unwavering and alarmingly high levels of violence against women and girls offline and pushback against gender equality and women's rights across regions. In this context, there remain stark gaps and challenges in actions to effectively prevent and respond to all forms of violence against women and girls, including gaps in legal and policy frameworks, inadequate implementation, a lack of access to justice for survivors and limited efforts to prevent violence before it occurs. Furthermore, insufficient data is still an obstacle to understanding the full extent of the problem, including new patterns and trends of technology-facilitated violence against women and girls, as well as the entry points for prevention.

B. Recommendations

64. To accelerate progress in the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, States, United Nations entities and other stakeholders are strongly encouraged to strengthen efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls across online and offline contexts, through comprehensive multisectoral approaches that include the development and implementation of laws and policies, including budgeted national action plans, whole-of-government and whole-of-society strategies for prevention and greater investment in evidence-based prevention interventions; strengthening availability and access to quality multisectoral services, including for marginalized groups of women; improving access to justice and greater accountability of perpetrators; providing sustainable funding to women's rights

organizations and movements; addressing data gaps, including on the perpetration of violence against women and girls; strengthening implementation of relevant recommendations of United Nations and regional human rights mechanisms; and generating evidence and knowledge of what works in eliminating violence against women and girls.

65. To accelerate progress in the elimination of technology-facilitated violence against women and girls, and to respond to emerging impacts of technological advances in AI, States, United Nations entities and other stakeholders could prioritize the below actions.

66. States and United Nations entities, together with civil society and other stakeholders, could develop clear international standards and a framework for responding to technology-facilitated violence against women and girls, including emerging forms, legal standards, roles and responsibilities and common standards of accountability for content generators and content distributors, and international coordination and cooperation, based on existing international human rights norms and standards on violence against women. They should also be context- and culturally-specific to reflect the different harms and manifestations of technology-facilitated violence against women and girls in different regions and countries and clarify the relationship between freedom of expression and privacy, and the right to freedom from discrimination and violence.

67. In line with international human rights standards and the principle of due diligence, States are encouraged to criminalize and prohibit all forms of technology-facilitated violence against women and girls, strengthen capacities of law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute crimes effectively and explicitly criminalize the production and sharing of explicit images or videos that have been digitally manipulated.

68. States could ensure risk assessment frameworks for detecting the activity of extremist groups – both online and offline – with explicit reference to incels and gender-based violence, the continuum of online and offline harm, and the use of technology to perpetuate harmful misogynistic ideology as risk factors.

69. To strengthen accountability, States could ensure that regulatory frameworks include obligations for technology intermediaries to proactively detect, assess and address technology-facilitated violence against women and girls and provide a safe and respectful environment online, free from misogyny, with penalties for non-compliance, explicitly recognizing and addressing misogyny as hate speech.

70. States could establish an independent oversight body to hold technology intermediaries to account, raise awareness of technology-facilitated violence against women and girls, provide avenues for survivors to seek redress and remedies and develop early warning indicators and systems to identify online violence that can escalate to offline violence.

71. Technology intermediaries should develop strong policies and standards to guide responses to technology-facilitated violence against women and girls, including aligning their content moderation policies and practices with international human rights standards and strengthening codes of conduct and responses to reports of technology-facilitated violence against women and girls. Technology intermediaries should also ensure the gender-responsive design of technology, including by increasing the participation of women in the technology sector. Content producers and distributors should also develop robust methods of identifying AI-generated media; openly share their terms of service,

safeguards and approaches for monitoring use with regard to inappropriate content; and respond swiftly to reports of harmful content. Technology intermediaries should ensure that codes of conduct and policies that address hate speech and extremist content also explicitly address misogyny and content that normalizes violence against women and girls.

72. States could integrate strategies utilizing technology and online platforms in actions to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against women and girls (online and offline), including through the creation of safe spaces for women's rights activism and digital advocacy to thrive, by transforming social norms, fostering positive masculinities and countering harmful and misogynistic narratives.

73. Technology providers should ensure that all new technology and AI products are tested thoroughly and through consultation and partnership with women's rights and women's safety experts to ensure that any new products do not cause harm to women and girls or perpetuate violence against women and girls.

74. States are encouraged to support women's rights organizations in monitoring and holding technology companies to account for digital safety and to develop specific strategies to ensure the safety and protection of women in public life, including women human rights defenders and activists, so they can freely participate in public life and exercise their freedom of expression.

75. States could strengthen partnerships with the technology sector to create safe online spaces and ensure rapid responses and access to specialized support, legal aid, justice and reparations for survivors and the accountability of perpetrators.

76. States could strengthen measures to prevent and respond to technology-facilitated violence against women and girls, including through cooperation with technology intermediaries, women's rights organizations, civil society and national human rights institutions. The focus of cooperation and collaboration could include the design of technological solutions to play a positive role in supporting the effective prevention of and response to violence against women and girls more broadly.

77. States could strengthen data collection efforts to better understand the different manifestations, impacts and drivers of technology-facilitated violence against women and girls, as well as the linkages with offline violence; States could also require transparency from technology intermediaries on the nature and magnitude of the problem of technology-facilitated violence against women and girls, and the actions taken in response.

78. States are encouraged to invest in data collection and research to better understand the profiles and motivations of perpetrators of online violence, as well as the connections between online and offline violence against women and girls, to better detect risks of online abuse escalating to offline violence, including lethal violence and femicide.