



UNCSW

STUDY GUIDE

AGENDA

**COMBATING TECHNOLOGY-FACILITATED
GENDER BASED VIOLENCE**

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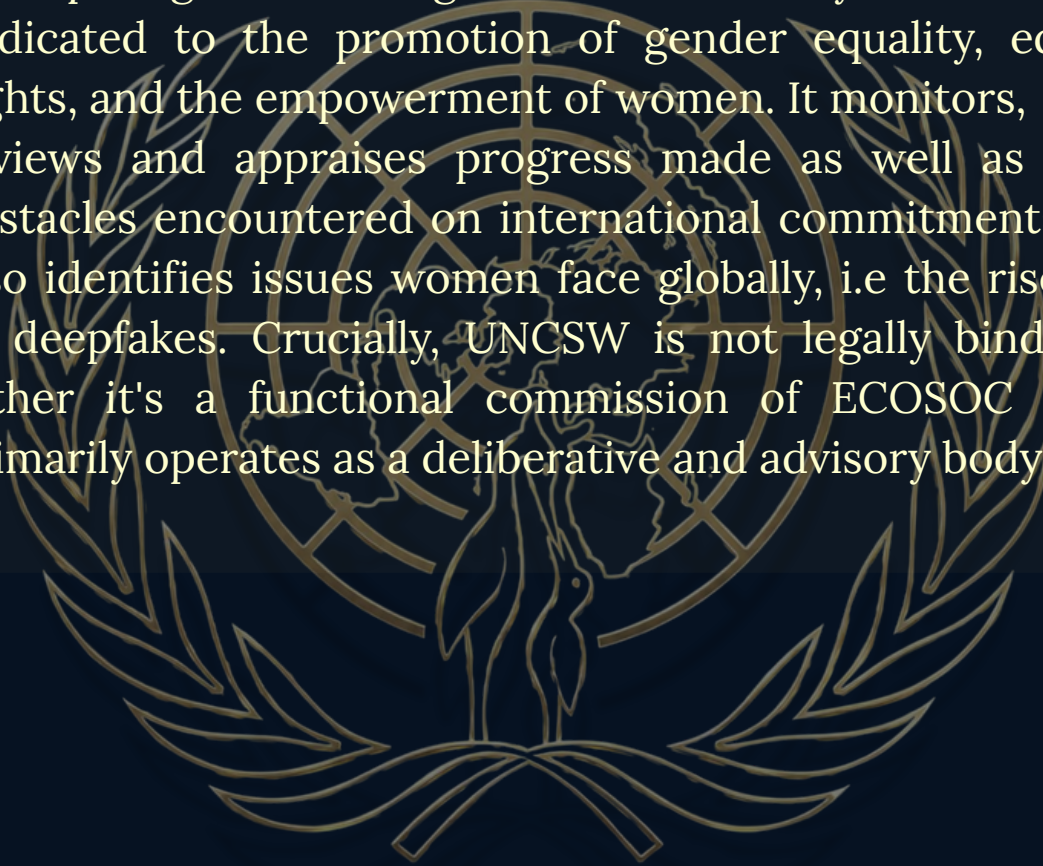
INTRODUCTION TO THE UN

The United Nations is an international organization founded in 1945. Currently made up of 193 Member States, the UN and its work are guided by the purposes and principles contained in its founding Charter. The UN has evolved over the years to keep pace with a rapidly changing world. But one thing has stayed the same: it remains the one place on Earth where all the world's nations can gather together, discuss common problems, and find shared solutions that benefit all of humanity.

The main purpose of the United Nations is to maintain international peace and security, develop friendly relations among nations, promote human rights, and encourage international cooperation in addressing global challenges. The organization serves as a global platform where countries can collaborate to address common challenges such as conflict, poverty, inequality, climate change, and humanitarian crises. It operates under the principle of sovereign equality, where every member state has equal representation in the General Assembly, regardless of its economic or political stature. Through its various organs, agencies, and offices located in New York, Geneva, Vienna, and Nairobi, the UN continues to play a central role in promoting peace, security, development, and human rights worldwide.

COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), established in 1946 by ECOSOC Resolution, is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality, equal rights, and the empowerment of women. It monitors, reviews and appraises progress made as well as the obstacles encountered on international commitments. It also identifies issues women face globally, i.e the rise of AI deepfakes. Crucially, UNCSW is not legally binding, rather it's a functional commission of ECOSOC and primarily operates as a deliberative and advisory body.



INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA

Artificial Intelligence is revolutionizing digital communication and increasing efficiency as well as automation of day-to-day tasks, but there is an underlying threat of technology-facilitated gender-based violence. Millions of women and girls are affected by digital abuse and technology-facilitated violence every year. Studies suggest that between 16 and 58 per cent of women have experienced this type of violence.

Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV) refers to any act of violence or abuse that is committed, assisted, aggravated, or amplified through the use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs), digital platforms, or emerging tech. Encompassing harms such as non-consensual image-based sexual abuse (including deepfakes), doxxing, cyberstalking, online harassment, and targeted disinformation campaigns, TFGBV exists on a direct continuum with offline gender-based violence. It disproportionately targets women, adolescent girls, LGBTQIA+ individuals, journalists, and political leaders, violating fundamental human rights and forcing marginalized groups to self-censor or withdraw from public life.

STAKEHOLDERS

1. Female Population: Face non-consensual sharing of intimate images (NCII), cyberstalking, deepfake abuse, doxxing, and systemic online harassment. It results in severe psychological trauma (anxiety, depression, self-harm), social isolation, physical safety risks from online-to-offline escalation, and a "chilling effect" where victims self-censor or withdraw from digital spaces entirely.

2. Member States & National Governments: Governments are responsible under international human rights law (including CEDAW) to ensure public safety, uphold freedom of expression, and maintain the rule of law across both physical and digital environments.

3. Technology Companies & Software Developers: Social media corporations, generative AI firms, messaging services, device manufacturers, and web hosting providers. Platforms face increasing legal scrutiny, fines, and compliance mandates. Tech firms bear the operational burden of balancing automated detection (e.g., stopping deepfakes or hate speech)

against user privacy and free expression rights. Failure to mitigate systemic abuse damages brand trust, drives high-profile users off the platform, and creates unsafe digital environments.

4. Non-governmental Organisations and

International Bodies: Grassroots NGOs, digital rights groups, and frontline service providers are the primary responders offering legal, medical, and psychological aid to survivors. They face a surge in demand for specialized digital safety support, forensic assistance, and shelter services without adequate international or state funding. They push the UNCSW agenda to hold both governments and tech giants accountable, ensuring that regulatory frameworks adopt a survivor-centered, intersectional human rights approach.

5. International Bodies & Multilateral Agencies (UN Women, UNFPA, ITU, OHCHR): International organizations establish global normative frameworks, coordinate cross-border policy standards, and facilitate multi-stakeholder consensus on digital rights. UN bodies work to bridge conflicting global interests—balancing the right to online safety with freedom of expression and privacy rights—while developing global indicators to measure digital violence.

CAUSES

1. Root Causes in Gender Inequality and Discriminatory Social Norms:

Like all forms of violence against women and girls, technology-facilitated violence is rooted in gender inequality and discriminatory gender norms. Digital spaces reflect, reinforce, and exacerbate systemic structural gender inequality as well as patterns of harmful masculinities that drive it. Deep-seated cultural and social norms that reinforce male authority, entitlement, power and control over women, and that trivialize or excuse violence and stigmatize survivors, contribute to the persistence of such violence.

2. Weaponization of Misinformation and Digital Tools Against Public Figures:

Technology-facilitated violence is aggravated by rampant misinformation and disinformation fuelled by technology and the surveillance, censorship and violence enabled by the digital sphere. This is creating a hostile digital environment for women and girls, particularly marked by cyberbullying, harassment and threats of violence, targeting women human rights defenders, women's rights activists and women engaged in public life. In this context, digital violence is being used as a political tool to restrict civic spaces, delegitimize and silence women's

voices, undermine their advocacy and activism across online-offline spaces and weaken progress on women's rights, TFGBV prevention and accountability efforts.

3. Gap in judicial and legal system:

Women are not sufficiently protected from digital harm by global legal systems, with fewer than 40 per cent of countries criminalising cyberharassment. Existing legislation cannot adapt fast enough to the rapid developments in technology and does not cover the full spectrum of digital abuse. Furthermore, the transnational nature of cyberoffences generates significant jurisdictional issues for law enforcement agencies, and there are no common international standards for the sharing of digital evidence. Without legal protections or trained officials, perpetrators rarely face real consequences. That sends a painful message to survivors that the system won't protect them.

IMPACTS

1. Political and Civic Impacts:

TFGBV discourages women from participating in politics, journalism, and public life through online harassment, threats, and intimidation. This restricts freedom of expression, and it lowers women's participation in decision-making.

2. Economic Impacts:

They can lose their jobs, they can have their reputations destroyed, have their identities stolen, and they can be the victims of financial fraud. They may also bear the costs of legal action, cybersecurity and mental health support, limiting their economic potential.

3. Psychological Impacts:

TFGBV can cause anxiety, depression, stress, fear and low self-esteem. “Online abuse can also lead to trauma, withdrawal from social interaction and long-term mental health problems.

4. Social Impacts:

Many victims avoid going online or reduce their digital footprint because they are afraid of harassment. This diminishes social engagement, access to opportunities, and freedom of expression.

5. Educational Impacts:

Cyberbullying and online harassment can negatively impact students' academic performance, confidence, and participation in digital learning. In extreme cases, victims may drop out of school completely.



PAST UN ACTIONS

1. UN General Assembly Resolution A/78/213 (2023):

Officially categorized cyberstalking, non-consensual image sharing, and doxxing as forms of gender-based violence, urging strict due diligence from tech platforms.

2. UNFPA Life Course Framework (2026):

Introduced localized toolkits and considerations to safeguard youth navigating emerging AI environments and metaverse spaces.

3. UN Human Rights Council Resolution 53/21 (2023):

Targeted the online protection of women human rights defenders and journalists, pressing states to update local penal codes to address digital crimes.

4. UN Women Global Strategy (2025):

Established a unified multilateral roadmap and a shared global research agenda to track and respond to digital abuses.

PAST INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS

1. The Budapest Convention on Cybercrime (2001 & 2022 Protocols):

This stands as the first international treaty addressing internet and computer crimes by harmonizing national laws and improving investigative techniques. Its recent updating protocols explicitly target the rapid cross-border gathering of digital evidence, which is essential for prosecuting international perpetrators of cyberstalking and non-consensual image dissemination.

2. The Istanbul Convention (2014):

Widely recognized as the most comprehensive regional legal framework, the Council of Europe's treaty on preventing and combating violence against women explicitly covers acts committed in the digital sphere. It legally obligates State Parties to criminalize psychological violence and harassment carried out via digital communication tools.

3. The G7 Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse (2022):

Launched as a collective international effort, this partnership brings together countries including the

United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia. The coalition specifically targets the misuse of algorithmic technology and works to build global corporate accountability standards for tech monopolies.

4. The European Union Digital Services Act (DSA) (2024):

This landmark international regulation forces major tech conglomerates and social media networks operating across Europe to comply with strict algorithmic transparency. The act imposes massive financial penalties on platforms failing to quickly mitigate illegal online hate speech, targeted digital harassment, and deepfake distribution.

QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER (QARMA)

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1. How is TFGBV defined legally and technically?
 2. Should private social media companies be legally forced to build safer algorithms, or should we let them police themselves?
 3. How can Cross-Border Legal Enforcement and Jurisdiction be harmonized?
 4. What direct support infrastructure must States guarantee for survivors, if any?
 5. How will emerging AI and algorithmic bias be regulated at the source?
 6. How will progress and compliance be tracked across Member States?
 7. How can digital literacy and preventative education be integrated globally?
 8. How can international aid help poorer regions to investigate cybercrimes?

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