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ONLINE ABUSE AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE: RECOMMENDATIONS ROADMAP

Online abuse and gender-based violence is a part of gender-based violence (GBV), where information and communications technologies (ICTs) are used to commit, abet or aggravate GBV. In addition to existing structural inequality and discrimination, disparity in access to, participation in and decision-making over ICTs tend to contribute to online abuse and GBV.

DEFINITIONS & RESEARCH

Recommendations

Conduct research on factors that impact online abuse and GBV, including frequency, time, context and prevalence of such behavior

Investigate how online abuse and GBV affect younger women, women with disabilities and transwomen

Develop indicators and targets for monitoring the incidence and prevalence of, and the development of responses to, online abuse and GBV

CAPACITY & AWARENESS-BUILDING

Recommendations

All stakeholders: Promote literacy programs on technology, digital skills and human rights at all levels

Online intermediaries: Invest in training staff and build awareness regarding online abuse and GBV among users

Civil society: Raise awareness regarding online abuse and GBV and empower women online through ongoing work and various activities.

LEGAL & POLITICAL FRAMEWORKS

Recommendations

Address underlying gender inequalities that contribute to and enable online abuse and GBV

Train judicial and law enforcement personnel on how to address online abuse and GBV to support victims

Review existing legislation, policies and remedies to take into account online abuse and GBV; extend existing definitions if necessary

Prioritise, facilitate and simplify access to justice for women

PRIVATE SECTOR RESPONSES

Recommendations

Internet intermediaries: Explore explicit commitments to comprehensive human rights standards to better address online abuse that takes place through or in their services or platforms

Companies: Review and strengthen policies on privacy and anonymity to protect women, especially those of diverse sexualities, from online abuse and GBV.

Internet intermediaries: Take into account relevant social and cultural contexts in developing content regulation and privacy policies, as well as in reporting mechanisms to facilitate ease of reporting and awareness of different levels of risk

Internet intermediaries: Develop more formal, accessible, and transparent record-keeping systems on online abuse and GBV

ALL STAKEHOLDERS ARE NEEDED TO ADDRESS ONLINE ABUSE & GBV

Recommendations

All stakeholders should be engaged to address online abuse and GBV at regional and global levels, contributing their needs, expertise, areas of responsibility and respective strengths

International cooperation is required to further research and respond to cases of online abuse and GBV

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