

Gender based violence is a worldwide extended problem, with particular expressions in different contexts, but in general they are the same. I will talk about why are we interested on this issue and what are we doing now about it.

Ciberseguras

So I will speak about a project we began this year, with other collectives and organizations in Latinamerica: the web ciberseguras.org. The project started in 2013 and, after some difficulties, it was reactivated at the beginning of 2017 by Luchadoras (Mexico), Ciberfeministas (Guatemala), Nodo Común (Bolivia), Cl4ndestina (Brazil), APC and the Take Back The Tech campaign, Social TIC (Mexico) and Derechos Digitales (Latin America). The initial question and for which we decided to work together was: is it possible to build a safe space for women and LGBTQI community on the internet? What should we do for us to shape our own digital configurations, so that technology companies are not the ones who impose them?

(Here I want to make a clarification: this project is for all the people who do not identify themselves as men, so we speak in female gender language and even if the name Ciberseguras seems to refer women, it is important to say that we, as non male people, run the risk of being attacked because of our gender -and racial and class-condition).

Ciberseguras wishes to be a safe learning space, online and offline. A space without discrimination, violence or hatred, that guarantees the freedom to say, think and do, without fear of being attacked: A space that benefits us and that serves as a tool to meet, talk and learn together. We are currently 12 people working on the project.

And why are we building a web? Because we are tired of being fighting for our right to exist and not to be killed, harassed and so on. As I will talk later and maybe you've listened before in this IGF, there are many initiatives of mapping online gender based violence against women and LGBTQI, but our goal now, if possible, is practical. Retaking the hacking proposals, we want to do it ourselves, and together. That's why we do digital security trainings, for now, in Santiago de Chile, Cochabamba in Bolivia, Guatemala City and México City; and both the web and the trainings are fundamental in the project.



Just for that, we have a particular approach to the problem of hostile digital environments for us (and you already know what I mean with us ;), which in part we have inherited from the Take Back The Tech global campaign. Thus, when we talk

about violence, it is only for knowing how to combat it, how to respond if necessary, how to prevent and how to make us stronger, not just to face it but to live free of it.

That is why the learning process is not just “outward”. The first step to build a safe place -online or offline- is to understand how does that space work, and traditionally women have known how private spaces work (and it applies for a safe -and restricted- feminist space), but it is not the same as in public or digital ones. We think it is very important to manage the web ourselves and promote learning spaces in technological abilities so that we can figure online violence expressions in its complexity, but its simplicity too. We decided to host the page in a self-managed server, where the process is focused on strengthening our knowledge, making us happy and more secure. At the same time, we facilitates workshops, talks, laboratories and meetings between women to discuss, from a horizontal and self-critical point of view, our relationship with technologies.



These trainings are focused on the particular gender based threats women and LGBTQI face online; account shutdowns and blocking by platforms, trolling and harassment seem to be the most common. But the main relation with platforms like

Facebook is perceived as uncomfortable for them. It makes them feel anxious, invites them to stalk their relatives, to lose their time scrolling and so on.

On the other hand, many journalists, activists or public figures tend to normalize online violence. They say this is part of their work, and just silence the accounts and profiles that harass them, without taking into account the time they spend reviewing, silencing and blocking this harmful content. But above all, how it affects them emotionally.

° OUR PROPOSAL IN PRACTICE °

So, far from the idea of judging their behavior and their decisions, we implemented a methodology for digital security trainings focused on the problems related to online gender based violence and it also implies to talk about selfcare and consent, between other issues: how is my own relation with these platforms? Am I using them for my own pleasure? Do I use them strategically? Do I receive what I am expecting from them? What is my motivation to be there? Do those platforms satisfy my motivations? And the answer is usually not.

Usually participants come to a digital security training saying they don't know anything about technology, they don't know about the internet and so on. Well, our motivation was, mainly, to respond to the inquiries, questions and doubts the participants have about technology, the internet, the social media platforms and the violence they face there, but through those questions I already mentioned.

So, Ciberseguras is a repository of materials and tools, but also a place (online / offline) to share experiences, recommendations and resources of digital self-defense with a gender perspective, accompanied by reflections on the relationship between women, feminisms and technology. We think one of the powerful responses we can give to the structural violence against women and LGBTQI is: emotional contention, networking and community.

As well, we agree it is important to talk about the different expressions of online violence but we don't want to give them protagonism. We don't want to centralize the attention there, we think it's enough. We need to stop working based on the threats we face on and offline. However, we think it's very important the work other women are doing in Latinamerica for mapping and understanding these violences. I will pass quickly over some recent research projects we consider very useful to guide this work.

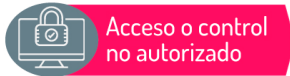
° TWO INITIATIVES FOR MAPPING ONLINE GENDER BASED VIOLENCE °

13 Types of violence - Luchadoras; Social Tic; APC – México.

This typification was constructed on the occasion of the report made in Mexico at the call by the UN rapporteur on violence against women. The report was coordinated by Luchadoras, in collaboration by the Internet es Nuestra coalition and other organizations. However, this it is a work of documentation and accompaniment that has been developed uninterruptedly over two years by Luchadoras, Social TIC and APC. Some of the main conclusions of the report are:

- * According to official data, 9 million women in Mexico have suffered from cyber violence, but there are many violences that are not documented by the media.
- * In many cases, the denunciation of violence generates more violence.
- * Journalists and public figures have to face double harassment because of their work and their gender.
- * There is a social condemnation of the freedom of women to decide on their bodies. This applies both to the defense of sexual and reproductive rights and to free sexual expression.
- * The reporting mechanisms of the platforms are not effective to protect or respond to complaints. Language, for example, is a fundamental barrier.
- * The bodies of justice, rather than supporting the victims, revictimize them.

Note that this is a political classification of violences. As we will note, it focuses on the actions against women, not on technical characteristics in relation to the effects that these actions have on their personal or public activities.



Acceso o control no autorizado

Ataques o restricción de acceso a las cuentas o dispositivos de una persona



Control y manipulación de la información

Robo, obtención, pérdida de control o modificación de información no consentida



Suplantación y robo de identidad

Uso o falsificación de la identidad de una persona sin su consentimiento



Monitoreo y acoso

Vigilancia constante a la vida en línea de una persona



Expresiones discriminatorias

Discurso contra mujeres y personas no binarias que refleja patrones culturales machistas basados en roles tradicionales



Acoso

Conductas de carácter reiterado y no solicitado que resultan molestas, perturbadoras o intimidantes



Amenazas

Contenidos violentos, lascivos o agresivos que manifiestan una intención de daño a alguien, a sus seres queridos o bienes



Difusión de información personal o íntima

Compartir o publicar sin consentimiento algún tipo de información, datos o información privada que afecte a una persona



Extorsión

Obligar a una persona a seguir la voluntad o peticiones de un tercero por poseer algo de valor para ella como puede ser información personal



Desprestigio

Descalificación de la trayectoria, credibilidad o imagen pública de una persona a través de la exposición de información falsa, manipulada o fuera de contexto



Abuso sexual relacionado con la tecnología

Ejercicio de poder sobre una persona a partir de la explotación sexual de su imagen y/o cuerpo contra su voluntad, puede implicar la obtención de un beneficio lucrativo o de otro tipo



Afectaciones a canales de expresión

Tácticas o acciones deliberadas para tirar y dejar fuera de circulación canales de comunicación o expresión de una persona o un grupo



Omisiones por parte de actores con poder regulatorio

Falta de interés, reconocimiento, acción o menosprecio por parte de autoridades, intermediarios de internet, instituciones o comunidades que pueden regular, solucionar o sancionar violencia en línea

13 FORMAS DE AGRESION RELACIONADA CON LAS TECNOLOGÍAS CONTRA LAS MUJERES



2. Mapping online violences. Coding Rights / InternetLab. Brazil

This map was also made in the framework of the call by the UN rapporteur on violence against women. Its first feature is that, as it is from Brazil, it focuses on the racial element that is added to gender-based violence. According to this report, there are three problems in the approach of online gender-based violence against women:

- * To consider that it is virtual, not real
- * To blame the victims, not protect them
- * To minimize the severity of psychological violence on the victims

- * As in Brazil they describe different forms of hate speech -flaming, gaslighting, among others- in Mexico they refer to 'discriminatory expressions' focusing their attention to the 'sexist cultural patterns based on traditional forms'.
- * It is interesting to note that in Brazil they don't use 'harassment' as a category, although they refer to it within the mail category 'stalking'. This may be due to the emphasis they make on the online violence against women and LGBTQI people who are public figures.
- * Neither in México nor in Brazil they talk about 'revenge porn' or similar terms. In Brazil there are two different categories to refer similar issues: 'exposure of personal data' which refer intimate photos or information about gender identity; and 'exposure of intimacy' about leaking private conversations. In Mexico they use the category 'dissemination of personal or intimate information' which focus on the sharing or publishing of a content *without consent*.
- * About consent, in Brazil they use specifically 'unauthorized use of photos', while in Mexico they use, again, 'control and manipulation of information' and refer, again, to the non-consensual use of this information.
- * They both use 'extortion' but in Brasil they describe the act of publishing or threaten to publish intimate material, while in Mexico they focus on the act of forcing someone to follow the will or request of a third party who possess this personal or valuable material.
- * In Mexico they use 'Sexual abuse' as an exercise of power over someone, based on the exploitation of her sexual image.
- * In Brazil they use 'coordinated attack' as a category, and on the map they indicate the effects that this action can have on the victims.
- * It is very interesting to note that in Mexico they use two more categories: 'Access or unauthorized control' -of accounts or devices-, and 'Omissions by actors with regulatory power'. As those actions don't occur on the online environment, they are connected to the violent expressions there.
- * Specifically in the case of 'Omissions by actors with regulatory power', in Brazil there is mentioned but as a social problem aggregated to these violences. However, I think

it's very important to include this category to emphasize the continuity of the violence between online and offline.

Type of violence	CodingRights/InternetLab. Brazil	Type of violence	Luchadoras/Social Tic/ APC. Mexico
Censorship	Blocked posts, profiles and pages in social networks because of coordinated denunciation campaigns; Blocked profiles after denunciation based on "real name" policy; Coercion to delete profiles; False accusations; Flamming		
Defamation, libel and slander	Flamming; Gaslighting; False profiles created to harass someone; Use of bots for all previous action;	Discredit	Disqualification of the trajectory, credibility or public image of a person, through the exposure of false information, manipulated or out of context
Hate speech	Flamming; Gaslighting; False profiles created to harass someone; Hashtag created to promote offensive and discriminatory speech; Coercion to delete profiles; Use of bots for all previous actions	Discriminatory expressions	Discourse against women and non-binary people that reflects sexist cultural patterns based on traditional roles.
Threatened physical violence	Misogynistic, transphobic, racist comments; Hashtag created to promote offensive and biased speech; False profiles created to harass someone	Threats	Violent, lewd or aggressive content that manifests an intention to harm someone, their loved ones or goods
Stalking	Unsolicited and/or obsessive interactions; False profiles created to harass someone	Monitoring and stalking	Constant monitoring of a person's online life
		Harassment	Repeated and unsolicited behaviors that are annoying, disruptive or intimidating
Exposure of personal data	Publication or threatened publication of intimate photos; Doxing; Leak of private conversations; Exposure for being LGBTIQ or part of a movement for sexual and reproductive rights; Hashtag created to promote offensive and biased speech; Use of bots for all previous actions	Dissemination of personal or intimate information	Share or publish without consent any type of information, data or private information that affects a person
Exposure of intimacy	Publication or threatened publication of intimate material; Leak of private conversations		
Unauthorized use of photos	Publication or threatened publication of intimate photos; Offensive photo editing; Hashtag created to promote offensive and biased speech	Control and manipulation of information	Theft, obtaining, loss of control or modification of non-consensual information
Extortion	Publication or threatened publication of intimate material; Leak of private conversations		Forcing a person to follow the will or requests of a third party for possessing something of value to her such as personal information
		Sexual abuse	Exercise of power over a person based on the sexual exploitation of his image and body against

		related to technology	his will. It may involve obtaining a lucrative or other benefit
Identity theft	Account Invasion; False profiles created on behalf of the victim; Attacks on websites	Impersonation or identity theft	Use or falsification of a person's identity without their consent
Invasion/attacks on system security	Attacks on websites; Malware attacks; Attacks on servers; Access/leak private conversations	Affections to expression channels	Tactics or deliberate actions to pull and leave out of circulation channels of communication or expression of a person or a group
Coordinated attack	Blocked posts, profiles and pages in social networks by coordinated denunciation campaigns; Blocked profiles based on "real name" policy; Coercion to delete profiles; Attacks on websites; Attacks on servers; Collective diffusion of offensive content; Use of bots for all previous actions		
		Access or unauthorized control	Attacks or restriction of access to the accounts or devices of a person
		Omissions by actors with regulatory power	Lack of interest, recognition, action or disparagement on the part of authorities, internet intermediaries, institutions or communities that can regulate, solve or punish violence

Mapping and naming violence is useful for the accompaniment of victims, as these organizations do in Mexico and Brazil. Finally about those maps I want to mention that as media use and insist to speak about 'revenge porn', those reports deliberately omit this term. This is very important to transform the way we understand and respond to online gender based violence: unauthorized use of photos; exposure of intimacy; extortion are a chain of violent actions.

Another proposal that complements these works

In Ciberseguras we are working with Dones Tech Collective, from Spain. They, in collaboration with latinamerican collectives, made a report about threatens against women and how to respond. And this is a particular approach I want to point out: not only documentation but solutions and tools. You can see the work in progress here: Dealing with Gender Violence On-line <https://ciberseguras.clandestina.io/dxg/>