



**IGF** Internet  
Governance  
Forum

**BEST PRACTICE FORUM  
GENDER & DIGITAL RIGHTS**



## **IGF 2021**

### **Best Practice Forum**

### **Gender and Digital Rights**

Call 2

Thursday 3 June 2021

12:00 UTC

#### Draft Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Exploring Gendered Disinformation
  - a. Presentation APC research
  - b. Effects of gendered disinformation on the journalist community
  - c. Q&A / discussion
3. BPF GDR – survey results
  - a. Gendered Disinformation – definition(s)
  - b. BPF deliverables - community needs & useful BPF outputs
  - c. Q&A / discussion
4. BPF work plan and next steps
  - a. BPF workplan update (next learning sessions)
  - b. Outreach and cooperation (including IG initiatives)
  - c. BPF GDR gendered disinformation resource list
  - d. AoB



IGF 2021

Best Practice Forum on Gender and Digital Rights

## I. Welcome and Introductions

### **IGF Best Practice Forums**

Provide a platform to exchange experiences in addressing Internet policy issues.

BPF outputs intend to contribute to an understanding of global good practice, and to serve as a resource to inform policy discussions, standards development, business decisions, as well as public understanding, awareness, and discourse.

### **IGF 2021 BPF Gender and Digital Rights**

The 2021 BPF on Gender and Digital Rights intends to explore the concept of **gendered disinformation**.

As the phenomenon of disinformation advances, it gains nuances and levels of complexity. In the current context, it is timely to explore the concept of gendered disinformation, its relation with online gender-based violence and hate speech, as well as its immediate effects on women and gender-diverse groups' existence online and their freedom of expression.

Webpage:

[www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/bpf-gender-and-digital-rights](http://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/bpf-gender-and-digital-rights)



## IGF 2021 Best Practice Forum on Gender and Digital Rights

### 2. Exploring Gendered Disinformation

- **Recent research update APC**
- **Effects of gendered disinformation on the journalist community**

### 3. BPF Survey update

#### Feedback on the definition of gendered disinformation

##### Working definition gendered disinformation

The term “**gendered disinformation**” can be used to describe information activities (creating, sharing, disseminating content) which:

- a) Attacks or undermines people on the basis of their gender;
- b) Weaponises gendered narratives to promote political, social or economic objectives

*(based on Judson et al, 2020, p. 7, <https://dera.ioe.ac.uk/136786/1/Engendering-Hate-Report-FINAL.pdf>)*

#### Feedback on definition gendered disinformation

- General support
- Comments: ‘weaponizing’ can also apply in a positive context; social media play very active role; gendered disinformation online exists at the intersection of disinformation with online violence & emanating from the same source, engendering hate; definition doesn’t separate between disinformation and hate speech; does b) implicate a clear intent?;
- Additions: ‘... on the basis of gender identities and expressions’; ‘... to promote political, social, cultural, artistic or economic objectives.’
- Alternative and complementary more detailed definitions.

3. BPF Survey update (cont.)

**BPF deliverables**

**Community needs and useful BPF outputs?**

- awareness raising and education on the issue;
- focus on impact, regulation and accountability;
- effective mitigation (processes, skills, tools) of gendered disinformation;
- support for ambassadors and volunteers who counter gendered disinformation in all parts of the globe;
- how to protect spaces on the Internet occupied (and often run) by youngsters ? e.g. meme culture;
- importance of gender representation and acceptance on social media particularly popular among young children;
- tackle disinformation on gender diverse people online, including impact of social media policies;
- explore impact of gender representation in the media on the creation and circulation of gendered disinformation;
- cultural and geographical differences in approaches to and experiences with 'gendered disinformation';
- 'gendered disinformation' as a national security question - and what are the potential risks and benefits of 'securitising' 'gendered disinformation'

4. BPF work plan and next steps

- **BPF Learning sessions**

3 June, 12:00 UTC

25 June, 14:00 UTC

8 July, 14:00 UTC

- **Outreach and cooperation**

RightsCon?

NRIs? DCs?

...

- **BPF Gender & Digital Rights resource list on Gendered disinformation**

What ?

*Building a resource of reference documents and key research on the topic of Gendered Disinformation.*

Where ?

- *Building on the BPF webpage*
- *Included in the BPF output report*

How to contribute ?

- *Share information on the mailing list or send them to [gender@intgovforum.org](mailto:gender@intgovforum.org) .*



- **AoB ?**

**Thank you for participating !**

IGF 2021

Best Practice Forum on Gender and Digital Rights

BPF Gender and Digital Rights coordinating team

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Contact [gender@intgovforum.org](mailto:gender@intgovforum.org)

Participation in the work of the BPF Gender and Digital Rights is free and open to all interested. Participants are expected to respect the [IGF Code of Conduct](#).

BPF Gender and Digital Rights webpage

[www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/bpf-gender-and-digital-rights](http://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/bpf-gender-and-digital-rights)

BPF Gender and Digital Rights mailing list

[http://intgovforum.org/mailman/listinfo/bp\\_gender\\_intgovforum.org](http://intgovforum.org/mailman/listinfo/bp_gender_intgovforum.org)



## Annexe

### draft BPF work plan

#### Kick-off phase

- Consultation on the definition of gendered disinformation
- Exploring community needs and available resources

#### BPF Learning sessions

- **Expert & stakeholder discussions** (BPF calls, dates to be announced)

#### Information gathering

- **Call for inputs** (June), additional information gathering (e.g. interviews, desk research) and outreach (including outreach to NRIs and youth initiatives) (June – Sept)

#### Processing of input, discussion and compilation of draft findings (Sept - Oct)

#### BPF Gender & Digital Rights Workshop at IGF 2021 (6-10 December)

### Envisaged goals and deliverables

- Understand how gender based disinformation has been deployed as a strategy against women and gender-diverse groups.
- Understand how the negative effects on digital rights spill over to other sets of rights, such as political participation, what allows gendered disinformation to be used as part of larger political projects of moral policing, censorship, and hierarchisation of citizenship and rights.
- Map strategies and actions to halt the spread of gendered disinformation and build a less toxic environment for female and gender-diverse groups online.
- Showcase positive initiatives that set the beginning of what can be a long term multistakeholder dialogue on gendered disinformation.