DECODING TECHNOLOGY-FACILITATED GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

A REALITY CHECK FROM SEVEN COUNTRIES

GENERATION G
for gender justice

Rutgers

أبعاد
abaad

equimundo
CENTER FOR
MASCULINITIES
& SOCIAL JUSTICE

SONKE
GENDER
JUSTICE
HIV/AIDS • GENDER EQUALITY • HUMAN RIGHTS

CONTENTS

FINDINGS   22

2

RECOMMENDATIONS 58

3

EXECUT

SUMM

4

Decoding Technology-Facilitated
Gender-Based Violence

DECODING TECHNOLOGY-FACILITATED GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE: A REALITY CHECK FROM SEVEN COUNTRIES

The digital revolution has transformed societies around the world, reshaping daily life, culture, politics, and economics. But as digital tools evolve and access expands, so too does the potential for people to misuse them. Women and girls disproportionately experience such misuse, known as technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV), both online and offline. To design better ways to combat these types of violence, we need a far greater understanding of its scale and context-specific nature, and more evidence on responses that work. The multi-country study presented below, coordinated by Rutgers as part of the Generation G programme, helps fill some of these knowledge gaps.

Digital revolution – blessing and curse

The past few decades have seen a transformation in how people communicate and run their lives. Over half the world's population are now thought to own a smartphone, and 95% of us live within mobile broadband coverage.[1] Digital tools and platforms have swept away barriers of geography and economics, democratising access to information, resources, and services in multiple areas of life.

But access to these innovations is far from equal. Only 25% of people in the world's 'least developed countries' use mobile internet, and most of the 3.4 billion people living without access globally are women.[2]

And, from workplaces to war zones, the technologies that connect human beings in evermore inventive ways can also be used to tyrannise and silence us. In the wrong hands, devices, apps, and software can be used to cause immense suffering – for example, through the non-consensual sharing of intimate images, threats on social media, or stalking people offline using data gathered digitally. Evidence also shows that violence in online spaces often spills over into offline, physical spaces, while physical violence can also escalate within online spaces, highlighting what is known as the online-offline continuum of violence.

Technology entrenches violence against women

About 736 million women (almost 1 in 3) globally have experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence, non-partner violence, or both – digital technology is often an instrumental part of the abuse.[3] In Uganda 49% of the women have reported to have ever been involved in online harassment.[4] The Economist Intelligence Unit reports that 38% of women worldwide reported personal experiences with online violence and 85% have witnessed digital violence against other women.[5] A study by Plan International in 32 countries found 58% of adolescent girls had experienced harassment on social media platforms.[6] Our research shows that people's misuse of technology is upping the incidence of gender-based violence – with its misuse both spurred by and reinforcing longstanding gender inequalities. Technology and online platforms are increasingly used as weapons to tyrannise women (and other vulnerable groups, like LGBTQI+ people), as part of an invasive 24/7 culture infiltrating workplaces, schools, and homes.

In 2022, a UN resolution called for stronger action on gender-based violence (GBV) and referred to TFGBV and the different forms of harm it causes – "physical, sexual, psychological, social, political or economic harm or other infringements of rights and freedoms."[7]

But, despite the growing threat, such violence remains overlooked and under-scrutinised by policymakers, legislation, civil society, and citizens, with devastating results for those affected, as well as for society at large. Successive generations of women, girls, and vulnerable groups suffer new, brutal forms of violence – many of which go under the radar – with little protection from the police or justice systems. Such violence has a chilling effect on women and girls' participation in civic and political spaces on and offline, threatening progress towards gender equality and democratic participation.

Drawing on a scoping review and 50 key informant interviews (KIIs), the Generation G partnership studied TFGBV in the seven partnership countries: Indonesia, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Rwanda, South Africa, and Uganda. We looked at the nature of TFGBV and its impacts – revealing how local contexts, culture, and legislation affect how violence is meted out and experienced, and how people access accountability and justice, or avoid or are prevented from doing so. Across different locations, we found there is a critical lack of knowledge and understanding about TFGBV, a spill over between online and offline violence, a disproportionate impact on vulnerable groups, and a tendency for patriarchy and social ideas of morality and gender roles to magnify TFGBV. The study then pinpoints efforts to prevent and mitigate TFGBV, and offers recommendations for how nations, organisations and communities can take action.

Knowledge blind spots

In all seven countries, we found that survivors, perpetrators, authorities, and wider society often have limited understanding about TFGBV's impacts, prevalence, range, and legal status – unsurprisingly so, given its newness and rapid flux. These challenges are often compounded by low levels of digital literacy, which disproportionately affects women and girls, and limited educational outreach or awareness campaigns around 'digital hygiene' practices such as avoiding posting personal information online.

> "There is still a lot that we unknowingly do online, and we need to educate ourselves on gender-based violence and digital hygiene […] sometimes we expose a lot of our personal information to the public, which increases our vulnerability."
>
> – KII, Academic Group, South Africa

Often, digital violence is trivialised – including by police and authorities – as something that happens online and without impacts in the physical world. One interviewee in Uganda reported that "the police are not knowledgeable or informed about these types of violence […] when you go to report, [they are]… just asking you: what is that?" In Indonesia, an interviewee noted that the police consider online GBV to be a "private matter because it was about intimate images," and so "did not feel it was something that needs to be dealt with quickly."

> "People think well, it's online, it's not real […] it's distressing, but it's not real."
>
> – KII, CSO, global

And as is often the case with gender-based violence, survivors are deterred from coming forward by limited knowledge about their rights and the systems to protect them, a lack of trust in the authorities, stigma, and fears about offending cultural mores or being themselves

Decoding Technology-Facilitated
Gender-Based Violence

blamed and prosecuted. Across all seven countries, reporting levels remain low, and policies and legislation fail to address TFGBV or provide people with protection. This compounds people's vulnerability and exposure to violence. Over half the people we spoke to described how survivors of TFGBV often suffer from psychological harms, such as anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, fear, and have even taken their own lives.

Online violence spills over into offline world

Our research found widespread links between online violence and the offline world – the "online-offline continuum of violence" – with physical violence, emotional distress, social impacts, and economic damage inflicting a major burden on victims. Online violence can exacerbate offline forms of GBV such as sexual harassment, stalking, and intimate partner violence – often in a cyclical pattern: 74% of people we spoke to mentioned cases of this. For example, hate speech on X (formerly Twitter) can escalate into physical violence offline, and vice versa. 'Sextortion' is one of the most common forms of violence subject to this transition: perpetrators use content shared online, such as intimate conversations or images, to blackmail survivors for money or sexual acts, and commit direct physical violence and abuse. Survivors are disproportionately women and girls, but boys and young men are also affected, as are male family members or friends of women and girls experiencing TFGBV.

Five groups face acute vulnerability

Technology-facilitated gender-based violence can affect people from all backgrounds and genders – men as well as women, boys as well as girls. Women in the public eye, gender/women's rights defenders[a], children, young people, and LGBTQI+ people are particularly at risk.

Punished for speaking out

Women in visible leadership positions who speak out about rights and racism often come under attack, including abuse, threats, and violence. Although men in prominent positions can face threats too, the abuse is markedly different: male politicians, for example, tend to be attacked for their policies, whereas women often face abuse linked to their appearance, gender, and their decision to step beyond 'traditional gender roles'. This leads many women to withdraw from online platforms and sometimes from public life altogether, further limiting their ability to speak out and participate in public life.

This has damaging repercussions for both individuals and society, reinforcing the conditions that had created the need to speak out in the first place. If women, girls, and marginalised communities' voices are excluded from decision-making and leadership positions – intentionally or due to trauma-related self-exclusion – then structural barriers such as patriarchy are solidified. This withdrawal from social and public life further strengthens the dominance of male voices in already male-dominated public spheres, stifling the representation and perspectives of women, with many damaging knock-on effects.

LGBTQI+ people are also at heightened risk. The study's country-level findings are in line with the global evidence, showing that LGBTQI+ communities are more likely to experience both TFGBV and offline forms of violence linked to TFGBV. Many of our focus countries are experiencing severe hostility to LGBTIQ+ people, and tech platforms amplify it, enabling people to directly persecute and shame LGBTQI+ people. Their perceived status as outsiders – as well as harmful legislation – also makes it harder for them to report incidents and access justice.

Children and young people, too, are particularly vulnerable to TFGBV, including online child sexual exploitation and abuse, and cyberbullying. This affects boys as well as girls but tends to have a particular impact on girls. Inadequate regulation and safeguarding of children's and young people's expanding digital presence play a key role here, with poverty exacerbating vulnerability. One interviewee in South Africa reported that "many young girls […] will send images of themselves in order to get item[s] in exchange, which I would consider a form of gender-based violence as well as child abuse." Often, caregivers' limited knowledge about how to stay safe online makes children and young people more at-risk. It is essential, therefore, that TFGBV programming focuses on educating both children, young people, and those in caregiving/guidance roles, such as parents, caregivers, and teachers.

---

a It is important to note here that other groups of women and girls are also likely to be more affected than others – for example, indigenous women, those with disabilities, women living in rural areas – but there is a lack of literature on these groups, underlining the need for more research on TFGBV.

Patriarchy magnifies technology-facilitated violence – and vice versa

The influence of patriarchy [b], social ideas of morality, and socially imposed gender roles are the greatest magnifiers of tech-based violence in our focus countries. Almost all (82%) of the people we interviewed recognise patriarchy and gender/social norms as crucial factors. Factors influencing gender-based violence offline – such as restrictive gender norms and unequal power dynamics – fuel digital violence. An interviewee in Morocco described how "sometimes ex-husbands/partners might use intimate pictures or videos for revenge, to get women to give up custody, alimony, or to ask her for money, property."

Patriarchal practices vary from context to context, but our research uncovered certain patterns in common – the exclusion/withdrawal of women from online spaces and public or political life, for example. The power of tech is central to these evolving forms of oppression. Given the anonymity, speed, and accessibility of the digital sphere, patriarchal ideas can spread even more efficiently and to a wider audience than ever before, while giving perpetrators more freedom to commit acts of violence within digital spaces. Artificial intelligence (AI) perpetuates this cyber misogyny – being used to filter out content that promotes gender equity, create sexualised images of women and children, and develop and spread deepfakes.[c8]

Plugging the legal gaps

Inadequate policies and legislation make a bad situation worse. Where they do exist, policies often fail to address the scale, wide spectrum, or complexity of TFGBV, or to keep pace with its rapid change. Legislation might capture image-based abuse and stalking, for example, but ignore deepfakes.

Evidence also suggests a substantial gap between the occurrence of TFGBV and the use of legislation to address it. Barriers include the limited knowledge and misconceptions about TFGBV of many working in the police and authorities, and their frequent sexism. Survivors' limited awareness about how to navigate accountability sys-

tems, alongside a sense of futility about reporting (due to low prosecution rates), also constrain access to justice.

"There's a climate of mistrust … in legal processes and systems," reported a civil society worker in Uganda. A quarter of interviewees also said the burdensome legal process – including emotional distress, the high evidence threshold, and high costs – was a core driver of underreporting.

Self-stigma and fear of reprisals also deter people from either reporting abuses or pushing for prosecutions: almost half our interviewees said they thought survivors might be reluctant to come forward due to personal and cultural reasons. An academic in Jordan reported that "victim blaming prevents women from reporting or reacting to violence," describing how "women are always afraid of the consequences … if they report these crimes, because society always criminalised women and not perpetrators."

Clash of laws stops people coming forward

Another problem is conflict between legislation meant to protect people against TFGBV, and other laws. In some instances, victims of TFGBV end up themselves being prosecuted as they fall foul of other laws – those around pornography, sex work, or the policing of sexuality, for example. Our research reveals a concerning trend whereby laws intended to address TFGBV might inadvertently be wielded against survivors who courageously report such crimes. This, in turn, creates a chilling effect on reporting due to the fear of criminalisation around sexual orientation, (premarital) sexual activity, and gender identity.

In Uganda, where the climate for LGBTQI+ people continues to deteriorate following the 2023 Anti-Homosexuality Act, survivors who come forward to report violence can end up behind bars. There have also been cases of the Ugandan police charging survivors of non-consensual intimate image (NCII) sharing and holding them equally liable alongside the perpetrator under Section 13 of the Anti-Pornography Act. In Indonesia, TFGBV survivors

---

b Patriarchy is a social system in which men hold the greatest power, leadership roles, privilege, moral authority and access to resources and land, including in the family. Most modern societies are patriarchies.

c A deepfake is an artificial image or video generated by a special kind of machine learning called "deep" learning (hence the name). Deepfakes are fake images of events or people that have been manipulated to closely resemble a person and can be used to convincingly portray people doing or saying things they never did.

Decoding Technology-Facilitated
Gender-Based Violence

who report NCII sharing are vulnerable to accusations of violating "decency" protocols, even when they have not consented to the sharing of images or videos.

Hike up support for new initiatives

Millions of people are vulnerable to those who misuse technology to inflict harm. But around the world, organisations and communities are taking action to tackle TFG-BV and protect people in diverse and inspiring ways. Our research unearths wide-ranging efforts by organisations to tackle violence and its root causes, raise awareness (including among men and boys), and design better mechanisms for protecting people and prosecuting crimes. In Uganda, for example, HER Internet has been running digital literacy workshops to raise awareness of the risks and opportunities of online engagement; and in Indonesia, SAFENet provides guidelines and advice for survivors. Many of these projects are at a nascent stage and often constrained by limited funding; they need more funding and support, including guidance from organisations with more expertise in tackling TFGBV at local, national, and regional levels.

Meanwhile, researchers around the world are pinpointing priority areas for study, and, at a global level, UN Women, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI), and the Commission on the Status of Women continue to drive agenda change.

Collaborate to protect lives

Crucially, too, tackling TFGBV calls for collaboration between different sectors – government, academia, civil society, law enforcement, technology, education, and community-based organisations. Responding to such a complex, multifaceted challenge demands a collaborative and multifaceted approach. Strategies need to span awareness-raising, education, research, training, legal reform, and community mobilisation. There also needs to be a far stronger focus on at-risk groups and survivor consultations, and those well positioned to support them (parents, teachers, etc.), as well as those who design and enforce policies and legislation.

Technology offers routes to protection

The task ahead is complex but, as more and more of life goes digital, TFGBV is a challenge we must face, and face

together. It is important to recognise that new communications technologies such as AI have formidable potential for digital safeguarding, as well as for posing harm. Around the world, organisations and individuals need to draw more deeply on the unprecedented opportunities that such technologies offer to protect people, exchange ideas and forge solidarity, develop agile networks, and apply pressure on governments to design policies up to the task of protecting people.
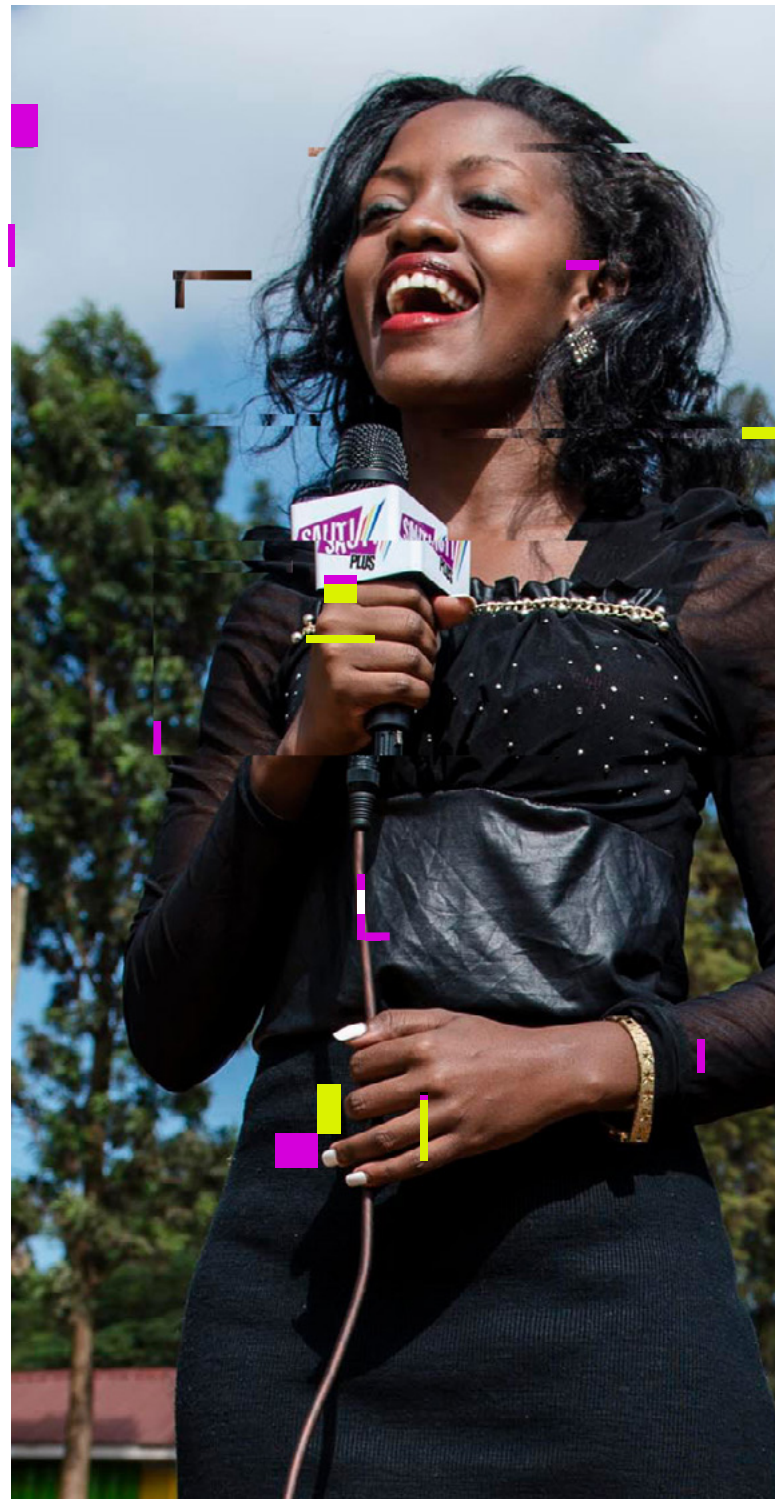
TFGBV – RECOGNISING THE GROWING THREAT AND THE URGENT NEED FOR ACTION

TFGBV, a significant yet underestimated form of GBV, is a growing challenge around the world. It is inextricably linked to offline impacts, such as physical violence, psychosocial trauma, and economic damage. Certain vulnerable groups are disproportionately affected – including women, LGBTQI+ people, children, and young people. TFGBV is rooted in patriarchy and societal norms, and there is a serious risk that violence enabled by digital technology will undermine years of progress on gender equality. The law is failing to keep pace with change: legislative gaps mean perpetrators evade justice, while conflicting laws often disadvantage survivors. Underreporting persists due to complex, traumatic reporting mechanisms, as well as the historical oppression of vulnerable groups and fear of repercussions. Awareness-raising initiatives are making progress in the fight against TFGBV. However, more research and collaborative and gender transformative efforts are crucial to combat TFGBV effectively and foster a safer online environment across socio-economic and demographic lines.

Our hope is that governments and organisations around the world can draw on these findings to help shape research and interventions and work together to protect people and communities facing unprecedented technological and social change. Together, we can create a safer online and offline world.

Decoding Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence

INTRODUCTIO

Decoding Technology-Facilitated
Gender-Based Violence

The digital revolution[d] has transformed daily life for communities around the world, changing how we communicate, forge relationships, work, play, and myriad other aspects of life. For many of us – though far from all – much of life is now mediated through information and communication technologies (ICTs), mobile phones, cloud computing, and big data.[9] According to Hootsuite's State of Global Digital 2023, there are 5.16 billion internet users in the world today (64.4 of the world's population), and 5.44 billion people used mobile phones by early 2023, equating to 68 percent of the total global population.[10] In 2019, more than half of the world's population was contributing towards the global digital economy.[11]

d Since the end of the Second World War in 1945, and the invention of the internet in 1980, there have been countless advancements in science and technology, also known as the digital revolution. 2012

Vulnerability skews access to technology

But as our reliance on digital technology grows, so too does its use to inflict harm against vulnerable people, particularly women and girls, LGBTQI+ people, children, and young people. Technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) is a growing phenomenon that can cause serious physical, emotional, and professional harm.

Part of the problem is that access to technology and digital education remains strongly skewed against women and girls. Gender disparities that exist across society are reflected in the digital sphere: it is estimated that only 48% of women globally are using the internet compared to 58% of men.[12] Women are 25% less likely than men to know how to use digital technology for basic purposes like sending text messages.[13] In the digital sector, women hold less than a quarter of the roles.[14] And the gap between women in richer and poorer countries is stark: just 19% of women in the 'least developed countries' use the internet compared to 86 per cent in richer countries. [15]This can make women and girls particularly vulnerable to TFGBV and puts them at a major disadvantage when they come to use digital technology and navigate online spaces.

FIGURE 1.

Data showing the gender difference in the use of mobile phones or the internet to pay bills in the past year (% age 15+)

	Female	Male	Total
South Africa	30% (2021)	25% (2021)	28% (2021)
Uganda	22% (2021)	28% (2021)	25% (2021)
Indonesia	8% (2021)	8% (2021)	8% (2021)
Morocco	5% (2021)	10% (2021)	7% (2021)
Jordan	4% (2021)	15% (2021)	10% (2021)
Rwanda	3% (2017)	6% (2017)	4% (2017)
Lebanon	1% (2021)	0% (2021)	1% (2021)

Decoding Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence
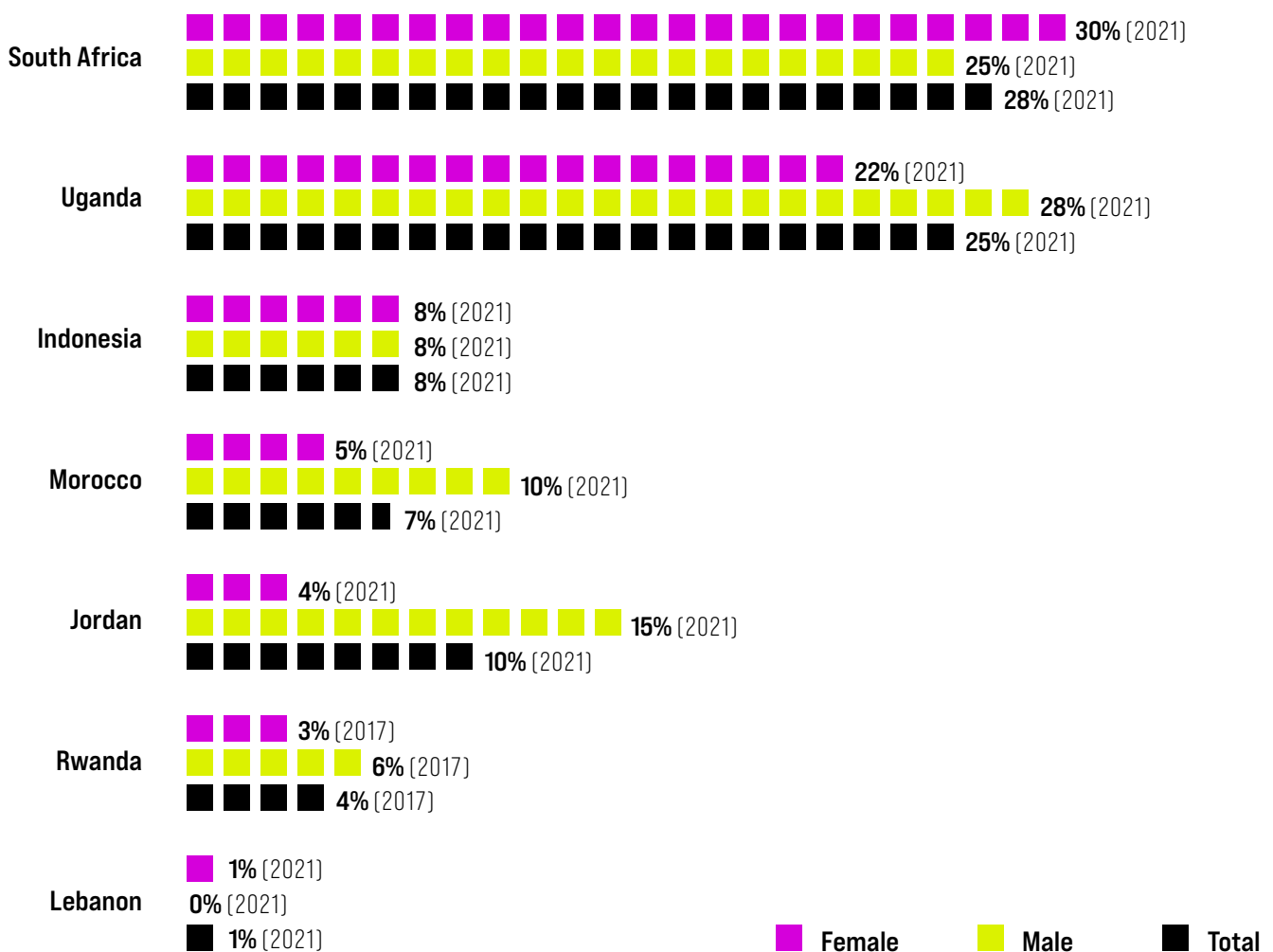
This imbalance in access to digital spheres and economies is prevalent across the seven focus countries of this study – Indonesia, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Rwanda, South Africa, and Uganda. For example, Figure 1 shows the significant variation experienced by women and men when it comes to using mobile phones or the internet to pay bills.[16] Although Figure 1 suggests that in South Africa, Indonesia and Lebanon, women have similar or better levels of access than men – and compared to the other countries – other factors such as overall lower literacy levels, lower average income, and oppressive socio-cultural norms make women and girls more vulnerable to gender-based violence, particularly the forms inflicted through ICTs.

Defining TFGBV – more than an online conundrum

Women around the world are facing a rise in gender-based violence (GBV), and technology is central to this.[17] Technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) is a growing, global challenge with extensive impacts.[18] According to UN Women, TFGBV is, "any act that is committed, assisted, aggravated or amplified by the use of information communication technologies or other digital tools which results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual, psychological, social, political or economic harm or other infringements of rights and freedoms."[19] TFGBV can occur online and offline. Research and definitions of TFGBV tend to focus on online forms of violence: for example, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) highlights that TFGBV is a form of digital violence "committed and amplified through the use of information and communications, technologies or digital spaces against a person based on gender".[20] However, it is important to note that TFGBV is broader than online violence. Although it often takes place online and in digital spaces, it can come about through any type of technology – both old and new – such as phones, GPS tracking devices, drones or recording devices that are not necessarily connected to the internet.[21] Frequently there is spillover between online and offline spaces – known as the online-offline continuum of violence. For example, harassment that begins online can lead to physical violence offline, and vice versa.

Urgent call to plug knowledge gaps

One major barrier to tackling TFGBV is that the global community still knows very little about it. This knowledge gap is shaped and exacerbated by the rapid pace of tech-

nological change – we are often racing to keep up-to-date about new forms of technology and the violence they can facilitate. This knowledge challenge was highlighted at the 67th UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), which convened in March 2023 with a key theme of 'Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls'.[22] As well as discussing the positive impacts of digital change, the session also highlighted the urgent need to address the unprecedented threats of the digital age for the wellbeing of women globally. TFGBV emerged as one of four key areas of focus. Conclusion 19 from the commission states: **"The Commission recognizes that adolescent girls are part of the most digitally connected generation in history and can disproportionately face discrimination, violence that occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology."**

In response, organisations and networks around the world have formed mechanisms to enhance knowledge on TFGBV. These include the multilateral network, the Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse, which has grown from an initial membership of the United States, Denmark, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Australia, and the Republic of Korea, to now also include Canada, Chile, Iceland, Kenya, Mexico, and New Zealand.[23] In their 2023 Roadmap, the 12 countries showcase their commitment to prioritise, understand, prevent, and address TFGBV. One of the core objectives is to strengthen the evidence base to support the prevention and response to TFGBV globally.[24]

Generation G is breaking ground, but gaps remain

In response to the increasing threat presented by TFGBV and other forms of GBV such as physical and/or sexual violence, a consortium of organisations formed the Generation G partnership in 2021. The partnership is designed and implemented by Rutgers and consortium lead partners, ABAAD, Equimundo, and Sonke. It focuses on seven locations – Indonesia, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Uganda, Rwanda, and South Africa – and works with in-country partners within each. The partnership seeks to empower youth leaders and civil society organisations to address the root causes of gender inequality by challenging patriarchal values and promoting sustainable change. Ultimately, the partnership strives to create a more resilient, gender-just, and youth-inclusive civil society through capacity strengthening and coalition building.

Generation G's partners have recently been expanding their work to specifically address TFGBV. For example, FIDA-Uganda recently commissioned a study to understand the prevalence of online gender-based violence (OGBV) in Uganda and the effectiveness of national legal and policy frameworks to address OGBV, and to highlight effective strategies for addressing OGBV in Uganda.[25] Similarly, Indonesian partners LBH APIK recently published a report detailing the story of survivors of OGBV.[26] This has been key to their work advocating for the adaptation of the anti-sexual violence bill in Indonesia to include online sexual violence. Finally, Generation G consortium member, Rutgers, conducted a study in the Netherlands to understand what determines the impact of online sexual violence.[27]

These projects unearth important findings and shape new interventions. However, major research gaps remain around the world. Far more research is needed to improve our understanding of the magnitude, contextual specificities, and knowledge gaps within TFGBV to inform both the Generation G programme and global approaches to address and prevent TFGBV.

In response, Rutgers commissioned the current study with the aim to grow the knowledge base on TFGBV – both within countries where the Generation G partnership is active, and globally. Our hope is that governments and organisations around the world can draw on these findings to help shape research and interventions and work together to protect people and communities facing unprecedented technological and social change.
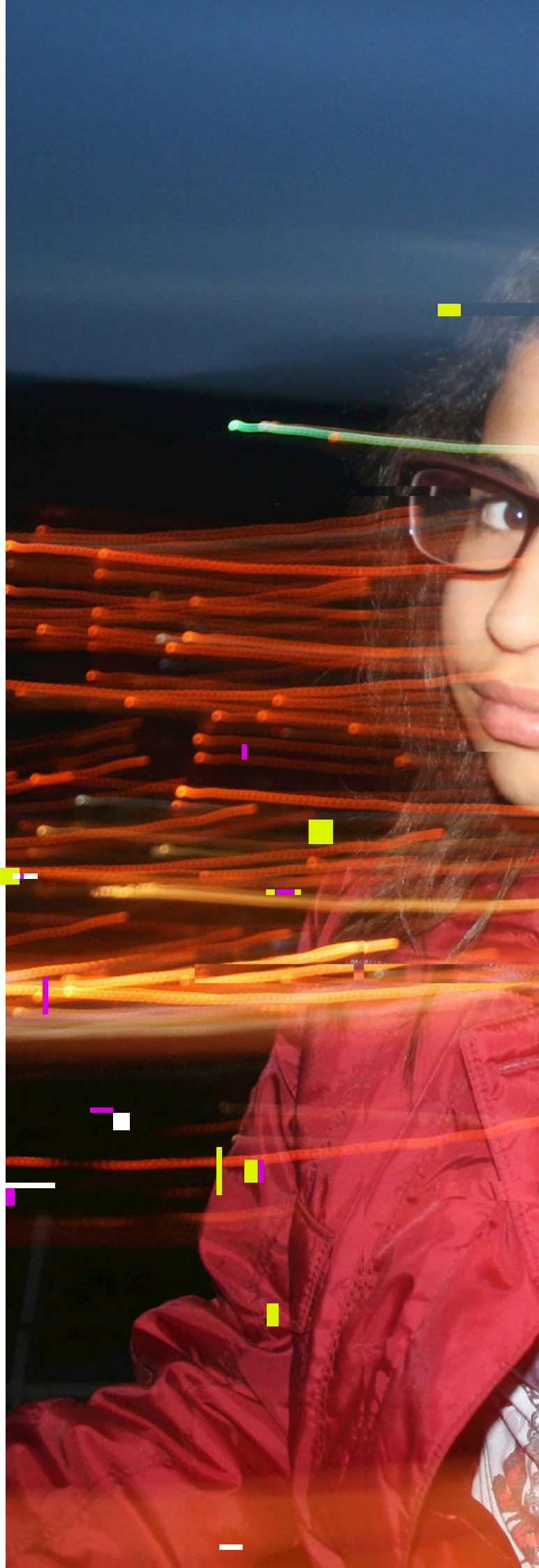
STUDY OVERVIEW

Through 50 interviews with stakeholders and a literature review, the research assesses the nature[e] of TFGBV and the effectiveness of efforts to prevent and address TFGBV in seven countries – Indonesia, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Rwanda, South Africa, and Uganda. The study has three overarching objectives:

1. **Understand the nature of TFGBV:** define the different forms of TFGBV, their prevalence, contextual specificities, risk factors, and mental, physical, and social impacts on individuals, societies, and civil society movements within the focus countries.

2. **Review the effectiveness of existing efforts** to prevent and mitigate TFGBV, including accountability mechanisms for TFGBV at national and global levels.

3. **Draw on this evidence to generate recommendations** to enhance current efforts around addressing TFGBV.

Our research has identified the following 8 findings:

1. TFGBV is not widely or systematically recognised as a legitimate form of GBV across societal groups, including those most at risk from TFGBV, potential perpetrators, and those in a position to respond (e.g., lawmakers). The threat and potential severity of TFGBV are widely underestimated, despite evidence demonstrating the growing burden and harmful impact of experiencing TFGBV. Recognising when violence occurs and recognizing the severity of TFGBV is an important first step towards much needed efforts to address and prevent TFGBV.

2. Online forms of TFGBV are intricately linked to offline consequences, underscored by the reality that online TFGBV often escalates into acts of offline violence. Incidents of online TFGBV are often not contained within the platform of origin; rather, they spill over into the offline world. Although physical violence is a grave concern, other critical consequences exist, including physical and emotional distress, and social and economic damages.

---

e The nature of TFGBV encompasses: the forms of TFGBV; the tools used to perpetrate TFGBV; the key groups at risk of experiencing TFGBV; perpetrators; and factors contributing to the occurrence of TFGBV.

3. TFGBV has a disproportionate impact on specific individuals based on various socio-economic and demographic factors, such as their job and digital presence. Across all seven countries, evidence suggests that five distinct groups are disproportionately at risk of experiencing TFGBV: activists, women in the public eye, members of the LGBTQI+ community, children, and young people. Alongside this heightened risk, there are diminished protection mechanisms for groups considered outliers to socio-cultural norms, such as sex workers.

4. TFGBV is a result of various root causes. The influence of patriarchy, social ideas of morality, and socially imposed gender roles are magnifiers of TFGBV. Patriarchy and religion are strongly interwoven with prevailing social notions of morality and rigidly enforced gender roles. These factors are deeply ingrained in the cultural fabric of some of our focus countries, and often used to perpetuate TFGBV, particularly against women and LGBTQI+ persons.

5. Legislation exists across countries to address TFGBV; however significant gaps remain in coverage of TFGBV, consistency in protecting those at risk, and actual use/implementation. Legislation aimed at combating TFGBV exists across countries examined in the study. Notable limitations lie in the narrow scope of these regulations and poor implementation. The disparity between the existence of protective laws and their practical enforcement diminishes their reliability in effectively combating TFGBV.

6. Current legislation to protect against TFGBV often conflicts with other legislation, resulting in a legal double-edged sword. Legislation aimed at protecting against TFGBV clashes with other articles in some focus countries. This unfortunately criminalises survivors rather than offering protection – a legislative double-edged sword that deters people from reporting crimes via existing mechanisms.

7. The reporting mechanisms for TFGBV have limited effectiveness as reporting is often disadvantageous for survivors. Underreporting is found to be cyclical and is largely influenced by complex and burdensome reporting mechanisms and histories of limited consequences for perpetrators. Pervasive restrictions to reporting mean that legislation, or other potential accountability mechanisms for TFGBV, cannot be fully implemented.

8. Current TFGBV initiatives such as awareness-raising activities are making progress, but there is room to enhance efforts through collaborative engagement. Various stakeholders are implementing initiatives to combat TFGBV. However, evidence suggests that most activity focuses on awareness building and education around TFGBV. Effectively combatting TFGBV demands sustained collaboration among government officials, technology companies, society, and individuals to foster a safer and more equitable online environment, across the spectrum of the issues raised in this report.

Stepping up the fight: Recommendations for future TFGBV interventions

1. **RESEARCH:** Conduct further national and regional research into TFGBV.

2. **AWARENESS:** Elevate existing efforts to increase awareness of TFGBV, its forms, and its recognition as a critical form of gender-based violence. Tailor messages to specific groups.

3. **LEGAL REFORM:** Work to ensure there is a clear understanding of country-level legislation which can either address or hinder accountability for TFGBV crimes and conduct advocacy activities for legislative reform.

4. **REPORTING:** Focus efforts on advocating for the improvement of TFGBV reporting and accountability mechanisms across all stakeholder levels.

5. **GENDER & PATRIARCHY:** Address patriarchal norms that magnify TFGBV in programmes
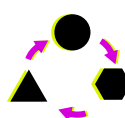
6. **ADAPTABILITY:** Design interventions to keep up with the evolving nature of technology, while safeguarding mechanisms to target the prominent forms of TFGBV in each context.

Decoding Technology-Facilitated
Gender-Based Violence

NGS

Across all seven countries, TFGBV is a growing challenge and threat to gender equity, with online forms the most common. UN Women defines TFGBV as including any acts of violence facilitated by online tools (e.g., the internet) or offline tools (e.g., phones not connected to the internet). Our scoping review found a heavy focus on online forms of TFGBV across published literature in all case study countries. In line with this, our primary data revealed that most people associate TFGBV with its online forms and are less likely to consider or refer to offline forms of TFGBV without prompt. The study therefore focuses mainly on online violence but acknowledges that TFGBV is wider in scope than violence which occurs online.

The thematic findings are organised into two sections, reflecting the study research questions: firstly, to understand and define the nature of TFGBV; and secondly, to understand the effectiveness of prevention and accountability mechanisms. We provide a holistic overview of the findings across all focus countries, drawing synergies, as well as highlighting context-specific complexities, differences, examples, and data.

Understand and define the nature of TFGBV

Our research into the nature of TFGBV identified four headline findings:

1. **TFGBV is not widely or systematically recognised as a legitimate form of GBV across societal groups, including those most at risk from TFGBV, potential perpetrators, and those in a position to respond (e.g., lawmakers).**

2. **Online forms of TFGBV are intricately linked to offline consequences, underscored by the reality that online TFGBV often escalates into acts of offline violence.**

3. **TFGBV has a disproportionate impact on specific individuals based on various socio-economic and demographic factors, such as their job and digital presence.**

4. **TFGBV is a result of various root causes. The influence of patriarchy, social ideas of morality, and socially imposed gender roles are magnifiers of TFGBV.**

FINDING 1

TFGBV is not widely or systematically recognised as a legitimate form of gender-based violence

Key takeaways:
Raise awareness across society and institutions to protect victims/survivors

- Low recognition and understanding of TFGBV – among law enforcement, policymakers, and society at large – affect its severity and prevalence. Consequences include loss of income, increased risk of physical violence, poor mental health outcomes, and systematic silencing of survivors.

- Understanding when and how TFGBV occurs is essential for reducing its prevalence. Victims/survivors may not be aware that what they experience classifies as TFGBV, and some perpetrators may also not recognise their actions as such. Improving digital literacy, promoting privacy awareness, and increasing knowledge of the various forms of TFGBV will help reduce vulnerability to TFGBV and increase reporting of it.

- Poor knowledge and understanding among law enforcers and policymakers put survivors at risk. Laws fail to reflect reality or keep pace with social and technological change. Police training is essential. Interventions to promote appropriate laws and policies are vital.

People often trivialise TFGBV and therefore do not consider it a serious form of GBV. This results in poor understanding, a lack of recognition of instances of TFGBV, limited reporting, and inadequate courses of justice for survivors. According to a survey by UN Women in 2022, in eight Arab states,[f] 41% of women and 48% of men believe that "Online violence is not a serious matter as long as it remains online".[28] Limited understanding of the spectrum of TFGBV contributes to a higher risk of exposure to TFGBV, a tendency not to report incidents when they occur, and insufficient policies and legislation to address the scale of the problem.

1.1 The lack of a standardised or globally recognised definition for TFGBV hinders the collection of robust, comparative evidence for policy makers

Multiple definitions of TFGBV are used by global, regional, and national bodies. Our research found that most definitions focus on online forms of TFGBV, particularly where definitions list potential tools of TFGBV; online technologies and digital tools appear frequently but offline technologies (e.g., phones, GPS tracking devices, drones, or recording devices) are not always included. The lack of a common global definition for TFGBV, which covers online and offline technology, is a key challenge to understanding TFGBV, measuring its prevalence, and formulating adequate responses to address the issue.[29]

A list of globally published definitions of TFGBV is available in Annexe I.

People interviewed for this study expressed different understandings and definitions of TFGBV. For example, in Indonesia, 60% of participants interviewed highlighted that the term Kekerasan Berbasis Gender Online (Online Gender-Based Violence) or KBGO in short, is used rather than TFGBV. One interviewee reported: *"The term KBGO/OGBV is used for advocacy because the term is catchy when compared to TFGBV which sounds very technical"* (KII, CSO, Indonesia). Overall, 34% of interview participants mentioned that they are more familiar with the term "online GBV", or that "TFGBV is GBV that occurs online, in the digital space, in social media, or through the internet". Despite its increasing prevalence and the severity of its impact, we found there is still a pressing need to ensure greater public awareness of TFGBV and thus its prioritisation within global or national responses. This is particularly relevant for definitions of what constitutes TFGBV and the different forms of TFGBV, which go beyond OGBV. A global interviewee states:

---

f The eight countries are Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia, and Yemen.

> *"I don't think there is sort of one universal definition. I think different international institutions have put out different variations [...] whereas online gender-based violence may be used a little bit more commonly. I don't think that quite captures the sort of continuum of online and offline gender-based violence. So, I think maybe technology-facilitated is a bit clunky or harder to say, but I think it gets at the issue a little bit better."*
>
> – KII, NGO, Global

1.2 Limited understanding of what TFGBV is and the forms it takes makes people vulnerable to abuse

Evidence suggests that limited public awareness and education on TFGBV results in underreporting and hinders the effectiveness of reporting mechanisms and legal frameworks.[30] A study in Indonesia indicates that online child sexual exploitation and abuse (OCSEA) is under-reported due to a lack of awareness of OCSEA and online safety by children and adults.[31] A study in Uganda found that only 53% of respondents indicated that they were aware that they can report cybercrimes and online violence.[32] A participant from Uganda reiterated this by stating that people's recognition of gender-based violence does not usually include online forms:

> *"Many people have not fully appreciated technology-facilitated gender-based violence, whereas we speak about gender-based violence almost every time, we tend to focus more on the other aspects that are physical, the emotional, economic, the sexual, all those types of it, but we hardly and rarely focus on that online violence, and it doesn't take away the fact that it's indeed happening."*
>
> – KII, CSO, Uganda

In line with the literature, our findings reveal that a lack of public understanding of TFGBV leaves people at greater risk of experiencing it, as these acts are not recognised as crimes when they occur. The findings highlight varying

levels of understanding of TFGBV within communities, with most people lacking full awareness of what constitutes a TFGBV crime. One global stakeholder remarks: *"People think well, it's online, it's not real. It's kind of harassment, it's distressing, but it's not real"* (KII, CSO, Global).

Even more alarmingly, our findings suggest that some perpetrators of TFGBV might also be inflicting it without realising that it is a form of gender-based violence. An interviewee from Rwanda tells us:

> *"TFGBV is one of the types of gender-based violence. They think that it's a joke. So, most people, do it not knowing that it's a GBV issue, but it's a joke. You know, you're making a joke on someone, so it's a complex thing."*
>
> – KII, CSO, Rwanda

This means that perpetrators might commit crimes without recognising their severity and the consequences they may have for survivors. There are several cases documented in which perpetrators appear proud to create and share abusive content, making jokes about sexual assault, which then spreads due to other community members sharing and commenting on the content.[33]

1.3 Limited digital literacy and lack of understanding of digital rights result in people being mis- or uninformed about TFGBV

Generally, evidence suggests that awareness about online safety is low. Many potential victims seem unaware of the risks they face online, or how they can protect themselves.[34] For people to protect themselves from TFGBV, they need to understand fully how to recognise TFGBV, so that they can use ICT devices safely and for their benefit, without increasing the risk of TFGBV. For example, better digital literacy could improve 'digital hygiene', which includes activities such as regularly updating and cleaning electronic devices, using secure passwords and best practices in password management, and organising files to protect against cyberattacks and hacking, etc.[35] Our research bears this out. An interviewee in South Africa states:

Decoding Technology-Facilitated
Gender-Based Violence

> *"There is still a lot that we unknowingly do online, and we need to educate ourselves on gender-based violence and digital hygiene. There are so many gaps around digital hygiene as well, that sometimes we expose a lot of our personal information to the public, which increases our vulnerability of a person online."*
>
> – KII, Academic Group, South Africa

1.4 Poor understanding of TFGBV at law enforcement level means mechanisms to address it are inadequate

Formal processes to address and prevent TFGBV do not align with rapid advancements in technology, our scoping review found. This creates a significant gap in evidence-based responses to tackle TFGBV.[36] In line with this, 34% of our key informants indicated that – based on their expertise and engagement with decision-makers – those at the level of legislative bodies, law enforcement, and policy formulation also have limited awareness of TFGBV and what it encompasses. This means staff often fail to address cases of TFGBV that are reported to law enforcement. There are cases of police officers not fully understanding TFGBV, and therefore not understanding why a survivor comes to them to report a case. An interviewee in Uganda comments on the lack of police awareness:

> *"The police are not knowledgeable or informed about these types of violences. So sometimes even when you go to report, someone is just asking you: "what is that? How can I help you? What were you doing on the social media platform?"*
>
> – KII, CSO, Uganda

In some cases, the police do not acknowledge their role in addressing TFGBV, and therefore may not take a case on. An interviewee from Indonesia describes how:

> *"Police have not sided with the victims. Some policemen considered OGBV as a private matter because it was about intimate images. Since it was also about private*

> *matter, police did not feel it was something that needed to be dealt with quickly."*
>
> – KII, CSO, Indonesia

Another issue is that laws and policies being developed do not necessarily take into consideration or address all forms of TFGBV (see Section 2, Finding 5 on implementation of legislation). **In efforts to keep people safe in a rapidly changing technological world, it is important to reassess and update laws to reflect the reality of TFGBV.**

FINDING 2

Online forms of TFGBV are intricately linked to offline consequences

Key takeaways:
online-offline continuum of violence carries multiple risks for vulnerable groups and needs more research

- Online TFGBV often spills over from online platforms into the offline world, with detrimental impacts on survivors' physical, emotional, and economic wellbeing, as well as broader social and political repercussions.

- TFGBV is hindering women's rights and democracy. TFGBV often leads to the silencing and exclusion of women, girls, and other marginalised groups from public debate or positions of leadership. This has a significant negative impact on progress towards gender-just and equitable societies and communities.

- Despite the severe offline impacts, the literature mainly focuses on online spaces, revealing the urgent need for more research into offline harm and the online-offline continuum.

TFGBV occurs within a continuum of related events and forms of violence against women, girls, and other vulnerable individuals, and often results in physical violence and other offline impacts. Online harassment can escalate into physical abuse offline, and vice versa. Evidence suggests online gender-based violence (OGBV) is a precursor to and can exacerbate offline forms of gender-based violence, such as sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, stalking, and/or intimate partner violence.[37] [38] Technological tools can facilitate this violence, such as social media, mobile internet, artificial intelligence and more. In situations of intimate partner abuse, for example, tracking a partner's location online can make it easier for a perpetrator to locate them and inflict violence offline. This creates a reciprocal relationship between online and offline environments – often referred to as the online-offline continuum of violence.

The negative effects of online violence extend beyond the physical to include psychological, social, physical, and economic suffering.[39] Survivors of TFGBV of a sexual nature – for example, specific types of non-consensual intimate image abuse (NCII) – often experience further stigmatisation, blame, and damage to their reputations. This affects many aspects of their (offline) social and professional lives and is particularly detrimental for survivors who have an online or digital aspect to their profession.[40]

Our findings reiterate that online and offline violence are connected cyclically. More than half (56%) of interviewees highlighted cases which provide evidence for this. For example, a civil society worker from Rwanda comments on the situation for LGBTQI+ people in the country:

> *"We have received so many cases like that and the bad thing is that when there are online attacks, this leads to offline GBV issues. [...] we had a case with lesbians. Someone points out their names with their faces, then those people are exposed to the public to be violated, to kind of physical violence, mental violence. We have seen people who were chased away from their homes just because they have been discovered on YouTube for being a lesbian or transgender person."*
>
> – KII, CSO, Rwanda

2.1 The factors motivating people to perpetrate TFGBV resemble those motivating offline GBV

Our study underscores the similarity of factors motivating both TFGBV and other forms of gender-based violence, such as physical or sexual violence. Restrictive gender norms, unequal power dynamics, and limited access to resources influence these.[41] In South Africa, for example, the elements influencing gender-based violence range from persistent discriminatory patriarchal practices and power imbalances between men and women, to high levels of inequality, poverty, and unemployment.[42] These elements also influence TFGBV.

In line with this, 45 of the 50 people we interviewed across all focus countries cited social factors such as assumed gender norms, power dynamics, and patriarchal practices as motivating such violence. A civil society worker in Uganda reflects that:

> *"The culture stems from how people relate offline, like the different negative social norms, or the different forms of power that are there for women and men. And yes, I believe that whatever happens online definitely mirrors offline engagement."*
>
> – KII, CSO, Uganda

Interviewees indicated that people might also perpetrate TFGBV for reasons of revenge. This is especially the case for ex-partners, who often resort to online forms of violence, such as cyberstalking, or extortion, to coerce women to refrain from seeking their rights through legal justice. References to revenge came up during 17 of the 50 key informant interviews. A civil society worker from Morocco describes:

> *"Sometimes ex-husbands/partners might use intimate pictures or videos for revenge, to get women to give up custody, alimony, or to ask her for money, property, etc. Some ex-partners/fiancés use private information or pictures for defamation because they simply refuse to accept that the girl broke up with them."*
>
> – KII, CSO, Morocco

Poverty or monetary motivations are also a factor in TFGBV. Perpetrators and survivors of TFGBV might engage in TFGBV acts for financial gain. One NGO worker from South Africa described how, *"Poverty is the root cause of a lot of things because we find young women and men trying to escape poverty and then they behave differently online"* (KII, NGO, South Africa). Perpetrators often get money through blackmail or electronic fraud. Survivors might use social media platforms, especially TikTok, to expose themselves online in exchange for money. A civil society representative in Lebanon discusses this trend:

> *"We started documenting some adolescent girls using TikTok, and they are going naked on TikTok because they are getting some money. They are encouraging others to go through this, and this is very dangerous because we don't have any precaution and protection policies."*
>
> – KII, CSO, Lebanon

2.2 Physical violence is a key outcome of the continuum of violence

The literature we reviewed describes incidents of the online-offline continuum of violence, particularly where online violence results in physical harm.[43] Our interviews bore this out: 74% of interviewees highlighted incidents of violence that started online but proceeded to manifest offline. One policymaker/government official from Indonesia describes how, *"There were also threats via WhatsApp but then continued to physical acts such as rape – this is a combination of offline and cyberspace."*

Extortion is becoming one of the most common forms of TFGBV[44] that is subject to this online-offline transition involving technology: perpetrators use content shared online, such as intimate conversations or images, to blackmail survivors for money or sexual acts, and commit direct physical violence and abuse. A CSO worker from Lebanon describes:

"One example is a girl who was introduced to a person through the internet, whom she thought was her age. That person turned out to be an older man, and he asked her to send certain images [of a sexual nature], then started using them to blackmail her for money so that he wouldn't share them with her parents and at her school."

– KII, CSO, Lebanon

When cases of TFGBV become known to the public, or when survivors seek support or report those crimes, it can lead to further social stigmatisation, domestic abuse, and physical harm by perpetrators, especially those who are known to the survivors. One participant working for a women's rights organisation in Morocco described how:

"When it becomes known that they were subjected to this type of online violence, and it relates to something to do with knowing a guy or sex or something, then they become more vulnerable to offline violence from family and the community, being cursed, being yelled at, being abused by family members, kicked out of their homes, that kind of stuff."

– KII, CSO, Morocco

Speaking out can make you more vulnerable: 38% of key informants said speaking out against TFGBV can further violence against survivors in the offline world. This has a chilling effect on people's willingness to report crimes. A civil society worker from Jordan describes this dynamic:

"There are cases that reach out to us, are provided with solutions, but then withdraw the report as if they never spoke up. The problem is, this way, they are at higher risk of recurring violence or even being killed. Other cases might not continue the sessions because they are subjected to higher levels of violence. Some perpetrators may sign an undertaking, but then go on to murder the victim."

– KII, CSO, Jordan

2.3 Online TFGBV can have extensive social and psychological impacts

As well as online violence spilling over into physical harm offline, survivors of TFGBV also experience considerable social, emotional, and economic harm offline. Female survivors have reported severe repercussions, including complete withdrawal from online platforms, and adverse effects on mental health, such as depression and suicidal thoughts.[45]

According to 56% of our interviewees, survivors of TFGBV often suffer from psychological harm, such as anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, and fear. The psychological burden of TFGBV can be severe and lead to suicidal thoughts or suicide. A policymaker from Lebanon described how, "Some people even reach the point of suicide due to such situations." Thirteen respondents recognised how TFGBV can result in social outcasting. An NGO worker from Morocco reported that:

"[TFGBV] is used to prevent women from obtaining their rights. It can lead to psychological, economic, familial, social, and professional harm. Some women might need to quit their jobs and leave their houses or even the cities they live in. TFGBV can also be translated into physical violence. There were also cases of suicide that were recorded. Some girls had to leave school or were forced to drop out. Others were dismissed from their families."

– KII, NGO, Morocco

2.4 Online TFGBV can have far-reaching economic consequences for survivors

A further 32% of interviewees mentioned the economic impacts of TFGBV. For example, a survivor may decide to self-regulate their presence online, preventing them from using the internet for economic growth and business opportunities. A CSO worker from Uganda highlighted how:

"For female entrepreneurs, it has a very big impact on finances or how they enjoy their economic rights. They would decide to stop using a particular platform for their business because they're being harassed or because they're being victims of online space."

– KII, CSO, Uganda

Survivors of TFGBV are at direct risk of losing their jobs or income because of TFGBV or its psychological impacts. A CSO worker from Rwanda reported that:

"There are so many consequences for online harassment, especially when the person is not protected, you can see their face and real name. Once they're discovered, some are dismissed from their job and the others are denied job opportunities."

– KII, CSO, Rwanda

Survivors might also pay perpetrators in exchange for their silence, imposing an extra financial strain on them and meaning perpetrators do not face justice, as an academic from Jordan commented: *"For females to avoid those issues becoming public, they refrain from reporting and pay perpetrators money,"* (KII, Academic Group, Jordan).

2.5 TFGBV is suppressing women's rights and democracy

Over a quarter (28%) of key informants consider TFGBV to be hindering progress in women's rights and democracy. An academic from Jordan stated:

31

Evidence shows that politicians who are women and women's rights advocates often choose to withdraw from both online and offline spaces in response to trauma (abuse, violence, hate speech, and threats) they regularly face online. TFGBV also silences women who are journalists, politicians, and human rights defenders, who actively speak on gender equity, human rights, and racism, or are in positions of leadership.[46]

The silencing and exclusion of women, girls, and other marginalised groups from public debate or positions of leadership has a significant negative impact on progress towards gender-just and equitable societies and communities. Practically, if women, girls, and marginalised communities' voices are excluded – intentionally or due to (trauma-related) self-exclusion – from decision-making processes and positions of leadership, then structural barriers such as patriarchy are more likely to remain. This propels an imbalance in positions of power, meaning an inequitable representation of the voices and needs of society.[47]

2.6 Offline forms of TFGBV receive far less attention in the literature than online forms, and awareness is limited

TFGBV is not limited to the online world and can occur via offline technology – including phones not connected to the internet, GPS tracking devices, drones, or recording devices that are not necessarily connected to the internet.[48] Disabled women who rely on assistive devices such as wheelchairs and are in abusive relationships have had their technology destroyed or threatened with destruction by abusive partners.[49]

Most of the current literature focuses on online manifestations of TFGBV. A key aim of our primary data collection, therefore, was to explore the nature and people's understanding of offline TFGBV. However, despite 32% of key informants referencing the use of offline technologies such as mobile phones to call and harass, or global level stakeholders referencing the use of tagging devices, these forms were generally poorly understood or were considered different from TFGBV. Many people also continue to conflate the definition of online GBV with TFGBV. **In future, it will be important to consider the whole spectrum of TFGBV within research initiatives and programmatic interventions.**

"I don't think TFGVB is related to certain months or times, but it is related to events. For example, when the government agrees to international acts supporting women, or when cases of domestic violence or violence against women are reported through the media, there are often endless backlashes on social media regarding those issues. Those rise again as soon as a new feminist movement takes place."

– KII, Academic Group, Jordan

Decoding Technology-Facilitated
Gender-Based Violence

FINDING 3

TFGBV has a disproportionate impact on specific individuals

Key takeaways:
more protection and data needed on persecuted groups

- Gender/women's rights defenders, high profile women, LGBTQI+ people, children, and young people are disproportionately at risk.

- Women in the public eye or who fight for women's rights are often targets and suffer the consequences of the online-offline continuum. Online abuse causes them to withdraw from professional life, including public service – with appalling consequences for women's rights, democracy, and gender equality.

- There is a lack of data on other groups who are likely to be vulnerable due to their intersecting identities – including female sex workers (FSW), indigenous women, women in rural settings, and people with disabilities. There are also diminished protection mechanisms for populations considered outliers to societal norms – including LGBTQI+ people and other vulnerable groups. More research is crucial, in order to design robust, evidence-based interventions to protect people.

It is well-recognised that women and girls are more likely to experience both GBV and TFGBV.[50] Approximately 736 million women globally have experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, or both, often influenced by technology.[51,52] Evidence also highlights the rising incidence.[53] This finding is supported by our primary data: all 50 interviewees referred to the targeting of women in this form of GBV. A civil society worker from Morocco commented that it affects *"all women and girls, irrespective of their socioeconomic, educational, and cultural backgrounds"* (KII, CSO, Morocco). It is important to recognise, therefore, that simply being a woman or girl places individuals at an increased risk of experiencing TFGBV.

Our study also identifies other factors – jobs, digital presence, and sexuality – that can intersect to position certain individuals and communities at a heightened risk of experiencing TFGBV. We found five distinct groups at disproportionate risk:

7. **Gender/women's rights defenders, particularly feminists and gender equity activists**

8. **Prominent and high-profile women in the public eye**

9. **Children and young people**

10. **LGBTQI+ people**

Gender/women's rights defenders, particularly feminists and gender equity activists

Activism for gender and women's rights online heightens specific groups' vulnerability to TFGBV significantly

Gender and women's human rights defenders – specifically feminists, activists, and people affiliated with organisations addressing gender inequality – are key targets of TFGBV. This is primarily due to the content they share online. A study from Indonesia highlights that Indonesian human rights defenders and groups advocating for women's rights consistently encounter hate speech and abusive comments online, particularly on social media platforms.[54]

Our interviewees also mentioned this. A CSO worker from Uganda describes how those identifying as feminists online become "easy targets" for violence:

> *"The feminist community and any kind of language around feminism also attracts a lot of violence because feminism is seen to be one of the loudest ways of trying to upset the power of the heteronormative, heterosexist patriarchal power dynamic. The moment you say you're a feminist, [they presume] it means that when you hate men, you hate the family unit, you just want women to have all the power you want to oppress men, etc."*
>
> – KII, CSO, Uganda

People working for organisations focused on gender inequality – particularly NGOs and CSOs – face major risks. Another civil society worker from Uganda mentioned the culture of "cyber bullying" connected to gender issues: *"you go to these online platforms and share a post and you're talking about say gender identities or you're talking about calling out GBV itself, the bullying would come through"* (KII, CSO, Uganda).

Prominent and high-profile women in the public eye

Women who pose a threat to patriarchal norms are at increased risk of cyberattacks, online harassment, and online bullying.

Our research identifies key groups of women who are at a higher risk of experiencing TFGBV. The visibility of women in the public eye – including women who are politicians, journalists, and celebrities – and their views, makes them targets for TFGBV, such as online threats of violence and abuse.[55],[56] Many factors increase their vulnerability – including, importantly, the concept of deviating from the traditional and patriarchal roles ascribed to women. A global civil society worker highlighted the vulnerability of the following groups of women:

> *"Women who have stepped out of the traditional patriarchal role, so women that were working, women that were more active, women that were seen and perceived as those that had stepped out of the house and beyond the roles that were assigned to them."*
>
> – KII, CSO, Global

Being targeted often silences women or compels them to reduce their online presence and change the way they express themselves in digital spaces. Many of our interviewees spoke of this dynamic. A global civil society worker described how:

> *"One of the biggest impacts, which is again very distressing and has a lot of implications in terms of democracy and voices, is the way that it is silencing people and making people not engage online anymore because the idea of engaging is simply too distressing when you're going to face so much abuse, so much violence online."*
>
> – KII, CSO, Global

Politicians are at high risk. Almost a quarter (24%) of interviewees recognised female politicians as being more likely to experience TFGBV. Often this centres around women's appearance. A civil society worker in Lebanon, for example, described how, "There are several examples of female politicians being attacked based on their looks, or if they make silly pronunciation mistakes."

This online harassment silences women and hinders their

progress compared to male counterparts. Our research highlights that being more at risk of experiencing online harassment leads people to use coping strategies that hinder career progress. TFGBV is particularly amplified during elections. For example, POLLICY conducted a study to identify and analyse the scale of online violence against female politicians during the January 2021 general election in Uganda. It found that female politicians are more likely to experience trolling, sexual violence, and body shaming, whereas men are more likely to experience hate speech and satirical comments. Greater online activity was linked with higher levels of online violence for women as opposed to men. The study also highlights that female politicians choose silence as a strategy rather than speaking out about their experiences, as they are at risk of being labelled as "hysterical" and not fit for political life.[57]

Women who are journalists are another key target group. One in five participants highlighted journalists as being at particular risk of TFGBV, including online bullying and harassment. An interviewee in South Africa described:

> *"I remember a journalist who was covering a high-profile political story here in South Africa and at some point, whatever she had said led to one of the opposition parties releasing her phone number to the public, and then she started receiving threats from different people, threatening her and [...] she feared for her life."*
>
> *– KII, Academic Group, South Africa*

We found similar examples in the literature. For example, female journalists in Rwanda have spoken out about how they are targets of online bullying and harassment, ranging from online comments about appearance and body image to workplace harassment by male colleagues via platforms such as WhatsApp and other social media.[58] Such online abuse undermines media freedom, as it discourages women's participation in public debates by belittling, humiliating, and inflicting shame them. Their withdrawal further strengthens the dominance of male voices in already male-dominated public spheres, stifling the representation and perspectives of women.

Celebrities are at high risk In Uganda, there are multiple accounts of incidents of TFGBV targeted at women who are celebrities. Over the past five years, at least eight Ugandan celebrities have fallen victim to non-consensual intimate image abuse (NCII), orchestrated by both familiar individuals (e.g., ex-boyfriends) and strangers who black-mail these celebrities for financial gain.[59] For example, the case of the Ugandan pop star LD in 2014 illustrates that survivors who choose to share their experiences with NCII often face public and governmental vilification rather than support.[60] Although instances of TFGBV among celebrities were not reported in other countries, literature from Southern Africa particularly highlights that celebrities in this region are at a heightened risk of experiencing such crimes and their aftermath.[61] **Celebrities should therefore be a focal group considered across all case study geographies when developing and implementing future interventions.**

The gendered reality of online abuse

It is worth noting that men who are in similar positions of visibility (e.g., politicians, journalists, and celebrities) also face online abuse. However, the content of the abuse they face online is distinctly different to their female counterparts. For example, male politicians often face harsh comments about their policies, in comparison to female politicians who are often targeted about their looks or their ability to be a good wife or mother, often completely overlooking a woman's political beliefs or abilities.[62,63]

Children & young people

Children and young people are increasingly exposed to TFGBV due to their growing digital presence

Internet and technology use is growing among children, resulting in their greater exposure to TFGBV. For example, in 2023, almost 83 million of the Indonesian population were children under 18[64], and 95% of those aged 12 to 17 used the internet at least once a day.[65] Our study reveals that children and young people are disproportionately at risk of certain forms of TFGBV, particularly online child sexual exploitation and abuse (OCSEA) and cyberbully-ing,[9] due to an expanding, yet inadequately regulated and safeguarded, digital presence.

Almost half (42%) of our interviewees emphasised children's access to online platforms and increased presence online as leading to a higher potential for

---

g Cyberbullying is an aggressive and intentional act that is carried out using electronic forms of contact by a group or an individual repeatedly and over time against a survivor who cannot easily defend themselves.

that perpetrators actively seek to exploit vulnerability and there are rising concerns that children are influenced to participate in these online behaviours without fully acknowledging or being able to understand the potential harmful ramifications.[69]

For example, a survey of 106 children in Casablanca, Morocco, found that more than two-thirds of respondents had received travel offers, gifts, or marriage proposals from unknown people online.[70] Similarly, a civil society worker we interviewed in South Africa described, *"Many young girls will send images of themselves to get item[s] in exchange, which I would consider a form of gender-based violence as well as child abuse."* Other examples of sexual TFGBV experienced by children include trafficking and recruitment into sex tourism and prostitution via websites and social media. [71]

Bullying among children is a major challenge. As the role of the internet and digital technologies in daily life has expanded, bullying has transcended into online spaces. A UN report found that globally, cyberbullying is experienced by 130 million students – 1 in 3 – aged 13 to 15.[72] Our research highlights the harmful consequences of cyberbullying. A civil society worker in South Africa describes:

> *"There's a case of a child in Limpopo – it happened before COVID – this child was bullied on and off the social media but one day she was beaten up and the other school members, they took a video and publicised it and two days later, after the video trended, the little girl she was 14 years old, the little girl committed suicide."*
>
> – KII, CSO, South Africa

This case emphasises another example of the online-of-fline continuum of violence, where each form influences the other, leading to detrimental outcomes.

Emerging links between education and cyberbullying need attention, as online teaching platforms continue to proliferate across the globe. For example, the transition to online education during the COVID-19 pandemic is thought to have led to greater exposure to cyberbullying,

children[h] to become targets of TFGBV, particularly TFGBV of a sexually exploitative nature. Evidence suggests that both children's access to the internet and early exposure to pornography, particularly violent or degrading sexual content, can normalise harmful gender norms and sexual behaviour and increase children's vulnerability to TFGBV.[66],[67] This normalisation affects perceptions around the risk of sexual behaviour online.

For example, of 437 children aged 12-18 who participated in a study in Morocco, 6.4% reported stripping off willing-ly in front of webcams (n=28), while 16.2% admitted to sending photos of themselves to someone online (n=71).[68] Children did so of their own accord without report of ex-plicit coercion. However, a study from Indonesia indicates

---

h The age range of these children refers to those between 12-17, and particularly those who are within the school system.

36

Decoding Technology-Facilitated
Gender-Based Violence

according to our interviewees. A civil society worker from Indonesia describes:

> *"Lectures/schools during the pandemic were online, so more and more children are using technology, thus many were affected with the online forms of violence. During offline schools usually, children were prohibited from using cell phones, but now they use them often. The thing with technology is that bullying can occur anywhere, even in the restroom."*
>
> – KII, CSO, Indonesia

Evidence from the Cyberbullying Research Centre shows that although links between online education and cyberbullying emerged as a research focus during the pandemic, it is hard to confidently state that the pandemic led to an increased incidence of cyberbullying.[73] However, statistics on the prevalence of cyberbullying among children remain alarming and deserve attention.

A key factor affecting children's disproportionate exposure to TFGBV is children and their caregivers' lack of formal education on how to stay safe online.[74] **When designing future programming, it is crucial to consider both those experiencing TFGBV (in this case, children) and also those who hold positions of support and guidance such as parents, caregivers, and teachers.**

Members of the LGBTQI+ community

Belonging or being perceived to belong to the LGBTQI+ community is a key risk factor for TFGBV
Evidence shows that members of the LGBTQI+ community are more likely to experience certain forms of TFGBV, such as online harassment and sextortion.[75,76] The country-level findings of this study chime with the global evidence: in all seven countries, LGBTQI+ communities are at higher risk of TFGBV and of experiencing offline forms of violence because of TFGBV. For example, if a gay or trans person is outed online and their personal information is shared, they often experience an impact on their physical, emotional, and financial wellbeing. At least one stakeholder from each country included the LGBTQI+ community as a key group disproportionately affected by TFGBV, with almost 50% giving a specific example of this.

For example, a civil society worker from Uganda - where same-sex acts are illegal – described the persecution of LGBTQI+ people since the beginning of 2023, when the legal environment changed. They emphasised that outing is a violation that continuously happens, influenced by discourses in the Parliament. They explained:

> *"We saw very many cases where people were outed. For example, the case of the female teacher in Jinja who was outed by the media. We found out that this teacher had been with her partner for a very long time, but because the discourse in the public was about [anti] homosexuality, the media ran with a story and outed her and her partner. And in a very negative way."*
>
> – KII, CSO, Uganda

Many of our focus countries are experiencing waves of hostility and anti-LGBTQI+ rhetoric. In Uganda the anti-homosexuality bill was updated in 2023, making it legal to enforce a punishment of life imprisonment for same-sex conduct and increasing the prison sentence for an attempt at same-sex conduct to 10 years.[77] Similarly in Indonesia, the new criminal code of 2023 undermines the rights to freedom of speech and association with the LGBTQI+ community.[78] A similar trend is seen across the remaining five countries: there is either explicit criminalisation of LGBTQI+ individuals or other legislation that can be widely interpreted as being opposed to being LGBTQI+.

Tech platforms have amplified this spread of homophobic rhetoric. For example, a study from Indonesia shows that they enable citizens to directly persecute and shame LGBTQI+ people, demand punitive laws, and amplify false links between homosexuality, pornography, and social indecency.[79] As a result, activists have resorted to covert activities and collaboration with non-LGBTQI+ social movements, using terms like 'queer' and 'silenced groups' to mitigate the negative connotations associated with the LGBTQI+ label. It is important to heed this when designing interventions to protect LGBTQI+ individuals from TFGBV.

Another issue to recognise is that LGBTQI+ people often lack adequate support mechanisms for survivors of TFGBV, because their sexuality is deemed contrary to patriarchal norms, and they are thus seen as outliers within the community.

FINDING 4

The influence of patriarchy, social ideas of morality, and socially imposed gender roles are the greatest magnifiers of TFGBV

Key takeaways:

A thorough grasp of social dynamics is crucial to designing robust TFGBV interventions

- Patriarchy and religion infuse social notions of morality and rigid gender roles, and vice versa. These ideas are deeply ingrained in the cultural fabric of our case study countries, contributing to the perpetuation of TFGBV, particularly against women and LGBTQI+ people.

- It is vital to acknowledge and understand these entrenched dynamics comprehensively, to devise interventions that resonate with the unique contextual nuances of each country. To effectively combat TFGBV, these insights must inform programme design and advocacy campaigns.

Societal oppressions such as patriarchy, sexism, racism, homophobia, transphobia, and colonialism further increase the risk of being targeted and shape people's experience of violence.[80] Most of our interviewees (82%) said they recognise patriarchy and assumed gender and social norms as crucial factors in TFGBV. A global civil society worker commented on the spillover between patriarchal oppression on and offline:

> *"One thing that was sort of evident was that there was the whole real-life patriarchy that gets translated into the online world. The moral policing, targeting women, targeting minority communities, targeting ethnic groups. I think that cut across all the countries, targeting women and LGBTQ+. Women who were considered to have stepped out of the traditional patriarchal role [...] those that had stepped out of the house and beyond their roles that were assigned to them."*
>
> – KII, CSO, Global

This sentiment is echoed by an academic representative from Jordan:

> *"This issue is not only related to Jordanian society, but patriarchy is also present in all Arab societies, making the man the sole decision-maker and the sovereign within the family, while the woman is portrayed as the victim of acts of violence. So, this mentality in Jordan is part of a wider Arab society. I think patriarchy can be present in all societies."*
>
> – KII, Academic Group, Jordan

Decoding Technology-Facilitated
Gender-Based Violence

Seventy per cent of the people we interviewed emphasised that patriarchal rules, practices, and understandings of power are among the key root causes of TFGBV within their contexts. A civil society representative from Indonesia described how, "Current patriarchal culture [is] contributing to TFGBV cases. It's the patriarchy mindset to control women or those who did not follow the standard."

4.1 Patriarchal practices behind TFGBV limit progress towards gender equity and women's empowerment

Patriarchal practices vary from context to context, but there are several common links between the influence of patriarchy and the resulting impact on women and marginalised groups who experience TFGBV. For example, women who are journalists who experience TFGBV may remove themselves from online spaces; or women who are politicians have reduced their participation in public and political life, which in turn reduces their capacity within positions of leadership.[81] Similar silencing of women has been seen throughout history, where women's voices are not included in vital public debate.

Technology has played an increasing role in easing the spread of patriarchal narratives. This is a significant risk to progress which has been made towards gender equity. Patriarchy primarily asserts its dominance in offline spaces, but the era of digital and technological acceleration has amplified and spread patriarchal ideas: patriarchal language and power structures are expressed through social media platforms, reinforcing patriarchal norms, sexual aggression, and the marginalisation of women.[82,83] Diverse forms of patriarchy can then transcend borders and reach men who sign up to these ideas, who might not have otherwise been influenced. For example, we interviewed an activist in Uganda who spoke of the influence of harmful narratives fed by high-profile international actors on young Ugandan men:

"Every day I find myself blocking somebody who is resharing Andrew Tate & Elon Musk. They've given the courage to all these young men, because now the internet is like really connected and these young men that are joining their internet are being encouraged to be bold, and to abuse women."

– KII, Activist, Uganda

The anonymity, speed, and accessibility of the digital sphere means patriarchal ideas can be spread even more efficiently and to a wider audience than ever before, while giving perpetrators more freedom to commit acts of violence within digital spaces.[84]

The increased use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools for everyday life is replicating gender inequalities and stereotypes, while also being used to filter out content that is promoting gender equity. AI tools are also being used to create sexualised images of females and develop and spread harmful deep fakes.[85] Fourteen of our interviewees said they thought AI is perpetuating TFGBV via online spaces and digital technologies that lack gender protection. For example, an academic representative in South Africa commented:

"The issue of the cyber misogyny where the female voice is suppressed, the female voice is undermined and then those patriarchal voices are elevated and given a certain level of unfair recognition, which makes the female voice inferior... The whole patriarchal set up that is associated with our societies in the offline space, it's manifesting quite a lot in the cyberspaces."

– KII, Academic Group, South Africa

4.2 Cultural and religious practices are intertwined with gender and social norms that contribute to TFGBV

Religion has a strong bearing on shaping individual and community values. Social, cultural, and religious ideas about morality and gender play a crucial role in shaping perceptions of women and other marginalised groups, and how they should behave, across all our focus countries.[86,87] Patriarchal practices permeate culture and religion and vice versa, giving rise to stringent norms around gender roles and societal status, although this is not a universal principle.[88]

Religion can be misinterpreted to justify unfavourable rhetoric against certain societal groups. For instance, in Indonesia, state commissions, militant Islamists, and mainstream religious organisations have propagated anti-LGBTQI+ rhetoric, fostering hostility towards the LGBTQI+ community.[89] Similarly, in Uganda, religion has been used to by US-backed evangelical churches to endorse stringent laws promoting heterosexuality and con-

demning homosexuality, contributing to an environment deemed "one of the worst places to be gay".[90]

Over three quarters (78%) of study participants said these influences contribute to forms of TFGBV, such as online harassment or abuse; 74% highlighted that cultural and religious behaviour patterns are used to regulate how women are depicted online, what content they are permitted to share, and how they should use technology. In various countries, religious practices may include gender-specific requirements regarding appearance, attire, household roles, and other socio-cultural and demographic aspects. [91] Some images are deemed contrary to local religious standards (e.g., images of a woman in her swimsuit) and have been used to threaten individuals. A civil society representative in Uganda told us:

"A very common example I should say, in my case, if I took a picture at the beach and I posted it on my social media, I may get hate speech. There will be comments like: "why are you dressed like that? You're a [religious] girl"[...] So in that case, yes, religion can be a factor, because it's censorship, you are not free to post what you want."

– KII, CSO, Uganda

Religious norms clearly influence TFGBV in these cases. A study from Jordan shows that social norms also lead men to negatively view and restrict women's use of social media or the internet.[92] Interviewees highlighted how gender norms imposed by social background contribute to incidents of TFGBV. A civil society representative in Morocco described:

"Most people who experience TFGBV are women because of the perceived gender norms. The cultural norms and family upbringing contribute to viewing women as easy bait that anyone can harass or defame; women are seen as second-class citizens."

– KII, CSO, Morocco

Technology and online spaces allow people to weaponise oppressive norms, inflicting acts of violence against vulnerable groups such as women and LGBTQI+ people. A civil society representative from Uganda spoke of the *"highly traditional society, especially in Africa",* which is *"based on patriarchy...on homophobia...on economic status... Yeah, I would say also traditional culture in each context contributes to tech-facilitated violence"* (KII, CSO, Uganda).

Decoding Technology-Facilitated
Gender-Based Violence

Effectiveness of prevention and accountability mechanisms

Our research into the effectiveness of efforts to prevent and mitigate TFGBV, including accountability mechanisms for TFGBV at national and global levels, resulted in the following headline findings:

4. Legislation exists across countries to address TFGBV; however, gaps in their coverage of the TFGBV spectrum remain, alongside inconsistent and inadequate implementation.

5. Current legislation to protect against TFGBV often conflicts with other legislation, resulting in a legal double-edged sword.

6. The reporting mechanisms for TFGBV have limited effectiveness since reporting is often disadvantageous for survivors.

7. Current TFGBV initiatives are forging a promising path towards collaborative progress in addressing TFGBV.

FINDING 5

Legislation addressing TFGBV exists across countries, but gaps and inconsistent implementation remain.

Key takeaways:
Inadequate legislation fails to fully protect people from TFGBV

- Legislation to tackle TFGBV directly and implicitly exists in all seven countries, but it is narrow in scope and fails to address the multifaceted nature of violence. Many types of TFGBV are treated as civil rather than criminal crimes, and some fall under the remit of free speech.

- In instances where legal provisions are more inclusive, their impact is significantly undermined by poor implementation, due to poor understanding, biases, and sexism, among other factors. This gap between law and enforcement presents a serious challenge. Robust training for law enforcement and legal bodies is vital.

5.1 All seven countries lack legislation to directly combat the full spectrum of TFGBV

Our research identified various legal frameworks that address TFGBV directly and implicitly across the seven focus countries (see table 1 below), and legislation protecting against at least some forms of TFGBV. However, laws that do exist are narrow in scope and fail to account for the full spectrum of violence. They are frequently outdated, due to being formulated in an era when the language and comprehension of technology was limited.

Laws directly targeting specific forms of TFGBV include Indonesia's *Undang-Undang Tindak Pidana Kekerasan Seksual (UU TPKS),* commonly referred to as TPKS, or in English, the Law on Electronic-Based Sexual Violence. This law prohibits recording and sharing sexual content without a person's consent, as well as stalking people for sexual purposes.[93] In South Africa, the Protection from Harassment Act (2011) enables survivors to obtain protection orders against perpetrators of harassment, including TFGBV – therefore addressing TFGBV implicitly as part of broader legislation.[94] Some laws target cyber-crimes, such as Jordan's Law on Electronic Crimes Number 27/2015, which includes an article against pornography.[95] However, overall, major legislative gaps remain, and there are scant or negligible consideration of the gendered aspect of TFGBV across the seven countries.

Table 1

Examples of national legislation which can be used to protect against some forms of TFGBV

Indonesia:	The TPKS Law. Information and Electronic Transactions Law (UU ITE). The Ministry of Education Regulations 2021 & 2023.
Jordan	Law 17/2023 on Electronic Crimes. Protection from Family Violence Law. Articles in the Penal Code.
Lebanon:	Law 205/2020 - Sexual Harassment Law. Article on Defamation in the Penal Code.
Morocco:	Law 103-13. Article 503 of the Criminal code. Law 22-20 to Combat Disinformation. Law 098-0800 on the Protection of Private Information. The Journalism Law.
Rwanda:	Law 60/2018 – Cybercrime Law.
South Africa:	Sexual Violence Act. Cybercrimes Act. Protection from Harrassment Act 2011. Privacy and Data Protection Legislation. Computer Crimes Law. Domestic Violence Act.
Uganda:	The Anti-Pornography Act 2015. Computer Misuse Act 2011. The Data Protection and Privacy Act of 2019. The Uganda Communications Act. The Ant-Torture Act.

5.2 Some forms of TFGBV are not treated as criminal acts but instead as "free speech" issues, with dire implications for survivors

The legislative frameworks in place currently do not cover the full spectrum of TFGBV. Only specific forms of TFGBV (meeting predefined criteria) are legislated against and criminalised. Some forms of TFGBV – such as image-based abuse (IBA), impersonation, defamation, threats of violence, stalking and other invasions of privacy – are civil and/or criminal offences in some countries (Jordan, Lebanon, Rwanda, and Uganda). However, other forms of TFGBV – including non-criminal online harassment, trolling, online mobbing, or creating and disseminating non-sexualised deepfakes – may simply be considered "speech or expression".[96]

Our interviews confirmed these findings.

5.3 Fear of stigma and retribution deters people from taking legal action, and law enforcement and prosecutors often fail to act

Another major challenge is that people often avoid using legislation, for multiple reasons. For example, in Indonesia, only 25 out of 489 OGBV/KBGO[i] cases that were reported to LBH Apik Jakarta (a women's legal aid organisation in Jakarta) in 2020, were raised to the police, and only 2 cases were processed in court.[97] In Jordan, a report by the task force for the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS), a global initiative to support the recording and prosecution of GBV, reveals that most survivors who raise TFGBV cases to organisations then decline referrals for legal assistance and security services. This is further compounded by underreporting due to cultural norms and fears of shame, and stigma, or even punishments.[98]

Narrow legislation and poor implementation by institutions are huge challenges. Laws around online safeguarding and security are generally genderblind, non-specific to TFGBV or its various forms, and inconsistently implemented. Laws such as the Computer Misuse Act 2022 in Uganda, which was introduced in Uganda to enhance the protection of the right to privacy by addressing the issues arising from the misuse of online and social media platforms, but which fails to factor in the gender dimensions of TFGBV.[99] Varying levels of understanding and perceptions among the authorities (e.g., law enforcement personnel) and policymakers drive inconsistent or lack of implementation, with personal bias (e.g., gender bias), misconceptions, and sexism also playing a role.[100] A

civil society representative in Uganda refers to this issue: *"The justice and law and order system, the different policymakers need to understand what TFGBV is, and what it means when it comes to access to justice for young people and all communities"* (KII, CSO, Uganda). A civil society interviewee in Indonesia reflects on the lack of legal knowledge among investigators:

> *"There was an experience when assisting an OGBV case in which they met investigators who did not understand that there is a TPKS Law, they did not even know there is a TPKS Law. So, the TPKS law needs to be socialised to law enforcement officers in the field."*
>
> – KII, CSO, Indonesia

Another issue is that the anonymity provided by technology can make it difficult to identify and prosecute perpetrators. A civil society representative in Morocco describes this challenge:

> *"They [the perpetrator/s] were acting under the cover of anonymity that the technology, the Internet and technology communications allow... And that has real implications for being able to investigate and prosecute and punish these types of crimes when you've got half of the aggressors who are unknown."*
>
> – KII, CSO, Morocco

---

i KGBO stands for Kekerasan Berbasis Gender Online – the term for online gender-based violence in Indonesia.

FINDING 6

Current legislation to protect against TFGBV often conflicts with other legislation, resulting in a legal double-edged sword

Key takeaways:

Keep up pressure on governments to rebalance legislation to protect not prosecute survivors, and promote public awareness of legislation

- Addressing TFGBV in a way that guarantees justice for survivors can be highly complex. Legislation aimed at protecting against TFGBV frequently clashes with other laws and articles, resulting in prosecution rather than protection for survivors.

- This legislative double-edged sword creates a challenging environment, deterring people from reporting TFGBV. The fear of potential re-victimisation further increases people's reluctance to report crimes.

- It is important to keep up the pressure on governments to rebalance laws to protect survivors and implement public information campaigns and education around law and rights.

Our research reveals a concerning trend where laws intended to address TFGBV might be wielded against survivors who courageously report such crimes. For example, laws on sexual orientation, (premarital) sexual activity, gender identity, or sex work can put the survivor at risk of being charged or prosecuted, which deters people from reporting TFGBV incidents.[101]

In the past (2014), in Uganda, numerous survivors of non-consensual intimate image sharing were charged with an offence, with the survivor held equally liable as the perpetrator under Section 13 of the Anti-Pornography Act.[102] In Indonesia, TFGBV survivors who report non-consensual intimate image sharing are vulnerable to accusations of violating "decency" protocols, even when they have not consented to the sharing of images or videos.[103]

Lebanon and Jordan were the only two countries where interviewees did not mention these issues. This is likely because their laws to address TFGBV or cybercrime are fairly new (2020[104] and 2023[105] respectively) and few lessons have yet emerged from implementation, as two interviewees describe:

"The law is still new and being implemented, we're pushing for its wider enforcement. Once the law is put into effect, we can begin to identify loopholes."

– KII, Policymaker/Government Official Lebanon

"The gaps and areas for improvement only appear after the laws are implemented on the ground."

– KII, CSO, Jordan

It will be crucial for organisations and partnerships to monitor the impact of this law and challenges around implementation, to help shape evidence-based interventions for to protect survivors.

6.1 Legislation in Indonesia puts survivors of TFGBV at risk of being prosecuted

In Indonesia, the LGBTQI+ community are more reluctant to report cases of TFGBV because they are afraid that laws can be used to criminalise them, for example the New Criminal Code (2022) which contains oppressive and vague provisions that open the door to invasions of privacy and selective enforcement that will enable the police to extort bribes, lawmakers to harass political opponents, and officials to jail ordinary bloggers.

In addition, the Indonesian Information and Electronic Law (UU ITE) law, which criminalises online defamation, can be used by perpetrators to sue survivors in cases where the act of TFGBV cannot be proven.[106] The Pornography Law in Indonesia has also been used to indict a woman who was coerced sexually and recorded unknowingly, as one of the perpetrators of the "spread and creation of pornographic content". Article 8 of the law criminalises any involvement of individuals in pornographic content, even if they are coerced. In 2021, 44 out of 120 service providers for survivors of domestic violence said that there were efforts to criminalise survivors under the Pornography Law, according to the National Commission of Violence Against Women. The Criminal Code, ITE Law, and Pornography Law prohibit offences against decency, with the aim of protecting public morality. However, the prohibitions within these laws only focus on the content and not on how the content was obtained or shared, leading to the prosecution and criminalisation of TFGBV survivors.[107]

Nine out of ten key informants from Indonesia highlighted these gaps as being limitations within legislation that exists to protect TFGBV survivors:

> *"When victims seek justice in the digital space, they can become lawbreakers. Victims are not helped because they become entangled in legal cases."*
>
> – KII, Policymaker/Government Official, Indonesia

The Pornography Law is used against survivors of non-consensual intimate image abuse (NCII) when their intimate images are shared, with survivors accused of immoral behaviour. There is a call to amend this law to ensure the protection of TFGBV survivors upon reporting, as one key informant stated:

> *"Activists for ITE Law revision are advocating for Article 27, Paragraph 1 to be taken down."*
>
> – KII, CSO, Indonesia

It will be vital for civil society – with support of programmes such as Generation G – to keep up the pressure on the government to amend this legislation.

6.2 Laws in Uganda and Rwanda can be used to prosecute TFGBV survivors

The 2023 Anti-Homosexuality Act in Uganda is likely to prevent individuals from the LGBTQI+ community from taking legal action when they are subjected to TFGBV. This is because the Act makes it legal to enforce a punishment of life imprisonment for same-sex conduct.[108] 73% of interview participants from Uganda also indicated that the Anti-pornography Act of 2014, which should protect individuals from the non-consensual creation and sharing of images, can also be used to criminalise them, as a civil society staffer describes:

> *"The problem is that that Act had clauses that could have double victimised the victim…. If one day someone's photos get leaked on the Internet, and she goes to report it to the police, they will arrest her first."*
>
> – KII, CSO, Uganda

Rwandans face similar challenges. According to key informants, the law against the distribution of pornography can be used to criminalise TFGBV survivors if intimate content is shared. One civil society worker describes:

> *"We had a case where someone leaked a video. They were giving these women alcohol and filming them without their consent. But*

it's the woman who got arrested; I don't remember seeing the guy get arrested. That was a very popular, [widely known] case."

– KII, CSO, Rwanda

6.3 Efforts to address TFGBV in Morocco are obstructed by laws used to criminalise members of the LGBTQI+ community and women

The greatest challenge facing the LGBTQI+ community when addressing TFGBV in Morocco is the risk of prosecution because of their gender identity and sexual orientation. People currently face prison sentences of six months to three years for homosexuality under the Moroccan Penal Code. In 2017 alone, 197 people were prosecuted under this act.[109]

Another issue highlighted by all three key informants is that there is an article within the Moroccan Criminal Act that prohibits relationships outside marriage. This means that women or girls who report acts of TFGBV – such as online harassment, NCII, or defamation – may be prosecuted because they have engaged in intimate relationships without being legally married. And this has a chilling effect on reporting, as one civil society worker describes: *"The fact that sexual relations outside of marriage are illegal prevents women from reporting the violence to the police authorities"* [KII, CSO, Morocco].

However, another interviewee highlights that this law does not apply to cases of TFGBV, but that due to a lack of legal awareness among the public, those who experience TFGBV still refrain from reporting because they fear being criminalised:

"In the Moroccan Public Prosecution, court, and judiciary police, this article does not apply to victims of TFGBV. It is considered that the complainant came because her images are being shared, she is being abused through the digital space, and her private information is at risk of being publicised. So, a very positive thing is that article 490 is not applied in these cases."

– KII, CSO, Morocco

Public information campaigns and better education on the law and how it protects people are crucial to encourage survivors to come forward.

6.4 Perpetrators of TFGBV in South Africa can use the law to sue survivors upon reporting crimes

In South Africa, legislation can be used against survivors of TFGBV. This is usually because perpetrators are considered to have the right to defend themselves against defamation, four out of nine interviewees confirm. In several instances, perpetrators of TFGBV prosecute survivors once they report such crimes, on the basis that plaintiffs are sharing information to harm the TFGBV perpetrator. In this way, *"legislation further victimised the survivors"* (KII, CSO, South Africa). Thus, laws which can be interpreted or used in this way, must be revised, amended and rebalanced to protect survivors.

FINDING 7

Reporting mechanisms for TFGBV have limited effectiveness as reporting is often disadvantageous for survivors

Key takeaways:
Take action to remove barriers to reporting and end criminalisation of survivors

- Limited reporting is currently a major problem seen across all case study countries. Underreporting is largely influenced by complex and burdensome reporting mechanisms, victim blaming cultures and fear of prosecution, as well as lack of trust in police and justice systems, and histories of poor outcomes/ consequences for perpetrators.

- Barriers to people reporting crimes mean that legislation, or other potential accountability mechanisms for TFGBV, is not fully used and perpetrators evade justice.

- The criminalisation of survivors due to complex and conflicting legislation also contributes to the lack of justice and failure to adequately tackle TFGBV. Recommendations 2 and 3 below call for advocacy efforts in legislative reform and the improvement of reporting mechanisms, illuminating why it is essential to address both challenges in tandem.

The chronic underuse of TFGBV reporting mechanisms is a key finding of our research – in line with trends for gender-based violence more broadly. Multiple factors contribute to poor reporting trends, including the burden associated with reporting TFGBV, limited awareness of the available reporting mechanisms, and the inadequacy of legal frameworks linked to reporting.

The issue is not that reporting mechanisms do not exist in the countries of this study. All seven focus countries have TFGBV reporting mechanisms in place – typically involving survivors filing abuse reports at law enforcement offices – as well as government initiatives to promote and facilitate reporting. NGOs dedicated to addressing TFGBV play a vital role by offering legal support services: they assist survivors in reporting cases by either connecting them to frameworks or directly filing reports through referral mechanisms to legal bodies.

Use of these mechanisms is often very low, however – for multiple reasons.

7.1 Low levels of reporting are spurred by complex and burdensome reporting mechanisms, and the risk of poor outcomes/consequences for perpetrators
Our research finds that laws to hold perpetrators accountable are not fully implemented due to limited reporting of TFGBV cases: 37 of 50 stakeholders refer to this in interviews. Those who are affected by TFGBV often refrain from reporting for several reasons: low awareness about protective legislation, a lack of trust in favourable outcomes, and sociocultural influences such as stigma and victim blaming.

Personal and cultural reasons deter people from reporting. Almost half (42%) the people we spoke to say TFGBV survivors might also avoid reporting incidents for personal and cultural reasons, such as the need to protect themselves from further – potentially physical – violence. Survivors also fear family and social stigma linked to TFGBV incidents becoming public (e.g., via photos or chats). An academic in Jordan comments:
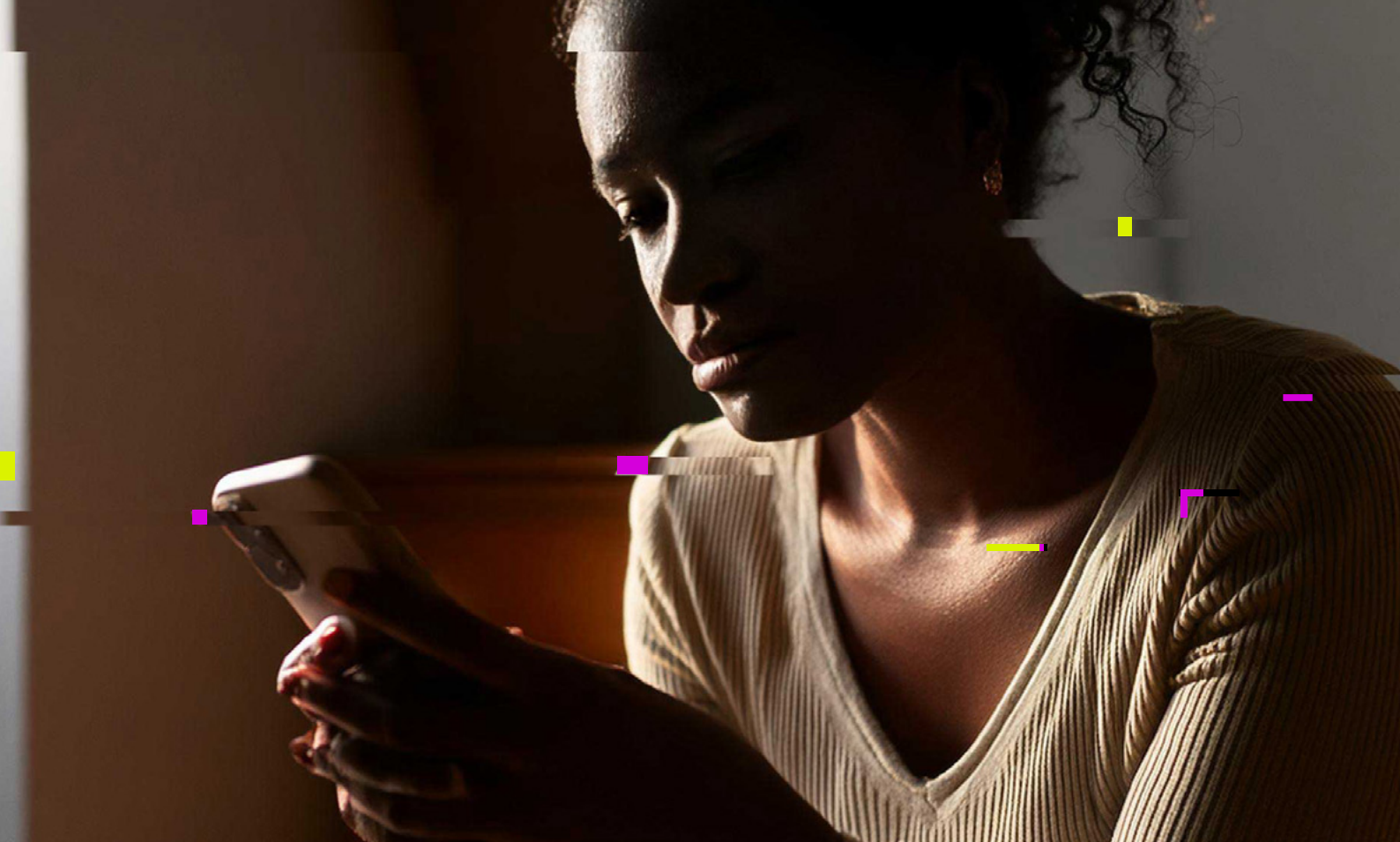
> *"Victim blaming prevents women from reporting or reacting to violence that they are subjected to […]. Women are always afraid of the consequences that might occur if they report these crimes because society always criminalises women and not perpetrators."*
>
> – KII, Academic Group, Jordan

> *"The social consequences might include divorce, domestic issues, or even domestic murder; honour killings sometimes result from social media posts or pictures, where the girl is murdered by her parents or brothers because they see this as a breach of their private lives."*
>
> – KII, Academic Group, Jordan

Family and social stigma alienates survivors, further reducing their willingness/ability to report. A civil society worker from Uganda describes: *"Reporting is often characterised by stigma, you have to be bold, you really have to be resilient, and you should be able to have support and have people backing you up"* (KII, CSO, Uganda). [j]

Fear of physical violence is a major deterrent to reporting crimes. In some countries, there have been extreme family responses – including honour killings – to TFGBV. One key informant describes:

Perpetrators of TFGBV can inflict further violence on survivors, sometimes resulting in physical harm. A civil society worker from Uganda describes:

> *"Women who reported their former boyfriends or former man friends have taken the violence offline, and every time they call them, they're abused, they threaten them… Women don't want to report because they feel they will be victimised."*
>
> – KII, CSO, Uganda

---

j See the 2022 UNODC Femicide brief.

Lack of trust in the police and the justice system also stops people coming forward. Almost a quarter (24%) of key informants believe that overall trust in law enforcement is often limited and prohibits reporting, because the outcome of TFGBV cases does not typically favour victims. Similar to trends seen in reporting gender-based violence, reporting cases of TFGBV does not usually lead to justice for survivors. According to interviews, police officers are often ignorant about what TFGBV involves:

> *"The law enforcers aren't aware of the different ways in which the violence manifests and what they can do to mitigate in their power as law enforcers."*
>
> – KII, CSO, Uganda

Sometimes, police might follow cultural rather than legal norms:

> *"If anything happens within a family setup before a woman can think about calling the police and taking a man to court, the chief [of the community] must intervene, and you will find that the chief will want to follow the cultural customs and cultural norms."*
>
> – KII, CSO, South Africa

Further, the police are not proactive in taking action to bring perpetrators to justice, denting people's faith in the justice system, as a civil society worker in South Africa describes: *"People who experience TFGBV will say I won't go and open a case because at the end of the day the person who has violated me will never be put to justice"* (KII, CSO South Africa).

The complex and demanding process for reporting crimes is another deterrent. Over a quarter (26%) of interviewees mentioned the burdensome processes for reporting – including emotional trauma and economic implications – are a key reason for people not coming forward. Upon reporting crimes, survivors are often requested to provide substantial evidence, which might not always be available, or place them at a higher risk of violence and counter-prosecution for defamation. A civil society worker in Morocco comments on these challenges:

> *"The effectiveness of those reporting frameworks is somewhat limited because TFGBV cases are difficult to prove. Women's phones can be taken away, and evidence might be deleted. So there's an issue with providing proof for those crimes"*
>
> – KII, CSO, Morocco

Decoding Technology-Facilitated
Gender-Based Violence

Generally, people describe the processes for reporting as complex and slow, requiring consistent follow-up by the person who submitted the report. This need for follow-up is a major burden for TFGBV survivors, as it means time and costs due to travel and time off work.

> *"There is a cost element because you cannot go to court without money, you need to hire a lawyer to stand for you. So, then the people would prefer a quick solution rather than following the right procedure, which is expensive to many people."*
>
> – KII, CSO, Uganda

People in Morocco face similar financial barriers:

> *"One of the articles in law 103-13 states that if the file is not followed up by the complainant, the case is dropped. Girls stop following up on their files because they don't have the financial means to do so."*
>
> – KII, CSO, Morocco

Legal processes can be traumatic for survivors. Upon reporting, survivors relive the incident of violence, as they have to give specific details, leaving them with extensive emotional turmoil, which is further compounded by the psychological impact of social stigma:

> *"Reporting is often characterised by stigma, you have to be bold, you have to be resilient... Coming out to report is one thing and then the process that you have to go through is another, there is a journey to seek healing and to seek justice, you are still interfacing with the perpetrator."*
>
> – KII, CSO, Uganda

7.2 Inadequate awareness about TFGBV crimes among the public highly restricts reporting incidents

Low levels of knowledge about the different forms of TFGBV, what constitutes a crime, and the various available reporting mechanisms available can deter people from reporting crimes, as 40% of key informants highlight. A government official in Lebanon describes: *"A lot of people aren't aware when such incidents occur or aren't aware that there are reporting mechanisms. The cases that committed suicide because of this did not know that help was available"* (KII, Policymaker/Government Official, Lebanon). A civil society worker in Uganda speaks of the mistrust of official bodies:

> *"Not many people know that they exist and to what purpose they exist and there's no trust that if I spent all the time and money to try and get my justice for this experience of violence using technology that it will bear fruit. So, there's a climate of mistrust and distrust in legal processes and systems."*
>
> – KII, CSO, Uganda

A key informant from Uganda, who had previously experienced TFGBV, says: *"I didn't take any action. It's only lately that I realise you can report"* (KII, CSO, Uganda).

The literature supports these findings, particularly when looking at reporting practices among vulnerable sub-populations – for example children, women without a formal education, and refugees.[110] Children or adolescents might be reluctant to report because they need parental or guardian support in reporting, while in most cases they would rather hide the cases from their families.[111]

FINDING 8

Current TFGBV initiatives, like awareness-raising, are progressing but need enhanced collaborative engagement

Key takeaways:

Efforts to address TFGBV are nascent but growing, and require robust collaboration to move forward effectively

- Organisations spanning diverse sectors are implementing initiatives to address TFGBV, with a particular focus on awareness building and education.

- Programmes often operate via multi-stakeholder collaboration – bringing together community leaders, NGOs, CSOs, and national or regional governments. This provides a strong foundation for efforts to address TFGBV.

- More resources and continued collaboration will enable programmes to build on these foundations to minimise the impacts of TFGBV across all countries. Effectively combatting TFGBV demands sustained collaboration among many different organisations and sectors, to foster a safer and more equitable online environment, across the spectrum of issues raised in this report. Achieving meaningful progress in the fight against TFGBV calls for a collective and cohesive effort, where each sector plays a crucial role in contributing to a comprehensive and unified approach.

Efforts to address TFGBV are nascent but proliferating. Monitoring their effectiveness and any challenges that arise will help guide and strengthen future activities. Civil society and academic groups across the globe are conducting research to better understand the nature of TFGBV, in addition to raising awareness on the issue. In some countries, other actors, such as national governments, are also taking action to address TFGBV, which is critical to ensuring a concerted and sustained approach.

Most stakeholders' efforts (70%) are focused on raising awareness – primarily educating people about TFGBV, how to recognise a case of TFGBV, and the importance of recognising TFGBV as a form of gender-based violence. Although many programmes have limited resources (human and financial), interview participants say that current efforts are largely effective in increasing people's understanding of TFGBV. However, the full extent of the effectiveness of these initiatives is yet to be determined, because many programmes are in their early stages.

8.1 CSOs and academics are leading efforts to understand and prevent TFGBV

Our scoping review revealed a wide range of organisations working to address TFGBV at the national level in our seven focus countries. Most of the activity we found is driven by NGOs/CSOs in partnership with (I)NGOs. For our interviews, too, stakeholders largely come from CSOs, indicating their efforts to address TFGBV. Our interviewees told us about programmes that they run or know of that aim to address TFGBV as part of a TFGBV-specific project or as part of a wider existing project (i.e., not directly focusing on TFGBV but involving certain aspects of it). These efforts include digital safety training, research, and legislative advocacy. Several examples are captured below.

Global

End Technology Enabled Abuse (EndTAB) is a global training organisation that empowers people to address and prevent gender-based violence occurring online and via devices. An important aspect of EndTAB's work is the monitoring of trends in TFGBV, to enhance early detection and provide support to survivors in a timely and efficient manner. EndTAB's training programmes have been successful, as evidenced by repeated follow-up requests for training sessions. A global civil society worker comment:

"I train judges in different states all over the U.S., and I don't even look at the laws that they have in those states because it's not about the law, it is about training a judge to one, appreciate tech-facilitated by abuse as they should, and two, to really understand it. So, I spent a lot of time educating them on the severity of the abuse so they can develop empathy and understanding and then give them tools to deal with it... I always get asked back because judges tell other judges because nobody has approached them with this before... and because they didn't grow up in a digital world, they don't appreciate the order of magnitude of tech facilitated violence."

– KII, CSO, Global

Uganda

In Uganda, the women's rights organisation WOUGNET is a clear example of peer-level advocacy. WOUGNET has been working towards creating an inclusive and just society, where all women and girls can effectively use ICT in a safe environment. Since its establishment in 2000, it has undertaken multiple projects and initiatives, including research on online gender-based violence, and its types, forms, spread, and underlying causes. WOUGNET has also conducted research on internet governance and the shrinking civic space. The organisation is actively involved in digital literacy, digital security, and online safety initiatives, backed up by their extensive research findings.

Another example in Uganda is HER INTERNET, which has been conducting digital literacy workshops to raise awareness of the potential risks and opportunities of engaging in online spaces. This initiative is crucial to ensuring that individuals can navigate online environments safely, recognise instances of TFGBV, and know how to address them. A civil society worker in Uganda describes:

"They [digital literacy workshops] have been effective in that there's been an increase in uptake of digital safety information and knowledge within the communities that we serve [...] And then we've also seen the response that we have with our engagements, when we send out a call for applications we get overwhelming responses, which means that those who benefited previously have spread this message to others who want to also benefit equally. So, I believe it's been very impactful in terms of the increase in the level of engagement with our interventions and the uptake of digital safety knowledge."

– KII, CSO, Uganda

Indonesia

In Indonesia, there are several programmes addressing TFGBV in different ways, particularly at legislative and policy level. The KBGO Taskforce (OGBV Taskforce) is a good example of effective programming to support survivors by referring them to psychosocial and legal services, as well as providing advice on how to stay safe online. Their experience reveals clear power imbalances in this field, as the law is not designed to support the interests of survivors and their pursuit of justice.

SafeNet, a CSO in Indonesia, initially focused on securing freedom of expression but has expanded its advocacy to include digital rights and the right to feel safe online, actively raising awareness, and addressing KBGO.[k] The organisation has found that non-consensual sharing of intimate images (NCII) abuse constitutes over half of the cases of online gender-based violence reported by survivors. In response, SafeNet has developed guidelines to address NCII and provide information on what to do

---

k KGBO stands for Kekerasan Berbasis Gender Online – the term for online gender-based violence in Indonesia.

if someone is subjected to this form of abuse. These guidelines have become highly popular, being the most downloaded on SafeNet's website. Although there has been an increase in OGBV cases, our interviewee noted a positive trend in that more organisations offer help and support to survivors. They emphasised the importance of appropriate and non-harmful responses from these organisations. Further, despite SafeNet being unable to provide survivors with psychological support, they note the importance of partnerships such as the one with KitaBisa.com mentioned below, to fill such capacity gaps, emphasising the importance of collaboration and coordination to address problems such as TFGBV.

> *"SafeNet is among the organisations that received donations from 'KawanPuan' crowdfund from KitaBisa.com platform, which was specifically channelled for victims' psychological counselling, and since 2021, has been one of the most used services"*
>
> – KII, CSO, Indonesia

Jordan

In Jordan, the **Centre for Women's Studies at the University of Jordan** primarily focuses on addressing TFGBV through academic research and awareness-raising initiatives. Academic research is crucial for understanding and detecting the prevalence of TFGBV within society. The Centre for Women's Studies also conducts seminars and conventions for university students. An academic representative commented:

> *"Our awareness sessions cover topics such as existing laws, self-protection strategies, and preventing individuals from becoming perpetrators of TFGBV. Additionally, the centre uses media platforms to highlight and draw attention to the issue."*
>
> – KII, Academic Group, Jordan

The GBV Sub-Working Group (GBV SWG)[l] also coordinates initiatives around TFGBV. The group took part in the international 16 Days of Activism against GBV in 2021, producing campaign messages on TFGBV. These messages were collectively developed with diverse participants in Jordan, including people of different genders and nationalities, among them Syrian refugees.[112] The campaign advocated for the safety of everyone, with a particular focus on women and girls in online spaces. It encouraged people to report any incidents they encountered and provided information on accessing confidential support and guiding people to the cybercrime unit. The campaign also emphasised the importance of saving logs, screenshots, chats, emails, and SMS evidence of TFGBV to use as proof, if needed.

Other important activities on TFGBV in Jordan include the GBVIMS[m] team launching an online reporting system during the COVID-19 pandemic. This system enables survivors to report incidents of GBV, including TFGBV, and seek assistance through the online reporting platform.[113]

Rwanda

TFGBV has been described by interviewees as a new concept in Rwanda. As a result, there is a lack of specific programmes targeting TFGBV, although many do focus on physical forms of gender-based violence. There are advocacy activities around TFGBV to raise awareness, but these are recent, and their effectiveness has not yet been evaluated.

One important initiative currently being implemented in Rwanda is the **Women@Web** programme, established by **DW Akademie** to promote women's participation online through digital literacy and digital skills training. The primary goal is to enable women to use the internet safely and freely. The DW Akademie combats OGBV by providing capacity building for women and advocating for the implementation of policies and regulations to protect women in the digital space and ensure accountability for perpetrators of TFGBV.[114]

---

l The GBV SWG is a coordinating body with the objective to strengthen GBV prevention and response in Jordan with a focus on emergency settings. It works to facilitate multi sectoral, inter-agency action aimed at prevention of GBV, and to ensure a principled approach to the provision of accessible, prompt, confidential and appropriate services to survivors of SGBV.

m The GBVIMS is a multi-agency initiative that was created to harmonize data collection on GBV in humanitarian settings, to provide a simple system for GBV project managers to collect, store and analyze their data, and to enable the safe and ethical sharing of reported GBV incident data. For more information see: GBVIMS: Gender-Based Violence Information Management System

Lebanon

Lebanon has been making significant strides in developing successful programmes on TFGBV, particularly when it comes to raising awareness on the topic and introducing legislation. The National Commission for Lebanese Women has produced a film to raise awareness on the topic of cyber extortion, which went on to win the award for the Best Awareness Film at the 45th Conference of Arab Police and Security Leaders in Tunesia. This led to subsequent campaigns on awareness raising in schools, targeting teenagers, and raising awareness on the penal code and reporting mechanisms. This collaboration is further being expanded to judges, inspectors at the Ministry of Labour, the Bar Association, and the Higher Judicial Council to raise awareness of the law and encourage effective implementation.

Justice without Frontiers in Lebanon have produced a special legal booklet that outlines all relevant legal information, including a summary of national laws, and how the court is dealing with cyberbullying. It also includes information on hotlines where people can report cases of cyberbullying and/or for survivors to seek support. The booklet has achieved significant outreach, distributed to 1,700 school students so far. Justice without Frontiers also conducts continuous social media campaigns to raise awareness on cyberbullying.

South Africa

Organisations in South Africa have run programmes on TFGBV, particularly on research and advocacy. In 2021, organisations working in law, gender, digital rights, technology, and freedom of expression came together to produce a report, 'Understanding Online Gender-based Violence in South Africa', with support from Meta.[115] The report examines forms of online violence, the existing policy environment and how to address issues, and provides descriptions of affected groups. It has led to additional training for law enforcement officials, helping them be better prepared to investigate and respond to online harassment and digital abuse cases, especially when dealing with survivors from the LGBTQI+ community.

Morocco

In Morocco there are a few CSO initiatives to address online GBV.[n] The 'Stop Digital Violence' app for example can be used for reporting online violence. A civil society representative from the organisation behind the app describes:

"We developed an application called 'Stop Digital Violence', which is available anywhere in Morocco and can be used for reporting. We deal with those complaints, we refer them to proper entities, and stop the act of violence or sharing pictures in social media platforms" KII, CSO, Morocco

While supporting survivors and raising public awareness, these organisations are also involved in demanding policy changes.[o]

8.2 Government and policymakers have made limited contributions to addressing TFGBV. However, as awareness grows, the issue is increasingly being prioritised

Although most efforts to address TFGBV are led by NGOs/CSOs, there are several examples where government bodies have been either key collaborators in delivering activities (including campaigns and awareness-raising activities), or where they have implemented their own activities, such as the creation of reporting mechanisms. For example, a government official in Uganda explained they participated in a programme to prevent child online exploitation, in which government officials were trained in online safety and protecting children who use technology, organised through the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development, in collaboration with the National Information Technology Authority.

The Ugandan government has also been using technology to create solutions for ending TFGBV through accessible mechanisms to report cases. During the COVID-19 pandemic, for example, the Ugandan Ministry of Gender expanded the SafePal mobile application to address the low reporting levels of sexual violence, by enabling people to report instances of sexual abuse, including online incidents: use of SafePal grew, especially among urban youth, university students, and women in the corporate sector.[116]

In Rwanda, the Ministry of Gender, and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF) is a central government institution mandated to ensure strategic coordination of the implementation of national policies, strategies, and programmes regarding the promotion of the family, gender equality, and the protection of children's rights. Upon release of the 2018 Gender Policy in Rwanda, MIGEPROF took part in a panel discussion with representatives from multiple ministerial and governmental bodies on the implementation of the updated policy and its relevance to combatting violence against women online.[117]

Collaborations between NGOs/CSOs and government departments to implement initiatives to protect survivors of TFGBV are proliferating. One CSO representative from Indonesia stressed how important it is to leverage the influence of government departments, thereby strengthening the response to their programming:

"The other practice that is good is the MoU with the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (MoWECP) that started around 2021 and now will be extended to 2025. It is good because SafeNet can intervene strategically to change people's perception of OGBV through the MoWECP, because the MoWECP carries more authority. They also serve as bridge between CSO and the Law Enforcement."

– KII, CSO, Indonesia

In Morocco, a civil society representative noted that through collaboration with government institutions, their organisation is able to engage with government officials, and is able to ensure the government engages with key groups that are vulnerable to TFGBV. Although the effectiveness of these interactions is difficult to measure accurately, this example shows that collaboration facilitates important mandates such as addressing TFGBV. Here they describe how collaboration works:

"We also collaborate with the parliament. Our organisation works on awareness-raising, legislation, and

---

n See for example the work by AMPF: In Morocco, online gender-based violence is real but change makers won't be silenced - Rutgers International

o See for example: JINHAGENCY | Morocco: Awareness-raising campaigns about online violence against women (jinhaagency.com) and Le plaidoyer de l'Association Tahadi contre la violence numérique contre les femme (hespress.com)

empowerment. Through our legislative work, we have built relationships with all ministries, parliamentary groups, and political parties. We made requests that were raised through public workshops that were held for law amendments."

The organisation strives to include certain vulnerable groups:

"Our work is inclusive of women who are single mothers, women who were subjected to child marriage, and women exposed to TFGBV. They are engaged with us in all processes and activities to prevent and protect from discrimination and violence."

Although impact is hard to measure, the organisation has made important headway in putting TFGBV on the radar of government and civil society:

I cannot say that our work has resulted in a lot of change, but I can say loud and clear that we were the first organisation in Morocco to highlight the issue and danger of TFGBV. At the time in 2006, we were looking for a definition for TFGBV, in 2016, we received a case of TFGBV and talked about it a lot in social media. None of the ministries or other organisations talked about TFGBV before then. After this case in 2016, ministries, CSOs, and political entities started raising the issue of TFGBV. We helped with sensitisation and awareness raising, especially among the youth to prevent them from being involved in such harmful acts."

KII, CSO, Morocco

RECOMMENDATION

Decoding Technology-Facilitated
Gender-Based Violence
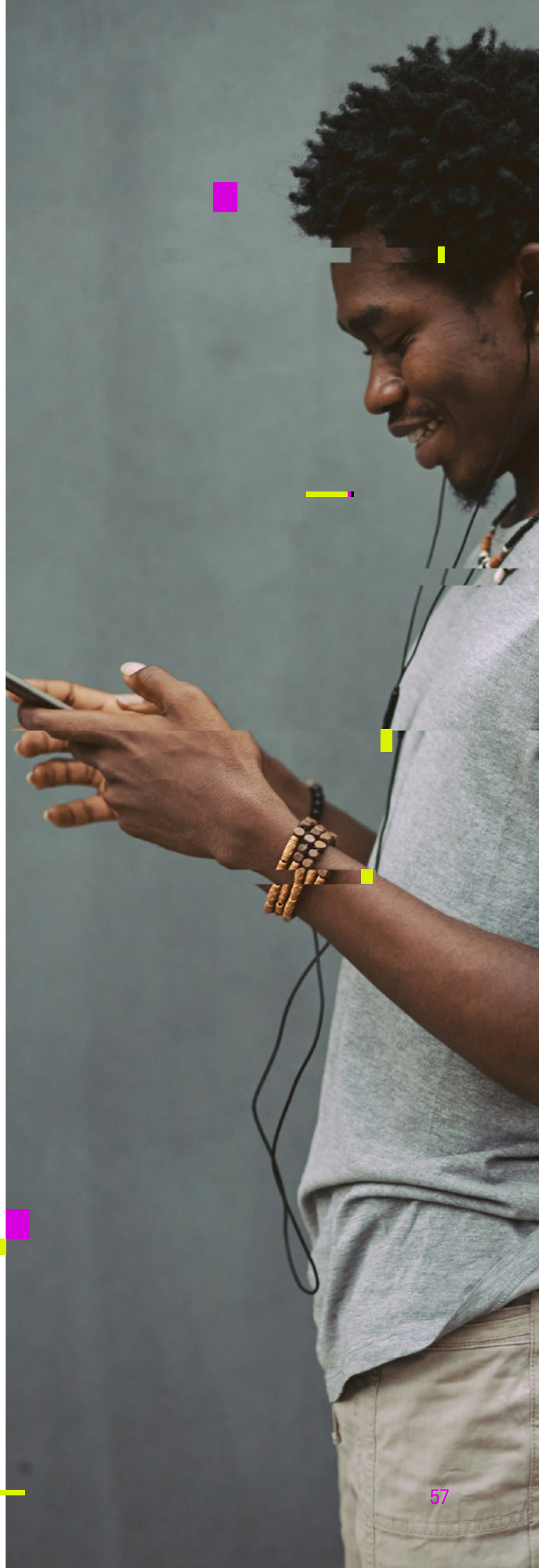
This study has presented a holistic overview of eight thematic findings on TFGBV across the seven Generation G countries. It has drawn synergies, as well as highlighting context-specific complexities and differences, drawing on data and our in-depth interviews. The findings highlight opportunities to address TFGBV globally and within each focus country, including by building on current efforts. They provide a robust evidence base that feeds into the following recommendations for tackling TFBGV. Critically, these recommendations must be adapted to country-specific contexts.
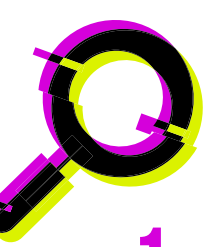
1. RESEARCH:

Conduct further national and regional research into TFGBV

Explore country-level realities of TFGBV in more depth

Build research capacity on TFGBV, including support to local teams and innovative methodologies to measure TFGBV

Establish regional research agendas and knowledge-sharing platforms

2. AWARENESS:

Elevate existing efforts to increase awareness of TFGBV, its forms, and its recognition as a critical form of GBV, segmenting messaging to focus on vulnerable sub-populations

Engage stakeholders (local and global) who are already working to address TFGBV when designing and implementing new programmes and activities.

Target audiences of awareness-raising activities can be categorised into 4 main groups:

- Groups at risk of experiencing TFGBV

- Groups in positions able to offer support to those at risk of experiencing TFGBV – parents/caregivers, teachers, community groups, NGOs/CSOs

- Groups who are potential perpetrators of TFGBV

- Groups in positions to enforce legislation (law enforcement, judges, lawyers)

Future awareness-raising activities must also address gaps in knowledge of offline forms of TFGBV, and the online-offline continuum of violence. Further research is essential here.
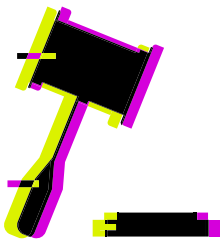
3. LEGAL REFORM:

**Establish programmes focused on reviewing and advocating for legislative reform, creating a strong legislative foundation for more survivor-centred law enforcement**

Invite country-level experts to review legislation.

Implement knowledge-building activities around national-level legislation (TFGBV legislation and counter legislation).

Lead advocacy efforts to address limitations in current legislation.
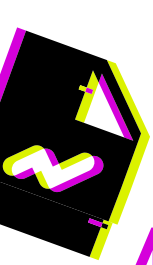
4.REPORTING:

Focus efforts on the refinement of TFGBV reporting and accountability mechanisms across all stakeholder levels

Conduct advocacy activities calling for the refinement of law enforcement reporting mechanisms and social media/ tech platform reporting mechanisms.

Create simplified programme-level reporting mechanisms for TFGBV.

Design future programmes to include effective reporting mechanisms.
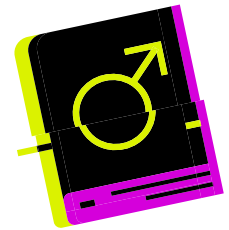
5. GENDER & PATRIARCHY:

Address the patriarchal norms that are magnifiers of TFGBV in programmes

Address the root causes of gender inequality in TFGBV programming to overcome the influence of patriarchy.

- Leverage existing examples of gender transformative approaches in practice.

Build mechanisms into programmes that address gender and social norms to prevent TFGBV.

- Place groups who disproportionately experience TFGBV at the centre of programming.

- Engage men and boys in TFGBV awareness-raising activities.

- Mobilise systems of support, such as communities, teachers, and parents/caregivers.
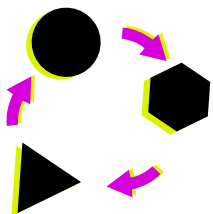
6. ADAPTABILITY:

Design programmes to keep up with the evolving nature of technology, while safeguarding mechanisms to target the prominent forms of TFGBV for a particular context

Future programming should be structured in a way that enables responsiveness and adaptability to ongoing technological advancements.

More detail on each of these recommendations is presented below.

1 RESEARCH

CONDUCT FURTHER NATIONAL AND REGIONAL RESEARCH INTO TFGBV

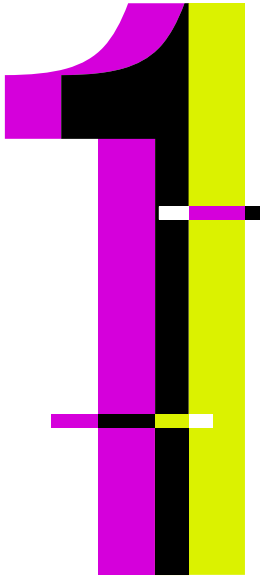Our study has provided significant insights into the nature of TFGBV in the Generation G countries. Yet gaps in knowledge remain. Conducting further research at national and regional level will strengthen our understanding of the dynamics of violence in a rapidly changing digital world, and how to respond in keeping people safe. Continuous research efforts exploring TFGBV globally and nationally can then inform targeted interventions. This includes the building of research capacity, using innovative methodologies, and establishing regional research agendas and knowledge-sharing platforms. Future research should explore the dynamics of TFGBV perpetration, the nature of offline TFGBV, the long-term impacts of experiencing TFGBV, the role of large tech companies and platforms, and the use of AI and deepfakes for TFGBV perpetration, among other areas. Although these topics were beyond the scope of this study, they are important gaps identified by respondents and through the literature review, requiring robust research in the future.

Explore country-level realities of TFGBV in more depth

Our interviewees emphasised that more country-specific data on TFGBV is needed. In contexts where research and initiatives tackling TFGBV are limited – Jordan, Morocco, Lebanon, and Rwanda – Generation G partners plan to further examine how TFGBV manifests in their contexts. They also plan to expand research into other categories of vulnerable groups, such as refugees in Lebanon, and to include TFGBV perpetrators in some of these studies. In countries where there is more research and literature on TFGBV – Uganda, South Africa, and Indonesia – Generation G partners also recognised the importance of continually producing country-specific data on TFGBV.

This recommendation applies beyond the Generation G programme. Further research into the digital lived experiences of high-risk groups identified in this study – such as the LGBTQI+ community, children, young people, gender rights defenders/activists, and women in the public eye – will provide insights that can inform safety and response measures tailored to their contextualised needs. This also includes the evaluation of current initiatives and measuring their effectiveness to adjust and adapt interventions accordingly.

Build research capacity on TFGBV, including support to local teams and innovative methodologies to measure TFGBV

When planning further country-level research, it is important to recruit local research teams. It is important to bring together local and non-local research teams with experience in researching TFGBV, to enhance joint learning and building expertise. We recommend offering support to researcher with expertise on offline gender-based violence looking to conduct studies on TFGBV. Support could include trainings and mentorship by experienced TFGBV researchers. Establishing and leveraging these relationships with local research teams is essential to ensuring sustained, long-term efforts are in place to understand and prevent TFGBV.

Given the evolving nature of technology, data on TFGBV should be collected frequently and through up-to- data collection methods. Programmes should prioritise building the capacity of researchers to explore the use of innovative methodologies to measure TFGBV in digital and online spaces, including through joint efforts between programmes and different organisations.

Establish regional research agendas and knowledge-sharing platforms

To develop research agendas with a regional focus, it is important to bring together stakeholders with the most relevant expertise from different sectors, such as women's rights, government, ICTs, and education. Building on the relationships established with local research teams under Recommendation 1.2, we recommend convening groups of experts, stakeholders, and leaders from specific geographic areas to collaboratively develop customised research agendas tailored to the unique needs, challenges, and opportunities of those regions. The research agendas can inform policymaking, strategic planning, and resource allocation at regional level, fostering localised solutions and initiatives that reflect the diverse contexts and dynamics within each region.

It is important to link research with national, regional, and global advocacy efforts. Making use of existing regional GBV knowledge-sharing platforms and creating TFGBV working groups under these umbrella platforms will increase knowledge sharing and learning about innovative strategies and best practices. Key benefits include access to new research findings, insights from practitioners, updates on policy changes, and collaboration opportunities with other organisations and experts. Collaboration between stakeholders in these spaces will enhance our understanding of TFGBV issues and improve our effectiveness in addressing them.

2 AWARENESS

ELEVATE EXISTING EFFORTS TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF TFGBV, ITS FORMS, AND ITS RECOGNITION AS A CRITICAL FORM OF GBV, SEGMENTING MESSAGING TO FOCUS ON VULNERABLE SUB-POPULATIONS

As our research highlights, TFGBV is not widely or systematically recognised as a legitimate form of GBV. This is the case across many groups in society, including those who are at risk of experiencing TFGBV, and those in a position to design and enforce legislation. Awareness-raising activities are critical to ensure that all stakeholders can recognise, report, and address cases of TFGBV.

Low levels of public awareness of TFGBV as a form of gender-based violence are hindering efforts to address TFGBV. Several organisations are working to address and overcome this knowledge and attention gap, but it is important to fine-tune these via the following activities:

Engage stakeholders (local and global) who are already working to address TFGBV when designing and implementing new TFGBV programmes and activities

Several organisations are already implementing awareness-raising activities in the focus countries: 70% of interviewees referenced awareness-raising activities in which they had been involved or their organisation had led. See Finding 8 for detailed examples.

For emerging actors who plan to integrate TFGBV awareness-raising activities into their programmes, it will be important to collaborate with those already involved in this work at local, regional, and global levels.

For example, at the global level, they could engage with guidance from organisations such as the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI), the Association for Progressive Communication, UNFPA, UN Women, and the Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse. This guidance could help set research priorities for the next 5-10 years for fair, effective, and relevant research on TFGBV.[118] This collaborative effort is essential to ensure that the content of TFGBV awareness-raising activities is tailored to the specific context and avoids unnecessary duplication of efforts.

Target audiences of such awareness-raising activities can be categorised into four main groups:

- Groups at risk of experiencing TFGBV
- Groups in positions able to offer support to groups at risk of experiencing TFGBV (parents/caregivers, teachers, community groups, NGOs/CSOs
- Groups who are potential perpetrators of TFGBV
- Groups in position to enforce legislation (law enforcement, judges, lawyers)

Groups at risk of experiencing TFGBV
Our research shows that TFGBV has a disproportionate impact on specific groups of individuals based on various socioeconomic and demographic factors: i) prominent and high-profile women in the public eye; ii) gender/women's human rights defenders, namely feminists, activists and individuals working for organisations seeking to address gender inequality; iii) children; iv) young people; and v) LGBTQI+ people. These groups are

the target audiences for awareness-raising activities to enable them to be better equipped to deal with their disproportionate risk of experiencing TFGBV. Such activities could involve campaigns in schools or other spaces where these populations can safely be reached, and the use of technology such as apps where people can anonymously find information (for example, SnehAI). Recommendation 1 emphasises that further research will enable country teams to identify the key groups within their context who are at risk of experiencing TFGBV, and therefore ensure that this recommendation is targeted and relevant to the specific context. It is also important to raise awareness among vulnerable people about current legislation to protect survivors against TFGBV, or bring survivors justice (as highlighted in Recommendation 3).

Groups who are in positions of support to groups at risk of experiencing TFGBV – parents, carers , teachers, community groups, NGOs/CSOs

Our research found that awareness of TFGBV is limited across societal actors, including those who are in positions of support to groups at risk of experiencing TFGBV. Awareness-raising efforts should address parents, carers, teachers, community groups, and NGO/CSO staff who play a key role in the protection and wellbeing of those at risk, such as children and young people. Providing parents and teachers with information on the seriousness of TFGBV and its dynamics, will allow them to better support the children and young people who approach them for help, or to identify signs of TFGBV happening, so they can take action. Therefore, they must be aware what actions they can take to equip themselves to intervene in TFGBV incidents, and to care for victims/survivors. Similarly, in their work as gender activists, community groups and NGO/CSO staff often play a protective role for their colleagues and LGBTQI+ people. Interventions should prioritise raising awareness and building capacity in how to provide peer support during or after TFGBV incidents, or how to prevent TFGBV among peers.

Groups who are potential perpetrators of TFGBV

Though it was outside the scope of this study to focus on the perpetrators of TFGBV, it is essential to highlight that to overcome TFGBV, we must also engage with and attempt to change the mindset of potential perpetrators. Our country-level workshops with Generation G partners emphasised the essential importance of involving this group in awareness-raising activities.

Of course, further research is necessary to identify stakeholders who may fall into this category. However, based on the study's finditngs that cultural and social norms and patriarchal influences are magnifiers of TFGBV, a first step would be to target groups and communities who support and influence the replication of these ideals, such as traditional and religious leaders or social media influencers. Secondly, to this study's finding that TFGBV is not recognised as a legitimate form of TFGBV, there is a potential risk that perpetrators are unaware they are committing acts of TFGBV. Therefore, it is important to engage potential perpetrators and equip them with the knowledge to recognise what constitutes TFGBV – thus helping deter them from TFGBV crimes.

Groups in positions to enforce legislation (law enforcement, judges, lawyers)

Half our interview participants noted that enforcement of laws is hindered by the insufficient capacity of law enforcement, lawyers, and judges to effectively address TFGBV reports due to inadequate training as well as cultural and patriarchal biases. This results in prolonged legal processes. Awareness raising for such groups may support the elevation of TFGBV as a priority issue, enhance understanding, and ensure resources are reallocated to tackling TFGBV.

Future awareness-raising activities must also address the knowledge gap regarding offline forms of TFGBV, and the online-offline continuum of violence. Further research is essential here.

According to our interviewees, tackling TFGBV primarily focuses on addressing online violence. However, TFGBV can also occur through any type of technology – old and new – such as GPS tracking devices, drones, or recording devices that are not necessarily connected to the internet.[119] Awareness-raising activities must include efforts to educate stakeholders across sectors about the full spectrum of TFGBV.
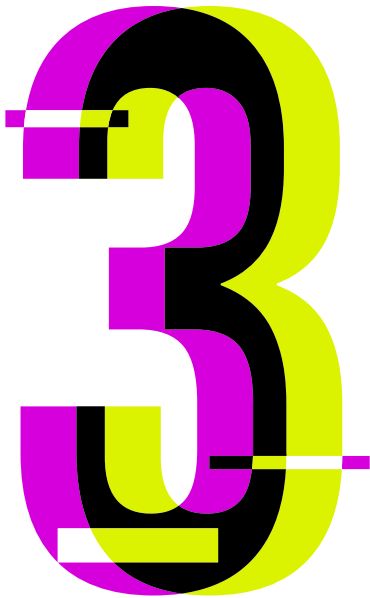
3 LEGAL REFORM

ESTABLISH PROGRAMMES FOCUSED ON REVIEWING AND ADVOCATING FOR LEGISLATIVE REFORM, CREATING A STRONG LEGISLATIVE FOUNDATION FOR MORE SURVIVOR-CENTRED LAW ENFORCEMENT

Across all case study countries, there are significant gaps in the relevance and coverage of legislation on the full TFGBV spectrum. Another challenge is that current legislation to protect against TFGBV often conflicts with other legislation, resulting in a double-edged sword for survivors. In line with these findings, we recommend the following:

Invite country-level experts to review legislation

This study has shown that, across almost all focus countries, legislation designed to safeguard against TFGBV often clashes with other laws and articles. This inadvertently undermines the protection of those facing TFGBV and in the worst cases the law is wielded against survivors who courageously report such crimes (see Finding 6). We recommend inviting a committee of country-level experts well-versed in national legislation and frameworks to review laws on TFGBV and make recommendations around changing the laws and how they interact with other legislative tools.

Lead advocacy efforts to address limitations in current legislation

Our research shows the legislative frameworks in all focus countries have limited coverage of the spectrum of TFGBV violence, are frequently outdated, and are poorly implemented. There is a pressing need to advocate and champion the revision and amendment of current legislation, drawing on the expertise of legal experts. Such revisions would ensure that legal systems can genuinely operate as an effective mechanism for accountability. NGOs and CSOs are well placed to lead advocacy efforts, drawing on the expertise of legal experts involved in reviewing legislation.
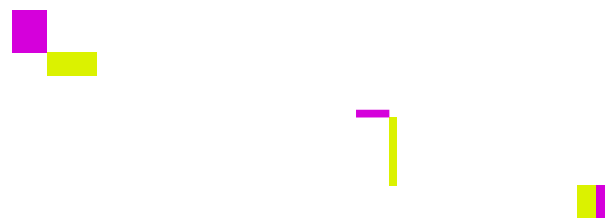
Implement awareness-raising activities around national-level legislation (TFGBV legislation and counter legislation) to address low levels of awareness of legislative and justice mechanisms

Our research identified instances where TFGBV crimes were not prosecuted because law enforcement lacked knowledge about legislation applicable to these crimes. We also identified examples where, due to survivors lacking awareness about legislation that could prosecute perpetrators of TFGBV, they are unaware that they can report their experiences of TFGBV and seek justice within existing legal frameworks.p It is therefore imperative to organise awareness-raising initiatives for groups vulnerable to TFGBV and for law enforcement authorities.

p This point was emphasised by Generation G partners engaged in the country-level workshops.

REPORTING

FOCUS EFFORTS ON ADVOCATING FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF TFGBV REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS ACROSS ALL STAKEHOLDER LEVELS

Conduct advocacy activities calling for the refinement of law enforcement reporting mechanisms and social media/tech platform reporting mechanisms

Our research shows that current reporting mechanisms for TFGBV cases have limited effectiveness, fail to lead to prosecutions, and place a huge financial burden on survivors, as well as being emotionally traumatic. Consequently, survivors are often hesitant to use these mechanisms. Programming efforts should therefore advocate for – or directly establish – safer spaces and modes of reporting with a survivor-centred approach at the first response level (i.e., the law enforcement officers who will be at the front desk) and/or more online reporting methods.

It is imperative to ensure that these reporting mechanisms can capture the identity and categories of survivors, facilitating a clearer understanding of who is experiencing TFGBV, and recognise the complexities of understanding who is perpetrating TFGBV.

Conduct advocacy activities calling for the refinement of social media reporting mechanisms

Social media and tech platforms should also be central to efforts to tackle TFGBV. Advocacy should focus on lobbying tech companies to improve their reporting mechanisms and ensure they have a survivor-centred approach, as well as ensuring their compliance with global and national protections against TFGBV. These tech company's efforts should make use of global guidance, such as the UN's policy brief on Information Integrity on Digital Platforms published in 2023.[120]

There also need to be mechanisms in place to hold perpetrators accountable. This includes removing the perpetrator from the platform,[121] removal of TFGBV content, and case referral or reporting of any crime which violates online platforms' rules of conduct. Such rules themselves should be aligned to national legislation. Finally, it is important to recognise that perpetrators use social media platforms to conduct acts of TFGBV under pseudonyms and fake accounts, and to advocate for safety mechanisms to prohibit perpetrators from hiding behind the safety net of anonymity.[122]

Design future programmes to include effective reporting mechanisms

As well as addressing inadequacies in law enforcement and social media and tech platforms' reporting mechanisms, it is equally important to recognise that CSOs and NGOs can also serve as a point of contact for TFGBV survivors. Programmes and organisations implementing TFGBV activities should therefore have an effective reporting triage system. This system should allow survivors to confidently report to a CSO/NGO with whom they may be familiar, ensuring that the survivor receives the necessary and appropriate support following their report. Our research identified several reporting mechanisms at the CSO/NGO organisational level – for example, the Stopped TFGBV app in Morocco.

However, it is also important to note that better reporting mechanisms can only be as effective as the accountability mechanisms in place to ensure a survivor's report leads to the deserved course of justice. Both are crucial to protect survivors and deliver justice.
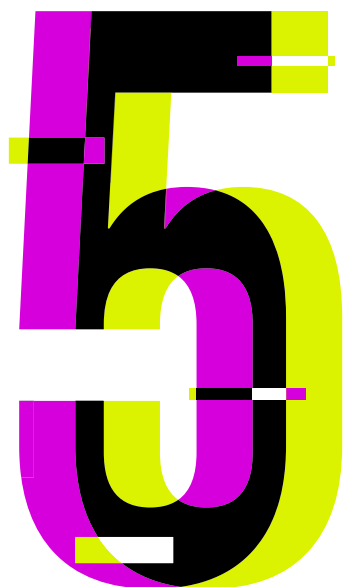
5 GENDER & PATRIARCHY

ADDRESS THE PATRIARCHAL NORMS THAT ARE MAGNIFIERS OF TFGBV IN PROGRAMMES

Structural violence and gender-based violence have silenced women and marginalised communities throughout history. Digital technology is another tool to facilitate the spread of patriarchal narratives and the oppression of vulnerable groups.[123] It threatens to seriously undermine progress made in the gender equity movement. It is crucial therefore to recognise TFGBV as a form of gender-based violence, and urgently give it the attention it needs. Future TFGBV programming must include language, knowledge, and tools to address prevailing patriarchal norms and narratives.

Address the root causes of gender inequality in TFGBV programming to overcome the influence of patriarchy

We recommend applying a gender transformative approach to TFGBV programming. This approach actively addresses and transforms the root causes of gender inequality embedded in social structures, institutions, power dynamics, norms, roles, practices, and legislative frameworks. It seeks to eradicate systemic gender-based discrimination and promote equitable norms and relations. This involves ensuring that TFGBV initiatives examine, question, and ultimately change rigid gender norms and imbalances of power that advantage boys and men over girls and women.

Leverage existing examples of gender transformative approaches in practice

Applying gender transformative approaches to programming has become a key design consideration for many initiatives which seek to tackle various forms of gender-based violence.[124] For example, organisations such as International Alert recommending calling on all stakeholders to make addressing patriarchal norms central to peacebuilding programmes.[125]

Presented below are several examples of gender transformative programmes and activities. Although these are not direct examples of TFGBV programmes, organisations and individuals seeking to implement TFGBV activities can refer to these examples, adapting the content to align with TFGBV objectives:

- A UNICEF programme in Tanzania, the GRREAT programme, aims to improve the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), HIV, nutrition, and wellbeing of vulnerable girls. The programme includes a radio drama series called "ONGEA" that covers the lives of young people aged 15-19 and their caregivers to stimulate positive dialogue among adolescents, their peers, and caregivers. It includes topics such as positive role models for redefining masculinity and manhood (SRH) needs.[126]

- International Alert found that in Kyrgyzstan, faith and religious leaders are the main problem-solving actors to prevent sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), due to their social and moral authority within the community. They are therefore implementing tailored SGBV-prevention training with all faith leaders as an attempt to change attitudes towards SGBV and gender norms within communities.[127]

- UNICEF also implements programmes that promote positive gender socialisation,q aiming to challenge negative norms and achieve equitable outcomes. For example, an evaluation of UNICEF's digital literacy programme in Egypt in 2020 found it had a statistically significant impact on both boys' and girls' personal empowerment and self-efficacy, civic engagement and participation and decision-making.[128]

Build mechanisms into programmes to address gender and social norms to prevent TFGBV

Recommendations for addressing gender and social norms within TFGBV programmes include supporting and funding local women-led networks to promote women's agency and shift gender norms; using context-specific language to avoid backlash from and conflict within patriarchal communities; moving beyond quotas towards meaningful political participation and decision-making; and addressing entrenched gender roles to tackle various forms of TFGBV by prioritising survivors' needs.[129]

Place groups which are disproportionately experiencing TFGBV at the centre of programming
This study has identified the following as being at a disproportionate risk of experiencing TFGBV: a) gender/

women's rights defenders, namely feminists and gender equity activists; b) prominent and high-profile women in the public eye; c) children; d) young people; and e) members of the LGBTQI+ communities. We recommend placing these groups at the centre of programming – for example, by supporting and funding networks and businesses led by local women or marginalised groups, to promote agency and shift gender norms.

Engage men and boys in TFGBV awareness-raising activitiles
It is crucial to include men and boys as key target audiences for TFGBV awareness-raising activities. Programmes should focus on supporting them to question and recognise issues of patriarchy and cultural or social norms that are harmful to themselves and others, and to help them engage and become supporters of change, capable of understanding what TFGBV, how it is harmful, and how to prevent it.

Mobilise systems of support, such as communities, teachers, and parents/caregivers
Communities, teachers and parents/carers are key to efforts to tackle TFGBV. Mobilising them is essential to raising awareness of the occurrence of TFGBV, and its acknowledgement as a form of gender-based violence. Communication materials and discussions are integral tools to this, helping community groups and parents/carers question the impact of certain online activities which can be linked with harmful social and gender norms, and to therefore support groups who are experiencing TFGBV.

---

q Gender socialisation is the process by which individuals internalise gender norms and roles as they interact with others.

6 ADAPTABILITY

DESIGN PROGRAMMES AND INTERVENTIONS TO KEEP UP WITH THE EVOLVING NATURE OF TECHNOLOGY, WHILE SAFEGUARDING MECHANISMS TO TARGET FORMS OF TFGBV PROMINENT IN EACH CONTEXT

Future programmes should be structured in a way that enables responsiveness and adaptability to ongoing technological advancements

Our research reveals many different forms of TFGBV – most notably NCII, online harassment, and doxing (see Annexe II: Common forms of TFGBV) – and diverse modes of technology used to inflict violence. Given the swift pace of technological advancement, it is crucial to structure programmes and interventions in a manner that enables responsiveness and adaptability to technological developments. They need to incorporate mechanisms to pivot and address emerging modes of technology used to perpetrate TFGBV. It is therefore critical to stay informed about emerging technologies and patterns or trends around their use within specific contexts.

Context is key. Overall, social media emerged as a significant tool for perpetrating TFGBV online across all seven countries. However, no single platform stood out universally or within a specific country context. It is vital, therefore, that programmes consider the contextual specificities related to the use of – and access to – current and evolving technologies.

CONCLUSION

Decoding Technology-Facilitated
Gender-Based Violence

Technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) is a growing phenomenon worldwide, with far-reaching individual, societal, and economic consequences. Governments and civil society organisations around the world need to take urgent action to ensure survivors are protected and perpetrators punished. This will require a massive, multipronged approach – spanning law, policy, human rights, technology, education, and many other spheres of life.

The parallels between TFGBV and offline GBV are profound. Underscoring both are communal motives like sexual harassment and revenge, motivated by long histories of patriarchy and oppression of women and vulnerable groups. Across our seven focus countries, we found TFGBV motives are deeply rooted in socio-cultural norms reflective of patriarchal practices and beliefs and exacerbated by perceived threats to these systems. For this reason, TFGBV disproportionately affects prominent and high-profile women such as politicians and journalists, feminists, gender equity activists, and LGBTQI+ individuals – as well as children and young people.

Limited understanding of the different forms of TFGBV – including what constitutes a crime and what falls under 'free speech' – and poor recognition of TFGBV as a serious form of GBV exacerbates the situation for survivors. It also hinders the effectiveness of mechanisms to address such crimes.

Diverse support for a growing challenge

Sensitising stakeholders across society about their human rights is a critical step to reducing the growing burden of TFGBV. If we fail to take action, the consequences for women and other vulnerable groups will be profound – and likely worsen rapidly as digital technology develops and access expands. The repercussions of TFGBV go far beyond the digital sphere, inflicting psychological, economic, and social harm not only on individual survivors but also on society at large – most notably through the silencing of women's voices online.

At present, mechanisms and legal processes for reporting and prosecuting TFGBV crimes are woefully inadequate. Steps to report TFGBV incidents and take legal action are constrained by lengthy processes. People are also held back by fears of being outed to one's family, social stigmatisation, physical violence by perpetrators, or reverse criminalisation based on sexual orientation, sexual activity, or gender identity. Prosecutions place a huge burden on survivors – both financial and psychological. Legislative frameworks and reporting mechanisms, where available, are often insufficient to address the true scale of TFGBV. Current legislation often fails to cover all forms of TFGBV or keep up with the ways technological development births new forms of crime. And inadequate knowledge about these laws at the community and law enforcement level impedes effective response.

We need to transform support for global advocacy for legislative reform and survivor-centred law enforcement. Priorities include raising awareness among community members, policymakers, law enforcement, and prosecutors about the seriousness of TFGBV and enabling prompt detection and response to incidents. Multi-sectoral, gender transformative approaches – including legal reform, survivor consultation and comprehensive research – are critical for effectively addressing this intricate issue.

Spotlight on a rapidly changing sphere

Up-to-date research into how TFGBV manifests and affects lives and communities in different regions and contexts is absolutely critical. We need more and better research to improve understanding of TFGBV in sub-national contexts – part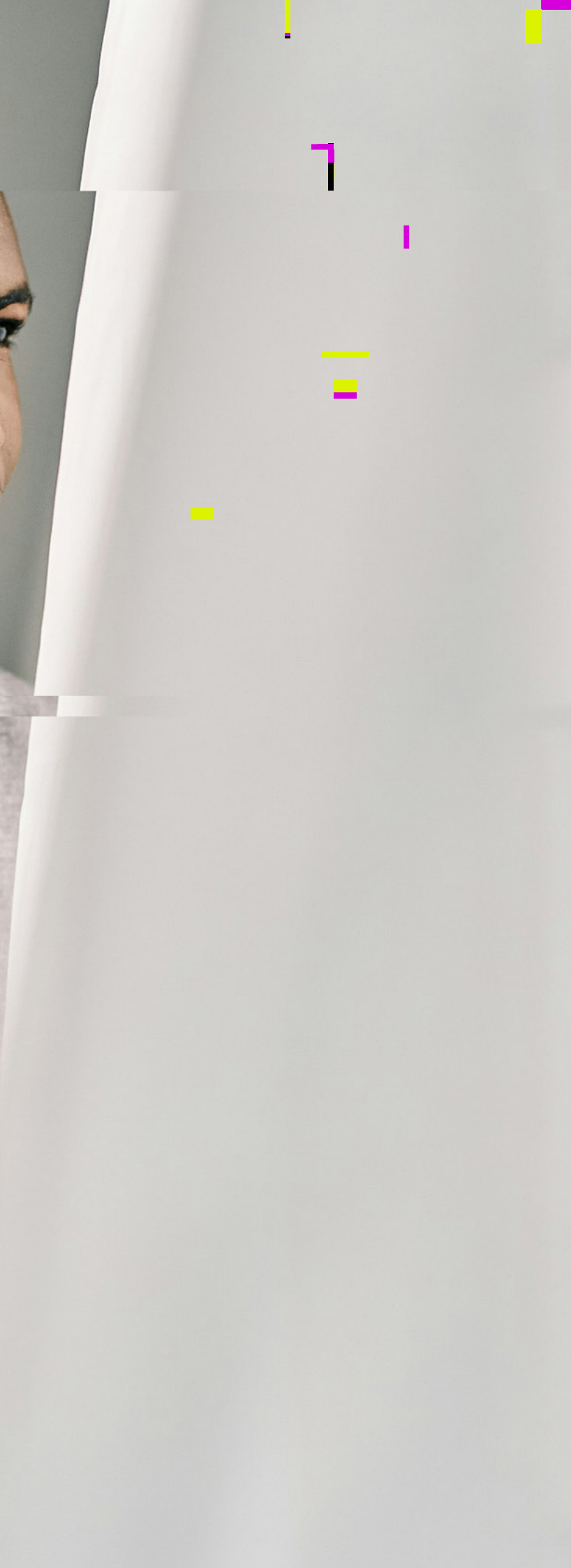icularly of offline TFGBV, which remains a neglected area within TFGBV studies. And this research needs to go hand in hand with in-depth knowledge on how technology is changing. This calls for ongoing research that keeps pace with technological change and involves collaborations with people and organisations from multiple spheres of life. This research can feed into multiple areas and programmes for tackling TFGBV – law and policy, reporting systems, education, psychosocial support, and awareness raising – ensuring context-specific programmes that are aligned with technological change.

Working together for change

The challenges ahead are considerable, but there is a growing commitment across our focus countries to addressing TFGBV, including through the efforts of CSOs and academic groups, and partnerships between different groups. Success depends upon engaging people and organisations from across society and professional spheres in drawing up and implementing programmes. Collaboration between individuals, NGOs/CSOs, governmental entities, and technology companies[r] is crucial to creating a safer and more equitable online environment. And we should take note, too, that tech platforms themselves offer profoundly powerful ways for us to work together, share ideas, and take action to protect people.

In the face of the growing TFGBV threat, we must unite in our commitment to combat it. Together, let's amplify voices, advocate for legislative reform, and empower survivors. By fostering collaboration and awareness, we can create a safer, more equitable world for all, online and offline.

---

r Stakeholders under the "tech company" category fell outside of the scope of this research. However, this study acknowledges their vital role in TFGBV mitigation, and we recommend they are engaged in future research and TFGBV programming.

ACKNOW
GEMEN

Decoding Technology-Facilitated
Gender-Based Violence

WLED-TS

ABBREVIA-TIONS

AI	Artificial Intelligence
APC	Association for Progressive Communications
CMF	Centre for Media Freedom
CSO	Civil society organisation
FIDA	The Uganda Association of Women Lawyers
FSW	Female sex worker
GBV	Gender-based violence
GBVIMS	GBV Information Management System

HDI	Health Development Initiative
ICRW	International Centre for Research on Women
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
IBA	Image-Based Abuse
IDCOP	Indonesia Child Online Protection
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation

ITE	Electronic Systems and Transactions
KBGO	Kekerasan Berbasis Gender Online
KII	Key Informant Interview
KOMPAKS	Civil Society Coalition Against Sexual Violence
LGBTQI+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and Other
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MIGEPROF	Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion
MMA	Media Monitoring Africa
MRA	Mobilising for Rights Associates
NCII	Non-consensual Sharing of Intimate Images

NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OGBV	Online gender-based violence
OCSEA	Online Children Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
RAHU	Reach a Hand Uganda
SEA	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
SMS	Short Message Service
SVRI	Sexual Violence Research Initiative
SWG	Sub-working group
TFGBV	Technology-facilitated gender-based violence
UN	United Nations
UNFPA	The United Nations Population Fund
VAW	Violence Against Women
WOUGNET	Women of Uganda Network

ANNEXES

ANNEXE I:
LIST OF TFGBV DEFINITIONS

Table 2

Published definitions of TFGBV globally

Organisation/body	Published definition of TFGBV
Association for Progressive Communications [130]	Acts of gender-based violence that are committed, abetted, or aggravated, in part or fully, by the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs), such as mobile phones, the Internet, social media platforms, and email.
Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse (Global Partnership) [131]	TFGBV is an overarching term used to refer to all forms of gender-based violence (GBV) that are committed, assisted, aggravated, or amplified using information communication technologies or other digital tools. Like other forms of GBV, evidence shows that women and girls are predominantly affected by TFGBV due to structural gender inequalities between women and men, and this has been the focus of most research on TFGBV to date.
ICT Works [132]	Technology-facilitated gender-based violence, or TFGBV, is an act of violence perpetrated by one or more individuals that is committed, assisted, aggravated, and amplified in part or fully using information and communication technologies or digital media, against a person based on their gender.

Decoding Technology-Facilitated
Gender-Based Violence

International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW)[133]	Technology-facilitated GBV is violence that is motivated by the sexual or gender identity of the target or by underlying gender norms.
Jane Bailey and Carissima Mathen[134]	A spectrum of behaviours carried out at least in some part through digital communications technologies, including actions that cause physical or psychological harm.
SEED Foundation[135]	TFGBV is defined as any act of violence perpetrated against an individual based on their gender, whether it is committed or amplified using information and communication technology – including social media, messaging platforms and gaming websites.
UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office[136]	TFGBV is an overarching term used to refer to all forms of gender-based violence (GBV) that are committed, assisted, aggravated, or amplified using information communication technologies or other digital tools
UN Population Fund (UNFPA)[137]	Technology-facilitated gender-based violence, or TFGBV, is an act of violence perpetrated by one or more individuals that is committed, assisted, aggravated, and amplified in part or fully using information and communication technologies or digital media, against a person based on their gender.
UN Women[138]	Technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TF GBV) is any act that is committed, assisted, aggravated, or amplified using information communication 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. These are forms of violence that are directed against women because they are women and/or that affect women disproportionately.
USAID Asia[139]	Technology-facilitated GBV is defined as any action carried out using the internet and/or mobile technology that harms others based on their sexual or gender identity or by enforcing harmful gender norms. Perpetrators and survivors can be of any gender, and the rationale behind the violence is often rooted in hateful and hurtful actions based on someone's sexual or gender identity. However, despite knowing all of this, it can at times be difficult to define clear-cut cases of technology-facilitated GBV.
Women Legal Education and Action Fund[140]	Technology-facilitated gender-based violence refers to a wide range of unacceptable, violent, and abusive behaviours, where technology (such as a phone, computer, Smartwatch, or a Smart home device) is used as a central tool to carry out these behaviours.

ANNEXE II:
COMMON FORMS OF TFGBV

The most common forms of TFGBV across the seven countries are non-consensual intimate image abuse (NCII), online harassment, and doxing. Out of 50 key informants, 35 mentioned NCII as one of the most commonly occurring forms of TFGBV, 24 mentioned online harassment, and 21 mentioned doxing. This is consistent with findings from the literature. A report by SAFEnet Indonesia demonstrates that NCII is the most prevalent form of TFGBV in the country: 468 out of 620 reported TFGBV cases are NCII incidents.[141] In Jordan, most commonly reported cases are online harassment, cyber dating-abuse (CDA),[s] and sextortion.[142] In Lebanon, TFGBV manifests in multiple forms across online platforms, including harassment, threats, doxing, and NCII sharing.[143,144] Not all NCII abuse in Lebanon relates to sexual images. For example, in one case, a former army officer threatened to send an image of a usually veiled woman wearing a swimsuit and without her hijab to her family members.[145] Most widely spread forms of TFGBV in Morocco include harassment, NCII or communications threats, abusive comments, insults, defamatory lies, and blackmail.[146] In one study,

2022, there were 110 reported cases of human trafficking in Rwanda, of which 39 were for sex trafficking, 67 for labour trafficking, and 4 for unspecified exploitation.[149] Online harassment is recognised as a key challenge in South Africa, with the growing use of ICT devices, which are facilitating harmful behaviours.[150] In Uganda, most TFGBV cases covered in the literature include NCII, online harassment, and cyberstalking.[151]

In addition to the forms of TFGBV highlighted above, Table 3 highlights forms and definitions prevalent in the literature.

Table 3

Types of TFGBV

Type of TFGBV	Definition of the type of TFGBV
Online harassment	"The use of information and communication technologies by an individual or group to repeatedly cause harm to another person. This may involve threats, embarrassment, or humiliation in an online setting."[152]

a survey found that 32.8% of women and 16.9% of men aged 18+ years had, at least once, felt sexually assaulted on the internet.[147] In Rwanda, young girls, women journalists, and celebrities are more likely to experience online harassment and bullying. Girls and women below the age of 30 are at risk to be subjected to human trafficking through the use of social media and mobile phones.[148] In

---

s Cyber dating abuse (CDA), also known as electronic dating violence (EDV) or digital dating abuse (DDA), is a term used to describe" physical, sexual, or psychological/emotional violence that occurs between romantic partners through the use of texting, social media, and related online mediums". Digital Dating Abuse Among a National Sample of U.S. Youth - PubMed (nih.gov)

Decoding Technology-Facilitated
Gender-Based Violence

Cyber bullying	"An aggressive and intentional act that is carried out using electronic forms of contact by a group or an individual repeatedly and over time against a survivor who cannot easily defend him or herself".[153]
Cyberstalking or cyber-obsessive surveillance	"The use of technology to stalk and monitor someone's activities and behaviours in real-time or historically". [154]
Doxing	Doxing is the non-consensual public disclosure of an individual's private, personal or sensitive information, such as home addresses, and contact information (e.g., phone numbers), including those of family members and children (e.g., information about the school they attend).[155]
Non-consensual Distribution of Intimate Images (NCII)	NCII occurs when a person's images (often of a sexual nature) are shared with a wide audience without the subject's consent.
Technology-facilitated sexual abuse (TFSA)	Technology-facilitated sexual abuse or violence is a form of sexual abuse that is enabled by the use of digital communication technologies – such as mobile phones/devices, email, social media or networking platforms, online messaging platforms, dating websites and apps – to commit or procure sexual assault or abuse. Actions range from unwanted and explicit sexual messages (sexting) and calls (including attempts to coerce someone into sex or a relationship), to impersonation to facilitate in-person abuse.
Sextortion	This occurs when an individual is coerced into engaging in sexual activity through blackmail, bribery, threats of image-based abuse (IBA) or distribution of sensitive information.
Online grooming	"Online grooming is when someone uses the technology or the internet to build a relationship with a young person, with the intention of tricking, pressuring or forcing them into doing something sexual, like sending images or videos of themselves".[156]
Offline forms	TFGBV may also be perpetrated offline, using offline technologies (e.g., wheelchairs) and often crosses into the offline world as well, with survivors experiencing a combination of online and in-person physical, sexual, and psychological abuse. For example, disabled women who rely on assistive devices and are in abusive relationships have had their technology destroyed or threatened to be destroyed by abusive partners.

ANNEXE III:
METHODOLOGY

Research questions

The research investigates the nature of, and response to, TFGBV to generate targeted recommendations to focus future efforts to prevent and address the growing burden of TFGBV. The research seeks to address the following research questions:

1. What is known about the nature of TFGBV and the factors that drive its incidence in Indonesia, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Rwanda, South Africa, and Uganda?

2. How effective are current efforts to prevent, mitigate and address TFGBV in Indonesia, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Rwanda, South Africa, and Uganda?

3. What learnings can be drawn from existing efforts to inform programmes that address TFGBV?

Study design

The study follows a mixed methods research methodology, including a scoping review of published and grey literature and a series of key informant interviews (KIIs). The scoping review provides an in-depth understanding of research on TFGBV and efforts to prevent and mitigate it. KIIs were conducted with identified stakeholders to fill any knowledge gaps and provide additional insights and perspectives.

Scoping review

We carried out the scoping review between May 2023 and July 2023, to address research questions 1 and 2. The scoping review also helped identify relevant organisations, interventions, and mitigation strategies. Mapping organisations provided us with a holistic overview of country-level efforts around TFGBV and enabled us to create an initial list of relevant people for key informant interviews (KIIs).

Table 4

Number and type of organisations who are working in some way to address TFGBV (identified through scoping review)

Organisation type	Country						
	Indonesia	Jordan	Lebanon	Morocco	Uganda	South Africa	Rwanda
NGO/INGO/CSO/other stakeholders[t]	17	16	6	17	13	11	8
Government institutions	1	0	0	0	1	0	2

t These stakeholders could include, for example, law firms providing legal support to TFGBV survivors.

For the scoping review, we used both peer-reviewed and grey literature sources. Electronic databases Medline and PsycINFO, were accessed via OVID, Web of Science and Scopus to identify peer-reviewed studies. To obtain grey and other relevant literature at the global and regional levels, databases, portals, and websites of organizations invested in GBV prevention were searched and further snowballing methods were applied using Google search.

By searching electronic databases and relevant websites, and carefully selecting search terms and eligibility criteria, we conducted a thorough analysis of relevant studies (see Table 5).

Table 5

Search results

Country	Total papers retrieved	After duplicates removed	After Abstract & Title Screen	Final inclusion after full text screen & snowballing (Peer-reviewed)	Additional Grey Literature Identified
Indonesia	4,561	3,528	27	14	16
Morocco	1,175	859	25	6	9
South Africa	9,298	5,189	32	18	26
Uganda	2,287	1,264	29	7	33
Lebanon	958	556	22	8	19
Rwanda	531	342	17	4	6
Jordan	1,868	1,339	55	8	16

We downloaded relevant studies from each database and extracted them into the referencing programme Endnote to compile the full reference library and remove duplicates. This resulted in a total of 13,077 unique peer-reviewed articles remaining across all seven countries. We used the Endnote, Mendeley, and Zotero programmes to conduct eligibility screening for relevant articles. The main inclusion criteria were relevance to TFGBV defined as any form of GBV that is committed, assisted, aggravated, or amplified using ICTs or other digital tools.

The total number of peer-reviewed articles for final inclusion following full text screening and snowballing varied between countries. The highest number of papers came from South Africa (18) and the lowest from Rwanda (4). We added grey literature to the final list of papers for review, and extracted relevant characteristics from the selected articles: these characteristics are listed in Annexe VI: Search Strategy. We then identified common themes, patterns, and variations across studies within each country, and compiled them within a narrative thematic synthesis.

Primary data collection

Building on evidence gathered through the scoping review, the team conducted a series of 50 semi-structured KIIs with various stakeholders between August 2023 and October 2023. With this primary data collection phase, we gathered additional insights that are unavailable in published literature and established a contextually relevant understanding of TFGBV and the key factors driving TFGBV incidence from the perspective of key stakeholders within the focus countries. The interviews also aimed to assess the effectiveness of efforts to address and prevent TFGBV. We interviewed a range of people – CSO representatives, policymakers and government officials, activists, police, and academics. The bulk of interviews were with CSOs (84%), followed by academic groups (6%), policymakers/government officials (6%), activists (2%), and police (2%).

Table 6

Stakeholders who participated in KIIs

Country	Stakeholder group	Number of participants
	CSOs	8
Indonesia	Activists	1
	Policymakers/government officials	1
	CSOs	1
Jordan	Academic groups	1
	CSOs	3
Lebanon	Policymakers/government officials	1
Morocco	CSOs	3
Rwanda	CSOs	3
	CSOs	8
South Africa	Academic groups	1

Uganda	CSOs	13
	Police	1
	Policymakers/government officials	1
Global	CSOs	3
	Academic groups	1

We found that the level of activity and efforts towards TFGBV as a distinct form of GBV varies across countries. This variation is reflected in the number of participants engaged in the KIIs per country. Indonesia, South Africa, and Uganda engaged an average of 11 stakeholders per country for KIIs. Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, and Rwanda engaged an average of three stakeholders. Several factors contributed to lower levels of engagement, the most prominent being where a country had fewer organisations focused on TFGBV, or where there were external influences during the study period, such as office closures due to political instability (e.g., in Lebanon). To mitigate these challenges, we targeted organisations and individuals who could provide crucial, holistic, country-level insights.

Data analysis

We used a multi-stage thematic analysis to code and interpret the study data. The initial analysis from the scoping review provided a baseline understanding of TFGBV in the focus countries and highlighted gaps in the literature. These gaps were categorised as key themes and were used to aid the development of the interview guides, thus serving as the first layer of data analysis.

The interviewer transcribed the audio interviews verbatim, ensuring an accurate representation of participants' responses. Interviews conducted in Arabic and Bahasa Indonesian were also transcribed verbatim and then translated to English by study translators. The two researchers leading the interviews and most familiar with this raw data were tasked with generating the initial "codes" for the thematic analysis. Guided by inductive reasoning, they sorted and grouped the codes, combining similar codes to form overarching "themes". The entire research team then reviewed this initial coding system and defined the initial set of themes.

After the creation of the coding system, two researchers independently coded the same transcript using the transcription software MAXQDA. They used an inductive, data-driven approach, in which themes strongly linked to the data are identified and applied to transcripts during the analysis process. During this process, there were regular discussions between the wider research team to confirm and align the interpretations of the qualitative data, and ensure constructed themes accurately reflected the dataset, as well as for internal validity. Upon completing the primary data analysis, the team revisited and interrogated the data from the scoping review and extracted key data to support the findings of the primary data collection phase.

Data validation

Following data analysis, we presented key findings and emergent recommendations to the seven Generation G country coalitions. The workshops provided an opportunity for country teams to review the findings of the study and assess their relevance at a programme level – therefore offering additional validation of the study findings. The workshops also enabled us to refine the programmatic recommendations, leading to the creation of an additional recommendation for further bespoke research within this space (see Recommendation 1).

Note: The study aimed to generate overarching thematic findings with relevance across all or a great proportion of focus countries. However, this analysis did not attempt to make generalisable statements about TFGBV nor intend for the findings to present a view that TFGBV manifests homogeneously across the diverse settings within this study. The final presentation of the findings includes examples of sub-themes and findings which are specific to each country (where the data was available). Readers should recognise that a range of sociocultural, economic, and individual factors influence the experience and impact of TFGBV on populations across the focus countries.

ANNEXE IV:
STUDY LIMITATIONS

While designing this study, we were cognisant that language and cultural barriers could have affected the interactions of the interviewers with the respondents and the interviewees and the interpretation of the data. Q3 Strategy mitigated this by ensuring a research team from diverse backgrounds delivered interviews in different languages and were able to provide multiple perspectives.

The number of key informants from each country varied depending on availability and the willingness of stake-holders to participate. This report therefore provides aggregated evidence from the seven focus countries and globally, while highlighting country-specific examples based on the findings from the key informant interviews (KIIs) and corresponding literature.
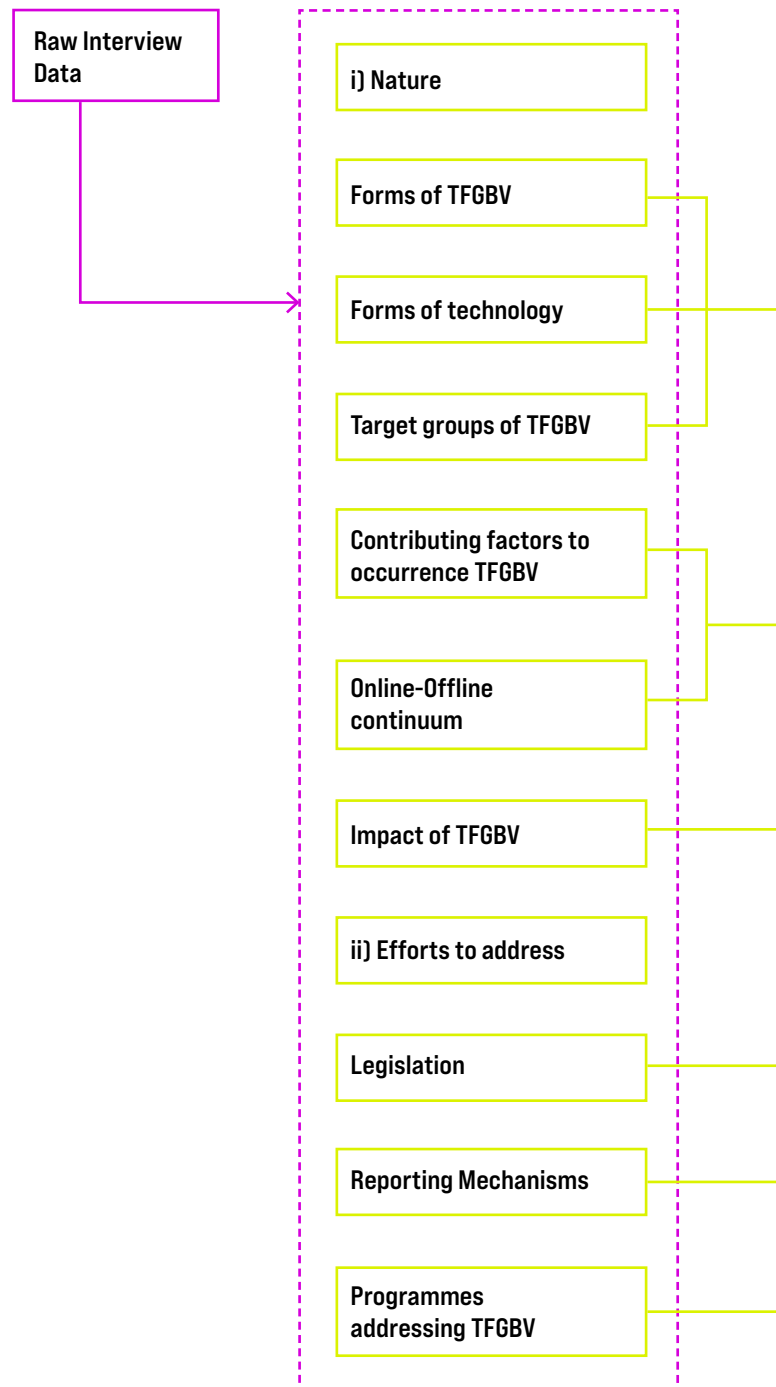
This study recognises that within the spectrum of TFGBV there are multiple forms of violence, which encompass the use of a wide range of technology. However, the current and available literature at country level for the case study countries, as well as the data collected from the KIIs, primarily focused on online/ digital tools used to facilitate and perpetrate acts of TFGBV. Recommendation 6 refers to the need to keep up-to-date with the evolving nature of technology, and therefore the evolving nature of TFGBV. Doing so should shed further light on the wide spectrum of TFGBV in the future.

We are aware the influence of global tech corporations in the countries we studied. We chose to focus on the experiences of CSO and policy makers in responding to abuses of digital platforms available to citizens in their country of residence

ANNEXE V:
CODING FRAMEWORK

PHASE 1
Familiarising yourself with the data

PHASE 2
Generating initial codes in line with 2 main areas of interview guide { i)Nature and ii) Efforts to Address TFGBV}
(113 codes generated)

Raw Interview Data

i) Nature

Forms of TFGBV

Forms of technology

Target groups of TFGBV

Contributing factors to occurrence TFGBV

Online-Offline continuum

Impact of TFGBV

ii) Efforts to address

Legislation

Reporting Mechanisms

Programmes addressing TFGBV

PHASE 3
Generating further codes iteratively as interviews are being carried out
(486 additional codes generated)

PHASE 4
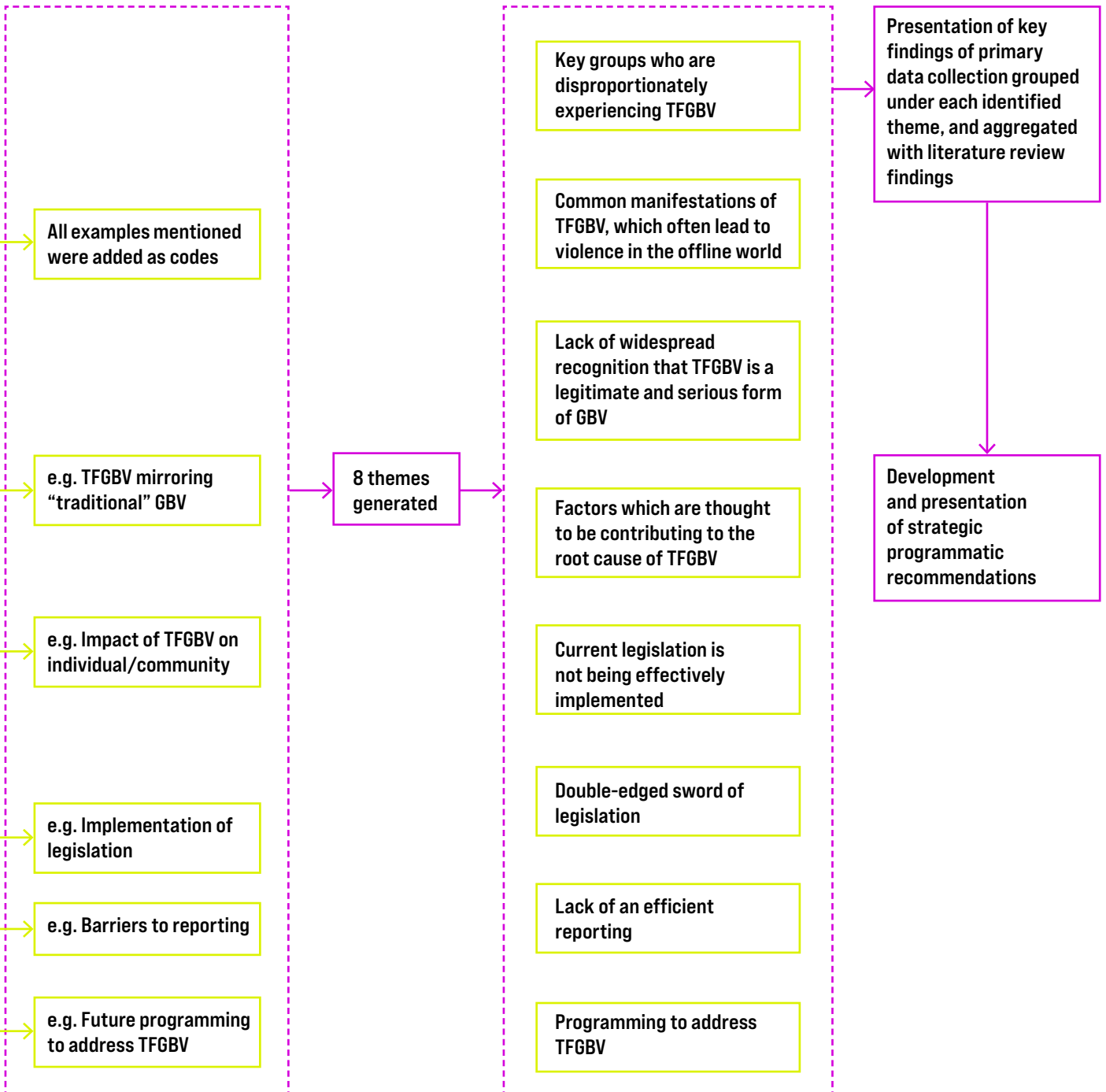**Searching for themes**

PHASE 5
Reviewing/finalising the themes

PHASE 6
Producing the report

All examples mentioned were added as codes

e.g. TFGBV mirroring "traditional" GBV

e.g. Impact of TFGBV on individual/community

e.g. Implementation of legislation

e.g. Barriers to reporting

e.g. Future programming to address TFGBV

8 themes generated

Key groups who are disproportionately experiencing TFGBV

Common manifestations of TFGBV, which often lead to violence in the offline world

Lack of widespread recognition that TFGBV is a legitimate and serious form of GBV

Factors which are thought to be contributing to the root cause of TFGBV

Current legislation is not being effectively implemented

Double-edged sword of legislation

Lack of an efficient reporting

Programming to address TFGBV

Presentation of key findings of primary data collection grouped under each identified theme, and aggregated with literature review findings

Development and presentation of strategic programmatic recommendations

ANNEXE VI:
SEARCH STRATEGY

Information sources:

Country-level literature identification included electronic search strategies only. We searched electronic databases for relevant academic publications. These databases included Medline and PsycINFO, accessed via OVID, Web of Science, and Scopus. To obtain grey and other relevant literature at global and regional levels, we searched data-bases, portals, and websites of organisations who work on or on matters related to GBV prevention.

Search terms

The population, (exposure), intervention, comparisons, and outcomes (PICO) to address the research questions are defined in Table 7. When developing the academic database search strategy for the exposure, search terms for TFGBV were developed separately for the keywords 'Technology' and 'Violence' (Table 8), as it is a relatively nascent concept. We also included country names as search terms in the database search strategy. However, given the motivation to gain a broad understanding of the TFGBV landscape in the selected countries, no terms relating to population, comparisons, interventions, or outcomes were included to ensure relevant literature was not prematurely excluded at this stage.

Table 7

PICO (Population, Exposure, Intervention, Comparison, Outcome)

P	**Population**	Any (including girls, women, feminists, LGBTQI+ and their advocates/activists, boys and men, families, and communities, particularly in the seven countries of interest: Morocco, Lebanon, Jordan, Uganda, Rwanda, South Africa, and Indonesia)
(E)	**Exposure**	Technology-facilitated gender-based violence
I	**Intervention**	Any, if applicable (e.g., legislation, mitigation strategies, policy, accountability mechanisms, programmes, advocacy efforts)
C	**Comparison**	Continuum/offline gender-based violence (if applicable) Religious/sectarianism (if applicable) Perpetrator known/unknown Other risk factors or intersectional ties
O	**Outcome**	Any (including impacts on health and wellbeing, as well as economic, social, and political impacts)

Decoding Technology-Facilitated
Gender-Based Violence

Table 8

Exposure-related search terms

Technology-facilitated gender-based violence

Technology	Violence	
Artificial Intelligence	Abuse*	Neglect*
Algorith*	Adverse Childhood Experience*	$consen*
Automat*	ACE	Offen*
Computer*	Anger	P?edoph*
Controlling	Angry	Perpetrat*
Controller	Assault*	Perver*
Cyber*	Aggress*	Racis*
Dating App*	$Attack*	Rape
Digital*	$Bully*	Rapist
Dox*	Coerc*	Revenge
Electr*	Control*	Sex*
Facebook	$Crim*	Slav*
GPS	Defam*	Stalk*
Hack*	Discriminat*	Traffic*
ICT	Exploit*	Threat*
Instagram	Extremis*	Troll*
Internet	Extort*	VAW*
Machine Learning	Force*	VAC
Online	GBV	Victim*
$Phone*	Gender Based Violence	Violen*
Reddit	Grooming	Violat*
Snapchat	Harass*	
Social Media	Harm*	
Technolog*	Hate	
Tele*	Hurt*	
TikTok	Injur*	
Tinder	Jealous*	
Twitter	Maltreatment	
Website*	Manipulat*	
Whatsapp	Mistreat*	
Youtube	Molest*	

*Table 8: * Provides results that contain a variation of the keyword*

Peer-reviewed literature

We used peer-reviewed published literature to address the research questions relating to the nature, extent, and impact of TFGBV at the respective country level. To identify the relevant exposure, the first Boolean search was mapped to the keyword "TFGBV" and variations (e.g., "technology-facilitated gender-based violence", "technology-facilitated GBV", and "tech-facilitated gender-based violence"). The second Boolean search was mapped against keywords relevant to "Technology"; these terms were combined using the Boolean operator "OR" and limited to the title and the abstract only. The third Boolean search mapped keywords relevant to "Violence"; these terms were combined using the Boolean operator "OR" and limited to the title and the abstract only. To ensure only literature where technology and violence are discussed in combination, the second and third Boolean searches were combined using the Boolean operator "AND". This was then combined with the first Boolean search using the Boolean operator "OR". Finally, the name of each country of interest was mapped as a keyword and combined with the strategy above using the Boolean operator "AND".

Grey literature

We mainly researched grey literature to address questions relating to the identification of current efforts to address and mitigate TFGBV at global, regional, and national levels. Articles were identified at the onset of the review by the Generation G project team and partner organisations who have an internal record of record of relevant documents. We also gathered other relevant publications from the websites of key organisations, identified through stakeholder mapping.

Data extraction and analysis

Relevant studies from each database were downloaded and extracted into Endnote. We used this to compile the full reference library and remove duplicates, resulting in a total of 13,077 unique peer-reviewed articles across all seven countries. Then, depending on the researcher, we used either Endnote, Mendeley or Zotero to conduct eligibility screening for relevant articles. Only those articles related to TFGBV, defined as any form of GBV that is committed, assisted, aggravated, or amplified using ICTs or other digital tools, were included in the review. Here, GBV is defined as any form of violence directed against a person because of that person's gender, or violence that affects persons of a particular gender disproportionately. The total number of peer-reviewed articles for final inclusion following full text screening and snowballing varied between countries, with the highest number of papers coming from South Africa (18) and the lowest from Rwanda (4). We then added grey literature to the final list of papers included in the review. The total number of publications included for each country was; Indonesia: 30, Jordan: 24, Lebanon: 27, Morocco: 15, Rwanda: 10, South Africa: 44, and Uganda: 40. We then extracted relevant characteristics from the selected studies and identified common themes, patterns, and variations across studies within each country and conducted a narrative synthesis.

ANNEXE VII:
PARTICIPANT INCLUSION CRITERIA

All participants included in this study met the following criteria:

1. Willing and able to give informed consent for participation in the study.

2. Aged 18 years or above.

3. Previously worked with or has experience in gender-based violence (GBV), or more specifically TFGBV.

Participant sampling approach

Representatives interviewed as part of this study were identified through both purposeful and snowballing sampling approaches. We primarily used purposeful sampling to recruit study participants. Following a thorough stakeholder mapping exercise of organisations, existing networks, and actors, we then categorised organisations and individuals by stakeholder type and prioritised them for interview according to their relevance to TFGBV and

level of influence. We applied snowball sampling to identify additional key informants for inclusion in the study.

We initially contacted a total of 185 organisations and individuals through emails, WhatsApp, or LinkedIn to participate in the study. Stakeholders who were interested in participating received direct emails that included an overview of the study and an official request for participation, alongside a detailed participant information sheet. Those who agreed to participate were then sent the study consent form, which was read and signed before conducting the interview.

Interview structure and questions

To facilitate the qualitative interviews, we developed an interview guide. This consisted of a set of open-ended questions and prompts designed to explore the research questions. The guide was pilot tested with a small sample of participants to ensure clarity, relevance, and appropriateness of the questions. For interviews not conducted in English, the interview guides were translated into French, Arabic, and Bahasa Indonesian. We incorporated feedback from the pilot testing phase to refine the interview guides, as necessary.

The interviews took place online via Microsoft Teams or Zoom and lasted around 60 minutes. Based on the participant's preference, the KIIs were conducted in French, Arabic, Bahasa Indonesian, or English. Multiple interview guides were created to ensure that the questions are tailored to the areas of expertise of the different stakeholder groups. All interview guides were based on the research questions.

ANNEXE VIII:
ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Data management

Invitations for interview included password-protected links to maximise privacy and security. The Microsoft Teams or Zoom recording tool was used during the interview. Once the recording was uploaded to Q3 Strategy's secure SharePoint, it was deleted from Microsoft Teams or Zoom. All recordings were destroyed after transcription was completed.

Personal data is stored securely on Q3 Strategy's company password-protected SharePoint. The data will be retained for the minimum period required for research purposes, up to a maximum of two years. After this period, personal data will be securely deleted or anonymised. Any personally identifiable information collected during the study is stored separately from the research data to ensure additional layers of protection. Access to personal data is restricted to authorised personnel only. Measures are implemented to safeguard personal data against unauthorised access, loss, or disclosure. These include encryption of personal data, regular backups, and restricted access controls. Participants have the right to access, change, or move their personal information at any point during or after the study. A project management tracker is in place to document data retention and deletion activities.

Informed consent

We obtained informed written consent from all participants before they took part in the study. During recruitment, we provided participants with a clear and comprehensive explanation of the study's purpose, procedures, potential risks, benefits, and their rights as participants via a participant information sheet. They were informed that their participation is voluntary, that there will not receive any monetary incentive for participation, and that they can withdraw from the study at any time. Participants were also given the opportunity to ask questions about the study over email before returning a signed online copy of the informed consent form.

At the start of the online interview, participants were re-informed about the study. At this point, they were asked whether they are still happy to participate and given the option to withdraw. Once they had given additional verbal consent, the interview began.

To ensure that participants fully understand the study and their involvement, we conducted the informed consent process in a culturally sensitive and accessible manner. This included using plain language, providing translations or interpreters as needed, and allowing participants sufficient time to ask questions and consider their decision to participate.

Confidentiality and protection of participants

Due diligence was applied throughout the study, in adherence with each country's specific data protection legislation, to protect the identities of individual participants and any sensitive information. Each participant was a unique identifier to anonymise their data in all documents. This unique identifier was linked to the participant's personable identifiable information via a single Microsoft Excel database that is password-protected. During transcription, participants' quotes or excerpts were anonymised and modified to avoid any potential identification and were only attributed at the level of organisation or by stakeholder type and country (e.g., WHO, Uganda; or LGBTQI+ activist, Indonesia). Participants were not specifically informed of the publication or distribution channels of these findings; however, they may contact the research team to request follow-up information.

Ethics approval

Ethics approval was obtained from the HML IRB Ethics Committee prior to starting primary data collection activities. The HML IRB Committee is a global board that provides ethical approval for the protection of human study subjects in research related to social and behavioural sciences.[u]

u HML IRB Research & Ethics. HUMAN SUBJECTS RESEARCH ETHICS APPROVAL [Internet]. 2023
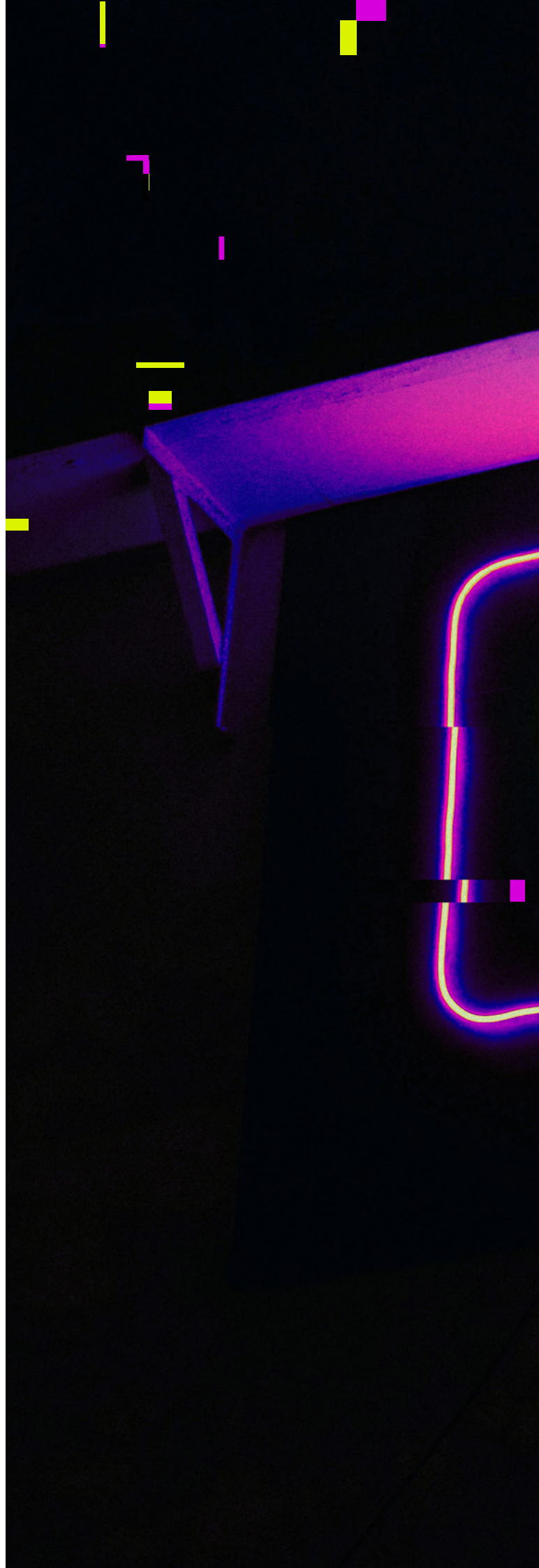
ENDNOTES

1 GSMA (2023). "Smartphone owners are now the global majority, new GSMA report reveals"

2 UN Women (2023), "Facts and Figures: Ending violence against women".

3 UN Women (2023)

4 UN Women (2023)

5 The Economist Intelligence Unit (2021), "Measuring the prevalence of online violence against women".

6 Plan International (2020). "Free to be online - Girls' and young women's experiences of online harassment".

7 United Nations (2022). UN Resolution 75/161.

8 UN Women (May 2024). Artificial Intelligence and Gender Equality.

9 Dharmapuri, Sahana, and Shoemaker, Jolynn (2021), *"Women, Peace & Security, and the Digital Ecosystem – Five Emerging Trends in the Technology and Gender Policy Landscape".*

10 Hootsuite (23 Jan 2023) "Digital 2023: Global Overview Report".

11 Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development (2019). *"The State of Broadband: Broaband as a Foundation for Sustainable Development".*

12 International Telecommunications Union (2022), Bridging the Gender Divide.

13 ICTworks (6 Nov 2019), 'Hey Siri. What is the Key to More Gender Equal Technology Soltions?'.

14 Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development (2019), The State of Broadband: Broadband as a Foundation for Sustainable Development.

15 International Telecommunications Union (2022), *Bridging the Gender Divide.*

16 The World Bank (2017). Used a mobile phone or the internet to access an account (% with an account, age 15+). Gender Data Portal.

17 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2021). Killings of Women and Girls by their intimate Partners or Other Family Members. Global Estimates 2020.

18 Dunn S. (2022). "Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence: An Overview". Centre for International Governance Innovation: Supporting a Safer Internet.

19 UN Women. Frequently asked questions: Tech facilitated gender-based violence.

20 UNFPA. Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence: A Growing Threat.

21 UNFPA. What Is Technology-Facilitated Gender-based Violence?

22 UN Women. CSW67 (2023) - The Status of Women.

23 US Department of State Office of the Spokesperson (March 2022) Roadmap for the Global partnership for Ac-

tion on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse. AND US Department of State - Office of the Spokesperson. (March 2023) Roadmap for the Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse.

24 US Department of State - Office of the Spokesperson. (March 2023) Roadmap for the Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse.

25 FIDA Uganda (April 2023). Online Gender Based Violence (OGBV) in Uganda.

26 Susanti FR (2021). LBH APIK Jakarta 'Cedera Dunia Maya: Cerita Para Penyintas'.

27 Rutgers (May 2022). Wat bepaalt de impact van online seksueel geweld? – Rutgers.

28 UN Women (2022). Violence Against Women in the online space: Insights from multi-count.

29 Hinson L, Mueller L, O'Brien-Milne L, Wandera N. (2018) Technology-facilitated gender-based violence: What is it, and how do we measure it? Washington D.C.

30 Iyer N, Nyamwire B, Nabulega S. (2020) Alternate realities, alternate internets: African feminist research for a feminist internet. Association for Progressive Communication APC, editor.

31 ECPAT, INTERPOL, UNICEF (2022). Disrupting Harm in Indonesia: Evidence on Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children.

32 Unwanted Witness (2020). Weak Legal And Institutional Framework; A Hindrance To Justice For Survivors Of Online Violence Against Women And Girls In Uganda.

33 Dunn S. (2022).

34 UNICEF (2020). UNICEF report on online safety highlights risks and opportunities for children in East Asia.

35 Carnes LH. (2022). Digital Hygiene: What You Need to Know to Start 2022 Right. ArcStone.

36 Hinson L, Mueller L, O'Brien-Milne L, Wandera N. (2018)

37 UN Women (2022) Violence against women in the online space: insights from a multi-country study in the Arab States. A total of 4,187 women responded to the survey.

38 FCDO (March 2023). Towards a research agenda for technology-facilitated gender-based violence: a preliminary landscape analysis. Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office.

39 European Institute for Gender Equality (2022). Cyber Violence against Women and Girls.

40 Dunn S. (2022).

41 CSVR (April 2016). Gender Based Violence in South Africa; A Brief Review.

42 Oparinde K, Matsha RM. (2021) Powerful Discourse: Gender-Based Violence and Counter-Discourses in South Africa.

43 UN Women (2022).

44 Women's Shelters Canada (2024). "What is Technology-Facilitated Gender Based Violence".

45 UN Women (2022).

46 Smit H. (2022). Learning Brief: Risks of Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence to Publicly Visible Women. Gender-Based Violence AoR. Global Protection Cluster.

47 Dunn S. (2022).

48 UNFPA. What Is Technology-Facilitated Gender-based Violence?

49 Copel LC. (2006) "Partner Abuse in Physically Disabled Women: A Proposed Model for Understanding Intimate Partner Violence." Perspect Psychiatr Care.

50 The World Bank (2019). Gender-Based Violence (Violence Against Women and Girls).

51 WHO (2021). Devastatingly pervasive: 1 in 3 women globally experience violence.

52 UNRIC (2023). How Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence Impacts Women and Girls.

53 UNWOMEN. FAQs: Trolling, stalking, doxing and other forms of violence against women in the digital age.

54 Armiwulan H. (2021)'Gender-Based Cyber Violence: A Challenge to Gender Equality in Indonesia.' INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CYBER CRIMINOLOGY.

55 Smit H. (2022)Learning Brief: Risks of Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence to Publicly Visible Women. Gender-Based Violence AoR. Global Protection Cluster.

56 UNESCO (2022). The Chilling: A global study of online violence against women journalists.

57 POLLICY, (2021). 'Amplified Abuse: Report on Online Violence Against Women in the 2021 Uganda General Election'.

58 Fojo Media Institute (2021). Barriers to women journalists in Rwanda.

59 WOUGNET (2020). Bridging the Digital Gender Gap in Uganda: An Assessment of Women's Rights Online Based on the Principles of the African Declaration of Internet Rights and Freedoms.

60 Kirya, S. C.-T. & Twesiime, M. (2016). Gender, law and revenge porn in Sub-Saharan. Palgrave communications, pp. 1-9.

61 Center for Human Rights, University of Pretoria (2021). Understanding Online Gender-based Violence in Southern Africa.

62 National Democratic Institute (2019). "Tweets that Chill: Analyzing Online Violence Against Women in Politics".

63 Felle. T. (Oct 2023) Online abuse could drive women out of politics.

64 UNICEF. UNICEF Data: Monitoring the situation of children and women.

65 UNICEF Indonesia. #JagaBareng

66 ECPAT, INTERPOL, UNICEF. (2022). Disrupting Harm in Indonesia: Evidence on Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children.

67 Crabbe M, Flood M. (2021) School based Education to Address Pornography's Influence in Young People: A Proposed practice framework.

68 Kadri N, Benjelloun R, Kendili I, Khoubila A, Moussaoui D. (2013) Internet and sexuality in Morocco, from cyber habits to psychopathology [Empirical Study; Quantitative Study]. Sexologies: European Journal of Sexology and Sexual Health / Revue europeenne de sexologie et de sante sexuelle.

69 ECPAT, INTERPOL, UNICEF (2022). Disrupting Harm in Indonesia: Evidence on Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children.

70 GISWatch (2015). Sexual Rights and the Internet, Morocco. Global Information Society Watch.

71 ECPAT (2020). "Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism".

72 UN OCHA (2023). Cyberbullying of children.

73 Patchin JW. Cyberbullying Research Centre (2021) Bullying During the COVID-19 Pandemic.

74 ECPAT, INTERPOL, UNICEF (2022).

75 Plan International (2020).

76 Wolak J, Finkelhor D. (2016) Sextortion: Findings from a Survey of 1,631 Victims.

77 Nyeko O. (2023). Ugandan Parliament Passes Extreme Anti-LGBT Bill.

78 Human Rights Watch (2022). Indonesia: New Criminal Code Disastrous for Rights Provisions Harmful to Women, Minorities, Free Speech.

79 Wijaya HY. (2022). Digital homophobia, Indonesia and the Malay World.

80 Global Partnership (2023) TFGBV Preliminary Landscape Analysis.

81 IREX (2023).Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence as an Attack on Women's Public Participation_Review of Global Evidence and Implications .pdf (irex.org)

82 Arimatsu, L. (2019). Silencing women in the digital age. *Cambridge International Law Journal, 8*(2), 187-217.

83 Dunn S. (2022)

84 Dunn S. (2022)

85 Lamensch M. (2023) Generative AI Tools Are Perpetuating Harmful Gender Stereotypes. Centre for International Governance Innovation.

86 Cislaghi B, Heise L. (2020). Gender norms and social norms: differences, similarities and why they matter in prevention science.

87 UK Aid (2016). SHIFTING SOCIAL NORMS TO TACKLE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (VAWG).

88 Bjork-James S. (2019) Gender and religion.

89 Human Rights Watch (2016). "These Political Games Ruin Our Lives; Indonesia's LGBT Community Under Threat".

90 BBC (2011). The worlds worst place to be gay?

91 Bjork-James S. (2019)

92 Abu-Shanab E, Al-Jamal N. (2015) 'Exploring the Gender Digital Divide in Jordan'.

93 Sarah F. (2022) TPKS Bill Ratified to Law: Implications on Indonesia's Online Sexual Violence Status Quo. Blog: Center for Digital Society (CfDS).

94 Government of South Africa (2011 [cited 2023 Nov 10]). Protection from Harassment Act.

95 Abu-Taieh E, Alfaries A, Al-Otaibi S, Aldehim G. (2018). Cyber Security Crime and Punishment: Comparative Study of the Laws of Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, and Saudi Arabia. INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CYBER WARFARE AND TERRORISM.

96 Khoo C. Deplatforming misogyny (2021). Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF).

97 Susanti FR. (2021) 'Cedera Dunia Maya: Cerita Para Penyintas'. LBH APIK Jakarta.

98 Jordan GBV IMS Task Force (2022). 'Jordan GBV IMS Task Force Annual Report 2021.'

99 Government of Uganda (2022). THE COMPUTER MISUSE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2022.

100 UNICEF East Asia & Pacific (2021). What we know about the gender digital divide for girls: a literature review.

101 SMEX (2018). Online Privacy Threats to Women and LGBTIQ Communities in Lebanon.

102 Chisala-Tempelhoff S, Kirya M. (2016). Gender, law and revenge porn in Sub-Saharan Africa: a review of Malawi and Uganda.

103 SAFEnet (2020). 'Memahami Dan Menyikapi Kekerasan Berbasis Gender Online: Sebuah Panduan.'

104 Sexual Harassment Law 205 (2020). Lebanon's Anti-Sexual Harassment Law No. 205 Passes...Now What? (aub.edu.lb)

105 Jordan Open Source Association (2023) Cybercrime Law of 2023.

106 Armiwulan H. (2021) 'Gender-Based Cyber Violence: A Challenge to Gender Equality in Indonesia.' INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CYBER CRIMINOLOGY .

107 SMEX (2018).

108 Kemigisha E, Kwikiriza S. (2021). The trends and impact of technology assisted violence among Lesbian, Bisexual, Queer (LBQ) Women and Female Sex workers (FSW) in Uganda.

109 Galloway H. (2019) How homosexuals are being jailed and persecuted just 20 kilometres from Spain.

110 Bansal, V., Leasure, E., Roth, C., Rezwan, M., Iyer, M., Pal, P., & Hinson, L. (2023). Help-seeking behaviours of those experiencing technology-facilitated GBV in Asia: implications for policy and programming. Journal of Gender-Based Violence, 7(2), 352-363.

111 ECPAT International & UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti (2022). Children's Disclosures of Online Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. Disrupting Harm Data Insight 2. Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children

112 GBV SWG (2021). Report on the Gender-Based Violence Sub-Working Group Activities During the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign for the Year 2021.

113 Jordan GBV IMS Task Force (2022). 'Jordan GBV IMS Task Force Annual Report 2021.'

114 Women at Web Rwanda - YouTube Channel (Nov 8, 2023). Digital Resilience Training.

115 Center for Human Rights, University of Pretoria (2021). Understanding Online Gender-based Violence in Southern Africa.

116 Tibatemwa-Ekirikubinza LP. (2021) Sexual and gender-based violence in Uganda during the COVID-19 pandemic: New and Old lessons for the criminal justice system. In: Gender, Judging and the courts in Africa. Routledge. 297–320.

117 Rwanda Women's Network (2018). Online Violence against women has become a common experience and is being used to shame, intimidate and degrade women.

118 SVRI (2022). Technology-Facilitated Gender Based Violence.

119 UNFPA. What Is Technology-Facilitated Gender-based Violence?

120 UN (2023). Our Common Agenda Policy Brief 8 Information Integrity on Digital Platforms.

121 Abdul Aziz Z. (2017). APC Issue Pape. Due Diligence and Accountability for Online Violence against Women.

122 Spring M. (2021). I get abuse and threats online - why can't it be stopped? BBC News

123 Dunn S. (2022)

124 UNICEF. TECHNICAL NOTE ON GENDER-TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACHES IN THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME TO END CHILD MARRIAGE PHASE II: A SUMMARY FOR PRACTITIONERS.

125 International Alert (2023). Breaking the gender trap: Challenging patriarchal norms to clear pathways for peace.

126 UNICEF (2022). Case studies in gender-transformative approaches in health, nutrition and HIV: UNICEF Tanzania, Côte d'Ivoire, South Africa, and Ghana.

127 International Alert (2023). Breaking the gender trap: Challenging patriarchal norms to clear pathways for peace.

128 George R, Marcus R, Samman E. (2020). Advancing Positive Gender Norms and Socialization through UNICEF Programmes: Monitoring and Documenting Change. Final Report.

129 International Alert (2023).

130 APC (April 2023). Why feminist research is necessary to address technology-facilitated gender-based violence: Recommendations and way forward. Association for Progressive Communication.

131 US Department of State Office of the Spokesperson (Mar 2022). 2022 Roadmap for the Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse.

132 ICTworks (2019) Hey Siri. What is the Key to More Gender Equal Technology Solutions?

133 ICRW (2018). TECHNOLOGY-FACILITATED GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE: WHAT IS IT, AND HOW DO WE MEASURE IT?

134 Bailey J, Mathen C. Ottawa Faculty of Law. (2017) "Technology-Facilitated Violence against Women and Girls: If Criminal Law Can Respond, Should it?".

135 SEED Foundation (2022). SEED Foundation Launches First Training on Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV) for NGOs in Iraq.

136 FCDO (Mar 2023). Towards a research agenda for technology-facilitated gender-based violence: a preliminary landscape analysis. Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office.

137 UNFPA. What Is Technology-Facilitated Gender-based Violence?

138 UN Women (2022). *Accelerating efforts to tackle online and technology-facilitated violence against women and girls.*

139 NORC at the University of Chicago, International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) (2022). Landscape Analysis of Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence: Findings from Asia.

140 LEAF (2021). Unacceptable Responding to Technically Facilitated Gender Based Violence.

141 SAFEnet (2020). 'Memahami Dan Menyikapi Kekerasan Berbasis Gender Online: Sebuah Panduan.'

142 Alsawalqa RO. (2021) 'Evaluating Female Experiences of Electronic Dating Violence in Jordan: Motivations, Consequences, and Coping Strategies.' Front Psychol.

143 EuroMed Rights (2021). Spaces of violence and resistance: Women's rights in the digital world. The scenario in the MENA region.

144 SMEX. (2018).

145 SMEX. (2018).

146 MRA Mobilising for Rights Associates, Association Amal pour la Femme et le Développement, Fédération des Ligues des Droits des Femmes, Anaouat pour femme et enfant, Tafiil Al Moubadarat, Association Tahadi pour l'Egalité et la Citoyenneté, et al. (2019). TECHNOLOGY-FACILITATED GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN MOROCCO.

147 Kadri N, Benjelloun R, Kendili I, Khoubila A, Moussaoui D. (2013). Internet and sexuality in Morocco, from cyber habits to psychopathology [Empirical Study; Quantitative Study]. Sexologies: European Journal of Sexology and Sexual Health / Revue europeenne de sexologie et de sante sexuelle.

148 John G. (2019). Assessing the impact of globalization on human trafficking in Rwanda . Sociol Int J.

149 U.S. Department of State (2022). 2022 Trafficking in Persons Report: Rwanda.

150 Center for Human Rights, University of Pretoria (2021). Understanding Online Gender-ased Violence in Southern Africa.

151 Kemigisha E, Kwikiriza S. (2021). Her Internet Research Report on The trends and impct of technology assisted violence among Lesbian, Bisexual, Queer (LBQ) Women and Female Sex workers (FSW) in Uganda.

152 Durham University. What is online harassment.

153 University of Stravanger (2020). Cyber bullying.

154 UNFPA (2022). Virtual but Real.

155 Robinson, R. (2024) What is Doxing?

156 CEOP Education from the National Crime Agency. Online Grooming.

Q3 Strategy is a women-led, intersectional feminist global health organisation, dedicated to improving the health and well-being of under-served populations worldwide. With a focus on gender and health equity, we bring an innovative voice to the design, delivery and implementation of research programs, partnerships and policies that challenge the status quo to deliver public health impact and drive societal agendas. We believe that transformative change requires innovative approaches, diverse and inclusive collaborations.

q3-strategy.com

We are the Generation G partnership

Together with youth leaders we tackle the root causes of gender inequality, promote gender justice and prevent (technology-facilitated) gender-based violence. We work in Indonesia, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Rwanda, South Africa and Uganda.

Find out more about **#GenerationG**
Check us out at **Rutgers.International/Generation-G**