

Online and technology facilitated violence against women and girls: standards of the Istanbul Convention

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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Violence against women online and facilitated by technology:

- must be recognised as part of the continuum of violence and abuse that women experience online and through technology, by strangers or by a current or former partner or others known to them;
- is a growing phenomenon that is all too often normalised or rendered invisible;
- remains, for the most part, unaddressed.

Violence against women online and facilitated by technology: research/surveys

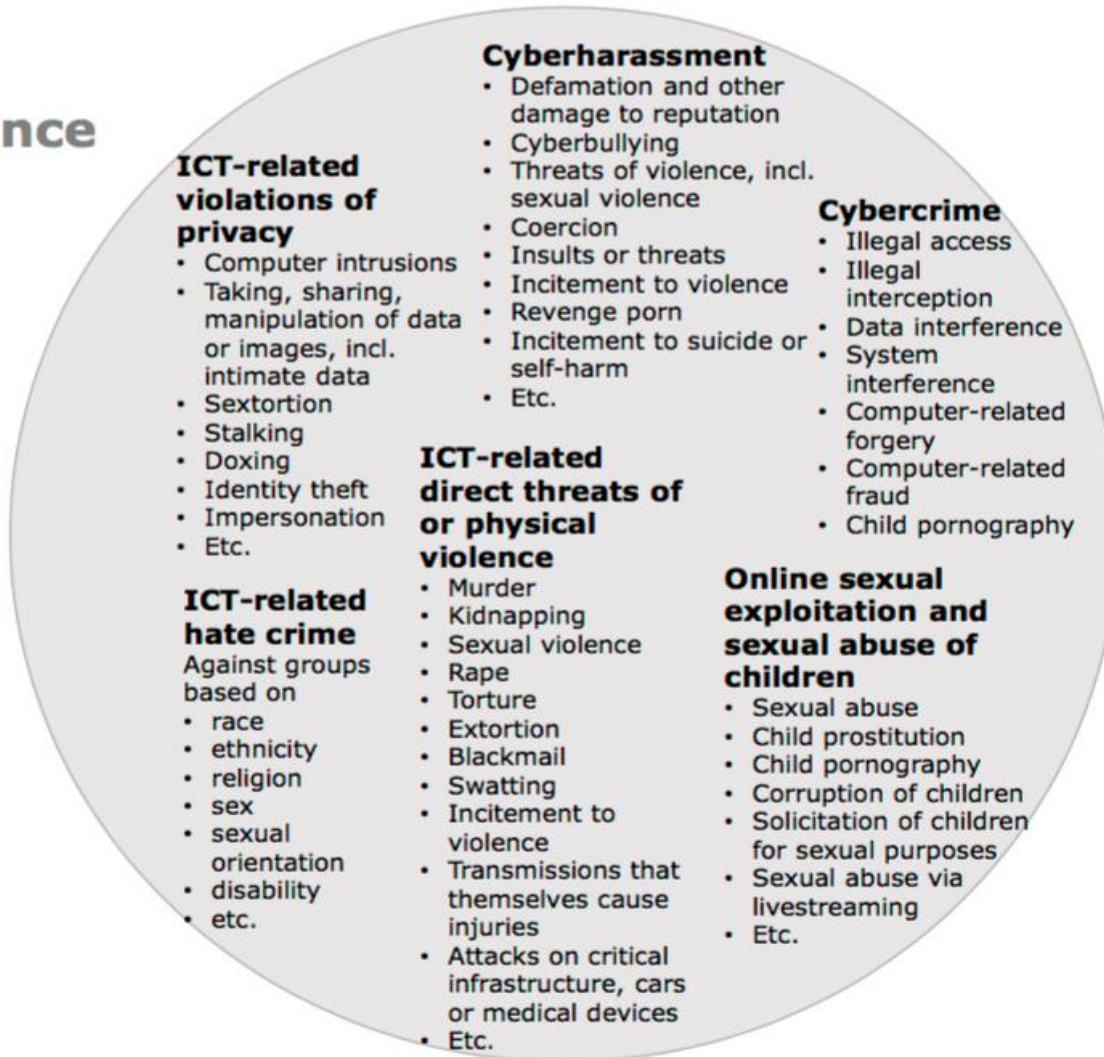
- **Plan International: Free to be online? (2020)** Highlights the experiences of 14000 girls worldwide:
 - 58% of girls experienced online harassment
 - 50% said they experience more online harassment than street harassment
- **Amnesty International survey on women's experiences of abuse and harassment on social media (2017):**
 - 46% of women responding to the survey who had experienced online abuse or harassment said it was misogynistic or sexist in nature
 - 36% of women in the UK said it made them feel that their physical safety was threatened
- **EU Fundamental Rights Survey on Violence against Women (2014):**
 - 20% of young women in the European Union had experienced some form of cyber sexual harassment



More research and sources

- European Gender Equality Institute (EIGE):
Cyberviolence against Women and Girls (2017)
- Report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences to the Human Rights Council (2018)
- Cyberviolence and hate speech online - study by the FEMM Committee of the European Parliament 2019
- "Toxic Twitter" - Amnesty International

Cyberviolence



Source: Website Cybercrime Convention

Istanbul Convention and what it has to offer in the context of preventing and combating online and technology-facilitated violence against women

Article 3 of the Convention defines violence against women as “...all acts of gender-based violence that result in, or are likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life”.



● Article 34 - Stalking

“Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the intentional conduct of repeatedly engaging in threatening conduct directed at another person, causing her or him to fear for her or his safety, is criminalised.”

● Article 40 - Sexual harassment

“Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that any form of unwanted verbal, non-verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature with the purpose or effect of violating the dignity of a person, in particular when creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment, is subject to criminal or other legal sanction.”

● Article 33 - Psychological violence

“Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the intentional conduct of seriously impairing a person’s psychological integrity through coercion or threats is criminalised.”

A holistic approach: the 4 Ps

Prevention: education, training of professionals, challenging stereotypes

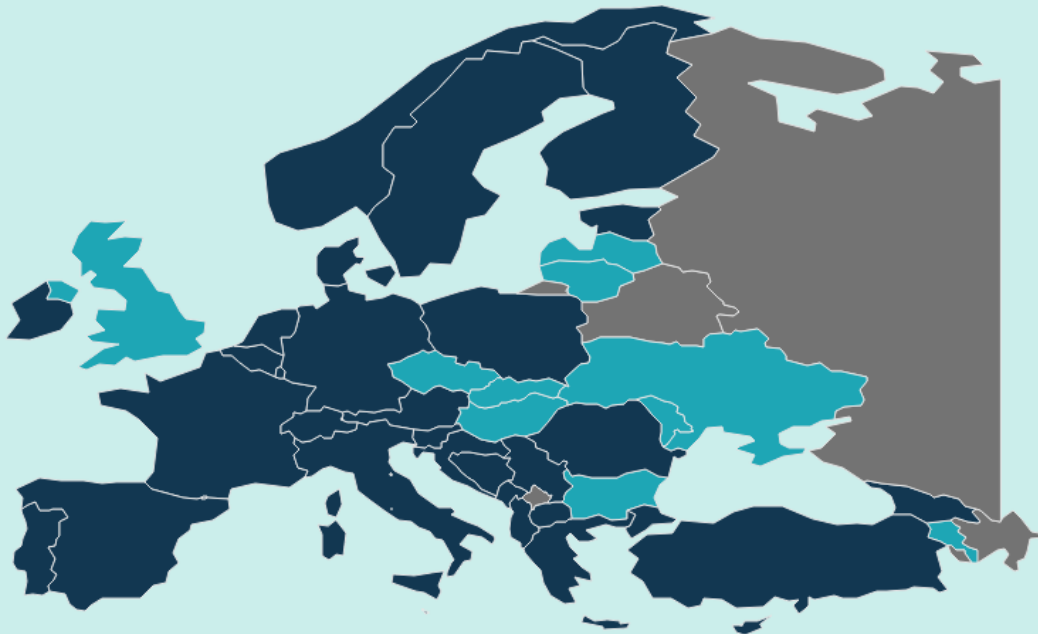
Protection: support services for victims dedicated to and specialized in the different forms of VAW, including online VAW

Prosecution: investigation and prosecution, protection and restraining orders

As part of a set of comprehensive **P**olicies

Signature and ratification

The Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention on violence against women



● Ratified/In force ● Signed but not yet ratified ● Not signed

Source: bit.ly/2IS1Vly; updated 01/07/2019

● Article 17 - Private sector, media and ICT sector

1 “Parties shall encourage the private sector, the information and communication technology sector and the media, with due respect for freedom of expression and their independence, to participate in the elaboration and implementation of policies and to set guidelines and self-regulatory standards to prevent violence against women and to enhance respect for their dignity.”

2 “Parties shall develop and promote, in co-operation with private sector actors, skills among children, parents and educators on how to deal with the information and communications environment that provides access to degrading content of a sexual or violent nature which might be harmful.”

For more information:

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