

CSW69 – SIDE-EVENT

Threats and Opportunities of Digital Technologies: Women in the Public Eye

*A side event of the sixty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69),
organised by the Council of Europe within the framework of the **Luxembourg Presidency of the
Committee of Ministers***

Co-organised with the Permanent Mission of Luxembourg to the United Nations

10 March 2025, 3:00 PM – 4:15 PM

ECOSOC Chamber - General Assembly Building, United Nations, New York

Opening address

- **Yuriko Backes**, Minister for Gender Equality and Diversity, Minister of Defence, and Minister for Mobility and Public Works of Luxembourg

Speakers

- **Rachel Gilmore**, Independent journalist
- **John-Orr Hanna**, Online Safety / Threat Intel Specialist
- **Maria-Andriani Kostopoulou**, President of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) of the Council of Europe
- **Kalliopi Mingeirou**, Chief of the Ending Violence against Women and Girls Section, UN Women
- **Irena Moozova**, Deputy Director-General "International Dimension of Justice Policies, Rule of Law and Equality", DG-JUST, EU
- **José Campi Portaluppi**, Director of Communications and Advocacy, Equimundo

Moderator

- **Marja Ruotanen**, Director General of Democracy and Human Dignity, Council of Europe



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Digital technologies unlock vast opportunities yet also pose profound risks. They are intrinsic to the professional, personal or social lives of countless women, especially among younger generations. While they are powerful tools for advancing gender equality and strengthening democracy, they can also be weaponised to work against them. The fast-paced online environment enables the widespread dissemination of gender biases and stereotypes, overt hate speech and incitements to violence sometimes under the shield of anonymity. Silencing women's voices is an attack on democratic values. Using technology to facilitate violence with chilling, silencing consequences makes such attacks massive.

National authorities, institutions, civil society and the private sector have a crucial role to play to keep all women and girls safe and prevent the normalisation of this increasing type of violence. While the number of female public figures is certainly increasing, those women and girls bear the brunt of technology-facilitated violence because of entrenched gender biases which are as prevalent online as offline. Women in the public eye are prime targets and disproportionately endure the harmful consequences, including to their safety, mental health, dignity and reputation.

The event will explore promising initiatives and measures in the public and private sectors to prevent and combat digital violence against women and to facilitate its reporting in line with the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (**Istanbul Convention**) and **General Recommendation No.1 on the digital dimension of violence against women**. Bringing together political leaders, journalists, international partners, tech industry representatives and civil society, the side-event will **examine how to prevent the normalisation of digital violence and how to amplify the voices of women and girls engaged in public or political activism**.



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