CyberEast

Action on Cybercrime for Cyber Resilience in the Eastern Partnership region

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WEBINAR

Cyberviolence against Women

Date and hour	**Thursday, 12/11/2020, at 12:00 PM CET (13:00 PM EEST)**
Speakers	— **Johanna NELLES**, Council of Europe, Head of Violence against Women Division, Executive Secretary of the Istanbul Convention monitoring mechanism (GREVIO and Committee of the Parties) – The Istanbul Convention — **Carolina LASÉN DIAZ**, Council of Europe, Programme Manager, Gender Equality Division – CM Recommendation on Preventing and Combating Sexism — **Lela AKIASHVILI,** Advisor to the Prime Minister of Georgia on Human Rights and Gender Equality – Social aspects of Cyberviolence Against Women - intersections with the Istanbul Convention — **Artur DEGTEARIOV**, Directorate on Cybercrime, National Inspectorate of Investigations, Head of Section on Investigations of Child Pornography Crimes - Dealing with Cyberviolence against Women in Moldova — **Valentyna OSADCHA**, Secretariat of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, Deputy Head of Department of Relations with Civil Society Institutions – Cyberviolence against Women as Violation of Human Rights — **Valentyna LUKIANETS**, National Academy of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, Assistant Rector for Gender Issues of the Analytical Work and Management Organization Department – Online Abuse and Harassment: Gendered Violence
Objectives	The purpose of this webinar is to discuss in depth cyberviolence against women and girls from the perspective of relevant topics that are inherently connected to the use of information and communications technology, and to incentivise countries in the EAP to ratify the Istanbul Convention. The webinar is designed to encourage an interactive participation, and to facilitate information-sharing among participants, exchanging relevant experiences and good practices, and discussing challenges and opportunities.
Expected outcomes	— Present relevant Council of Europe international standards on gender equality and violence against women; — Identify and discuss different forms of cyberviolence against women and girls; — Discuss roles and responsibilities of various institutions and actors, including law enforcement, in deterring and handling of these threats; — Present good practices in dealing with various forms of cyberviolence.

Participants	Up to 100 participants are expected.

The webinar is deemed particularly useful for officials and policy makers responsible for cybercrime and cybersecurity, as well as violence against women and domestic violence, criminal justice authorities (judges, prosecutors, law enforcement agencies), non-governmental organisations and researchers/academia with an interest in the subject.

Each registered participant will receive a confirmation email one day prior to the webinar with instructions on how to connect and rules of engagement. |
| **Background** | As proposed in the Council of Europe Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY) Mapping study on cyberviolence: "Cyberviolence is the use of computer systems to cause, facilitate, or threaten violence against individuals that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering and may include the exploitation of the individual's circumstances, characteristics or vulnerabilities."

This definition, although still being a work on progress, suggests an extreme breadth of topics that are covered by the concept of cyberviolence. The webinar will discuss how some of these forms of violence affect women and girls in their daily lives. It will showcase legal instruments, binding and non-binding, that specifically address some of the manifestations of cyberviolence against women. These are the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) and the Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)1 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on preventing and combating sexism. However, it is equally important to treat cyberviolence as an area of cooperation between various actors and initiatives for ensuring safer online environment for everyone. This presents multiple opportunities for cyberviolence to serve as an "integration" concept between various related themes: cybercrime and criminal justice response in general, the preventative measures and criminal law definitions provided by the Istanbul Convention for different forms of violence which may also take place in an online environment and, last but not least, specific powers and procedures for electronic evidence offered by the Budapest Convention, could be among possible avenues for such cooperation.

Moreover, in times of ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and continuing restrictions that increase reliance on the Internet, cyberviolence (in general) and cyberviolence against women and girls (in particular) may be even more pervasive than before, calling for more coherent and coordinated approach between governments, the private sector and the civil society. |
| **Expected duration** | 1h30'
55' presentations (including dedicated questions) + 35' general discussion |
| **Relevant resources** | The Council of Europe maintains a dedicated page on cyberviolence, with sections on:
— Legislation on cyberviolence;
— Inventory of initiatives, policies, strategies on cyberviolence;
— Resources on cyberviolence.
Council of Europe, T-CY Mapping Study on Cyberviolence (2018)
Council of Europe, Istanbul Convention. Action against violence against women and domestic violence
Council of Europe, Gender Equality Strategy (2018-2023)
Council of Europe, Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)1 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on preventing and combating sexism |

	Council of Europe, Combatting sexist hate speech (factsheet) Council of Europe, Sexism: See it. Name it. Stop it! (brochure) Council of Europe, Inclusion and anti-discrimination Council of Europe, HELP Online Courses (Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals) – Access to Justice for Women Council of Europe, Women's Rights and the COVID-19 Pandemic (resources) Council of Europe, C-PROC, Webinar: Introduction to Cyberviolence (resources) European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), Study on Cyber Violence Against Women and Girls (2017)
C-PROC related activities	The webinar is carried out under Output 1.2 of the CyberEast project aiming to support EAP countries to ratify and reform substantive law in line with Articles 34 (Stalking) and 40 (Sexual harassment) of the Istanbul Convention; and Output 2.5 of the CyberEast project, aiming to reinforce mechanisms for trusted cooperation between the private sector, citizens and criminal justice authorities.

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