



This initiative is a contribution towards the
New Democratic Pact for Europe



Programme

Policing the Pixel: Gender, Tech, and Justice

A side-event to the seventieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70) organised by the Council of Europe within the framework of the Moldovan Presidency of the Committee of Ministers

Co-organised with the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Moldova, and co-sponsored by the Permanent Missions of Monaco and Romania to the United Nations and UN Women

11 March 2026, 4:45 PM – 6:00 PM

Conference room 2 - General Assembly Building, United Nations, New York

Opening addresses

- **Doina Gherman**, Vice-President of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova
- **Silvia-Monica Dinică**, State Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Family, Youth and Social Solidarity of Romania

Keynote speeches

- **Alain Berset**, Secretary General of the Council of Europe
- **Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda**, Deputy Executive Director for Normative Support, System Coordination, Programme Results, UN Women

Panelists

- **Mirian Roache**, President of Committee of Experts of the Follow-Up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI) of the Organization of American States (OAS)
- **Colonel Emmanuel Houzé**, Police and homeland security adviser, Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations
- **Alex Davies-Jones**, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Victims and Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls, United Kingdom
- **José Campi Portaluppi**, Director of Communications and Advocacy with Equimundo
- **Kathryn Falasca**, Director, Domestic Violence Counsel, New York Police Department
- **Glen Wise**, CEO of Cinder AI
- **Bahaa El-Taweal**, Human Rights Policy Team, CoE, Google's Global Affairs Organization

Moderator

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



PERMANENT MISSION OF ROMANIA
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PRESIDENCY OF THE
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
COUNCIL OF EUROPE
SEPTEMBER 2025 – MAY 2026
PREȘEDINȚIEA DE LA
REPUBLICA DE MOLDOVA
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE
SEPTEMBRE 2025 – MAI 2026



Technology-facilitated violence against women and girls (TFVAWG) is increasing in scale and severity. It remains largely underreported and under-prosecuted, perpetuating impunity, and is likely to further intensify as technologies evolve. There is therefore an urgent need for responses that are rights-based, effective and proportionate to the scope and impact of this type of violence against women and girls

At the heart of an effective response to TFVAWG are law enforcement officers as first responders who are trained on gender-responsive approaches to identifying, investigating, and handling technology-facilitated violence. Their primary intervention is to help put in place a coherent, victim-centred, gender-responsive policing response that prevents secondary victimisation, strengthens cross-agency collaboration, improves the safeguarding and preservation of electronic evidence, and disrupts TFVAWG offences.

The disconnect between expertise on cybercrime and on violence against women hampers effective responses to TFVAWG. Units specialising in violence against women often lack the technical capacity to investigate digital abuse and secure electronic evidence, while cybercrime units may lack a gender-responsive approach, limiting their ability to identify and address the specific dynamics and harms involved. Bridging this gap is essential to ensuring effective law enforcement and prosecution. The establishment of specialised investigative and prosecutorial units providing expertise on TFVAWG, as well as first-responder systems which designate trained law enforcement officers to coordinate evidence management in line with investigative and prosecutorial requirements, are promising practices.

This side-event will focus on gender-responsive policing practices, cooperation between law enforcement and technology companies, and the pathways from reporting to investigation, prosecution and disruption of online abuse. The event will also strive to identify key gaps and highlight promising practices for effective and coordinated responses. Bringing together political leaders, specialised police officers, international partners, tech industry representatives and civil society, it will examine the role of law enforcement agencies as first responders in ensuring access to justice for women and girls subjected to technology-facilitated violence. It will also explore how effective, victim-centred reporting mechanisms to law enforcement and online platforms can enhance protection and accountability

Why a New Democratic Pact for Europe?

Democratic backsliding, disinformation, impunity, and authoritarianism are undermining democracy in Europe. People are increasingly afraid and frustrated. It comes at a time when democratic security – the resilience of our democratic institutions, freedoms, and values – is our first line of defence against the threats we face. A collective response is needed. There is no quick fix and no single solution. With the New Democratic Pact, the Council of Europe unites with its partners to boost solutions that work and create new responses. To identify them, consultations are needed. The Pact will serve as a collective and inclusive process – not to reinvent democracy, but to reinforce its foundations, amplify its benefits, and innovate its form to make it tangible for everyone, especially younger generations. The directions set during the consultation phase running through 2026 will shape the work that follows.

