

TRANSFORMING JUSTICE: Advancing Gender Equality through Law and Technology
Summer School for Law and ICT Students
3-7 August 2026
Lopota Lake Resort, Kakheti, Georgia

Introduction

Technology-facilitated violence against women (TFVAW) is an increasingly widespread form of violence that intersects with human rights, gender equality, digital governance, and technological development. Online harassment, cyberstalking, image-based sexual abuse, cyberflashing, deepfakes, doxing, and AI-enabled harms demonstrate that violence against women in digital environments is not only a legal and social issue, but also a technological and systemic one.

Addressing these challenges requires stronger cooperation between legal and ICT professionals. Future lawyers, policymakers, technology developers, engineers, and system designers require both theoretical knowledge and practical skills to understand how technologies can contribute to or help prevent violence against women, and how human rights standards apply in digital environments.

To strengthen the capacity of future professionals in Georgia to address technology-facilitated violence against women through interdisciplinary cooperation, the Council of Europe is organising the Summer School “*TRANSFORMING JUSTICE: Advancing Gender Equality through Law and Technology*.” The Summer School brings together law and ICT students to build a shared understanding of TFVAW and explore how legal standards apply in digital environments, as well as how the potential of technology can be used to advance gender equality, strengthen prevention efforts, and how ethical, rights-based technological solutions can support prevention, victim protection, accountability, and access to justice.

This initiative is closely aligned with key Council of Europe standards and priorities. It contributes to the prevention pillar of the [Istanbul Convention](#) by strengthening awareness, education, and capacity to prevent violence against women in digital environments. It also reflects the guidance of [GREVIO General Recommendation No. 1](#) on the digital dimension of violence against women, which highlights the need to address technology-enabled risks and promote interdisciplinary responses. Furthermore, the Summer School supports the “*Learning and Practicing Democracy to boost Resilience*” pillar of the [New Democratic Pact for Europe](#) by strengthening digital citizenship and democratic resilience, equipping future professionals to critically engage with digital risks, counter online harms, and promote safer, more inclusive digital environments.

Programme

The Summer School will bring together law and ICT students to explore how legal frameworks, digital technologies, and institutional responses interact in addressing TFVAW. The programme combines legal and technological perspectives and promotes interdisciplinary learning through interactive lectures, practical workshops, simulations, role plays, case-based discussions, and collaborative exercises.

The Summer School will explore key thematic areas including:

- Understanding gender, social norms, and violence against women, including how these dynamics extend into digital environments and shape technology-facilitated harm.
- Introduction to TFVAW, including key forms such as cyberstalking, online harassment, image-based sexual abuse, and emerging digital risks.
- International and national legal frameworks and standards, including the Istanbul Convention and relevant Council of Europe standards, and their application in digital contexts.
- Safety by design, risk assessment, and user protection, focusing on how digital products and services can prevent harm and enhance privacy and security.
- Case-based learning and interdisciplinary collaboration, where students analyse scenarios and explore combined legal and technological responses.
- Victim-centred and trauma-informed approaches, ensuring ethical, rights-based responses that prioritise dignity and safety.
- Digital evidence and institutional response, including basic understanding of evidence handling and challenges in addressing TFVAW cases.
- Platform responsibility, content moderation, and emerging technologies, including AI, deepfakes, algorithmic bias, and accountability in digital environments.

Summer School Comprises of Two Components:

ICT Component

The ICT component is designed around the concept of *Safety by Design* as a practical and preventive framework for reducing and responding to digital harms from the earliest stages of product and service development. Participants will explore how digital systems, online platforms, AI tools, and connected technologies can contribute to or help prevent violence against women.

The ICT sessions will focus on identifying technology-related risks and unsafe design choices, privacy and security protections, user empowerment and autonomy, risk assessment and foreseeable misuse, safer product and platform design, governance and accountability mechanisms for digital services.

Participants will examine how technological systems can unintentionally amplify risks and how safer and more ethical digital environments can be designed.

Legal Component

The legal component focuses on the application of international human rights standards and legal frameworks to TFVAW.

Participants will explore the legal qualification of TFVAW, State obligations under international human rights law, relevant Council of Europe standards, digital evidence and institutional responses, platform accountability, victim-centred and trauma-informed justice approaches, as well as challenges related to access to justice in digital environments.

Special attention will be given to the relevant jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights and the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in digital contexts.

Target Audience

The Summer School will bring together **30 students**, comprising **15 law students and 15 ICT students**, enrolled in the final year of their Bachelor's or Master's degree in Law, International Law, or ICT-

related faculties. To ensure broad representation and inclusivity, participants will be selected from a diverse range of universities across Georgia, including universities located outside of Tbilisi.

The programme is designed for highly motivated students with a strong interest in gender equality, human rights, and the role of law and technology in addressing TFVAW. Participant selection will be based on academic performance and demonstrated interest in the subject matter, with particular attention to how applicants plan to apply the knowledge gained through the programme.

Methodology

The Summer School will be delivered over **five days** and will combine interactive lectures, practical workshops, simulations, and case-based discussions. The methodology is designed to encourage active participation, interdisciplinary learning, and practical problem-solving related to TFVAW.

The sessions are designed to move from understanding technology-facilitated harms toward identifying risks, assessing digital systems, and developing safer responses. Methods will include case discussions, group exercises, feature and platform audits, misuse-scenario mapping, redesign tasks, simulations of reporting and moderation processes, and collaborative reflection on emerging technologies. The overall approach is preventive, practice-oriented, and interdisciplinary, with a strong focus on building usable knowledge and transferable skills.

The programme will combine **parallel and joint sessions** for law and ICT students. In parallel sessions, law students will focus on legal frameworks, accountability, and rights-based responses to TFVAW, while ICT students will focus on how digital technologies and platforms can enable or prevent online harm, with attention to ethics and human rights. Joint sessions will bring both groups together to build mutual understanding and encourage cooperation through real-life scenarios and shared problem-solving.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the programme, participants will:

MASTER key international and national legal frameworks addressing TFVAW, including the Istanbul Convention and relevant Council of Europe standards

UNDERSTAND how digital technologies, online platforms, AI-enabled systems, and design choices can contribute to or help prevent online harms against women and girls

IDENTIFY technology-related risk factors, unsafe digital practices, and governance gaps that may increase women's exposure to online abuse, surveillance, coercive control, and image-based sexual abuse

DEVELOP practical interdisciplinary skills through simulations, case analysis, group exercises, and collaborative problem-solving activities

ASSESS platform responsibility, digital evidence, reporting mechanisms, and institutional responses from both legal and technological perspectives

RECOGNISE risks associated with emerging technologies, including generative AI, deepfakes, recommender systems, and algorithmic bias

DESIGN safer, more inclusive, and rights-based digital environments through the application of Safety by Design and accountability principles

CONNECT and collaborate with experts and peers from law and ICT backgrounds committed to gender equality, human rights, and safer digital spaces

Practical Information

Summer School dates:

3-7 August 2026

Travelling dates:

- Arrival: 2 August 2026
- Departure: 8 August 2026

Venue:

Lopota Lake Resort, Kakheti, Georgia

Working language: Georgian (interpretation into Georgian will be provided for sessions conducted in English).

Selection Process: The call for applications will be published on the Council of Europe's website and social media platforms and disseminated to universities across Georgia. Applicants must submit a comprehensive **CV** detailing their academic background, relevant experience, and extracurricular activities related to human rights and gender equality. Additionally, participants will need to provide a short **motivation letter** (maximum 500 words) explaining their interest in the programme, relevant experience, and how they plan to apply the knowledge gained.

Following the evaluation process, **30 participants will be selected** based on their academic performance and demonstrated interest in the subject matter.

Financial Support: All costs for selected participants will be covered by the Council of Europe, including travel, accommodation, and meals. Participants will be accommodated in double rooms (shared by two participants of the same sex).

Accessibility accommodations will be provided as needed to ensure equal participation opportunities for all selected participants.

Certificate: All participants who successfully complete the Summer School will receive a certificate of completion issued by the Council of Europe.

Deadline: The deadline for submitting the applications (CV and a motivation letter) is **16 June 2026, 23:59 (Tbilisi time)**. Any submissions received after the deadline will be automatically rejected.

All applications to be sent to Genderequality.georgia@coe.int with the subject "Summer School for Law and ICT Students 2026."

Organised within the Council of Europe project "Advancing Gender Equality, Strengthening Justice and Support for Women in Georgia". The Project is a part of the [Council of Europe Action Plan to Georgia 2024-2027](#).