# FACTSHEET

## RECOMMENDATION CM/REC(2026)2 OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS TO MEMBER STATES ON ACCOUNTABILITY FOR TECHNOLOGY-FACILITATED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Adopted by the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers on 4 March 2026, **Recommendation CM/Rec(2026)2 on accountability for technology-facilitated violence against women and girls** is the first international legal standard focused on accountability for this form of violence. It understands accountability broadly, encompassing criminal, civil and administrative frameworks as well as prevention measures that challenge root causes and help create an environment in which harmful conduct is not tolerated. The Recommendation takes a human rights-based, gender-transformative and intersectional approach, recognising technology-facilitated violence against women and girls as inherently gendered and part of a continuum of violence that women and girls experience in all spheres of life.

The Recommendation recognises that technology-facilitated violence against women and girls can lead to the silencing of women and girls, affect their public and political participation and threaten democratic processes. It requires a dual approach to freedom of expression: measures to address technology-facilitated violence against women and girls should not unjustifiably restrict expression, while States should also act to prevent and address the silencing of women and girls through such violence.

The Recommendation calls on member States to take action in four main areas:

### Fostering an environment of accountability

- Implement comprehensive measures to prevent technology-facilitated violence against women and girls, including through education, digital literacy, capacity-building and awareness-raising.
- Provide accessible, effective, holistic and co-ordinated support for victims, including legal, psychological and, where appropriate, technological support.

### Strengthening legal and policy frameworks

- Criminalise technology-facilitated violence against women and girls and provide effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions.
- Make civil and administrative remedies available to victims.
- Meaningfully involve relevant stakeholders in developing laws and policies.
- Collect and analyse relevant data and support research to inform the development, monitoring, evaluation and review of laws and policies.

### Reinforcing effective and accessible justice systems

- Prevent secondary victimisation and protect victims' privacy, dignity and safety during investigations and proceedings.
- Strengthen the capacity of law enforcement, prosecutors and the judiciary.
- Strengthen co-ordination between investigation and prosecution services and promote multi-agency collaboration for unified and effective responses.
- Ensure the secure collection, handling, storage and presentation of digital evidence, including through cross-border co-operation where needed.
- Ensure that victims have effective and meaningful access to justice

### Regulating technology companies and internet intermediaries

- Integrate safety-by-design standards throughout product development.
- Adopt gender-responsive terms of service.
- Provide accessible and user-friendly reporting systems.
- Ensure effective content moderation, including through the ethical use of AI-assisted systems.
- Provide effective, accessible and age-appropriate safeguards and user-control tools to help women and girls use technology safely.

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