



CYBER VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS (CVAWG)

Overview



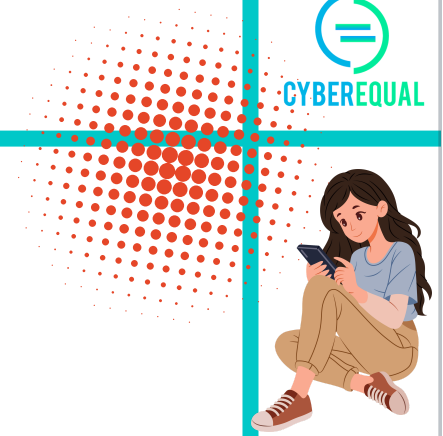
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CVAWG DEFINITION



CVAWG refers to harmful acts carried out through digital technologies that target women and girls based on their gender.



Introductory questions to the participants:

1. Have you ever witnessed or heard about someone experiencing CVAWG?
2. Why do you think it's important to talk about violence that happens through technology?
3. What kinds of technology do you use most every day?

* technology= internet, social media platforms, chat rooms, smartphones, messaging apps, email etc.

CVAWG DEFINITION



CVAWG refers to harmful acts carried out through digital technologies that target women and girls based on their gender.



It can affect people differently based on personal characteristics, like race, age, or disability.



Point out:

1. A key obstacle in tackling CVAWG is the absence of a globally recognised framework for collecting consistent and comparable data. Scholars and organisations emphasise the need for standardised definitions, indicators, and methodologies to ensure accurate, cross-regional data collection. Without a unified approach, efforts to compare data, identify global trends, or inform policy remain fragmented.

2. Incorporating an intersectional lens into data collection is essential to understanding the layered experiences of marginalised groups, such as women of color, LGBTQ+ people, and women with disabilities who are often underrepresented in mainstream research. Tailoring data collection and analysis to these groups allows for more inclusive policy and intervention design that reflects diverse lived realities.

*intersectionality: People don't experience discrimination based on a single aspect of their identity. Instead, multiple identities overlap in complex ways that can intensify marginalisation or advantage.

For example, a Black woman may experience racism differently than a Black man and sexism differently than a white woman, due to the intersection of race and gender.

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It can happen online, offline, or both, and the person causing it might be someone the victim knows or doesn't know.



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PREVALENCE OF CVAWG



CyberEqual Survey

76%

of respondents across all partner countries experienced, witnessed, or knew someone who experienced CVAWG.

Cyprus



61.2%

Greece



72.4%

Ukraine



90.6%

Slovakia



73.3%

Lithuania



82.9%



Question to the participants:

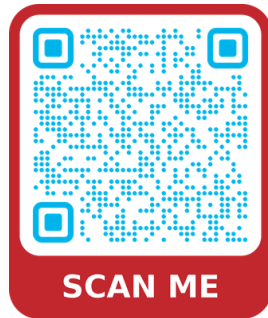
Did you know that according to recent studies, nearly 1 in 3 women worldwide have experienced some form of gender-based violence? And with the rise of digital technology, many face violence online too, from harmful messages to threats.

Link this question to the CyberEqual survey and its findings.

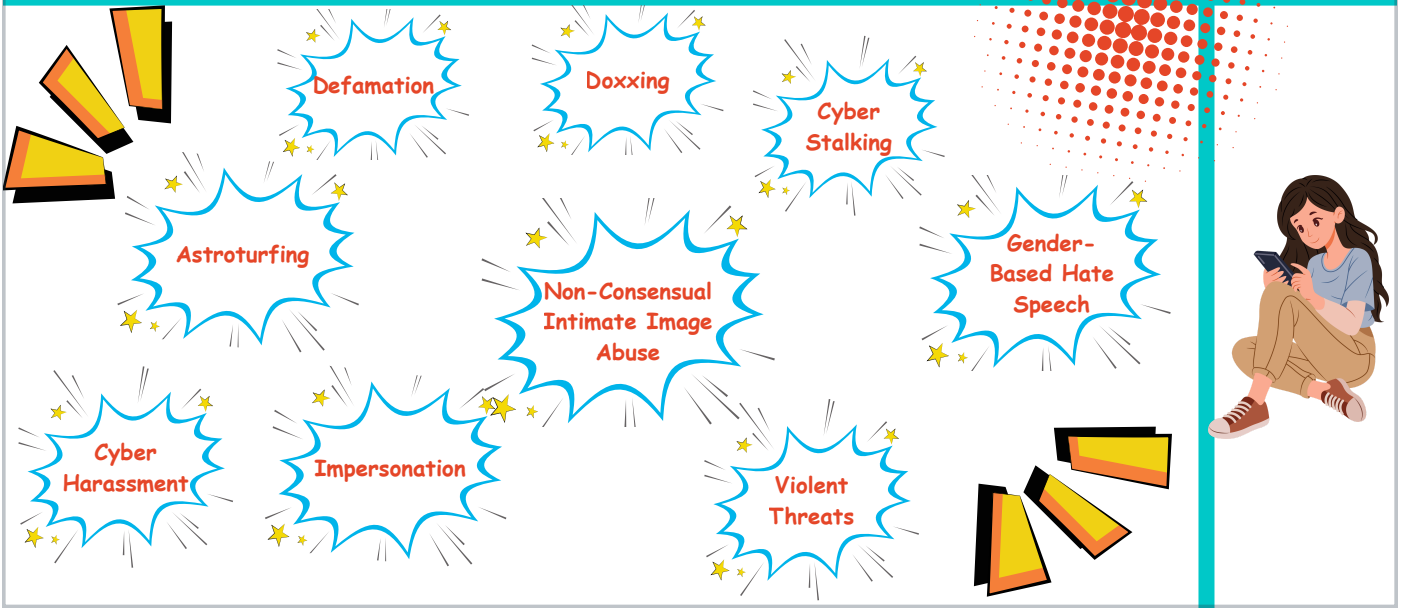
These numbers show that CVAWG isn't just happening in one place; it's a global problem affecting millions across different countries and communities.

FORMS OF CVAWG

What forms of *CVAWG* do you know?



FORMS OF CVAWG



FORMS OF CVAWG

Doxxing

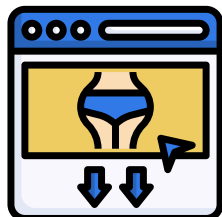
Doxxing is when someone shares a woman's or girl's private personal information online, like her home address, phone number or family details, without permission, usually to scare, harass, or harm her.



Explain what form of CVAWG we have identified and provide simple definitions. They can also share brief examples.

FORMS OF CVAWG

Non-Consensual Intimate Image Abuse (NCIIA)



NCIIA happens when private or intimate pictures or videos are shared or copied without permission, usually online through technology.



Explain what form of CVAWG we have identified and provide simple definitions. They can also share brief examples.

FORMS OF CVAWG

Violent threats



Violent threats are unwanted messages or actions -spoken, written, or online- that make someone feel afraid of physical harm or danger.



Stress the REAL fear of violent threats and the impact of the violence on survivors.

FORMS OF CVAWG

Cyber Harassment



FORMS OF CVAWG

Misinformation/Defamation



Misinformation/defamation is when false or misleading information is purposely shared about a woman with the purpose of damaging her reputation.



FORMS OF CVAWG

Cyber Stalking



Cyberstalking is when someone uses the internet or electronic messages to follow, bother, or threaten a person repeatedly. This can include sending scary or rude messages.



FORMS OF CVAWG

Impersonation



Impersonation is the act of someone creating or using an online account, profile, or identity pretending to be another person, with the intent to mislead, deceive, or harm that person or third parties.

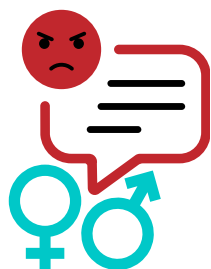


FORMS OF CVAWG

Gender-Based Hate Speech



CYBEREQUAL



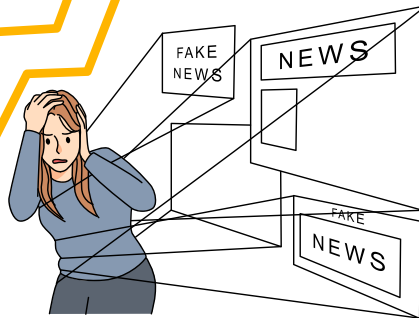
Gender-based hate speech online is any form of speech, image or behaviour in digital media that targets, offends or belittles people because of their gender, often in a stereotypical, derogatory or threatening manner. It includes comments, posts or messages that reinforce discrimination, incite fear or promote gender-based violence.



FORMS OF CVAWG

Astroturfing

Astroturfing is an organized attempt to post harmful content for a woman on multiple platforms at the same time.



THE PYRAMID OF CVAWG



Why a Pyramid Model?

- It visualises escalation of behaviors from normalised to criminal.
- It emphasises prevention at all levels.
- It helps understand how culture fuels abuse.
- It encourages policy, platform, and user-level interventions.

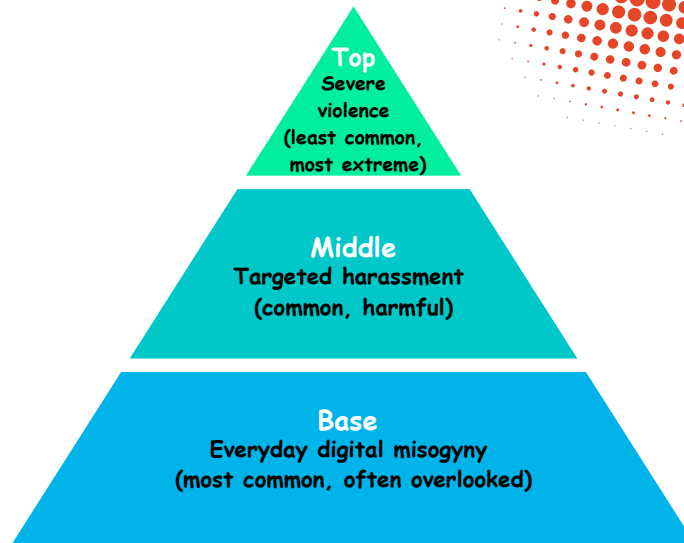


Explain why the pyramid model is used for GBV. It is used to show how different types of violence and harmful behaviors are connected and build on each other.

THE PYRAMID OF CVAWG

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At the bottom of the pyramid, you have attitudes and beliefs that support violence (like sexism or stereotypes). Above that are harmful actions like harassment or bullying. Higher up, you see more serious forms like physical violence or sexual assault. The pyramid helps explain that to stop the most serious violence, we also need to address the smaller, everyday behaviors and attitudes that create an environment where violence can happen.

It's a way to understand that violence doesn't happen in isolation. It grows from deeper social problems.

THE PYRAMID OF CVAWG



What kinds of behaviors or attitudes do you think belong at the bottom of the pyramid?



Explore together what can fit in this pyramid and why. Ask questions like:

1. What kinds of behaviors or attitudes do you think belong at the bottom of the pyramid?

THE PYRAMID OF CVAWG



Impact
Normalises hostile environments
Sets the stage for more serious abuse

Base - Everyday Digital Misogyny
Sexist jokes, memes, or slurs
Objectifying women in comments or content
Silencing or mocking women's contributions online
Minimising online abuse ("just a joke")

Why do you think these might lead to more serious forms of violence?

THE PYRAMID OF CVAWG

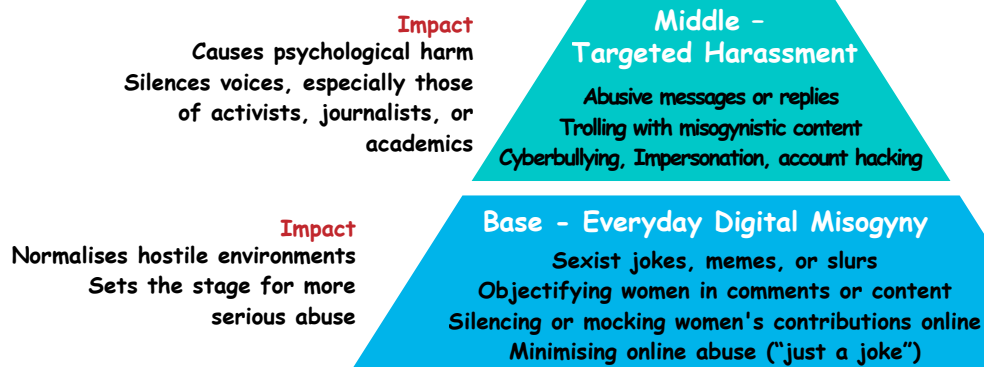
Can you give examples of actions that might be in the middle layer?

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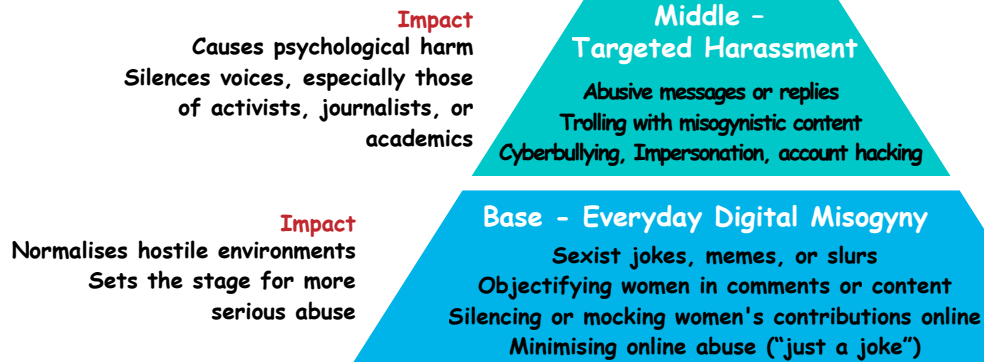
THE PYRAMID OF CVAWG



How do the different levels connect or influence each other?

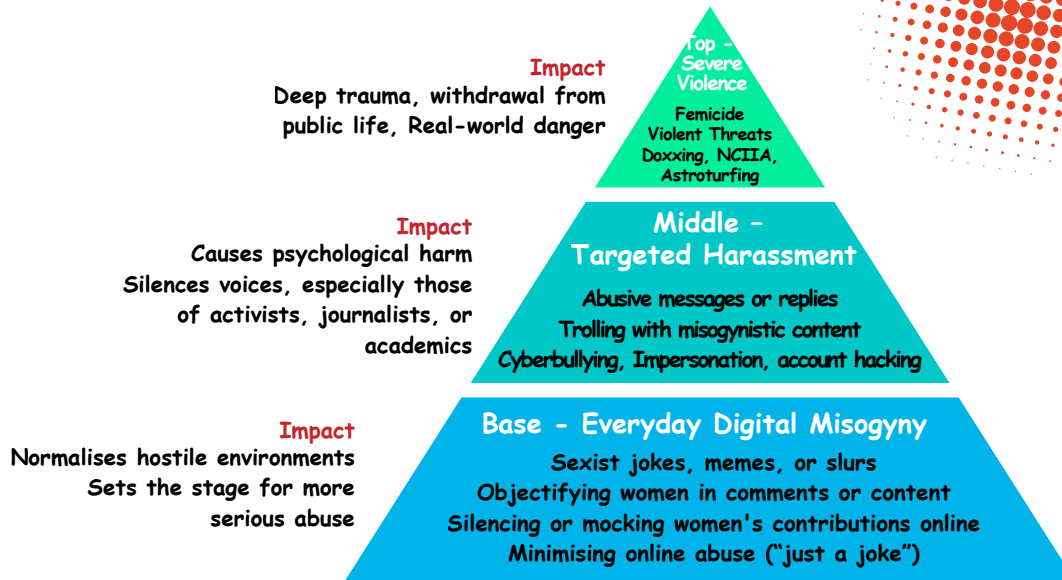
THE PYRAMID OF CVAWG

Which actions do you think are the most serious?

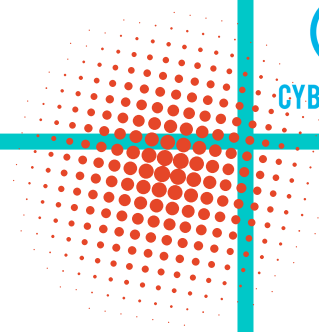


Which actions do you think are the most serious?

THE PYRAMID OF CVAWG

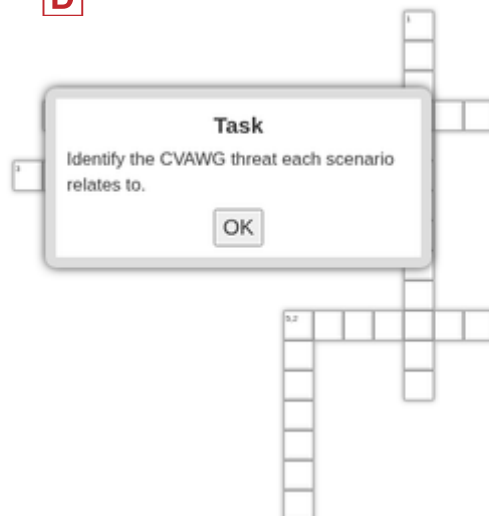


Why is it important to address the smaller behaviors, not just the serious ones?



Task
Identify the CVAWG threat each scenario relates to.

OK



Run the crossword with the participants, asking them to identify the CVAWG threat each scenario relates to.

PREVENTION OF CVAWG

Strengthen Your Digital Security







- 🔒 Use strong, unique passwords.
- 🔒 Enable Two-Factor Authentication (2FA).
- 🔒 Update privacy settings on social media regularly.
- 🔒 Avoid using public Wi-Fi for sensitive activities.



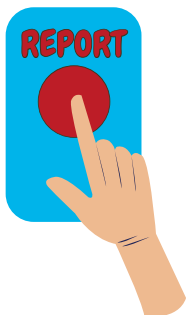
Control Your Online Visibility



-  Limit personal information shared online (e.g., address, school, daily routine).
-  Be selective with friend requests and followers.
-  Use anonymous usernames when appropriate.
-  Adjust location-sharing settings on apps and devices.



Recognise and Report Abuse



- Learn to identify signs of cyber violence (e.g., unwanted messages, threats, NCIIA).
- Save evidence: screenshots, messages, emails, usernames.
- Use in-app tools to block, mute, and report offenders.
- Report severe abuse to local authorities or online safety helplines.



PREVENTION OF CVAWG

Know Your Rights

REMEMBER!

You are not to blame for someone else's abuse.



Understand your legal rights regarding cyber violence.



Familiarize yourself with laws like GDPR, against cyber harassment, cyberstalking etc.



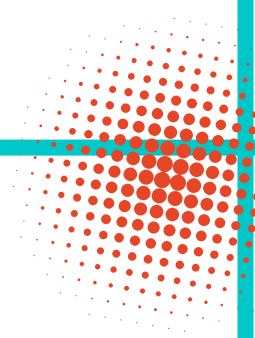
Reach out to women's organizations or legal aid centers for help if needed.





CYBEREQUAL

THANK YOU!



CVAWG IS REAL VIOLENCE!



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