





Accelerating Progress by Addressing Barriers to Leadership and Democratic Participation



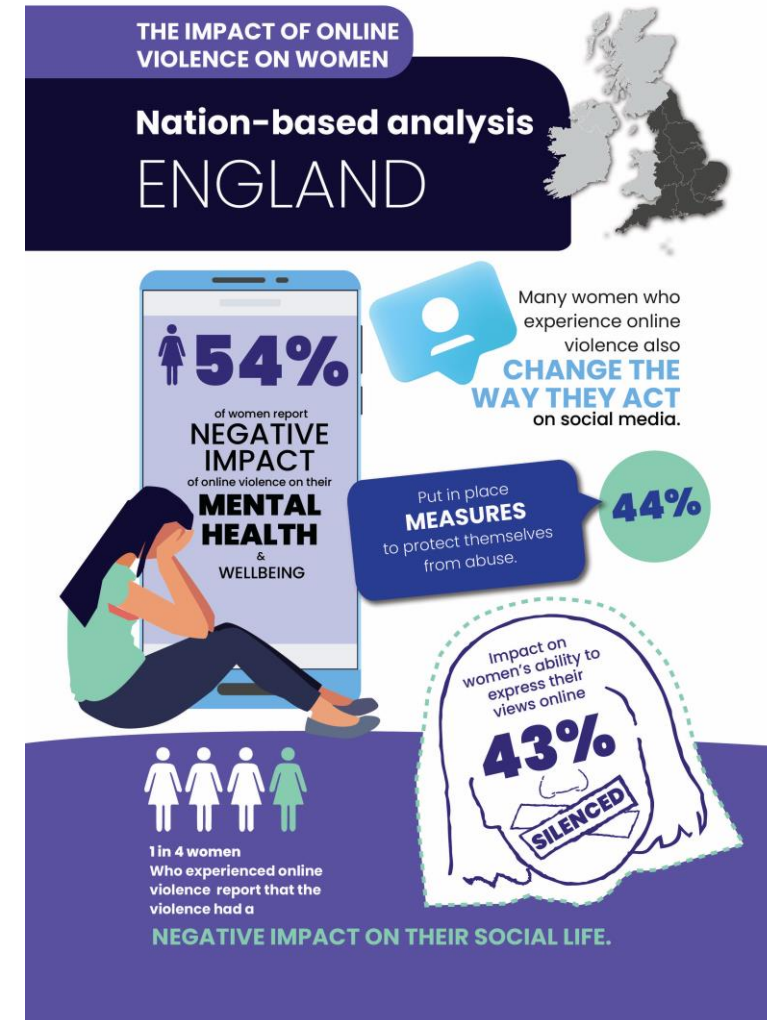
Centre for
Protecting
Women Online

#CSW69

OVAW: impact on participatory rights



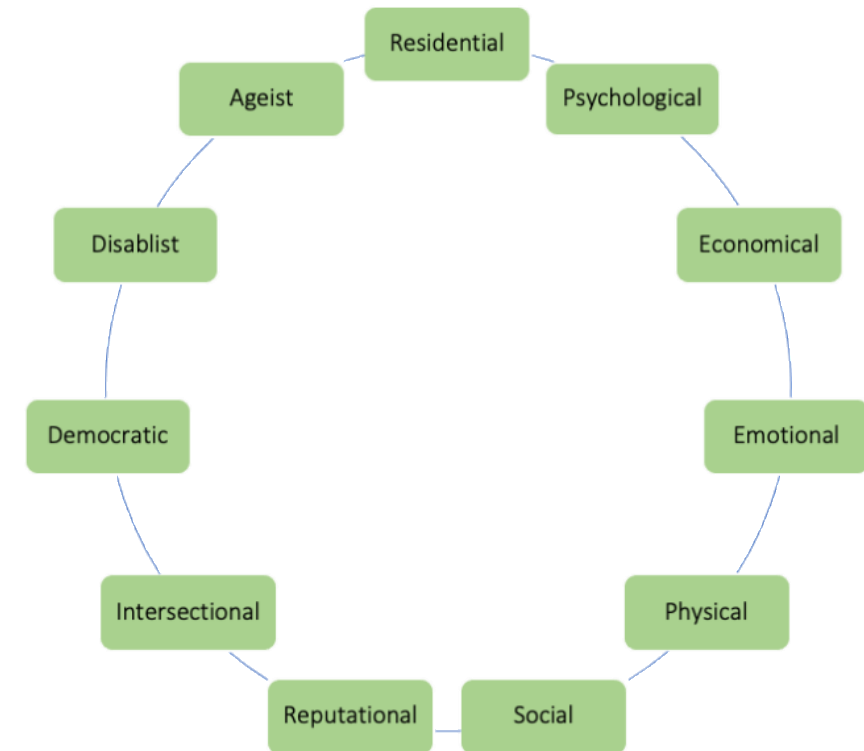
- Across the UK, 41% of women who experienced online violence reported silencing effects of this experience (Jurasz, 2024).
- 50% of girls and young women aged 11-21 disagree when asked if they feel free to express their views online (GirlGuiding 2023).
- Almost all female MSPs have received online abuse and half have been targets of misinformation (Holyrood, 2025).



Democratic harms & participatory exclusion



- Numerous (and cumulative) harms take a toll on women's participatory rights, undermining strength and quality of democracy



Classification of harms arising from OVAW according to Barker & Jurasz (2021)

Can law provide solutions?



- 19% of respondents support creation of special legal protections from online violence for political candidates and politicians (Jurasz, 2024)
- Participatory rights and CEDAW
- Participatory rights: Beijing +30?
- Shared responsibilities to build gender equal democracies



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