



# **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence**

- 25 November the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women - 10 December, Human Rights Day
- First launched in 1991 at the first Global Women's Leadership Institute





## 2025 Theme

# End digital violence against all women and girls

- One of the fastest growing forms of GBV
- Between 16-58% of women face digital violence

# What is digital abuse?

- **Image-based abuse/ non-consensual sharing of intimate images**
- **Cyberbullying, trolling, and online threats**
- **Online harassment and sexual harassment**
- **AI-generated deepfakes**
- **Hate speech and disinformation on social media platforms**
- **Doxxing – publishing private information**
- **Online stalking or surveillance/tracking**
- **Online grooming and sexual exploitation**
- **Catfishing and impersonation**
- **Misogynistic networks - "manosphere," incel forums**

# How many women and girls experience technology-facilitated violence?

- **Between 16 - 58% of women have experienced this type of violence.**
- **Arab States: 60% of women internet users have experienced online violence.**
- **Eastern Europe and Central Asia: research across 12 countries found that more than 50% of women over 18 years old have experienced some form of technology-facilitated abuse in their lifetime.**
- **Sub-Saharan Africa: A study of five countries found that 28% of women had experienced online violence.**
- **Europe and the USA: A survey of women aged 18 – 55 in Denmark, Italy, New Zealand, Poland, Spain, Sweden, the UK and the USA found that 23% of women reported at least one experience of online abuse or harassment.**

# Why is digital abuse so hard to stop?

- **Weak regulation of the technology sector**
- **Lack of accountability from tech platforms and social networking sites.**
- **Normalization of violence in manosphere spaces.**
- **Artificial Intelligence creating new forms of abuse**
- **Growing backlash against gender equality.**
- **Anonymity of perpetrators and cross-border abuse make it harder to get justice.**
- **Limited support systems for survivors of cyberbullying or personal data leaks.**

# Global Progress

- The 2024 **Global Digital Compact** set the first UN-wide standards for digital safety and AI governance.
- In December 2024, Member States adopted the **UN Cybercrime Convention**
- The **UN General Assembly** adopted a resolution on Violence Against Women in Digital Environments in 2024
- In 2024, the **UN Statistical Commission** called for the development of global methods to measure technology-facilitated gender-based violence, with work now underway.
- Regional bodies also acted – from the **African Union’s Convention on Ending Violence against Women and Girls** to the **EU’s Digital Services Act**.

# What should our call to action emphasise?

- **Highlight Rural Women's unique vulnerabilities**
- **Demand equal access to support services**
- **Advocate for investment in rural infrastructure**
- **Promote inclusive digital access and safety**
- **Encourage cross-sector collaboration in rural areas**
- **Celebrate Rural Women's strength**