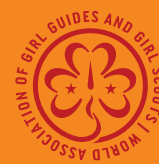


The outcome we want: WAGGGS at CSW67 *#SheSurfsFreedom*



Create Transformative Legal and Policy Framework

Surf Smart Asks

To Create a Digital World of Equality and Equity

Without equal access to technology and the internet, girls and women are not able to equally participate in our ever more digital societies. Holding back girls and women in this area affects every aspect of their lives, including their ability to speak out and campaign on issues that affect them. The gender digital divide in access to the internet remains largest in the world's least developed countries at 32.9%.¹



CALLS TO ACTION



- 1. Ensure** a gender-responsive and intersectional approach to innovation, technology and digital education, across all concerned laws and policies.
- 2. Provide** girls, women, and other marginalised groups with digital education, and technology for more creative solutions, and greater potential for innovations that meet girls' and women's needs and promote gender equality and equity; for a sustainable digital future.
- 3. Invest** in transformational and inclusive law enforcement mechanism to guarantee sensitive and effective handling of complex forms of online gender-based violence; including accessible reporting system

Legal

Establishing a Clear Legal Framework to Address Online Violence Against Women and Girls

Social media is perceived as an unsafe space, with 52% of women globally experiencing digital harm and 87% believing that the problem is accentuating.² The issue arises from the lack of regulations and formalised policies in preventing online violence and protecting users. There is little response from social media companies, governments and law enforcement authorities and even for the countries that have legal frameworks for online safeguarding and security, they are often generic and gender-blind.³

Stop The Violence Asks



CALLS TO ACTION

- 1. Urge** governments to take into consideration the serious harms of online violence and its effects, as well as the need for clear laws and legal protection in this area. This can be achieved by adopting a comprehensive definition of technology-facilitated violence against women and girls and including the participation of survivors and women's organisations, with special emphasis on closing legal loopholes.

¹ Bridging the gender digital divide | Plan International (plan-international.org)

² Web Foundation, 2020, The online crisis facing women and girls threatens global progress on gender equality, <https://webfoundation.org/2020/03/the-online-crisis-facing-women-and-girls-threatens-global-progress-on-gender-equality/>

³ Womankind, 2018, Breaking the silence: ending online violence and abuse against women's rights activists, <https://www.womankind.org.uk/resource/breaking-the-silence/>; EIGE, 2019; UNICEF, 2020, <https://www.unicef.org/eap/reports/our-lives-online>; Broadband Commission, 2015



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2. Take action against misogynistic hate speech and power that social media is given in spreading misinformation and the increasing incel culture by strengthening the legal frameworks and ensuring non-formal education addressing gender stereotypes and consent is mainstreamed.

3. Provide legislative direction to criminal justice bodies through the adoption, strengthening and enforcing laws against online violence against women and girls.



Protect, Educate and Support

Prioritise Body Confidence of Young Women and Girls

Appearance-based discrimination, objectification, and body shaming online and offline is not just a public health issue, but also a gender equality issue. It affects young women's and girls' mental health and impedes the attainment of their human rights. Seventy-four percent (74%) of girls who use social media believe they are put under pressure to look a certain way⁴. Young women and girls should be safe, confident, and empowered to speak up and take action to address appearance and gender-based discrimination.



- 1. Introduce** legislation and enforce laws for stronger protection of young women and girls, from sexualisation, objectification and harassment online in relation to body image.
- 2. Develop, support, and strengthen** mental health programmes and body-confidence building interventions both online and offline to address young women and girls' mental health as a result of low body confidence and self-esteem.
- 3. Commit** to preventing the marketing of unobtainable body ideals and increase representation of diverse young women and girls in the media.



⁴ Dove (2017). The 2017 Dove Global Girls Beauty and Confidence Report. Retrieved on 22 February 2023, from <https://digitaluniversity.womendeliver.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Mod-1-2017-Dove-Global-Girls-Beauty-and-Confidence-Report.pdf>