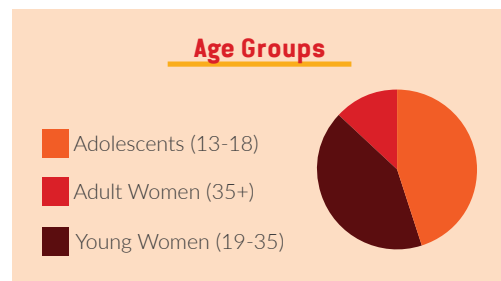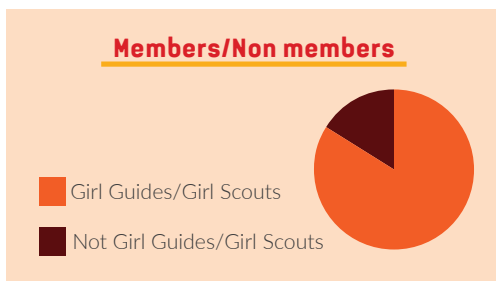## Our digital future will be equal and free.

Launched during 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence, our SheSurfsFreedom survey has brought together over 1,000 voices and experiences of young women from around the world to understand what it's like to be online, and what needs to be done so that there's freedom and equality.

Girls around the shared their voice from over 70 countries from around the world.

Afghanistan	Cameroon	Fiji
Albania	Canada	Finland
Algeria	Cape Verde	France
Andorra	Central African Rep	Gabon
Angola	Chad	Gambia
Antigua & Deps	Chile	Georgia
Argentina	China	Germany
Armenia	Colombia	Ghana
Australia	Comoros	Greece
Austria	Congo	Grenada
Azerbaijan	Costa Rica	Guatemala
Bahamas	Croatia	Guinea
Bahrain	Cuba	Guinea-Bissau
Bangladesh	Cyprus	Guyana
Barbados	Czech Republic	Haiti
Belarus	Democratic Republic	Honduras
Belgium	of Congo	Hungary
Belize	Denmark	Iceland
Benin	Djibouti	India
Bhutan	Dominica	Indonesia
Bolivia	Dominican Republic	Iran
Bosnia Herzegovina	East Timor	Iraq
Botswana	Ecuador	Ireland {Republic}
Brazil	Egypt	Israel
Brunei	El Salvador	Italy
Bulgaria	Equatorial Guinea	Ivory Coast
Burkina	Eritrea	Jamaica
Burundi	Estonia	Japan
Cambodia	Ethiopia	Jordan

Kazakhstan	Kuwait	Liberia	Madagascar	Marshall Islands	Monaco	Namibia	Niger	Panama
Kenya	Kyrgyzstan	Libya	Malawi	Mauritania	Mongolia	Nauru	Nigeria	Papua New Guinea
Kiribati	Laos	Liechtenstein	Malaysia	Mauritius	Montenegro	Nepal	Norway	Paraguay
Korea North	Latvia	Lithuania	Maldives	Mexico	Morocco	Netherlands	Oman	Peru
Korea South	Lebanon	Luxembourg	Mali	Micronesia	Mozambique	New Zealand	Pakistan	Philippines
Kosovo	Lesotho	Macedonia	Malta	Moldova	Myanmar, {Burma}	Nicaragua	Palau	Poland

Responses were gathered from girls aged 13 upwards, and open to all girls and women.

Members/Non members

- Girl Guides/Girl Scouts
- Not Girl Guides/Girl Scouts

Age Groups

- Adolescents (13-18)
- Adult Women (35+)
- Young Women (19-35)

Hours in online

- Less than an hour
- 1-3 hours
- 4-5 hours
- Over 8 hours

More than 50% of girls and women surveyed answered that they spend over 4 hours of their lives each day online. As we spend more and more of our lives online, we need to ensure that the digital world and experience of being in it, isn't creating a negative impact on girls' lives, choices and real life.

#SheSurfsFreedom
CSW67

Enjoying the online world, girls and women are participating in a range of activities, engaging with people that they know and don't know.

Favourite things to do online

Category	Value
Others	~150
Play online games	~190
Watch videos	~560
Surf online	~410
Chat with friends	~570

Age Groups

Girl Guides/Girl Scouts
Not Girl Guides/Girl Scouts

Age Group	Girl Guides/Girl Scouts	Not Girl Guides/Girl Scouts
Adolescents (13-18)	~225	~257
Young Women (19-35)	~358	~102
Adult Women (35+)	~70	~67
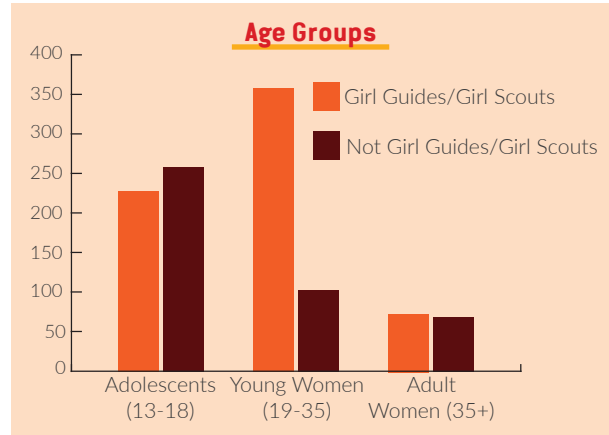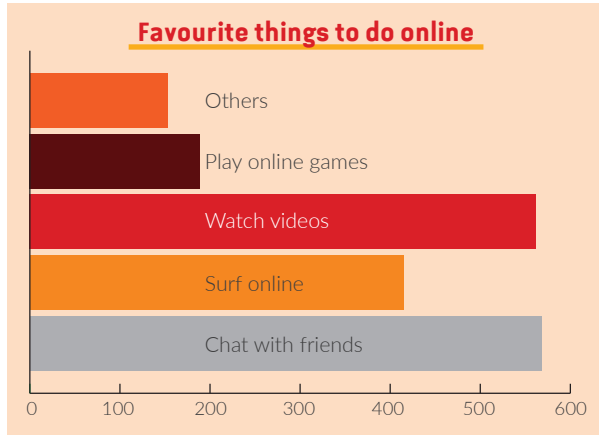
The world becomes less fun when we consider the level of sexual harassment, cyber bullying and scamming that takes place because of gender. **Two thirds** of girls or women asked, told us that have seen and received sexual or violent content that made them feel uncomfortable.

The facts:

Uncomfortable content online

- Yes
- No

66% of women have seen adult sexual or violent content online that made them feel uncomfortable.

45% of girls have received unwelcome sexual messages.

42% of girls have since changed their behaviour online due to this.

Though girls and women positioned their thoughts of personal safety online at a median score of 5.5, on a scale of 1-10, many are coping or adapting their behaviour as gender based violence is being normalised as part of society.

In response to the question, *Do you feel unsafe online?* Girls responded:

"Not really, besides the unwanted text messages from old men offering to be my sugar daddys"
- Kenya (Age 13-15).

"yes, I was impersonated by another person on instagram, with pictures of myself that was taken from my private account, made me feel uncomfortable and unable to trust anyone"
- Sri Lanka (Age 16-18)

"Yes, I had fake nudes leaked from a guy saying it was me because I stood up for another girl."
- Lebanon (Age 16-18)

"Yes, I was cyberbullied and the person would tell me that I should go kill my self and things like that"
- Netherlands Age 19-25

"As a child, being exposed to pornographic material"
- UK (Age 25-35)

"When a person that I didn't know told me my real location"
- Poland (Age 19-25)

"I have received sexual comments from people older than me, especially at the start of having my own instagram account, which was 13. These guys sent me inappropriate pictures and also questions that made me feel very uncomfortable such as, if I'd already had my first period and if my breasts are big or not."
- Malaysia (16-18)

"Whenever I post any picture I always need to double check it as if I were double checking an exam before submitting it because I am very afraid of what people will say, if they will think I'm ugly, what I'm wearing is not nice, I'm also afraid of body shaming."
- Lebanon (19-25)

From being sexualised, to being threatened, bullied, scarred by sexual and/or violent content, girls and women are facing additional barriers to their engagement, participation and enjoyment of the online world with devastating consequences.

41% of girls and young women responded that they have received unwanted and unwelcome messages of sexual content.

21% of girls and women have received sexual comments that made them feel uncomfortable.

14% have received threats of sexual or violent behaviour.

Over **30%** have felt negative about themselves due to other people's comments on their own or other people's content.

100% of respondents believe that this behaviour, action and violation towards them was because they were girls and women.
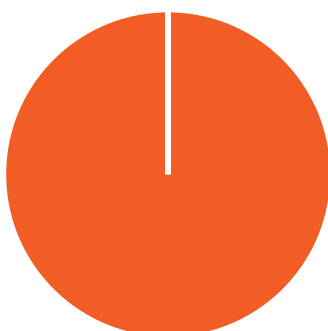
100%

Do you think that this happened because you are a girl/woman?

These experiences have both an immediate impact on how girls and women feel, they shared the experience made them feel:

In response to the question, *Do you feel unsafe online?* Girls responded:

"A Mixture: Normal. Embarrassed. Uncomfortable. Annoyed. Angry and not confident."
- Maldives (Age 13-15)

"This experience made me feel unwanted, unworthy, and disrespected."
- Philippines (Age 16-18)

"I feel like I'm an object and that people think is normal to say or judge everything I do"
- Brunei (Age 16-18)

"It made me feel like I did not fit in anywhere"
- South Africa (Age 16-18)

"It actually makes you feel a bit worthless like it was your mistake my fault"
- Sri Lanka (Age 16-18)

"I feel protection-less, if I do something as a woman, it seems like men are there to judge, and society sees that as normal and the appropriate behaviour of men"
- Germany (Age 19-25)

Je me suis sentie humiliée"
- France (Age 19-25)

"Inferior y vulnerable"
- Argentina (Age 19 -25)

"Cela m'as donnée l'impression de ne pas savoir quel était mon vrai rôle dans la société"
- Madagascar (Age 19-25)

Questioning myself, less self confident, wondering if it was my mistake, if should have done something differently"
- Austria (Age 19-25)

This immediate impact was also echoed in subsequent actions and ways of being, both online and how they live; where girls and women are questioning their own actions and identity, when it's the actions of **others** that are responsible, violating and violent.

42% of girls who have felt harm online have now changed their behaviours as a consequence. Changing behaviour, imposing restrictions on how they engage online and self-censoring.

Has your behaviour changed as a consequence of your experience online?

"I don't voice out against stuff anymore."
- Malaysia (Age 13-15)

"I've stopped using certain social media completely, instagram and twitter to be specific, because of how insecure and bullied it made me feel."
- India (Age 16-18)

"(I) post less and post landscape instead of my face, and have a private account"
- Malta (Age 19-25)

"I don't play online games with random groups due to the amount of gender-based insults and harassment"
- Ireland (Age 19-25)

"I am skeptical of everything and everyone. Everytime I receive a message from a loved one I doubt if it's really them and wonder if they have been hacked."
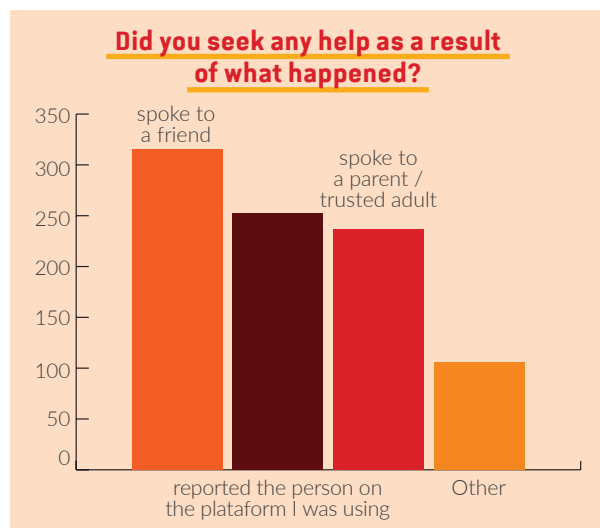- Domenica (Age 19-25)

"I do not upload that often anymore, I try to post pictures without me in it, I look for the "perfect" picture or post nothing"
- Germany (Age 19-25)

Receiving online harassment, the girls and women took a variety of responses, with a variety of outcomes. The data highlights that some girls and women did nothing, with many uncertain on whether there were any tools, services or support that could help them.

Over 70% of girls and women do not think or know of any tools or services that can be used to stop online violence.

Did you seek any help as a result of what happened?

- spoke to a friend
- spoke to a parent / trusted adult
- reported the person on the plataform I was using
- Other

(Chart y-axis: 0, 50, 100, 150, 200, 250, 300, 350)

75% of girls and women questioned believe that social media channels should be responsible for making online spaces safer. We call on governments to create the legal infrastructure, with corporate social media companies taking responsibility and increasing safety mechanisms, legislation and a review of damaging policies and algorithms which excuse online violence against women and girls and perpetuate harms.

So that #SheSurfsFreedom, girls and women responded that the one thing that would bring them more freedom would be:

"more age verification so that people under 13 aren't on tiktok and twitter and things"
- Ireland (Age 13-15)

"maybe a system that would make it impossible to use certain words against somebody – if you have nothing nice to say then don't say anything at all"
- Romania (Age 16 - 18)

توعية الوالدين بالقرب من اطفالهم و التحدث بلطف و خاصة على المراهقين
- Uzbekistan (Age 13-15)

"Accountability for those who do the wrong thing"
- Australia (Age 19-25)

"To make anonymous people invalid."
- South Africa (Age 19-25)

"immediately blocking the accounts of people practising online violence/harassment"
- Rwanda (Age 19-25)

"Ban the perpetrators for recreating a new account."
- Malaysia (Age 19-25)

We believe in and can see a world where there is freedom and gender equality. We are taking this data to New York as part of the #CSW67 activities, and are sharing the knowledge to create change.

We call for change and concrete action so that

#SheSurfsFreedom