ADRESSING ONLINE HATE AGAINST WOMEN

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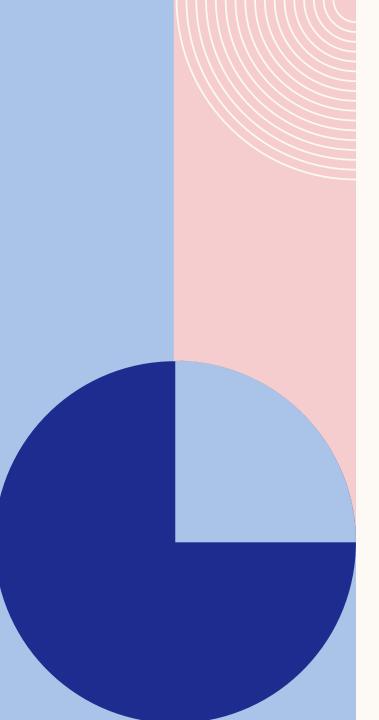
THE HARMS OF HATE SPEECH AGAINST WOMEN

Discriminatory treatment that constitutes and causes the **systemic subordination and silencing** of *all* women and girls on the basis of their actual or perceived female sex.

HATE SPEECH AGAINST WOMEN ONLINE

Sex-based vilification is **prolific** on digital and online platforms and is especially apparent in the cyber harassment of women. This typically involves **sustained and tactical campaigns** engaging **multiple forms of communicative conduct** that may be described as sex-based vilification.

The harms of online sex-based vilification are accommodated, authorised, and magnified by and for many audiences. Women feel **threatened** and **humiliated**. They adapt their own behaviours by **policing their identities, speech, and movements** or by **leaving online and offline spaces** and **disengaging**. Thus, sex-based vilification **functions and is intended to exclude women** from full participation.

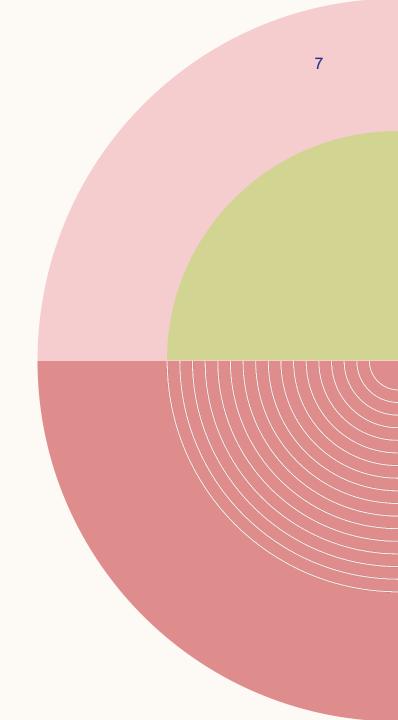


This is **especially significant online** as online spaces are now **key loci of public discourse and engagement**. Women's presence in and engagement within those spaces, or lack thereof, pertains to **democracy** itself. Thus sex-based vilification **delegitimises** and **represents a crisis** of democracy itself.

Such speech warrants careful and urgent consideration in liberal democracies, including through appropriate and adequate regulatory responses.

THE GAP IN THE LAW

There is currently a 'sex-based gap' in antivilification laws. A multifaceted approach is required to meaningfully address the harms of such speech.



CASE STUDY

Facebook Hate Speech Community Standard Facebook Oversight Board

Is hate speech against women simultaneously

ubiquitous and invisible?

THANK YOU

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