

ADDRESSING 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 anti-vilification 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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