



**SAFE ONLINE:
Empowering
Women in
Digital
Economy**

Georgia & Armenia

2023 -2026

Technology Facilitated Gender- Based Violence (TFGBV) Toolkit **Analysis**

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Pathway to the Future

- A global and open internet is crucial to achieving the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), something recognized by Article 19 and demonstrated by the actions of organizations and countries alike.
- UN declared that it considers the internet to be a human right. Specifically, an addition was made to Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which states: “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”



SDG Indicator Metadata

O.g. International organisations(s) responsible for global monitoring

(SDG_CUSTODIAN_AGENCIES)

World Health Organization (WHO)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)



World Health
Organization

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UN Women and WHO Expert Group's Definition of TFGBV as an Outcome

“Technology-facilitated violence against women is any act that is committed, assisted, aggravated, or amplified by the use of information communication technologies or other digital tools, that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual, psychological, social, political, or economic harm, or other infringements of rights and freedoms.”



YOU ARE NOT ALONE

UN Women





GBV vs TFGBV

□ It has long been recognized that gender-based violence can incorporate acts of :

- Physical
- Sexual
- psychological
- economic abuse.

□ Increasingly, there is recognition that these forms of violence may be facilitated by the use of technology and facilitates emerging forms of violence including, but not limited to:

- non-consensual sharing of intimate images
- private communications or personal data
- image-based sexual abuse
- online harassment and abuse
- Technology facilitated sexual abuse
- use of diverse forms of technology for surveillance and stalking
- targeted hacking



What is Tech-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence?

Tech-facilitated gender-based violence, or **TFGBV**, happens when someone uses technology to harm or control you.



It can look like harassing text or social media messages, restricting access to technology, non-consensually sharing intimate images, using location-tracking technology, or threatening to do any of these.



It can happen to anyone, but especially to women, children, and gender-diverse people. BIPOC, those with disabilities, and the 2SLGTBQIA+ community are disproportionately affected.

TFGBV is sometimes called tech abuse, online harassment, or digital violence.





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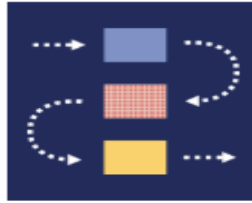


Toolkits



1.0 The Technology Safety and Privacy Toolkit

Includes safety tips, general information, and strategies to use technology safely and increase privacy, as well as tips on securing devices and using specific platforms and technology.



2.0 Tech Safety Planning Toolkit

Includes safety planning information to strategically use technology in ways that can enhance safety and take back some control.



4.0 Legal Remedies for Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence Toolkit

This toolkit is a guide to help women, youth, gender-diverse people, and anti-violence workers better understand the legal causes of action available in response to various forms of TFGBV.



5.0 Supporting Teens' Experiences of Digital Dating Violence

This toolkit provides anti-violence workers and caregivers supporting teens through their experiences of digital dating violence with information, tips, handouts, and resources.



3.0 Preserving Digital Evidence Toolkit

This toolkit helps women, youth, gender-diverse people, and frontline workers preserve digital evidence in circumstances involving technology facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV). It acts as a guide to learn about the laws and best practices surrounding digital evidence preservation and the potential use of this evidence in cases involving technology facilitated violence.



6.0 Teen Digital Dating Violence Toolkit

This toolkit includes resources to help teens identify whether digital dating violence is happening to them and provides information, tips, and ideas for what to do and what kind of help is available.



7.0 Organizational Use of Technology Best Practices and Policy Toolkit

This toolkit provides anti-violence programs with suggestions for Organizational devices and hardware, the provision of digital services and the use of electronic databases and case management systems.

<https://youtu.be/XSNTQ2whnws>





1. The Technology Safety and Privacy Toolkit

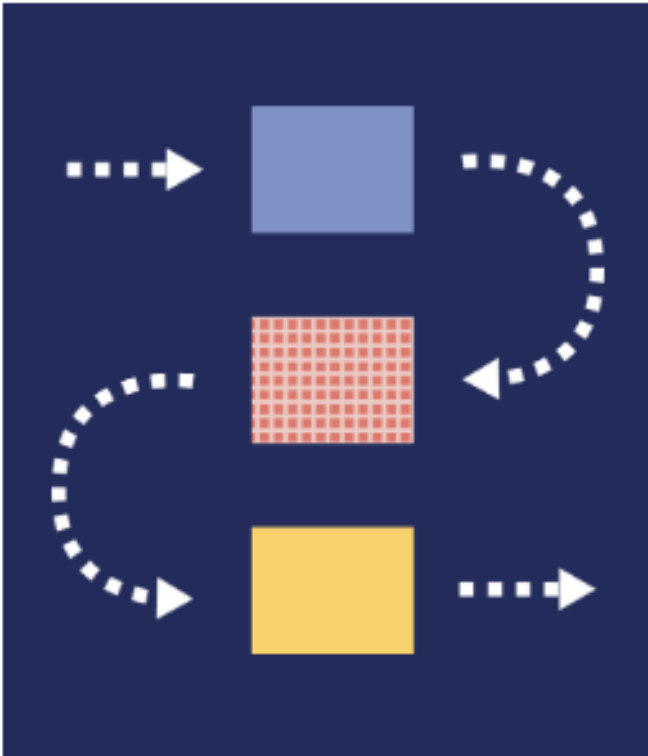


The Technology Safety and Privacy Toolkit provides women, youth, and gender-diverse people experiencing TFGBV with safety tips, general information, and strategies to use technology safely and increase privacy, as well as tips on securing devices and using specific platforms and technology.

This toolkit includes a series of specific tech safety documents designed to help survivors and anti-violence workers respond to and enhance strategies for safety.



2. Tech Safety Planning Toolkit



- ❑ This toolkit provides women, youth, gender-diverse people, and frontline workers with safety planning information to strategically use technology in ways that can enhance safety and take back some control if they are being harassed, threatened, stalked, or abused through a perpetrator's misuse of technology.
- ❑ Survivors experiencing violence and anti-violence workers are increasingly seeing perpetrators misuse technology as part of their abuse.





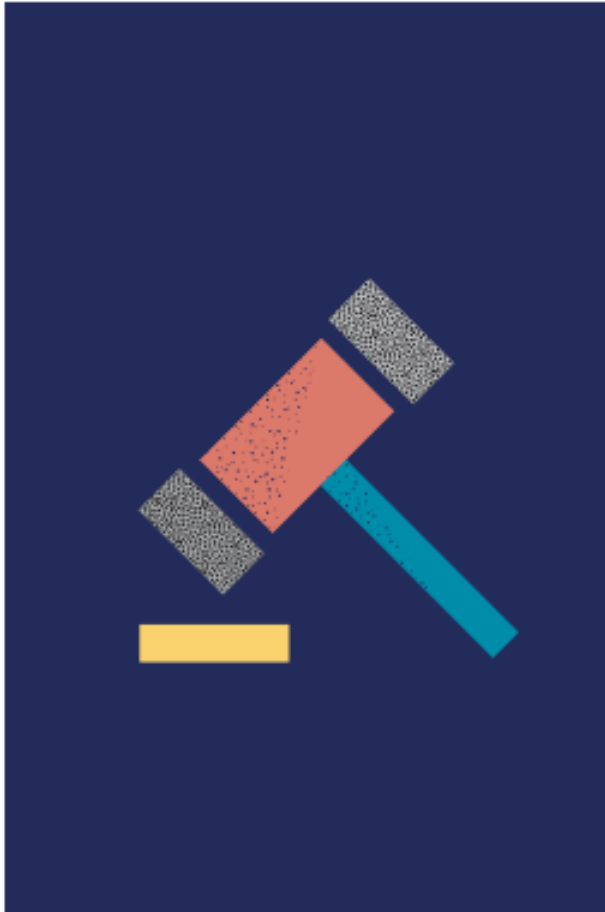
3. Preserving Digital Evidence Toolkit



- ❑ This toolkit helps women, youth, gender-diverse people, and frontline workers preserve digital evidence in circumstances involving TFGBV.
- ❑ It acts as a guide to learn about the laws and best practices surrounding digital evidence preservation and the potential use of this evidence in cases involving technology-facilitated violence.
- ❑ It may be read on its own, or in combination with the Legal Remedies for Technology Facilitated Violence Toolkit.



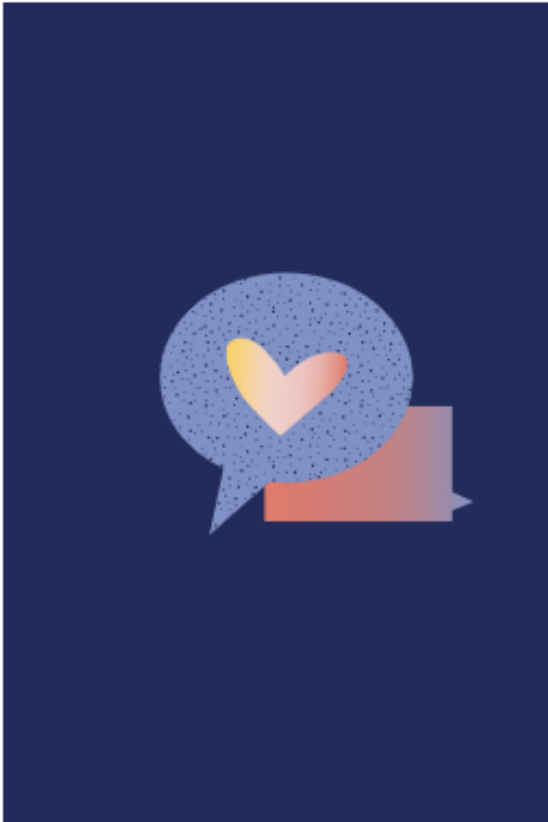
4.0 Legal Remedies for TFGBV Toolkit



- The Legal Remedies for TFGBV Toolkit is a guide to help women and frontline anti-violence workers better understand the legal causes of action available in response to various forms of TFGBV.
- It may be read on its own, or in combination with the Preserving Digital Evidence of TFGBV Toolkit, which details the importance of collecting evidence of TFGBV and how such evidence can be preserved, and introduced in legal proceedings.
- Technology misuse is becoming an increasingly common component of GBV. Technology is not the problem; the problem is the underlying pattern of violent and misogynist behaviour that presents itself in digital forms.



5. Supporting Teens' Experiences of Digital Dating Violence



- ❑ **Digital Dating Violence** means physical, sexual, or psychological/emotional violence that occurs between dating partners via texting, social media, and related online mediums.
- ❑ This term is also known as, and will be used interchangeably with, technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV).
- ❑ This toolkit provides anti-violence workers and caregivers supporting teens through their experiences of digital dating violence with information, tips, handouts, and resources from Women's Shelters Canada and other organizations.



6. Teen Digital Dating Violence Toolkit



- ❑ Increasingly, teens are reporting violence and abuse from current and former dating partners through text messages, social media, and the distribution of nude or semi-nude images without consent. **This is called “digital dating violence.”**
- ❑ **Digital Dating Violence** means physical, sexual, or psychological/emotional violence that occurs between dating partners via texting, social media, and related online mediums. This term is also known as, and will be used interchangeably with, technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV).



U.S. high school students commonly experience interpersonal violence

Dating violence, sexual violence, and bullying were reported more often by:

Girls

LGBTQ+ youth

Some racial and ethnic minorities



Schools and communities can help by creating safer physical environments and connecting youth to caring adults



*Data from a 2021 nationally representative survey of U.S. high school students

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APRIL 28, 2023

MMWR

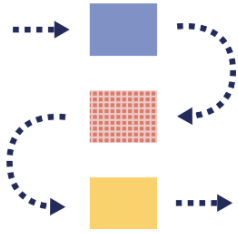




7. Organizational Use of Technology Best Practices and Policy Toolkit



- ❑ When considering a violence against women (VAW) shelter or transition house organization's use of technology, which can include email, case management systems, photocopiers, assistive tech, and online communication services, the safety and privacy of survivors must be at the centre of decision-making.
- ❑ This is because communicating with survivors through technology comes with benefits and potential risks.
- ❑ This toolkit provides anti-violence programs with suggestions for:
 - Organizational devices and hardware
 - The provision of digital services
 - The use of electronic databases and case management systems



2. Tech Safety Planning Toolkit

- ❑ *This toolkit* provides *women, youth, gender-diverse people, and frontline workers* with safety planning information to strategically use technology in ways that can enhance safety and take back some control if they are being harassed, threatened, stalked, or abused through a perpetrator's misuse of technology.
- ❑ Survivors experiencing violence and anti-violence workers are increasingly seeing perpetrators misuse technology as part of their abuse. Technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) is when technology (such as a smartphone, computer, Smartwatch, or a Smart home device) is misused to commit violent abusive acts such as domestic violence, harassment, stalking, sexual assault, impersonation, extortion, and the non-consensual filming and sharing of intimate images.



What is TFGBV Toolkit? CANADA Model



- ❑ This toolkit is a guide to help women, youth, gender-diverse, people, and anti-violence workers better understand the legal causes of action available in response to various forms of TFGBV.
- ❑ It may be read on its own, or in combination with the *Preserving Digital Evidence of Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence Toolkit*, which details the importance of collecting evidence of TFGBV and how such evidence can be preserved, and introduced in legal proceedings.



Legal Remedies for Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence Toolkit

- Legal Protections for TFGBV: What Laws Apply to You?
- Legal Remedies for Online Harassment, Stalking, Spying, and Threats
- Legal Remedies for Image-Based Abuse
- Peace Bonds and Protection Orders for Victims of TFGBV
- Definitions of Legal Terms: Civil and Family Law
- Definitions of Legal Terms: Criminal Law
- An Overview of Canadian Courts
- An Overview of Legal Representation
- Legal and Victim Service Support and Resources
- Technology Safety and Victim/Survivor Resources



What Laws Apply to You

- TFGBV includes many serious and harmful behaviours and is often used to perpetuate harm against women
 - It is important to keep in mind that the law is only one way that TFGBV can potentially be addressed.
 - For some, reporting violence to the police or beginning a lawsuit can lead to escalated violence.
- It is recommended you get in touch with a local anti-violence organization to consider your options while preserving your safety – See: [Technology Safety and Victim/Survivor Resources](#). Women’s Shelters Canada has created a [Technology Safety Planning Checklist](#) and a [Safety Planning Toolkit](#) you can consult on your own or with a Victim Service Worker before pursuing legal remedies.



Recommendations:

- ❑ This document and the rest of the [Legal Remedies for Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence](#) toolkit are meant to provide general information: they are **not an exhaustive list of all laws that could apply to all forms of TFGBV and they do not constitute legal advice.**
- ❑ You should consider speaking to a lawyer if you want to pursue one of the legal remedies outlined in this document. See also: [Legal and Victim Service Supports and Resources](#).

!!!There is no specific law against TFGBV violence. Rather, many of the behaviors captured within this term such as online stalking, voyeurism, the non-consensual distribution of intimate images, and online harassment, are criminal behaviors or can form the basis of a civil claim against a perpetrator.



Two main legal systems in Canada:

- Two main legal systems in Canada: the criminal justice system and the civil system, which includes family law.
- Which system you choose to use in response to TFGBV will impact what your role is in the legal process and what remedies are available.



The Criminal System (Canada)

- The criminal system involves offences set out in the [Criminal Code](#) of Canada. If a person breaks any laws set out in the *Criminal Code*, their behaviour can be reported to police (local police or the RCMP, depending on the location) who may investigate and decide whether a crime has been committed.
- To [increase](#) the [likelihood](#) of the [person being charged](#), you should try [to gather](#) as much [evidence](#) as possible of the TFGBV you have experienced, including digital evidence.
- You will want to bring any evidence you have, including [digital evidence](#), with you when [you report the crime to the police](#). It can be helpful to have the evidence printed out as well as having digital copies on a USB stick to give to the police.





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1. Log Out of Accounts and Apps
2. Use Strong Passwords
3. Review Privacy Settings
4. Minimize Location Sharing
5. Don't Include Location Coordinates in Your Pictures
6. Be Thoughtful about Connecting Social Media Accounts
7. Be Careful When Using Free Wireless Networks
8. Use HTTPS Everywhere
9. Use Incognito, Private Browsing, or InPrivate Browsing
10. Use More than One Email Address





Resources

1. **Georgia**: General Policy And Legislation On Cybercrime: **Convention on Cybercrime**
https://police.ge/files/pdf/kiber_danashauli/Cybercrime_Convention_ENG.pdf
2. **Armenia**: Cybercrime policies/strategies.
<https://www.coe.int/en/web/octopus/-/armenia>
3. **Council of Europe**: YOUR DIGITAL RIGHTS IN BRIEF. <https://rm.coe.int/1680301b6e>
4. Internet Freedom and Digital Rights in **Georgia**: Systemic Challenges.
https://idfi.ge/en/internet_freedom_and_digital_rights_in_georgia
5. Internet Freedom in **Armenia** and Execution of Basic Human Rights in Online Freedom.
<https://mediainitiatives.am/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Internet-Freedom-Research-Report-2017-in-English.pdf>
6. The internet as a human right.
<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/the-internet-as-a-human-right/>

Thank you!