

Global Digital Compact Submission

April 2023



forms of discrimination intersect and contribute to these issues. To combat abuse, there needs to be an acknowledgement of the varied experiences of different groups.

Research shows that women are 27 times more likely to be harassed online⁸ than men and that Black women are 84% more likely⁹ to be the targets of abusive tweets than white women. Despite these alarming figures, the experiences of Black women are often overlooked and not taken seriously.

Women and girls' sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) can also be threatened in a number of ways online, from invasions of privacy with significant legal implications¹⁰ to the online harassment and abuse of health professionals and those accessing sexual and reproductive health services.¹¹ Research



content discovery – the role of social media companies and search in rewarding and prioritising misogynistic content is one of the issues that could be considered here;

user response concerns the availability of user empowerment tools and how effective and appropriate they are (though responsibility for safety should never be the sole responsibility of women and girls); the role of user flagging mechanisms as well as the impact of features such as likes/upvotes on user behaviour;

platform response includes moderation, complaints processes and also appeals against company decisions – in this context questions could include the question of whether some sorts of situation require special response mechanisms (think about the victim of image based sexual abuse, or the victim of domestic violence suffering harassment from an ex-partner).

Not only does this approach give rise to a more holistic range of policy interventions but it also provides a steer for companies when balancing potentially conflicting priorities. It also provides a greater foundation for collaboration between technology services and those with expertise on violence against women and girls, to gain a robust understanding of the breadth of risks related to this issue, so that they can effectively mitigate against them.

the convention are legally obliged to: "eliminate all forms of discrimination against women in all areas