

TURNING COMMITMENT INTO ACTION

Recommendation CM/Rec(2026)2 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on accountability for technology-facilitated violence against women and girls



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



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Recommandation CM/Rec(2026)2 du Comité des
Ministres aux États membres sur l'obligation de
rendre des comptes en matière de violence à l'égard
des femmes et des filles facilitée par la technologie*

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INTRODUCTION



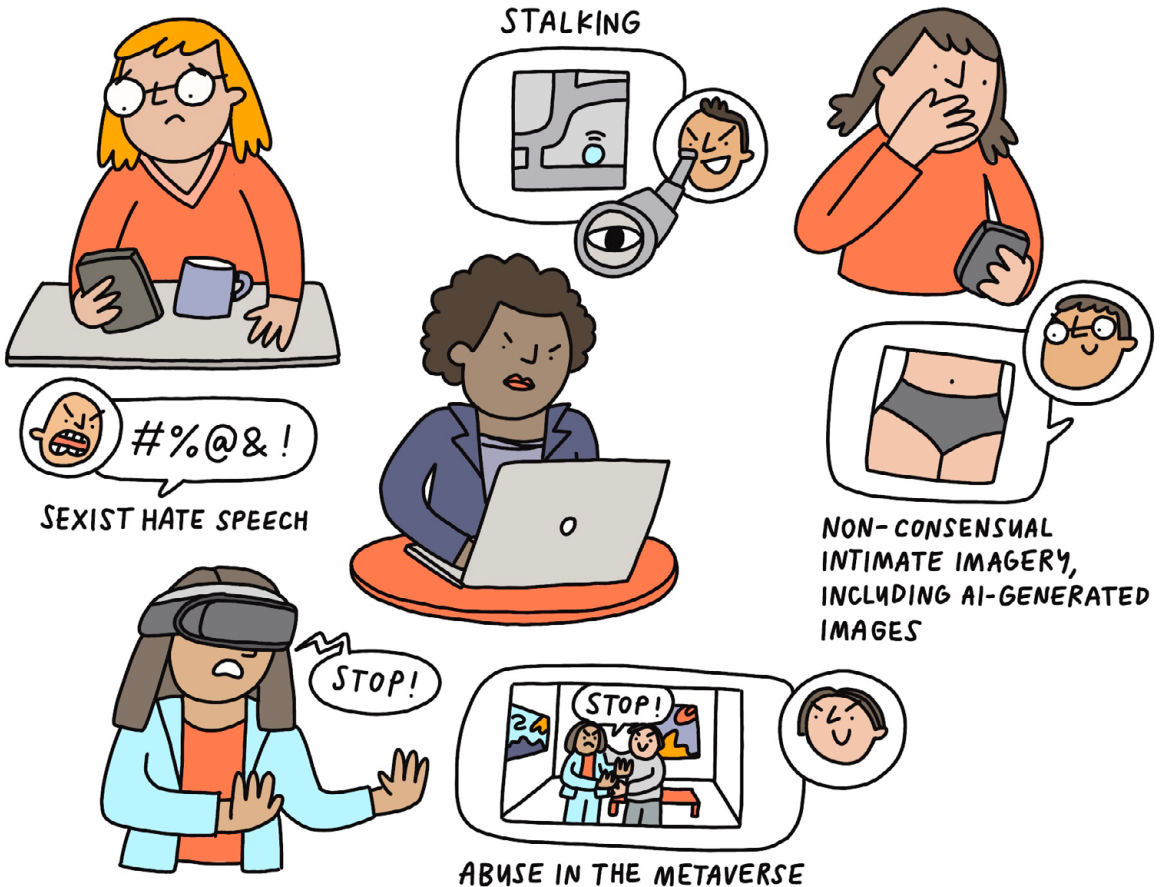
On 4 March 2026, the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers adopted Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2026\)2 to member States on accountability for technology-facilitated violence against women and girls](#), prepared by the [Gender Equality Commission](#) and the [Council of Europe Committee on Crime Problems](#). Building on the [Istanbul Convention](#) and in particular [General Recommendation No. 1 on the digital dimension of violence against women](#) by the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), the Recommendation addresses the growing concern of technology-facilitated violence against women and girls and provides guidance for member States on strengthening legal, institutional and regulatory responses to ensure accountability.

This brochure highlights the main elements of the Recommendation, while shedding light on how technology is being used to harm women and girls and why accountability matters.

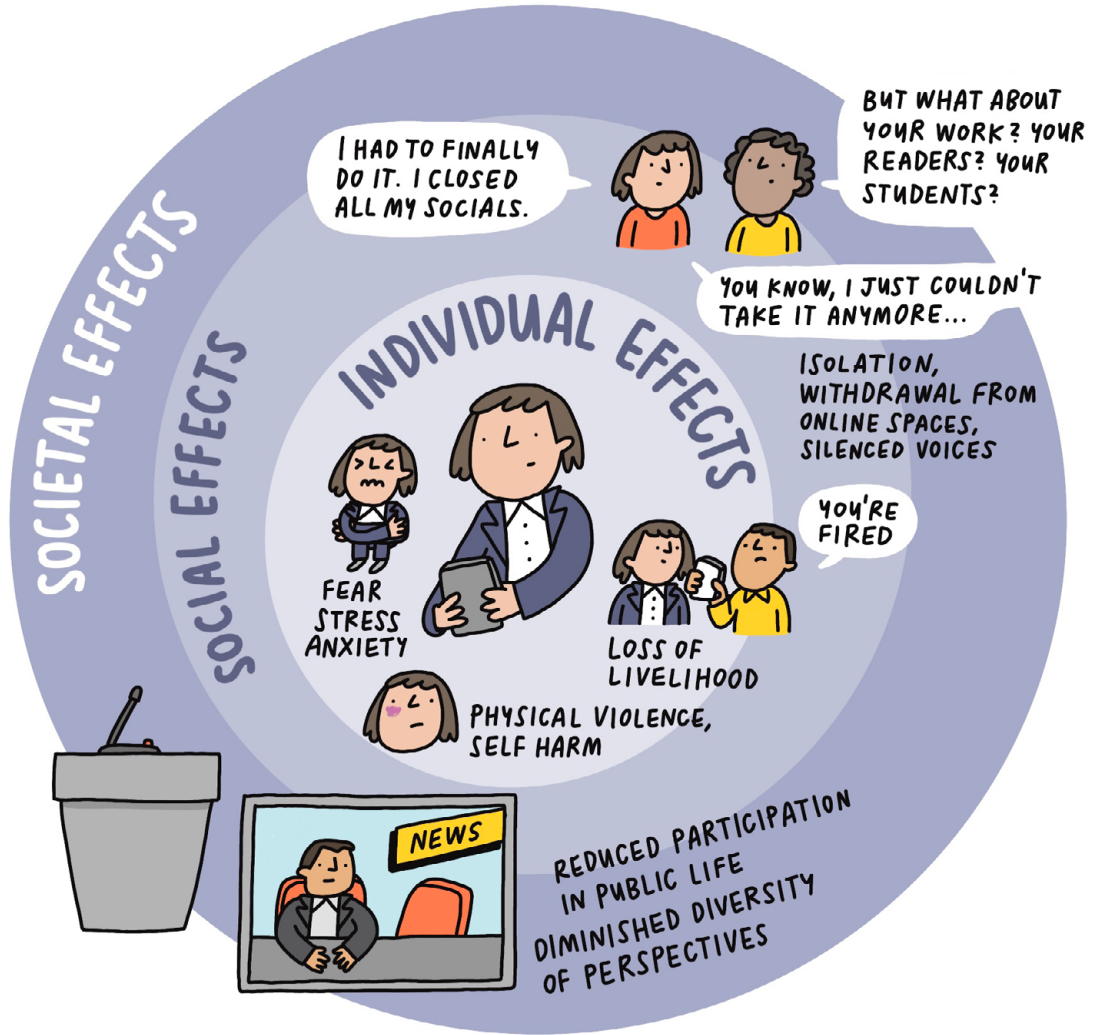
Training for legal professionals and other stakeholders on how to address technology-facilitated violence against women and girls is available through the dedicated [HELP course](#) developed by the Council of Europe.

What is technology-facilitated violence against women and girls?

Technology-facilitated violence against women and girls refers to acts of gender-based violence that are committed, assisted, aggravated or amplified through or by technology and that impact women or girls. This form of violence can manifest in various ways, as illustrated below.



What is the impact of technology-facilitated violence against women and girls?



Why does accountability matter?

JUSTICE

PROVIDING VICTIMS WITH THE RECOGNITION OF THE HARM THEY HAVE SUFFERED AND MEANINGFUL ACCESS TO LEGAL REMEDIES



TRUST

REINFORCING PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN INSTITUTIONS



PROTECTION

RESTORING SAFETY FOR VICTIMS, SUPPORTING HEALING



ACCOUNTABILITY



REJECTION OF NORMALISATION

SIGNALING THAT ABUSE IS UNACCEPTABLE

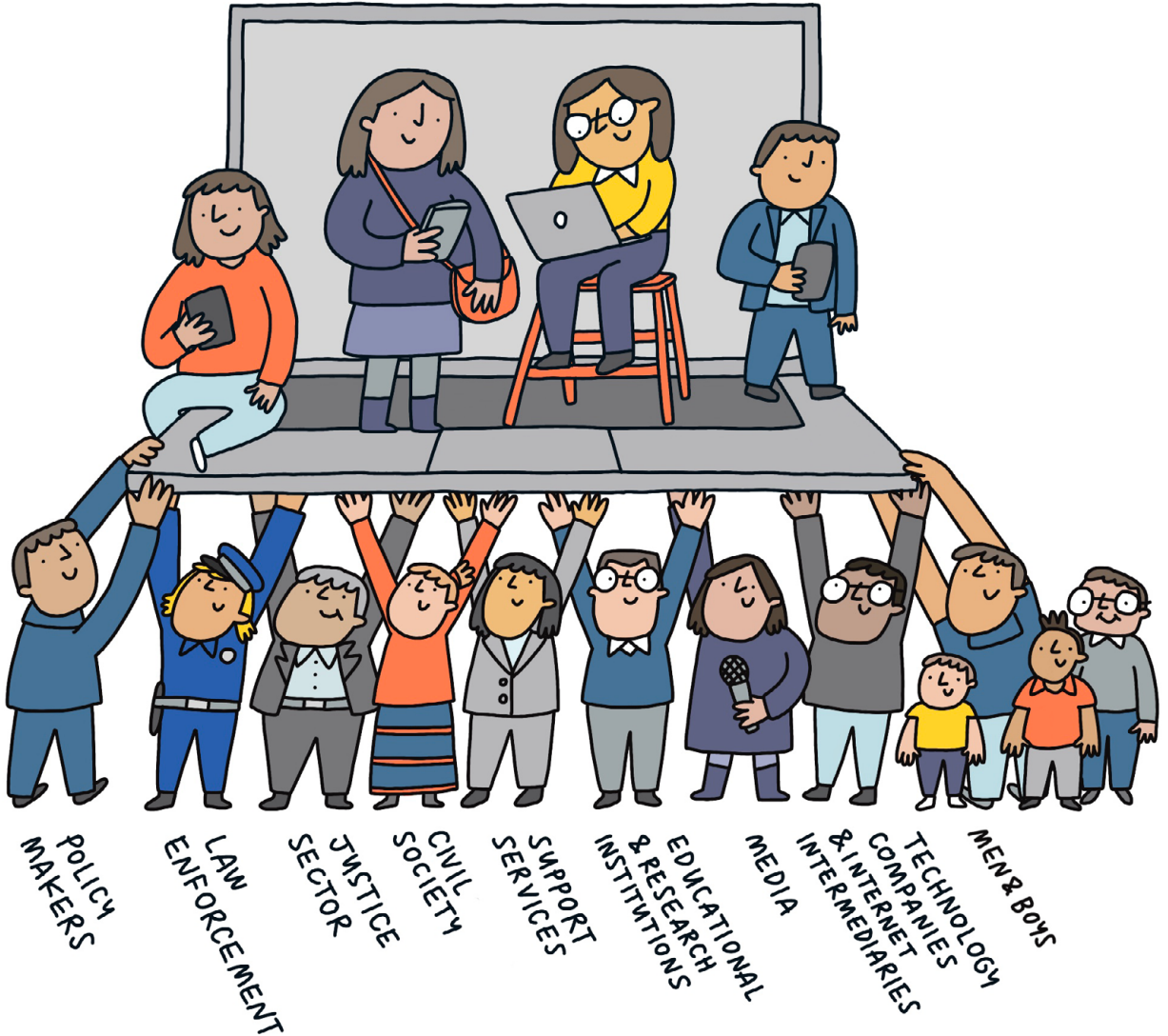


DETERRENCE

PREVENTING FUTURE ABUSE



Accountability is a shared responsibility



Key recommendations – Fostering an environment of accountability

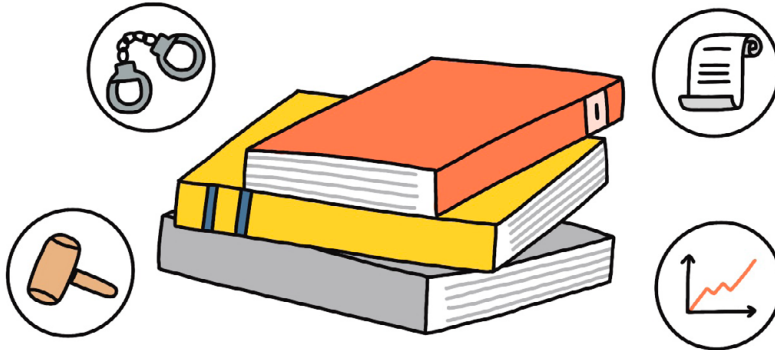


Implement prevention initiatives targeting technology-facilitated violence against women and girls, such as education, capacity-building and awareness-raising.



Provide accessible, effective, holistic and co-ordinated support structures for victims of technology-facilitated violence against women and girls.

Key recommendations – Strengthening legal and policy frameworks



Criminalise technology-facilitated violence against women and girls and apply effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions.



Make civil and administrative remedies available to victims.



Meaningfully involve relevant stakeholders in the development of laws and policies.



Support data collection and research on technology-facilitated violence against women and girls to inform evidence-based legislation, policies and monitoring.

Key recommendations – Reinforcing effective and accessible justice systems



Prevent secondary victimisation and safeguard victims' privacy, dignity, and safety during investigations and proceedings.



Strengthen the capacity of law enforcement, prosecutors and the judiciary to handle cases of technology-facilitated violence against women and girls effectively.



Promote multi-agency collaboration to ensure unified responses.



Ensure that evidence is securely collected, handled, stored and presented, including through cross-border cooperation where needed.



Guarantee that victims have effective and meaningful access to justice.

Key recommendations – Regulating technology companies and internet intermediaries



Integrate safety-by-design standards throughout product development.



Provide accessible and user-friendly reporting systems.



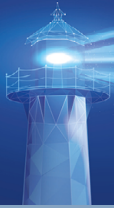
Adopt gender-responsive terms of service.



Implement age-appropriate safeguards and user control tools.



Ensure effective content moderation, including through the ethical use of AI-assisted systems.



This initiative is a contribution towards the
New Democratic Pact for Europe

Why a New Democratic Pact for Europe?

Democratic backsliding, disinformation, impunity, and authoritarianism are undermining democracy in Europe. People are increasingly afraid and frustrated. It comes at a time when democratic security – the resilience of our democratic institutions, freedoms, and values – is our first line of defence against the threats we face. A collective response is needed. There is no quick fix and no single solution. With the New Democratic Pact, the Council of Europe unites with its partners to boost solutions that work and create new responses. To identify them, consultations are needed. The Pact will serve as a collective and inclusive process – not to reinvent democracy, but to reinforce its foundations, amplify its benefits, and innovate its form to make it tangible for everyone, especially younger generations. The directions set during the consultation phase running through 2026 will shape the work that follows.



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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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