

FACTSHEET ON

MISOGYNY & TECHNOLOGY-FACILITATED GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

A Peer-to-Peer Factsheet for Youths

UNDERSTAND IT. RECOGNISE IT. TAKE ACTION.



LEARN
THE FACTS



SPOT
THE SIGNS



PROTECT
YOURSELF
AND OTHERS



BUILD A
SAFER CAMPUS
AND ONLINE SPACE



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Brot
für die Welt

For many young Nigerians, digital spaces are part of everyday life; to learn, connect, date, organise, express opinions, promote businesses and build communities. However, these same spaces can also be used to shame, threaten, sexually harass, stalk or control people because of their gender.

It matters when:

- A private photograph is circulated without consent;
- A female student is attacked for contesting a student union position;
- Someone is threatening to expose an ex-partner's intimate messages;
- A lady is stopped from posting or participating in online discussions because of repeated sexual insults and threats.



These experiences are not simply “online drama”. They are forms of misogyny and technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV), with consequences for safety, dignity, education, relationships and wellbeing.

This factsheet helps young people on campus and online understand the issue, recognise harmful behaviour, respond safely and become peer allies who help prevent abuse.

UNDERSTAND IT: WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

What is misogyny?

Misogyny is prejudice, contempt, hostility or hatred directed at women and girls because they are women or girls. It is hatred or prejudice against the female gender typically exhibited by men. It can appear through sexist stereotypes, degrading language, demeaning statements, discrimination, harassment or actions intended to silence or control women.

Example of Misogyny:

- A female student is told that women are not fit to lead a student union or association.
- A woman's opinion on X or TikTok is dismissed with sexual insults instead of respectful disagreement.
- A woman who reports abuse is blamed rather than the person responsible.
- Degrading memes about women are repeatedly shared in a class or hostel group.
- A young woman is threatened or ridiculed for speaking out about gender equality.

Not every disagreement or joke is misogyny. However, behaviour that demeans, discriminates against or threatens women because of their gender should be taken seriously.

What is TFGBV?

Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV) is gender-based violence carried out, enabled or amplified through digital technology. It can happen on WhatsApp, Instagram, TikTok, X, Snapchat, Facebook, dating apps, gaming platforms, class groups, campus forums and other digital spaces. It may involve strangers, classmates, friends, partners, former partners or people within the same community.

Common forms and real-life examples

- **ONLINE HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

Repeated abusive messages, sexual insults, unwanted sexual comments or coordinated attacks.

For example, a female student receives dozens of sexually degrading comments after posting her opinion on a campus issue.

- **CYBERSTALKING AND DIGITAL MONITORING**

Repeatedly following, contacting or monitoring someone online in ways that cause fear or distress.

This may include using multiple accounts after being blocked, tracking a person's location or demanding constant proof of where they are.

- **DOXXING**

Publishing someone's private information without consent.

For example, posting a female student's phone number or personal details in a group and encouraging others to contact or harass them.

- **IMAGE-BASED ABUSE**

Sharing or threatening to share intimate photographs or videos without consent.

This includes circulating an ex-partner's private images, posting intimate content or threatening to leak it to family members or course mates.

- **SEXTING-RELATED ABUSE**

Sexting is the exchange of sexual messages, images or videos through digital technology. Consensual sexting between adults is not automatically abuse. It becomes abusive when someone is pressured, threatened or coerced into sending intimate content, or when that content is shared or used against them without consent.

- **SEXTORTION AND BLACKMAIL**

Threatening to expose intimate images, videos or private information unless someone sends more content, pays money, continues a relationship or meets another demand.

For example: "Send me money or I'll post your nude picture to the internet."

- **IMPERSONATION AND FAKE ACCOUNTS**

Creating an account in someone else's name to embarrass, deceive or harm them. This may include using a person's photograph to create a fake dating profile or sending offensive messages while pretending to be them.

- **AI-GENERATED AND MANIPULATED CONTENT**

Using edited, fabricated or AI-generated images, audio or videos to sexually humiliate or discredit someone.

For example, placing a female student's face onto an intimate image or creating a fake sexual video and circulating it as genuine.

- **UNWANTED SEXUAL CONTENT**

Sending unsolicited explicit images, sexual messages or repeated sexual requests.

For example, someone sends unwanted nude photographs through DMs or continues requesting intimate pictures after being told to stop.

- **COORDINATED ONLINE ATTACKS**

Encouraging a group to target someone with insults, threats or harassment. This may happen after a student election, a relationship dispute, a controversial post or a disagreement in an online community.



Why does it matter?

TFGBV can cause fear, emotional distress, reputational damage, social isolation and disruption to education or work. It may also discourage women and girls from expressing opinions, participating in leadership or using digital spaces freely.

Misogyny and TFGBV can happen in ordinary situations involving people you know. It may begin with a statement, joke, a disagreement, a relationship conflict or a private conversation before escalating into intimidation or abuse.

... It happens in our social media groups and networks!

Scenario 1: The class group

A female student challenges a comment in a faculty WhatsApp group. Other members begin posting sexual insults, sharing her photographs and encouraging people to attack her.

This is Misogynistic harassment and a coordinated online attack.

Scenario 2: The relationship that ended

After a breakup, a former partner threatens to share private chats or intimate images unless the other person agrees to continue the relationship.

This represents threats, coercion and possible sextortion or image-based abuse.

Scenario 3: The “prove you love me” demand

Someone pressures a partner to send nude photographs, demands passwords or insists on constant access to their phone and location.

This is sexual coercion and controlling behaviour. Consent cannot be obtained through threats or pressure.

Scenario 4: The fake account

A student discovers that someone has created a fake profile using her photograph and is sending sexual messages or posting fabricated content in her name.

This is impersonation, harassment and possible manipulated-content abuse.

Scenario 5: The viral post

An intimate image or humiliating video is forwarded from one group to another. People claim they are sharing it “just to warn others” or because it is already trending.

Further distribution can increase the harm, even when the person forwarding it did not create the content.



If you witness it, be a peer ally

DON'T forward intimate images, join a pile-on, laugh at humiliating content, blame the person targeted, demand explanations or share sensitive screenshots without considering privacy and safety.

Rather than sharing, reach out to the person: “I saw what happened. Are you okay? How can I support you?”

Respect digital consent

Being someone's friend, partner, former partner, classmate, course mate, roommate, or follower does not give you automatic permission to access, save or distribute their private content.

Do not share intimate images, private chats, voice notes, phone numbers, home or hostel locations, or sensitive screenshots without consent.

DON'T AMPLIFY: Avoid reposting, liking or encouraging content that humiliates, threatens or exposes someone.

THE PEER-TO-PEER 4-STEP RESPONSE

STOP — Do not participate in or encourage abuse.

SECURE — Protect accounts, devices and personal information.

REPORT — Use platform and appropriate institutional reporting channels.

SUPPORT — Listen, check in and help the person access appropriate assistance.



Your action matters!

- Recognise harmful behaviour.
- Respect dignity and consent.
- Refuse to amplify abuse.
- Support those targeted.
- Help make online communities safer for everyone.

About this factsheet

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Additional resources @ #EndMisogynNG

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