

1

IT STARTED WITH A MESSAGE

How can they say women shouldn't contest for student union positions?

What did they say?

Someone says women are not fit to lead.



Digital spaces help young people learn, connect, organise and express themselves. But they can also become spaces for abuse.

Understanding Misogyny & Tech-facilitated Gender-based Violence among youths

A Peer-to-Peer Factsheet for Youths

UNDERSTAND IT. RECOGNISE IT. TAKE ACTION.

2

WHEN DISAGREEMENT BECOMES MISOGYNY



Faculty Discussion Group



Unknown Member

Women belong in the kitchen,
not in leadership.

10:25 AM



Classmate

Who does she think she is? 🙄

10:26 AM



Another Member

Someone should teach her
a lesson!

10:27 AM

Amara

Leadership should depend
on competence, not gender.

10:29 AM



Teri

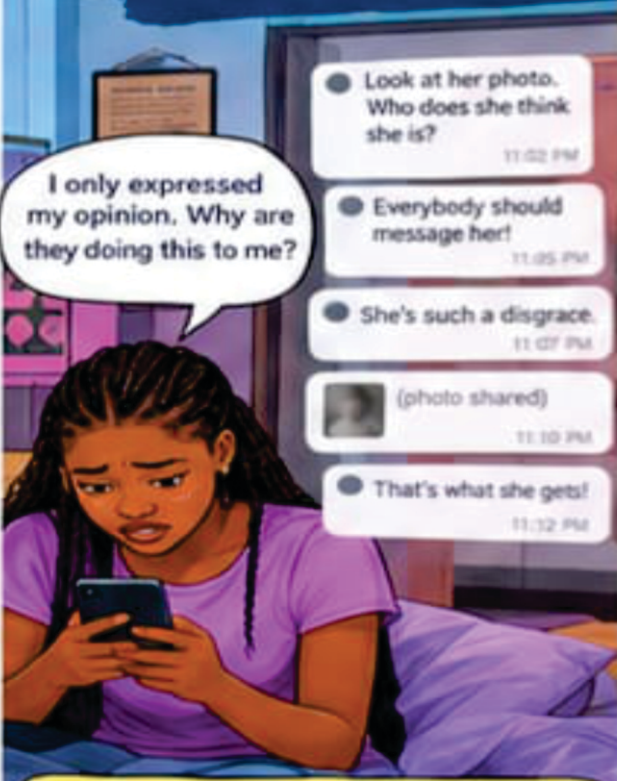
They are attacking her because
she dared to speak up as a woman.

Misogyny involves prejudice, hostility or contempt directed at women and girls because of their gender. It can take the form of sexist stereotypes, degrading language, discrimination and harassment.

Takeaway: Disagreeing with a woman's opinion is not automatically misogyny. Demeaning, discriminating against or threatening her because she is a woman should be taken seriously.

3

THE ONLINE PILE-ON



I only expressed my opinion. Why are they doing this to me?

Look at her photo. Who does she think she is?

11:02 PM

Everybody should message her!

11:05 PM

She's such a disgrace.

11:07 PM



(photo shared)

11:10 PM

That's what she gets!

11:12 PM

Repeated online harassment, sexual insults and coordinated attacks are forms of technology-facilitated gender-based violence.

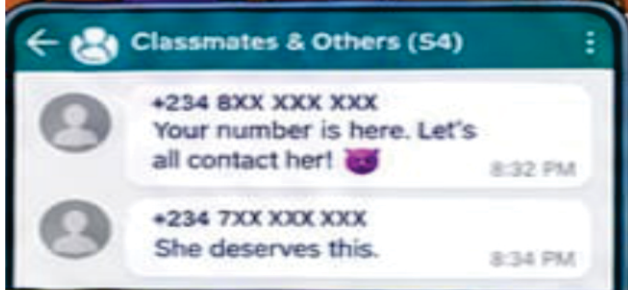
Takeaway: A coordinated online attack is not harmless banter. It can intimidate someone and discourage them from participating in public discussions.

4

WHEN PRIVATE INFORMATION BECOMES A WEAPON

People I don't know are messaging and insulting me. Someone has shared my number!

That is not acceptable. Sharing your private information without your consent can expose you to further harassment.



Publishing someone's private information without permission is **doxxing**. Repeatedly contacting, monitoring or tracking someone online can amount to **cyberstalking**.

Takeaway: A person's phone number, location and other private information should not be distributed without consent.

5

IT IS MORE THAN ONLINE DRAMA



You haven't been yourself since yesterday. Are you okay?

I feel embarrassed and afraid. I don't even want to speak in the group again.

Technology-facilitated gender-based violence can cause fear, emotional distress, reputational damage and social isolation. It can disrupt education and discourage women and girls from expressing themselves or participating in leadership.

Takeaway: Abuse that happens through a screen can have real consequences for someone's wellbeing, education, relationships and freedom of expression.

6

PRIVATE IMAGES, FAKE ACCOUNTS
AND DIGITAL BLACKMAIL

A. IMAGE-BASED ABUSE



B. IMPERSONATION & FAKE ACCOUNTS



PrettyGirl_23
(fake account)

Hey, I saw your photo...
You're so beautiful.
Let's chat 😊

I never created this
account. Someone is
pretending to be me!

C. AI-GENERATED /
MANIPULATED CONTENT

This looks fake!
How did they get
this?

D. SEXTORTION AND BLACKMAIL



Send more pictures
or I'll post the ones
I have.

4:21 PM

Image-based abuse, sextortion, impersonation and AI-generated or manipulated sexual content can all be forms of technology-facilitated gender-based violence.

Takeaway: Consent matters. Agreeing to send a private message or image does not give another person permission to distribute it. Pressuring someone to provide intimate content or threatening to expose it is abusive behaviour.

7

DON'T FORWARD IT



This is already trending. Let me send it to my other groups so people can be warned.

Please don't. Forwarding it spreads the harm, even if you weren't the one who created it.

Please don't. Forwarding it spreads the harm, even if you weren't the one who created it.

So we shouldn't share it at all?

Correct. Don't forward, repost, like or encourage content that humiliates or threatens someone.

Respect digital consent. Being someone's friend, partner, former partner, classmate or follower does not give you automatic permission to share their private content.

Takeaway: Do not amplify abuse. Never circulate intimate images, private chats, voice notes, personal details or sensitive screenshots without consent.

8

BE THE FRIEND WHO
SUPPORTS, NOT BLAMES

I saw what happened.
Are you okay? How can
I support you?

Thank you for asking.
I just want this to stop.
Please don't forward
anything.

I won't. Let's look at the
reporting options available
to you.

If you witness online abuse, reach out to the person affected. Listen, respect their privacy and help them access appropriate assistance.

Takeaway: Support the person targeted. Don't blame them, demand explanations or spread their private information.

9

REMEMBER FOUR ACTIONS

Let's remember four important steps.

**STOP**

Do not participate
in or encourage
the abuse.

**SECURE**

Protect your accounts,
devices and personal
information.

**REPORT**

Use the platform's
reporting tools and
appropriate institutional
reporting channels.

**SUPPORT**

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



Takeaway: Knowing how to respond
can help prevent further harm and make
online communities safer.

10

MAKE YOUR ONLINE COMMUNITY SAFER

I won't forward private content just because everyone else is sharing it.

We can disagree without harassing or threatening anyone.

Everyone deserves to participate online without being targeted because of their gender.



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