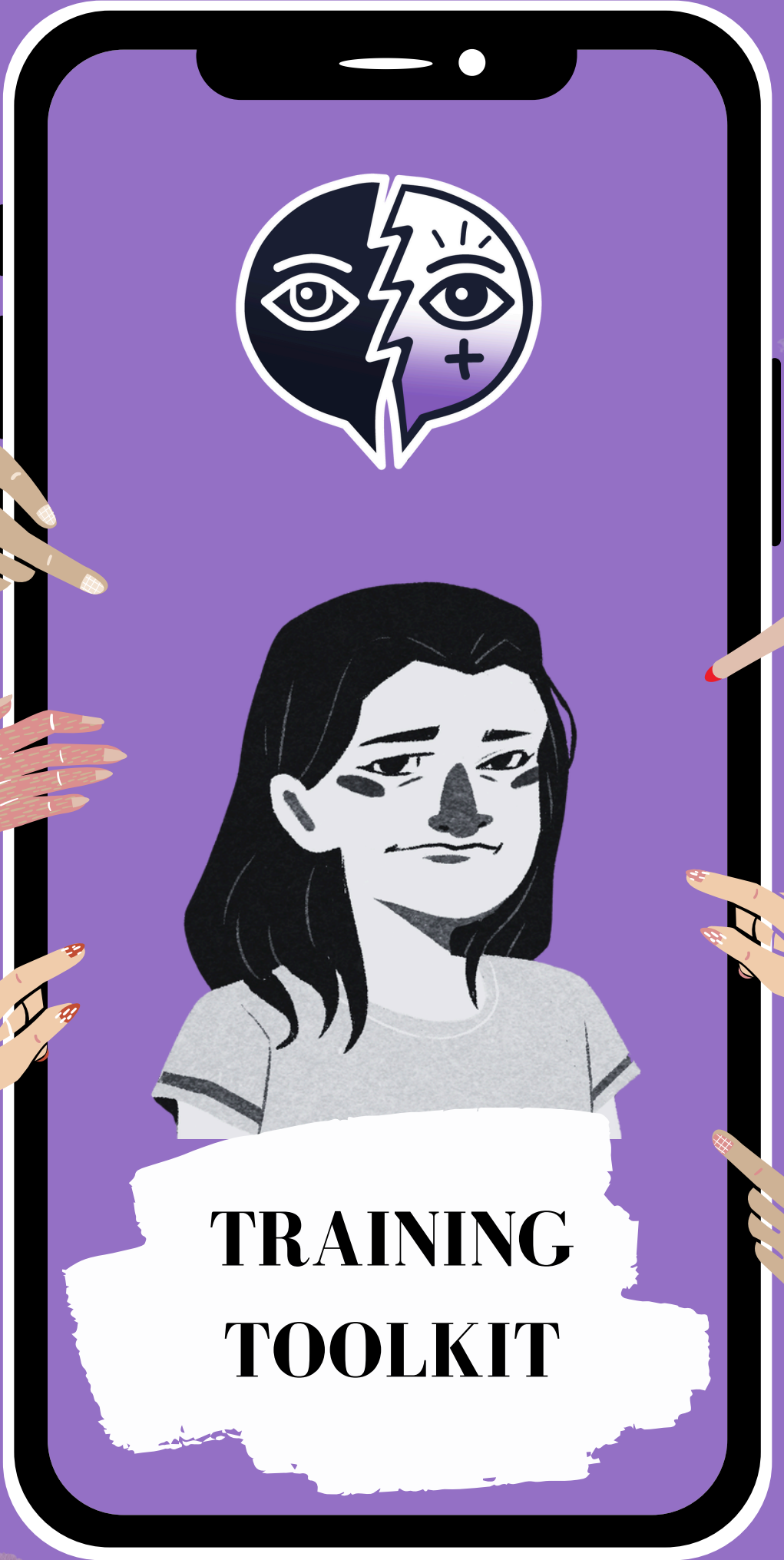




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MEDEA

DEVELOPING MEDIA LITERACY TO DEBUNK GENDER-RELATED MEDIA
MANIPULATION AND FAKE NEWS



PROJECT N. 2024-1-LV01-KA210-ADU-000243248



ZONTA
CLUB OF
JELGAVA



NOVOSADSKA
NOVINARSKA
ŠKOLA





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SUMMARY

1. Module 1 - Understanding Meta-Level Critical Thinking

2. Module 2 - Fact-Checking techniques and Information Verification

3. Module 3 - Gender-Based Technology Driven Violence

4. Module 4 - GBTDV - How to Prevent and Fight It

5. Module 5 - Understanding media construction

6. Module 6 - Media consumption and its impact on perception

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This publication was carried out with the financial support of the European Commission under Erasmus + Project “Medea. Developing Media Literacy to debunk gender-related media manipulation and fake news”, n. 2024-1-LV01-KA210-ADU-00024324

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Module 4

Gender-Based Technology Driven Violence - How to Prevent and Fight It

Zonta Club of Jelgava



PROJECT N. 2024-1-LV01-KA210-ADU-000243248



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SUMMARY

1.INTRODUCTION TO GBTDV (Gender-Based
Technology Driven Violence) - How to prevent
and fight it

2.LET'S LOOK AT THE NEWS

3.TRAINING MODULE

4.CONCLUSIONS





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GBTDV - How to Prevent and Fight It

GBTDV refers to harmful acts perpetrated through digital technologies that target individuals based on their gender. It includes online harassment, cyberstalking, deepfake pornography, doxxing, and other digital threats.

Key Statistics

- **38% of women globally have experienced online abuse** (2021 UN report)
- **58% of women** who faced online violence **said it affected their mental well-being** (Amnesty International, 2020).

Common Forms of GBTDV

- Cyber Harassment: Threats, insults, or abuse via social media, emails, or messaging apps.
- Doxxing: Public release of personal information without consent.
- Non-consensual Intimate Image Sharing: Distribution of explicit content without permission.
- Deepfake Technology: AI-generated fake videos or images used to harm individuals.
- Cyberstalking: Repeated online threats that cause fear or intimidation.

Prevention Strategies

a. Digital Security Measures

- Use strong passwords (min. 8 characters letters, numbers and special signs) and enable two-factor authentication (2FA).
- Check privacy settings on social media platforms regularly.
- Be careful about sharing personal information online.

b. Community Awareness & Digital Literacy

- Workshops & Training: Schools, workplaces, and communities should educate individuals on recognizing and addressing online violence.
- Bystander Intervention Programs: Encourage safe intervention when witnessing GBTDV.

c. Platform Accountability

- Tech companies should enforce stricter content moderation and transparency in reporting abusive content.
- Encourage the use of AI tools to detect and remove harmful content.



Recognizing and Responding to the GBTDV:

a. Immediate Steps for Victims

- Document Evidence: Screenshots, emails, and message logs should be saved for legal or platform-based reporting.
- Report the Abuse: Use in-platform reporting mechanisms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.).
- Seek Legal Action: Many countries have cybercrime laws that protect against digital abuse.

b. Legal Protections (Country-Specific Guidance)

- EU: General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) offers data privacy protections.
- USA: The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) includes provisions for cyber harassment.
- India: The Information Technology Act (2000) criminalizes cyberstalking and online abuse.

c. Mental Health & Support Resources

- Crisis Helplines: Organizations like Cyber Civil Rights Initiative (CCRI) offer support for victims.
- Online Therapy & Support Groups: Seek professional help if needed.

d. Encouraging Gender-Sensitive Digital Policies in Companies

Many social media and tech companies have vague or inadequate policies addressing gendered digital violence.

Examples of Platform Changes & Advocacy Wins:

- Facebook/Meta: Introduced AI-powered automated detection for hate speech and abuse targeting women.
- Twitter/X: Following backlash over online abuse, Block Party (a third-party app) was launched to filter out harassment.
- Instagram: In 2022, the platform improved comment filtering to automatically hide abusive language.



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Actions for Change:

- Advocate for human moderators trained in gender-based violence to review abuse reports.
- Push for faster response times to abuse complaints (some platforms take weeks to act).
- Demand stricter penalties for repeated offenders (e.g., permanent bans).

Examples of AI for Digital Safety:

- Google Perspective API – Identifies toxic comments in real-time.
- Troll Patrol (by Amnesty International) – Uses AI to track and map online abuse against women.
- Facebook's AI Moderation System – Flagged 90% of hate speech posts before human review in 2021.

Challenges & Next Steps:

- Many AI models struggle with recognizing context, leading to false positives or overlooked abuse.
- Advocacy is needed to push companies to invest in better AI training datasets.

Digital Self-Defense Tools for Online Safety

Several apps and browser extensions help victims protect themselves from digital harassment.

Best Self-Defense Tools Available:

- Block Party (for Twitter/X) – Blocks harassers and filters toxic messages.
- Face Guardian – AI tool that detects deepfake pornographic images and alerts victims.
- StopNCII.org – Helps victims of non-consensual image abuse (revenge porn) remove their photos from the internet.
- Privacy Badger – Browser extension that blocks trackers from collecting personal data.

How to Promote These Tools?

- Include them in school and workplace cybersecurity training.
- Encourage tech companies to integrate them into platforms by default.
- Spread awareness through social media campaigns.



Sarah (name changed, and the picture is not one of a real person), bright and bubbly, shared her art online. Trolls descended, their words like acid, mocking her talent and looks. Shame bloomed, her smile fading. She stopped creating, her joy replaced by fear of the following hateful comment. Sleep became restless, filled with replays of the insults. Friends noticed her withdrawal, but she only shrugged, "It's nothing." Once a canvas for her dreams, the internet now felt like a cage. Her confidence shattered, and she questioned her worth, the online world a constant, silent tormentor.

Sarah, wounded by online hate, sought solace in a support group for cyberbullying victims. Online forums, initially terrifying, became a lifeline, sharing stories and strategies. A therapist specializing in trauma helped her rebuild her self-esteem. She learned to curate her online space, blocking negativity. Slowly, her artistic spark rekindled, though with a cautious glow. Eventually, she shared her art again, this time with a shield of self-compassion.

Please be sure to you look for help if you need
assistance!

LET'S LOOK AT THE NEWS

GBTDV – How to Prevent and Fight It

European Union Initiatives

The European Union has proactively addressed online hate speech and cyber harassment. In January 2025, major tech companies, including Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), and YouTube, agreed to enhance efforts against online hate speech under a revised code of conduct integrated with the **EU's Digital Services Act (DSA)**. This updated code mandates collaboration with non-profit and public entities to monitor hate speech and requires companies to review at least two-thirds of reported incidents within 24 hours (Reuters).

In October 2024, the EU established a system to **impose sanctions on individuals and entities** responsible for cyberattacks, misinformation, and acts of sabotage, particularly those linked to foreign interference. AP News+1, 2025)

Italy has taken legislative steps to address gender-based violence, including technology-facilitated abuse: In 2019, Italy amended its penal code to include provisions against the non-consensual distribution of intimate images, commonly known as **"revenge porn."** Article 612-ter stipulates **imprisonment from one to six years and fines ranging from €5,000 to €15,000 for offenders** (EST - European Student Think Tank, 2025)

In March 2025, the Italian government approved a draft law **introducing the legal definition of "femicide" into the penal code**, punishable by up to life imprisonment. This initiative seeks to address the alarming rates of violence against women, including digital abuse (AP News, 2025)

High-profile cases, such as the 2023 murder of Giulia Cecchettin, have sparked national debates on gender-based violence. Giulia's family established **the Giulia Cecchettin Foundation** to promote education and prevent such violence, emphasizing the need for cultural change (Reuters+3The Guardian+3AP News+3, 2025, <https://www.arabnews.pk/node/2581593/world>)



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GBTDV: How to Prevent and Fight It- Training Module

This training module aims to equip journalists, adult-trainers and all the other interested persons with the knowledge, skills, and ethical guidelines necessary to report accurately, sensitively, and responsibly on GBTDV.

Recognizing and responding to the GBTDV

- Define Gender-Based Technology-Driven Violence (GBTDV) and its various forms (cyberstalking, doxxing, deepfakes, online harassment, etc.).
- Recognize the psychological, social, and legal impacts of GBTDV on victims.

Ethical and Responsible Reporting on GBTDV

- Apply victim-centered reporting techniques that ensure privacy, dignity, and consent in storytelling.
- Avoid gendered language, bias, and victim-blaming in reporting.

Investigating and Verifying GBTDV Cases

- Utilize digital tools and Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) to verify online threats, deepfakes, and cyber harassment cases.
- Recognize AI-generated abusive content, including deepfakes, manipulated images, and voice cloning.

Understanding Digital Safety and Self-Protection for Journalists

- Implement personal digital security measures to protect against online harassment and doxxing.
- Recognize the signs of targeted online attacks against journalists covering gender-based violence.
- Avoid gendered language, bias, and victim-blaming in reporting.

Introduction of the topic

Mediatic materials

<https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2024-10/repository-of-un-womens-work-on-technology-facilitated-gender-based-violence-en.pdf>

Time needed

1.5 hours

Materials needed

UN Women's "Cyber Violence Against Women & Girls" video BBC's Fake News Simulator adapted for GBTDV fact-checking



GBTDV: How to Prevent and Fight It- Training Module

Question

Question 1: What are the key ethical considerations when reporting on GBTDV cases?

Answer

Journalists should:

- Obtain informed consent before publishing survivor stories
- Protect victims' privacy by avoiding revealing identifying details (e.g., home address, full name, social media handles)
- Avoid victim-blaming language (e.g., "She should not have posted those pictures")
- Use sensitive and non-sensationalist headlines to avoid re-traumatization

Question

What are common mistakes journalists make when covering GBTDV?

Answer

- Focusing on the victim's actions rather than the perpetrator's responsibility
- Using clickbait headlines that sensationalize abuse (e.g., "Leaked Photos of Celebrity Victim")
- Overlooking the systemic nature of digital violence and treating it as isolated incidents

Question

How can journalists verify online harassment claims?

Answer

- Use digital forensics tools like InVID and Amnesty International's Digital Verification Corps
- Cross-check timestamps and metadata of screenshots, messages, and videos
- Analyze social media activity for patterns of coordinated abuse
- Consult cybersecurity experts to confirm hacking or impersonation attempts



GBTDV: How to Prevent and Fight It- Training Module

Question What are deepfake abuses, and how can journalists detect them?

Answer

Deepfake technology manipulates images, videos, or audio to create fake but realistic-looking media, often used for revenge porn or misinformation. Detection tools include:

- Microsoft's Video Authenticator – Analyzes images/videos for AI-generated alterations.
- Google's Deepfake Detection AI – Identifies unnatural facial movements and artifacts.
- Reverse image search (Google, TinEye) – Finds source images to debunk fake content.

Question What should journalists know about reporting GBTDV while respecting digital rights?

Answer

- Ensure data protection compliance (e.g., GDPR in Europe).
- Avoid publishing private communications unless in public interest and ethically justified.
- Consider legal risks when exposing perpetrators (e.g., defamation laws).

Question What are key digital safety tips for journalists covering GBTDV?

Answer

- Use encrypted communication (e.g., Signal, ProtonMail) when speaking to sources
- Activate two-factor authentication (2FA) on all accounts.
- Avoid sharing geolocation data in social media posts
- Regularly check for doxxing threats using OSINT tools
- Do not engage with trolls – It often escalates harassment.
- Document and report threats – Take screenshots and report to platforms/law enforcement
- Use blocking and filtering tools – Apps like Block Party help control online interactions
- Seek peer or organizational support – Media houses should provide digital security training and mental health resources



TO SUM IT UP

Gender Based Technology Driven Violence (GBTDV) – How To Prevent and Fight It

TOPIC OVERVIEW

Gender-Based Technology-Driven Violence (GBTDV) is a growing threat that disproportionately affects women and marginalized groups. Journalists play a critical role in raising awareness, shaping public discourse, and holding perpetrators accountable while ensuring ethical, sensitive, and fact-based reporting. This training equips journalists with the tools to recognize, investigate, and report on GBTDV responsibly while protecting themselves and their sources.

KEY POINT 1

Understanding and Identifying GBTDV

- GBTDV includes cyberstalking, doxxing, deepfake abuse, hate speech, revenge porn, and AI-generated harassment.
- Women and marginal groups face disproportionate digital violence, often leading to psychological distress, reputational damage, and self-censorship.
- GBTDV is not just an individual issue but a systemic problem, often fueled by misogyny, discrimination, and lack of accountability in digital spaces.

KEY POINT 2

Ethical and Responsible Journalism on GBTDV

- Journalists must prioritize survivor safety and dignity, using victim-centered reporting that avoids sensationalism, victim-blaming, and exposing personal details.
- Ethical interviewing techniques include gaining informed consent, protecting anonymity, and using trauma-sensitive language.
- Headlines and articles should focus on perpetrators, systemic failures, and solutions rather than sensationalizing victims' suffering.

KEY POINT 3

Investigating GBTDV Cases and Understanding Legal Frameworks

- Digital forensics and OSINT tools help verify cyber harassment, deepfakes, and coordinated attacks.
- Italy: Criminalizes revenge porn (up to 6 years imprisonment).
- EU Digital Services Act (DSA): Mandates tech companies to remove harmful content swiftly.
- Journalists must balance investigative rigor with legal considerations, ensuring they do not violate data privacy laws while reporting.

KEY POINT 4

Journalists covering GBTDV often become targets of online abuse themselves.

- Personal security measures:
- Use encrypted messaging apps like Signal.
- Activate two-factor authentication (2FA).
- Avoid sharing personal locations online.
- Handling harassment:
- Do not engage with trolls; instead, document and report threats.
- Use blocking, filtering, and AI moderation tools like Block Party.
- Seek legal and institutional support if facing threats.





ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

NOTES

Please check how the following tools are working (there are many youtube and other videos for additional information):

ProtonMail:

<https://proton.me/mail>

Osint:

<https://www.talkwalker.com/blog/best-osint-tools>

Signal: <https://signal.org/>

Block Party:

<https://www.blockpartyapp.com>

BRAINSTORM

Find at least three publications that include the word "Possibly" or similar, and are aimed at defaming a person.

Divide people into groups, each asking them to give a reasonable argument:

1. What does such information give to the media and journalists?
2. What to do and how to act to the person reflected in the specific article
3. What are the consequences if the published information turns out to be false?

Microsoft Video Authenticator

watch the video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PpvQzrsTplk>, find a video that may have been generated by artificial intelligence, and check it with the

Deepfake Detection AI app,

<https://deepfakedetector.ai/>, upload a picture that you think might be fake, and check the authenticity.

ADDITIONAL MULTIMEDIA

Video Documentaries and documents:

- "The Internet's Dark Side: Online Harassment & Gender-Based Violence" –
- UN Women's "Cyber Violence Against Women & Girls" video:
<https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/videos/2016/06/ending-violence-against-women-and-girls-if-not-you-who>
- BBC's Fake News Simulator adapted for GBTDV fact-checking
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zkt3xg8>





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DEVELOPING MEDIA LITERACY TO DEBUNK GENDER-RELATED MEDIA
MANIPULATION AND FAKE NEWS



If you or someone you
know have been victims
of technology-facilitated
gender based violence,
know that you can find
support and report it:

-
-
-

You are not alone.

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