

## Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence and Abuse

### *A LETTAC-Compiled Toolkit*

Online harassment and abuse are increasingly widespread in today's digitally connected world. This can include online threats and intimidation as well as various forms of technology-facilitated gender-based violence (GBV), such as the non-consensual distribution of intimate images, cyberstalking, and sextortion. Women, girls, and LGBTQI+ individuals are disproportionately affected. Survivors of online harassment and abuse—especially image-based abuse—are often forced to relive their trauma and face ongoing harm that increases exponentially over time, owing to the viral flow of information on digital media and the difficulty of removing damaging, non-consensual content. The scale, reach, and amplification effects of technology platforms have exacerbated GBV, and platforms have not sufficiently prevented or addressed how these modalities are used for harm.

To tackle this scourge, President Biden issued a [Presidential Memorandum](#) in June 2022 establishing the White House Task Force to Address Online Harassment and Abuse, with a mandate to develop concrete actions in a Blueprint to prevent online harassment and abuse, provide support for survivors, increase accountability, and expand research.<sup>1</sup>

LETTAC welcomes the opportunity to advance this Blueprint and to support the criminal justice community in providing access to justice for all survivors of GBV, regardless of the perpetrators' modality of abuse.

This LETTAC-compiled toolkit—assembled from the valued activities, expertise, and contributions of fellow OVW training and technical assistance providers as well as other allied professionals—provides a starting point to explore this critical topic.

#### **Toolkit components and other resources include the following:**

- **[Abuse Using Technology](#):** This online resource from **WomensLaw.org**, a project of the **National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV)**, includes information on abuse using technology; ways abusers misuse technology; abuse involving cyber-surveillance, texts, photos, and videos; and more.
- **[How to Gather Technology Abuse Evidence for Court](#):** This guide from the **National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges** outlines online harassment and presents strategies to effectively capture evidence of harassment for admission to court.
- **[IACP Law Enforcement Cyber Center](#):** This comprehensive resource center, hosted by the **International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)**, includes training and conferences. It was created to support law enforcement and allied professionals in investigating and preventing cybercrimes and crimes that involve technology.

<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/03/03/executive-summary-initial-blueprint-for-the-white-house-task-force-to-address-online-harassment-and-abuse/>

- **Love Is Respect: Safety Online:** **Love Is Respect** is the national resource to disrupt and prevent unhealthy relationships and intimate partner violence by empowering young people through inclusive and equitable education, support, and resources.
- **Safety Net Project:** This project of **NNEDV** provides resources and training for victim service providers and allied professionals focused on technology safety in the context of GBV.
- **SEARCH:** The **SEARCH—The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics** website houses many resources, including podcasts and webinars, focused on cybercrime investigations.
- **Sextortion:** The **National Center for Missing & Exploited Children** presents details about child sexual exploitation and sextortion, red flags, and safety strategies.
- **SPARC:** The **Stalking Prevention, Awareness, & Resource Center (SPARC) of AEquitas** provides training, resources, and information to prosecutors, law enforcement, victim service providers, and others to ensure they have the resources needed to better respond to victims of stalking, including cyberstalking.
- **The Cyber Abuse Project: Literature Review:** This report by the **California Coalition Against Sexual Assault** details a review of literature on cyber abuse, defines cyber abuse, and outlines the history and evolution of technology use among young Americans.
- **The Internet & Intimate Partner Violence:** This report by **AEquitas** discusses the realities of online harassment in the context of and as a form of domestic and sexual violence and presents strategies for working with survivors to capture evidence and implement safety strategies.
- **Technology-Facilitated Abuse:** The resources on this **VAWnet** online library explore the extent and nature of technology-facilitated abuse. Sections include “Harassment,” “Sexting/Revenge Porn,” “Stalking/Surveillance,” “Human Trafficking,” and “Child Sexual Abuse/Exploitation.”

Questions, comments, and requests for assistance are welcomed at [Contact@LETTAC.org](mailto:Contact@LETTAC.org).

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