



## **WORKSHOP SERIES: Enhancing Digital Security and Advocacy for Women & Girls in Africa**

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## **Background**

In recent years, there has been a steady growth in the number of online users in the Global South, with internet penetration in some East African Countries such as Kenya estimated to be at 67%, which translates to more than 31 million users, according to recent reports by the Communications Authority of Kenya<sup>1</sup>. This therefore means that two in every three users have internet access, which translates to a raft of socio economic opportunities. However the proliferation of new technologies in recent years has also seen the evolution of various social injustices, including women on the web who continue to face disproportionate levels of online violence. Technology-Assisted Violence against Women (TAVAW) has increasingly been on the rise and it manifests itself in different ways such as cyber bullying, trolling, cyber stalking, defamatory remarks, sexual abuse and vitriol on personal characters, identity theft, and hacking amongst other offences.

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<sup>1</sup>[https://ca.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/ICT\\_Access\\_Gap\\_Study.pdf](https://ca.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/ICT_Access_Gap_Study.pdf)



The effects of TAVAW are quite dire and include loss of privacy, reinforced prejudice, psychological and emotional harm, reputational damage which can subsequently lead to economic loss and in some instances sexual and other forms of physical violence. In most cases, the motivation behind these malpractices is largely anchored on the sociological norms and intent to publicly shame women into self-censorship or withdrawal from online platforms. Therein widening the digital gender gap across the continent. In essence, online spaces have some negative effects on women unlike their male counterparts. To counter these negative effects, substantive intervention is needed. However, the fluidity of online security and the fact that modern technology transcends national boundaries makes it even more difficult to prevent and regulate TAVAW.

To this end, ARTICLE 19 Eastern Africa has been focusing on building a community of women on the web who can collaborate on resilience mechanisms of counter speech through digital advocacy and campaigns, alongside pushing for policy reforms with tech companies, governments, as well as other strategic actors. This initiative has been largely aimed at equipping women online with digital literacy and security skills with the aim of ultimately solidifying the quest to have more women safely engaging in public discourse online whilst championing counter speech advocacy strategies.

## Objectives of the Engagement

The workshop will be conducted in a consultative and engaging approach in close partnership with the International Association of Women in Radio and Television (IAWRT) to achieve the following objectives:

- Reinforce awareness on digital safety and security among key internet users
- Provide a platform for policy actors, tech companies and women rights groups to demystify challenges and strategies to scale up the inclusion of more women in digital platforms for civic, political and socio-economic empowerment.
- Strengthen the counter speech narrative as a digital advocacy tool.

## Session 1 (October 9)

Welcome Remarks & Agenda Setting	Article 19 & IAWRT
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<p><b>Session 1: Connecting Digital Security to digital gender equality</b></p> <p><i>Highlight digital rights</i>  <i>Why they matter</i>  <i>Introduction to digital citizenship and literacy</i></p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 19&amp; IAWRT</b></p>
<p><b>In depth understanding of tenets of Digital Citizenship &amp; Literacy</b></p> <p><i>What is netiquette?</i>  <i>What is digital footprint?-Who are you online?</i>  <i>What is your online identity</i></p>	<p><b>AMWIK/ARTICLE 19</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Interactive session</i></b></p>	
<p><b>Practical Digital Security Tips and Skills</b></p> <p><i>-How to secure your hardware &amp; software</i>  <i>-Privacy and prevention of unauthorized access</i>  <i>-Digital Hygiene</i></p>	<p><b>A19&amp; IAWRT</b></p>
<p><b>Conclusion and Wrap up day one</b></p>	
<p><b>Session 2 (October 10)</b></p>	
<p><b>Combating tech assisted Violence Against Women through digital advocacy</b></p> <p><i>Community Building</i>  <i>Online trust resilience communities</i>  <i>Campaign strategies and tools</i></p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 19/IAWRT</b></p>
<p><b>Interactive session</b></p>	
<p><b>Closing Remarks and workshop wrap up</b></p>	