WOMEN’S RIGHTS ONLINE

REPORT CARD

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According to the data presented by the Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática (National Institute of Statistics and Informatics), in 2017, 51.5% of men and 45.9% of women accessed the Internet. From this figure, more women use the Internet to communicate and search for information, but fewer use it for entertainment purposes. This figure has variables that, when applied, widen the gaps between men and women, according to age, residence, language, etc.

According to a study conducted by the Alliance for Affordable Internet in 2019, the price of 1 GB of Internet is 1.66% of the average income in Peru. According to the National Household Survey (ENAHO) of 2017, 48.8% of people who have a job have Internet access. However, there are groups with greater access than others, such as men who have a university education and formal jobs, and reside in urban areas.

According to the Ministry of Education, 74.1% of secondary schools have Internet access, but this excludes the majority of schools in rural areas, where only 44.1% have access compared to 88.6% of secondary schools in urban areas. In addition, teacher training on the use of ICTs is poor and it is not part of a national plan. Finally, only 34% of the total number of professionals registered in National Directory of Researchers and Innovators (DINA) are professional women from the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics field.
The state generates and spreads little content related to health and reproductive rights that respond to the specific needs of girls and women. Civil society groups address this problem by generating their own content which is often disseminated through social media (Facebook) and private channels (hotlines and emails). In 2017, it was identified that only 2.3% of women of 15 years of age and older used mobile financial services in the last 12 months.

The Legislative Decree 1410 recently made that harassment, sexual harassment, sexual blackmail and distribution of intimate images, through digital channels, without consent became a crime. However, justice operators need to be trained to effectively comply with this rule. On the other hand, the Law on the Protection of Personal Data has achieved substantial protection for personal data, but this is not always true when the one handling the data is a public entity.

**CLOSIGN THE GENDER GAP: A 5 POINT ACTION PLAN**

1. **COLLECT NATIONAL DATA ON GENDER AND ICTS:** analyze how access and the use of technology play a role in inequalities and gender violence, using a rights-based approach.

2. **INTEGRATE DIGITAL SKILLS INTO THE EDUCATION SYSTEM:** digital skills and technology education must be universally accessible, and include an intersectional and multicultural approach.

3. **DEVELOP STRATEGIES AND PUBLIC POLICIES WITH A GENDER PERSPECTIVE:** create gender-specific goals and objectives for policies related to technology, broadband, and internet infrastructure.

4. **PROMOTE DIGITAL ABILITIES OF GIRLS AND WOMEN TO CREATE MORE CONTENT:** support women and girls to develop content, applications and services that are relevant and empowering according to their needs and interests.

5. **CONSULT WITH WOMEN’S AND LGTBIQ+ GROUPS ON THE BEST MECHANISMS TO ENSURE ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** propose specific national strategies according to the contexts of people in vulnerable situations to promote a greater use of technology in a safe space.
The United Nations recently made gender-equitable access to information and communications technologies (ICTs) central to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which set the global development agenda until 2030.

Why? ICTs are powerful. They can help to deliver improved healthcare, quality education for all, financial inclusion, more accountable government, and much more. In adopting the SDGs, all countries have pledged to prioritise universal Internet access, and to use ICTs to empower women.

But much hard work lies ahead if we are to translate this vision into reality. A formidable gender gap in Internet access, digital skills and online rights exists - our Women’s Rights Online research shows that in many communities, women are 50% less likely than men to be online and 30-50% less likely to use the Internet for economic and political empowerment. Women face many barriers - including high costs, lack of know-how, and a scarcity of relevant and empowering content - as well as social and legal obstacles to speaking freely and privately online.

The Web Foundation and partners have prepared these gender audits to help countries assess what they need to do to overcome the gender digital divide. Hiperderecho has taken the lead, in consultation with other national stakeholders, on identifying concrete steps that government can take in the next year to address the challenges and gaps identified. We hope that this report card and action plan will spark debate and galvanise policy change.

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