

Intermediary liability, intermediary
responsibility and technology
related violence against women

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- 'You dumb bitch, the f** shut up'
- That's what you get when you put women in power, a bunch of sluts swopping stories about lipstick
- All she needs is a good f*** by a huge d** and she will forget about this lesbianism

- I know where you live and I'm going to come and rape you
- I'll send 2 black men to come and f*** you till you die
- I will slit your throat you whoring slut
- Did you see what happened to David? It's you next

- 35 % of women will experience some kind of violence in their life times
- In South Africa and some other countries this rises to 70%
- 51% of sexual rights activists have received violent and threatening messages

- 7 countries: Kenya, DRC, Colombia, Mexico, Philippines, Pakistan, Bosnia Herxegovina
- Common violations and harm (withdrawal from public space)
- Research on availability and effectiveness of existing remedies for victims/survivors technology-related VAW and to prevent such violence – legal remedies ; corporate user policies / TORs

- Sweeping regulation, more surveillance and censorship to 'protect women and children
- Moral panic around sex and sexuality and anxiety to preserve 'morality'
- Protectionist discourse appropriated by governments and private sector to justify regulation, privacy violations, censorship, anonymity = evil 'its for the good of our citizens'

- Why have the responses of internet intermediaries to technology-related forms of violence against women been so inadequate?
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Why have the responses of internet intermediaries to technology-related forms of violence against women been so inadequate?

- Gendered norms
 - Speech that trivialises violence against women does not amount to hate speech
 - Online harassment doesn't amount to violence unless there is the probability of imminent harm or 'real violence'
 - Common misogynistic slurs don't amount to a 'real' threat of violence

The censorship / FOE debate – a false dichotomy

Intermediary responsibility for
combatting gender-based harassment
infers that intermediaries take the
following steps:

- Promotion of positive gender attitudes and understandings;
- Incorporation of women's opinions and ideas into the design, implementation and evaluation of platforms and intermediary services;
- Increased responsiveness to complaints or reports of violence against women online or gender-based harassment; and
- The provision of remedies and avenues for redress against gender-based hate speech online.