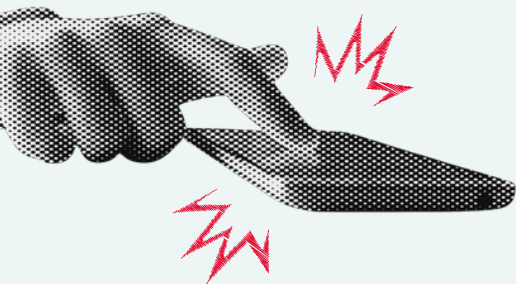


Addressing Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence



Technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) refers to a wide range of activities and behaviours, where technologies (such as phones, computers, and Smart devices) are used as a central tool to carry out violence, abuse, and harassment against women, girls, trans, and non-binary people. Examples of TFGBV include deepfakes, doxing, and non-consensual distribution of intimate images.

Why 'TFGBV'? This term is used to explicitly name the violence, and note the central role of technology in perpetuating the harm, without drawing a false online/offline distinction.

TFGBV relegates women, girls, trans, and non-binary people to secondary status.

This prevents them from being able to freely and fully participate in society, and from enjoying true or equal protection of their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

When experiencing TFGBV, survivors commonly withdraw from expressing their views and/or self-censor altogether. Other effects of TFGBV include anxiety, depression, and financial and reputational harm.

While some acts of TFGBV are illegal under the Criminal Code, many do not meet the high criminal threshold. **Meaningfully addressing TFGBV requires a multi-pronged, systemic approach rooted in human rights, intersectionality, and substantive equality.**

61% of women and gender-diverse people have experienced TFGBV.

Those who are Black, Indigenous, racialized, 2SLGBTQIA+, youth, and disabled are the most frequent targets.¹



LEAF calls on the federal government to:

1) Create a centralized, expert regulator for TFGBV with a dual mandate to:

Provide legal remedy and support to individuals impacted by TFGBV on digital platforms, including regulatory and enforcement powers; and

Develop research and provide training and education on TFGBV to the public, relevant stakeholders, and professionals.

2) Require technology companies to provide accessible and clearly visible complaint mechanisms, and have them undergo an independent audit process about how they address TFGBV.



For a full list of LEAF's recommendations, read our report *Deplatforming Misogyny*.

¹ <https://canadianwomen.org/help-end-gender-based-digital-harm/>