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Online Exchange

Re-claiming Digital Spaces: Tackling Cyber Violence against Women and Girls

December 13, 1-3pm (CET)
skype-for-business

Gender-specific challenges and Opportunities of the digital age
Cyber Violence against Women and Girls
Digital Inclusion
Safe Internet
Digital Empowerment

The online event is looking at Cyber Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) from multiple perspectives.
After a Welcome Note by GIZ Gender Officer Dr. Angela Langenkamp, Johanna Hartung, GIZ Sector Programme "Digital Development" is giving a short introduction to the work of GIZ related to Gender and Digital Transformation. Anne von Au, GIZ Sector Programme "Promoting Gender Equality and Women's Rights" is questioning the discussants Nidhi Tandon, Shannon Pritchard, Poornima Meegammana, Ellie Hutchinson and Lulú V. Barrera about their work and projects. Participants are invited to comment and ask questions which are directed to the speakers. The goal of this debate is to create a better understanding of the phenomena and of possible ways forward.

Moderation
Anne von Au, GIZ Program Promoting Gender Equality and Women's Rights

Welcome Note
Dr. Angela Langenkamp, GIZ Gender Officer

Digital Transformation & Gender in GIZ's work
Johanna Hartung, GIZ Digitalisation for Sustainable Development

Nidhi Tandon, Shannon Pritchard, Networked Intelligence for Development

Poornima Meegammana, Respect Girls on Internet

Ellie Hutchinson, The Empower Project Scotland

Lulú V. Barrera, Luchadoras

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The online event is looking at Cyber Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) from multiple perspectives. Researchers and practitioners are invited to discuss its many aspects and consequences based on experience and research findings. What impact has Cyber VAWG on the digital inclusion of women and girls and how does it affect sustainable development of a society? How can women and girls (re-)claim the online sphere and the opportunities that it offers? The goal of this open debate is to create a better understanding of the phenomena and of possible ways forward.

Gender-specific challenges and opportunities of the digital age

Digital technologies and media can be a powerful catalyst for economic, political and social empowerment of women as well as a tool to promote gender equality. The German G20 initiative #eSkills4Girls has successfully raised awareness on the much needed digital inclusion of women and girls. In 2016, the GIZ-wide competition "Empowerment of women through digital solutions" triggered a great response of 63 contributions submitted. The multitude of the proposals clearly demonstrate the huge potential for digital solutions in empowering women and promoting gender equality – including efforts to address VAWG.

However, the digital transformation can also facilitate various forms of violence: VAWG in the online sphere, also known as Cyber Violence, became a global issue with serious real-life implications for women and girls of every origin, group in society and age. "Online violence has subverted the original positive promise of the internet's freedoms and in too many circumstances has made it a chilling space that permits anonymous cruelty and facilitates harmful acts towards women and girls," says UN Women's Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka.

Cyber violence impedes the digital inclusion for women and girls

Evidence shows that worldwide close to three quarters of women online have been exposed to Cyber Violence. The different forms of Cyber VAWG encompass cyber stalking, cyber harassment, public shaming, hate-speech, virtual human trafficking and many other forms. VAWG online and offline feed into each other and derive from the same gender-discriminatory structures in society.

In recent years, high profile incidences have gained international attention by the media. Current research reveals the devastating psychological impact Cyber Violence can have on victims, as well as the pervasiveness of the problem. Moreover, Cyber VAWG has negative effects on female economic, social and political participation. In order to protect the rights of women and girls and foster their digital inclusion and empowerment, it is utterly important to secure discrimination- and violence-free cyber spaces.

The event is organized by GIZ Gender Officer Dr. Angela Langenkamp, and GIZ Sector Programmes "Promoting Gender Equality and Women's Rights" as well as "Digitalisation for Sustainable Development".

Join and debate!