

Organisations across Europe join forces to tackle cyber violence against women and girls

25 November 2020, Berlin

“The effects of cyber violence on women and girls are devastating, all consuming, never ending, because they are part of a continuum of violence (offline and cyber) that deprives them of their freedom.”

– Alessandra Pauncz, WWP EN Executive Director

“So far in 2020, we have seen more than 6600 users affected by stalkerware on their mobile phones in Europe. The most affected countries are Germany, Italy and the UK. As this software is used to spy on another person, it has an immense and harmful impact on people’s lives. Therefore, we are glad to join forces with WWP EN as another member of the Coalition Against Stalkerware, to educate people about cyber violence and to help protect users as best as possible.”

– Christina Jankowski, Senior External Relations Manager, Kaspersky.

Today, the European Network for the Work with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence (WWP EN) launches a unique, European campaign against cyber violence. The **2020 “Responsible Together” Campaign** aims to spread awareness on cyber violence against women and girls. From 25 November to 10 December, 14 organisations from 10 countries across Europe are organizing activities to end cyber violence

Why should we care?

Cyber violence against women and girls is an [emerging global problem](#), with **73% of women worldwide** experiencing some form of cyber violence.

Women and girls are [disproportionately targeted](#) by gender-based cyber violence. Researchers and activists from [France](#) and the [UK](#) have reported that **the coronavirus crisis has exacerbated gender based cyber violence**.

Often cyber violence is a continuation of violence perpetrated offline. Abusive partners can use cyber violence to extend their offline abuse and control every aspect of their partner’s life. Cyber violence [prevents women and girls from accessing the internet](#), and causes **physical, psychological, economic and social harm**.

What needs to change and what can you do?

Cyber violence against women and girls has not been [fully conceptualised, defined or legislated against at the EU level](#). This must change! **EU Member States** must find a consensus on what constitutes gender-based cyber violence and how it should be pursued. **Law enforcement** must then receive the training, resources and mandate to pursue this violence effectively.

Greater awareness will enable victimised women and girls to recognize cyber violence and seek support. Everybody must understand that cyber violence is “real” violence with very serious consequences.

For more information on the campaign, get in touch with WWP EN Communications Manager Anna McKenzie anna.mckenzie@work-with-perpetrators.eu or check out our website at <https://www.work-with-perpetrators.eu/campaign-2020>.

WWP EN is a European network with 64 members from 32 countries. Our work focuses on stopping men’s violence and holding them accountable, as well as promoting the Istanbul Convention. Find out more: <https://www.work-with-perpetrators.eu>.