

# Challenges and Opportunities of Technology for Combating Violence Against Women



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# Abstract

While women NGOs are aware of the opportunities that technology has facilitated for the prevention, education and elimination of violence against women (VAW), new and emerging technology is expanding today to offer women advocates many more tools for advocacy. Knowing which tech tools to use safely can help women reach their advocacy goals as well as protect women, particularly younger women who are activists and advocates working today to end VAW. This workshop will discuss how advocates can "Speak Out," feel safe online, and stop cyber/mobile harassment and cyber stalking, as well as the unlawful use and distribution of their images, audio and videos without their consent. Online bullying and the cyber intimidation of women through text and chat-room harassment can be stopped. Find out how, through a PPT presentation, with an informative handout with additional resources.

# Internet – A man’s World in Developing Countries



Table 2: The li

	East Asia & Pacific	South Asia	Sub-Saharan Africa	Europe & Central Asia	Latin America & the Caribbean	Middle East & North Africa
Women's and girls' Internet access level	29%	8%	9%	35%	36%	18%
Men's and boys' Internet access level	37%	11%	16%	49%	40%	28%
Gender gap (weighted)	20%	33%	43%	29%	10%	34%
Global gender gap (144 developing countries)	23%					

# Digital Divide women and men in third world

The discussion about women's access to and use of digital Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in developing countries has been inconclusive so far. Some claim that women are rather technophobic and that men are much better users of digital tools, while others argue that women enthusiastically embrace digital communication.



# A New Game on Facebook

- \* **A Game Aims to Draw Attention to Women's Issues**
- \* [http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/18/business/a-game-aims-to-draw-attention-to-womens-issues.html?smid=tw-share&\\_r=3&](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/18/business/a-game-aims-to-draw-attention-to-womens-issues.html?smid=tw-share&_r=3&)
- \* Half the sky website
- \* <http://www.halftheskymovement.org/page/s/halfthegame>



# Crimes Kept Pace with Technology

Crimes against women have also kept pace with technology.

- \* Women are controlled or coerced by abusive family members or partners with surveillance (tracking of communication or location using their mobile phones)
- \* Privacy violations.
- \* Online harassment.
- \* Cyber stalking
- \* Cyber bullying
- \* Defamation
- \* Unauthorized use of their personal information, photos or videos.
- \* The gender gap between male and female users who are well-versed with the use of such technology creates further scope for violence against women.





# Be safe online

Find out how you can take steps to make your online experience a safer one. This link provides some tips and ideas on how you can protect your privacy while browsing and communicating online.

<http://www.takebackthetech.net/be-safe>





# Protecting personal data on your computer

Password protect your computer Download a reliable anti-virus software Install a firewall on your computer Use proxies to anonymously surf the web

<http://www.takebackthetech.net/be-safe/privacy>



# Web Browsing

When you are looking for information over the Internet and browsing websites, information about your activity is also collected and stored. Clear your cache Clear your browsing history Clear your download history Use https everywhere (for Firefox) which encrypts your communications with a number of major websites

<http://www.takebackthetech.net/be-safe/browsing>



# Emails and web mails

Don't open attachments from sources you do not trust. Run an anti-virus before opening attachments. Choose a secure email client such as Mozilla Thunderbird. Encrypt your emails using PGP (Pretty Good Privacy).

- \* <http://www.takebackthetech.net/be-safe/emails>



# Online Chat

There are a lot of ways that you can communicate "securely" using Internet Messenger services. The most common IM services are Yahoo, AIM, Google Chat and Skype. Most of them have their own clients (i.e. Yahoo Messenger).

<http://www.takebackthetech.net/be-safe/online-chat>



# Mobile Phones

Mobile phones, especially now that even basic handsets incorporate camera and recording capabilities, are excellent tools for documenting violence and harassers. Consider password protecting your phone. Have an alternative SIM card if you feel you are being monitored by anyone. Phones are easily lost or stolen, don't keep intimate photos on your phone.

<http://www.takebackthetech.net/e-safe/mobile-phones>

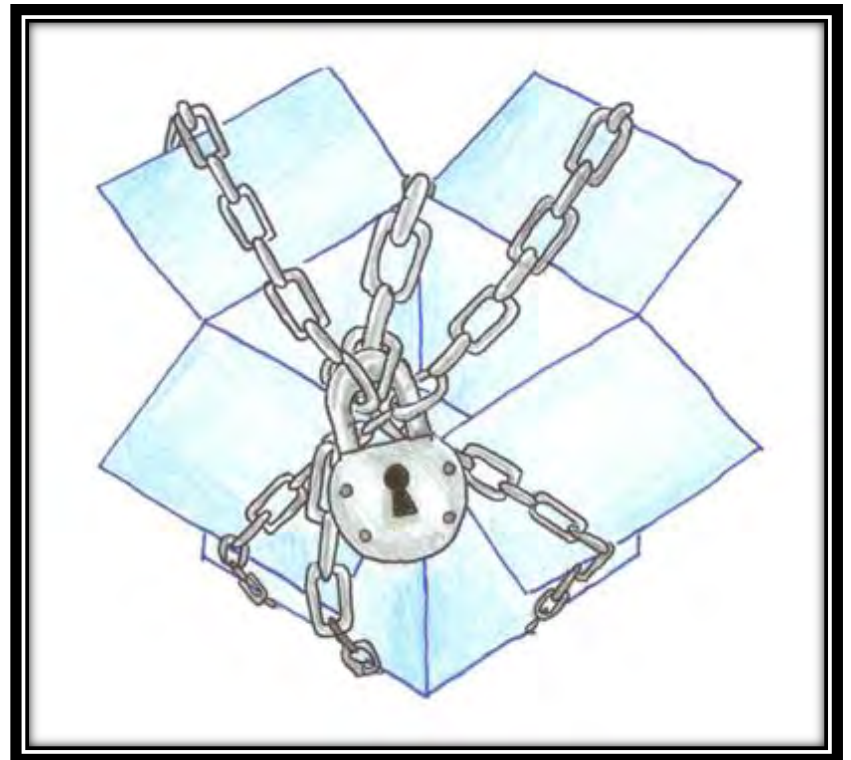




# Security in a box

This toolkit is designed primarily to address the growing needs of advocates in the global South, particularly human rights defenders, but the software and strategies in this toolkit are relevant to digital security in general. It has something to offer anyone who works with sensitive information. This may include vulnerable minorities, independent journalists or 'whistle-blowers', in addition to advocates working on a range of issues, from environmental justice to anti-corruption -

<http://www.tacticaltech.org/securityinabox>



# Digital Security and Privacy for Human Rights Defenders

- \* This book is an introduction to the ever growing and complex world of electronic security. It raises levels of knowledge and awareness about computers and the Internet, and warns of different risks faced in the digital environment and how to deal with them. The book is written for human rights defenders, and therefore it also looks at the ways of preventing the erosion of universally guaranteed freedoms. Alongside elements of theory, it offers possible solutions to some security issues for computers and the Internet.

<https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/ese/cman/>





# “Strategies Online Activism: A Toolkit”

- \* **This tool box** was designed for and by women activists but can be used by everyone. Key chapters include: strategizing and planning your online activism; creating your campaign’s identity; social networking and security on the Internet. The guide provides practical and accessible step-by-step advice, while keeping a political and feminist eye. It was developed by Violence is Not our Culture (VNC) campaign and APC’s women’s programmed (APC WNSP) - <http://www.vnc-campaigns.org/toolkit>



# Danger and Opportunity - ICTs and women human rights defenders

## Danger and Opportunity - ICTs and women human rights defenders

<http://www.genderit.org/newsletter/danger-and-opportunity-icts-and-womens-human-rights-defenders>

**Policy Advocacy** Get involved in local, national and international policy advocacy initiatives that lobby legislators to ensure the Internet is regulated in ways that as a WHRD do not compromise our right to freedom of expression, association and assembly. Find out more about gender and ICT policy advocacy - A start is [www.genderit.org](http://www.genderit.org)



# Crowdsourcing to combat VAW

- \* From molestation, cyber harassment and domestic violence to rape and trafficking, women across the world are subjected to numerous acts of violence every day. A few projects built on the open source [Ushahidi](#) platform display crowdsourced maps of reports of these incidents, as well as maintain a database of these reports. Some reports are submitted anonymously by the victims or their near ones; others are pulled in from the news and social networking websites. This data is useful for researchers, governments, law enforcement agencies, the police, organisations working on gender issues and issues related to violence against women, and civil society organisations. These deployments also guide the women facing violence to resources and help. Most of all, these initiatives create testimonies and offer the victims a presence and a voice -- verily crucial in the aftermath of crimes where victims are coerced into silence or purposefully isolated.

# HARASSmap

- \* A project to map incidents of Sexual harassment in Egypt thru SMS reports.
- \* Reports are submitted by texting, twitter #, iphone website about the nature of harassment and location



# Crowdsourcing tools to combat violence against women - II

- \* The **previous part of the series** shed light on crowdsourced maps that depict the severity, localisations and forms of violence against women in Egypt, India and in the online world. This part elucidates on the use of crowdsourcing technology to mobilise communities and identify and highlight violence against women in different demographics across the world – war zones, streets and public places and big cities.
- \* Hollaback Delhi: A blog submission (left); the crowdsourced map with a report (right)





# Lifetime Spiral of Gender Violence



# Bills on Online Violence Against Women

- \* **INSTEAD OF ANTI-CYBERCRIME ACT | Bill on online violence against women pushed**
- \* **By: Lira Dalangin-Fernandez, InterAksyon.com**  
**January 15, 2013 1:21 PM**
- \* <http://www.interaksyon.com/article/52733/instead-of-anti-cybercrime-act-bill-on-online-violence-against-women-pushed>





# Opportunities of Technology for Combating Violence Against Women



- \* Women leaders are at the front of global social movements taking advantage of ICT to further the case of gender equality.

הודות  
Dankie Gracias اركش  
Спасибо Merci Takk  
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**Thank You** Tak  
感謝您 Obrigado Teşekkür Ederiz  
Σας Ευχαριστούμ 감사합니다  
Бодхонн  
Bedankt Děkujeme vám  
ありがとうございます  
Tack