A GUIDE TO FIGHT DIGITAL GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Toplumsal Bilgi ve İletişim Derneği

alternatif bilişim

AVRUPA BİRLİĞİ
SivilDüşün

Authors:
Gülüm Şener
İlden Dirini
Nurcihan Temur
Şebnem Ahi
Şevket Uyanık

Translation:
Sevda Akyüz
Nedime Mercangöz

Design:
Fatih Akdoğan

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Contents

WHAT IS DIGITAL GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE?

As internet access increased, the widespread use of mobile information and social media brought on digital violence, which is a new form of gender based violence.

Women actively using social media and internet platforms encounter threats and comments directly targeting their gender, sexual identity and personal security.

Violence against women of all ages is considered as a violation of human rights and a type of sexist discrimination. In the Istanbul Convention,[1] violence is defined not only in physical, but also sexual, psychological and economic forms, and as a consequence of gender-based inequality.

Gender-based violence includes domestic violence, spouse violence, dating violence and digital violence.

Digital gender-based violence is not categorized under any type of violence. As it contains cases that overlap with all other types of violence, it needs to be classified as a new type or form.

[1] Istanbul Convention, E. (2011). Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. Violence against women and domestic violence. https://rm.coe.int/1680462545

Online violence: Continuation of offline violence

Women are subjected to different forms of violence in real life (offline life) due to gender-based inequalities. Those same inequalities target and threaten the security of women in cyberspace (online life) in different demographic statuses.

It must not be forgotten that digital violence is not a separate concept from violence in 'real' life; and that it is a continuation of offline violence (domestic violence, violence against women) fed by the same inequalities.

The gender stereotypes that involve inequality and sexism in offline environment are also reflected in online environment.

Digital violence? Cyber violence? Virtual violence? Or online violence?

When the relevant studies and reports are examined, it can be seen that the digital violence women are subjected to is not entirely conceptualized. We encounter this subject under different headings: cyber violence, virtual violence, digital violence or online violence.

As the number of studies on the subject increases, concepts will be formulated more precisely, but it is vital that the definitions have a feminist perspective.

Who's exposed to digital violence?

Gender-based violence as a result of online abuse can target men or women. Similarly, children can also be subjected to online abuse and violence. However, as online abuse and gender-based violence stems from the same structural inequalities and sexual discrimination as the other types of violence, the rate of violence women are subjected to is higher.[2]

According to the data in the UN report titled "Cyber Violence Against Women and Girls –a Worldwide Wake up Call,"[3] the probability of women's exposure to violence all over the world is 27 times higher than that of men. Just like any area, the internet is also a domain where gender-based violence is seen.

[2] IGF. (2015). Internet Governance Forum-Best Practice Forum on Online Abuse and Gender-Based Violence Against Women.

[3] UN. (2015). Cyber Violence Against Women and Girls: A World- Wide Wake-Up Call. http://www.unwomen. org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/ publications/2015/cyber_violence_gender%20report. pdf?vs=4259

Intersectional discrimination and digital violence that affect different demographic statuses of women

Women can be exposed to cyber bullying based on their education, age, ethnic background, sexual orientation or relationship status.

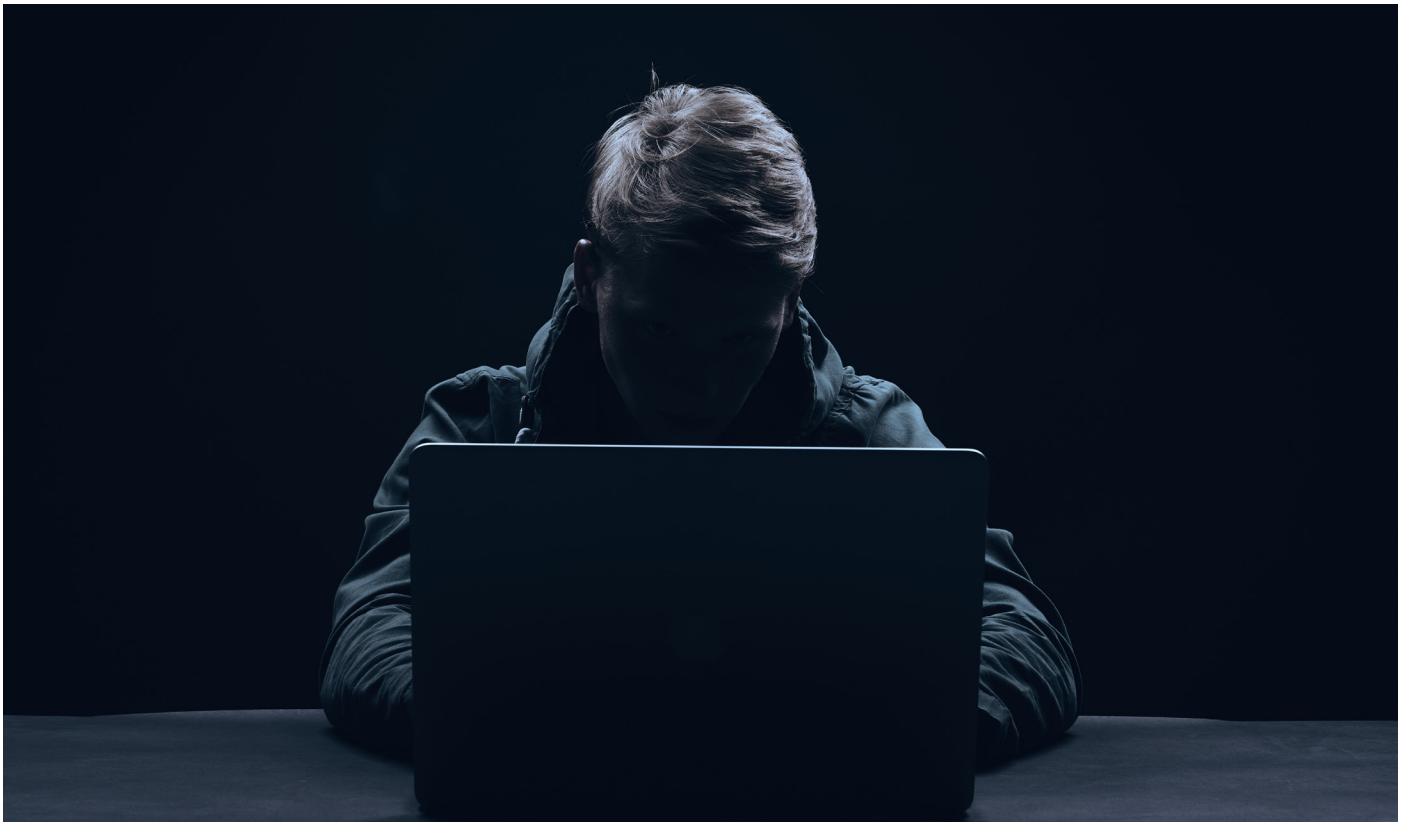
In the report titled “Gender based Violence and Online Abuse,”[4] it is predicted that women who are more visible in online and offline environments can be exposed to abuse more in online platforms. LBTQ+ women, female journalists (including blog writers), women active in tech industries, female public figures (artists, writers, and so on), female politicians, female academics, and feminist activists can be openly targeted from time to time by the perpetrators of digital violence.

Who are the perpetrators of digital violence?

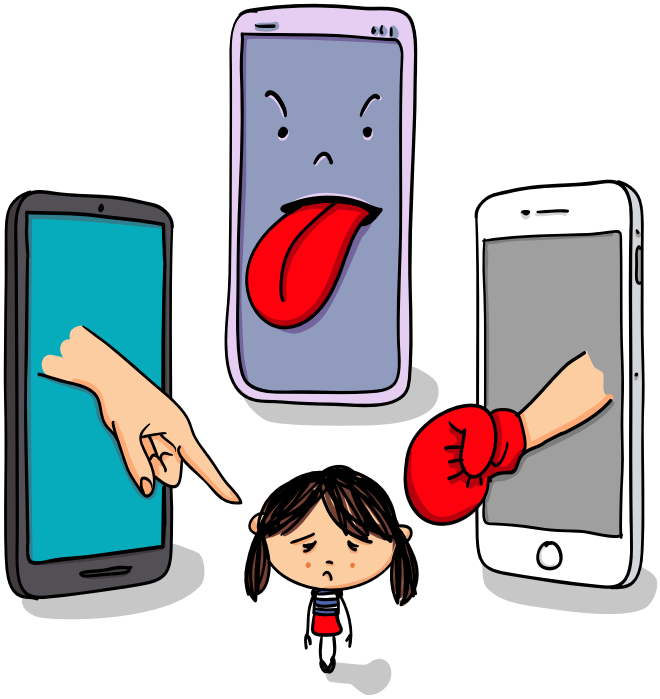
The perpetrators of digital violence can be ex- or current spouses/partners, neighbours, work/school friends, relatives or strangers.

The perpetrators of digital violence use social media, messaging apps, Global Positioning System (GPS)-based apps, smart phones and/or e-mail to cause anxiety in their victims about their personal security.

Most online abuse and gender-based violence is committed via anonymous or fake name accounts, which makes it hard to track down the perpetrators.



[4] ibid.



TYPES OF GENDER-BASED DIGITAL VIOLENCE

Defining characteristics

In the study titled "Voices from digital spaces: technology related violence against women,"[5] five defining characteristics of digital violence against women have been listed:

Anonymity the perpetrator may not be known by the victim.

Action Distance the abuse may be directed from any distance without physical contact.

Automation the online abusive acts or cyber bullying require less time and effort.

Accessibility the technological variety and economic feasibility render women as easy prey for perpetrators.

Distribution and Continuity texts and photos copied on the internet can spread without limits or can stay there for a long time.

European Gender Equality Institute started to categorize cyber stalking in its report titled "Cyber Violence Against Women."[6]

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[5] Fascendini, F., & Fialová, K. (2011). Voices from digital spaces: Technology related violence against women. Association for Progressive Communications (APC)

[6] EIGE. (2017). Cyber Violence Against Women and Girls. Retrieved from http://eige.europa.eu/rdc/ 6 eige-publications/cyber-violence-against-women-and-girls

Cyber Stalking

Cyber stalking means following somebody via e-mail, texts (online messages) or the Internet. When done repeatedly, harmless or not, stalking/following undermines the stalked person's sense of security, and causes anxiety, fear or alarm.

Stalking is following somebody in stealth mode. The person doing this act is called a stalker. The term stalking is used for repeated acts of threats and/or harassment that cause fear and anxiety via email or other computer-based communication channels.

The report titled "Cyber violence against women and girls"[8] also defines "cyber harassment" and "cyber exploitation" as subclasses of cyber violence:

Cyber Harassment

Cyber harassment can manifest itself in various forms as listed below:

- Unwanted email, texts (or online messages) with sexual content;
- Inappropriate or aggressive acts on social media or internet chat rooms;
- Threats of physical and/or sexual violence via e-mail, text (or online messages);
- Hate speech, or behavior that insults, threatens, or targets someone for their identity (gender), and other characteristics (sexual orientation or disability).

[7] Southworth, C., Finn, J., Dawson, S., Fraser, C., & Tucker, S. (2007). Intimate partner violence, technology, and stalking. Violence against women, 13(8), 842-856.

[8] ibid.

Cyber Exploitation

Cyber exploitation is also known as revenge porn.[9] It refers to online distribution of photos or videos without permission of the person featuring in them.

The perpetrator is usually an ex-partner or spouse who took or recorded the images during a former relationship and uses it to retaliate and humiliate the person. However, the perpetrators may not always be ex-spouses or lovers. It may not always be done for revenge, either. The images may be obtained by hacking into a person's computer, social media accounts or phone, aiming to cause real damage to the 'real life' of the target.

Other Types and Definitions

The Internet Governance Forum hosted by the UN dealt with "Gender-Based Violence and Online Abuse." The report prepared at the end of the Forum[10] categorized concepts of gender-based digital/cyber/online violence into six sub-categories with examples:

1. Violation of privacy:

- Access to personal data without the permission of the individual (including hacking of personal accounts, stealing of passwords, identity theft, accessing another user's computer while using an account, and 'cyber exploitation'),
- Taking, accessing, using, manipulating, and distributing photos and videos without someone's permission,
- Sharing and distributing personal information including images (of a sexual nature), sound bites, and video clips without a person's knowledge and consent,
- Doxing (online researching and reaching personal information), searching for and publishing private or identifying information without the consent of the individual for harassment or other malicious intent, using that information for violence and harassment of a woman in the 'real' world,
- Contacting a user via their kids, families or co-workers, and harassing them.

2. Spying and monitoring:

- Spying and monitoring online and offline activities,
- Using spyware or keyboard recorders without the consent of the user,
- Using GPS or software to track the movements of a woman without her consent,
- Stalking.

[9] The concept widely used as revenge porn may further exacerbate the discrimination against the victim; therefore, the term cyber exploitation is preferred.

[10] IGF. (2015). Internet Governance Forum-Best Practice Forum on Online Abuse and Gender-Based Violence Against Women. http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/documents/best-practice-forums/623-bpf-online-abuse-and-gbv-against-women/file.

3. Character defamation:

- Deleting, sending, altering e-mail messages and content without the consent of the individual,
- Fabricating and sharing fake personal data to discredit someone (such as via online accounts, ads or social media profiles),
- Creating fake photos and videos,
- Identity theft (for example, creating, and publishing a profile and sharing public posts there),
- Publishing private (culturally sensitive or controversial) information in order to discredit someone,
- Making disturbing, humiliating and false comments and announcements online (containing aggressiveness or insults) in order to discredit someone

4. Harassment (this can be accompanied by offline harassment):

- Attracting attention through cyber bullying and repeated harassment by sending unwanted messages,
- Direct threats of violence including those of a sexual and physical kind (for example, 'I'll rape you'),
- Comments with swear words,
- Sending and receiving unsolicited material with sexual content,
- Encouragement for physical violence,
- Hate speech through social media messages and e-mail, targeting gender and sexual identity,
- Online content that objectifies women,
- Making sexist comments,
- Mobbing by a group rather than by an individual, targeting someone for harassment and use of mobbing as an application especially facilitated by technology.

5. Direct threats and violence:

- Selection of the person (including planned sexual attack, and trafficking in women by using technology),
- Sexual blackmail or sextortion and assault,
- Identity, money and property theft,
- Assuming the identity of someone, leading to physical assault.

6. Targeting groups:

- Hacking the websites, social media accounts and e-mail accounts of some institutions and communities,
- Monitoring and spying on their activities,
- Direct threats of violence targeting community members,
- Revealing classified information such as the addresses of women's shelters.

DIGITAL SECURITY TIPS

Even though it is not possible to talk about a 100% security on the Internet, users can establish more secure communication. Internet users can improve their new media literacy and use the right methods and tools to ensure digital security at different levels.

Digital footprint

Every move and click of internet users are recorded for later use; and personal information turn into lucrative data for corporations. We leave a lot of digital footprints with our online activities on a daily basis.

Today, anyone can get a lot of information about you by a simple Google search. They don't need to be a **hacker** to do that. Your voluntary shares on social media reveal your routine, private information, personality, mood, and social life to others. People or groups with malicious intent can harm you by collecting this data.

- On a browser you open in **Incognito mode**, you can search for your personal information, analyze the results, and detect **what kind of information is public about you**. You can also check what kind of information you allow public access on your Facebook, LinkedIn, etc. profiles, and change the privacy settings.

- Clear your browser **history** and **cookies** in your devices often. If you do not work in your own devices, use 'Incognito mode.'

• You can ask platforms like Google, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to share the information they gathered on you and download them to your computer. This way, you can see and archive your activities so far using these accounts. However, this will not delete your data from the internet.

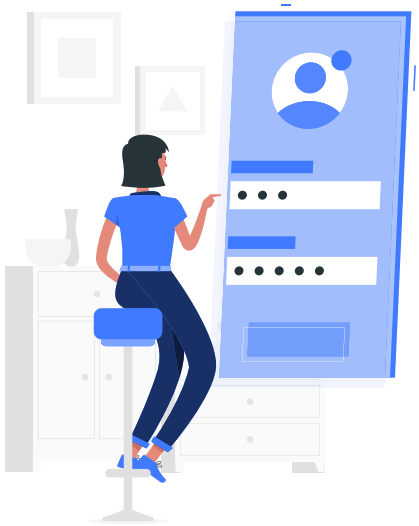
To download your Google data
https://takeout.google.com/

To download your Facebook data:
https://www.facebook.com/help/212802592074644

To download your Twitter data:
https://help.twitter.com/tr/managing-your-account/how-to-download-your-twitter-archive

To download your Instagram data:
https://www.instagram.com/download/request

To download your Linkedin data:
https://www.linkedin.com/psettings/member-data



Connection Security

• Do not use your personal password or do online shopping on computers in public places like internet cafes, photocopiers or stationery stores to get print outs or send email. If you access your email or social media accounts on unknown devices, do not forget to **log out** when you are done.

• Your passwords and personal data can be hacked over public access WIFI. Try not to use such connections.

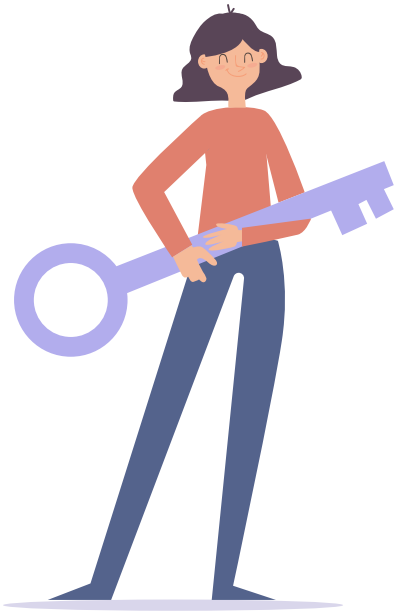
Device security

• Always use **passwords** and **screen locks** in your devices (computer, tablet, smart phone, etc.) to prevent access by others. The data in your digital devices belong to you and unauthorized people should not ask for your passwords or use your devices and check the information on them.

• In a healthy relationship, people do not feel the need to restrict and check up on each other. If your partner expects you to send your location, take and send photos from everywhere you go, and answer every message instantly, this is an indication that he is stalking you.

Password security

- Your passwords for internet platforms and digital devices should **not be simple or easily predictable**. They should not contain names, birthdates, ID numbers, wedding anniversaries, phone numbers, etc.



- In your passwords, try not to use your personal information that can be predicted by people in your life. Your partner, spouse, friend, etc. may find out what your password is and use it to check up on your online communication with others. Your password is personal, and no one has the right to know it.

- Prefer passwords that are not coherent wholes, and that contain numbers, upper and lower case letters, as well as signs. **For example: N/1i2*H3-a4!X8**

- Set **different passwords** for all the services, websites, social media platforms. Don't use the same password for a variety of sites because if it is hacked, it can be tried in other platforms as well.

- Renew your password at least every six months.

- Your answers to the security questions when setting your password should not be 'real.' For example, if you choose the name of your first pet as your security question, you should not give the real name of your pet as it can be easily guessed by others. Similarly, it can also be predicted through the information you share on social media.

- As it is difficult to remember all these passwords, you can use two open source and free software programs to store and manage them: **keepassx.org** and **encryptr.org.** For IOS and Android cell phones, you can use keepass.info. With the help of these programs, you can safely keep all your passwords using one main password.

- Make sure to use the **two-step verification** system. You can protect your accounts on social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram by using this two-step verification. In this system, if someone tries to access your account from a different device, you get a warning message. So, if you activated the two-step verification, they cannot access your account even if they know your password. You can activate this system in the Settings/Security Settings sections of your social media and email accounts. In order to protect your Google/Gmail account, you can set up **Authenticator** and use this two step system.

Social media security

- You can check who gets to see your information other than the social media platforms you shared them with if you read the Terms of Service carefully and in detail. The terms of service that we usually approve without reading may contain articles stating that your data is shared with corporations.

- You can check and restrict who you want to share your social media profile and posts in the **Privacy Settings/ Security Settings** sections. To do that, just visit these sections in your social media platforms and manage the settings in detail.

- If you activate **Timeline Approval** and **Tag Approval** features on Facebook, your approval will be asked when your friends or acquaintances want to tag you in a post or share something on your timeline.

- When you receive irritating messages/posts, you can use the **Report** feature offered by social media platforms, **block the perpetrator** of digital violence, and get their account to be closed.

- You can also report discriminatory, sexist comments or hate speech posts **directed at others** on social media platforms to contribute to the fight against digital violence.

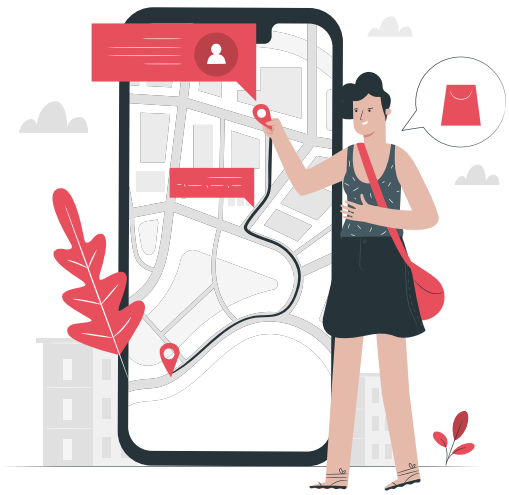
- You can get help from **Facebook's support center** about private images shared without consent: https://www.facebook.com/safety/notwithoutmyconsent

- If you are targeted and subjected to humiliating, insulting and discrediting messages by people or groups known or unknown to you on social media, you can get a screenshot, gather evidence, and start the legal process. Make sure that the name of the sender, as well as the date and time of the post appear on the screenshot. You can ask for legal support from the bar associations; get information from civil society organizations and centers working on gender and women's rights.

- You will see many applications that you do not use in all social media platforms (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Linkedin, Youtube, etc.). These are tasked with reading and writing messages or texting on your behalf. Make sure to remove the unused ones.

- Social media facilitates stalking between people and may feed their obsessions. The perpetrators may track your activities, get information about you and your location to gain control over you on social media unless you block them. If you feel threatened, you can **block the perpetrator and delete them** from all means of communication. You can create a safe communication environment with "zero communication."

- The perpetrators may try to befriend your friends on social media to track your activities. In that case, you can inform your friends, and ask them not to share any information related to you, and to support you.



- If you suspect you are being followed, **avoid sharing your location** as much as possible. Regularly clean your location history on your devices.

- In a trusting relationship, your partner wouldn't interfere with what you share on social media or who you befriend. Your social media profile is personal; and you should be in charge of its content.

- You can visit the links below for security suggestions against digital harassment/online violence on social media platforms:

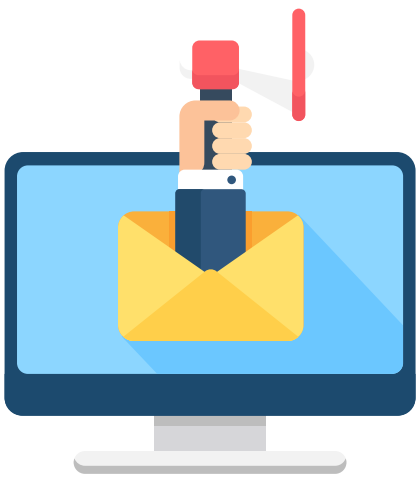
Google:
https://learndigital.withgoogle.com/dijitalatolye/course/online-safety/module/3000

Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/safety/bullying

Twitter:
https://help.twitter.com/tr/safety-and-security/cyber-bullying-and-online-abuse

Linkedin:
https://www.linkedin.com/help/linkedin/answer/43796/taciz-veya-guvenlik-endisesi?lang=tr

Youtube:
https://www.youtube.com/intl/tr/about/policies/#community-guidelines



E-mail security

- Do not click on generic private messages or email claiming you won something and whose origin or sender you do not know. They may be carrying a virus and steal your personal information.

- You can encode and safely send your email messages via software like **PGP (Pretty Good Privacy), TutaNota.de, ProtonMail.**

- You can have an alternative email address from **RiseUp** etc, form e-mail groups and get more secure communication service.

Secure messaging

- You can use **Signal** as a more secure alternative to Whatsapp messaging app. Signal offers end-to-end encoded messages for your short texts as well as clearing your chats from all servers after reading and two step confirmation.

- Even though it is old, **IRC** is still one of the most secure messaging programs.

Search engine security

- You may want to prefer an alternative search engine to Google like DuckDuckGo, which is not commercial, and does not track or sell your personal information.

Website security:

- You should prefer websites starting with the more secure **https://** instead of http:// website addresses.

- You can add the extensions **HTTPS Everywhere** and **PrivacyBadger** on your web browser, produced by Electronic Frontier Foundation. This way, you can stay away from commercials and cookies and have a more secure communication.

- You can verify the security of a link sent to you by a friend or unknown user by consulting websites such as **urlsan.io, phishtank.com** or **urlex.org** before clicking on them.

Deleting metadata

- Make sure to turn off the geotag feature on your mobile phone when you take photos or shoot videos.

- You can also remove the metadata on your images by using Exif Tag Remover (www.rlvision.com/).

Open source

- Try to choose open source apps or programs in order to decrease corporation monitoring because many closed source apps ask to access your private data in your devices (location, contact list, media, phots, videos, etc) and record your network traffic. Open source free apps do not ask for such permissions, and they do not store your personal data for commercial purposes.

- ou can download **F Droid** in Google Play for Android phones and find the open source equivalents for the apps you are currently using.

VPN

- You can bypass censorship by using VPN programs like **TOR**. These programs change your IP number to make you look as if you connect from a different country and give you access to banned sites. You can send an email to gettor@torproject.com in order to set up TOR on your computer. If you want to set up TOR on your cell phone, you can download **Orbot** program.

Cloud security

- Most servers and devices you use offer cloud service with a charge or for free in order to store your data. Even though cloud systems like Google Drive, iCloud seem to be practical solutions to keep your data intact in case your device is stolen or gets broken down, they actually deepen the surveillance on the user. If you have private information or images that you do not want to share with others, do not use the automatic Back-up / Synchronize options on your devices in order to avoid automatic upload of your data onto the cloud.

- In order to back up your data, you can use more secure cloud servers such as SpiderOak and Mega. You can also encode your files and upload them to the cloud in that secure mode.

TACTICS AGAINST DIGITAL HARASSMENT

Perpetrators of digital violence are usually very determined to stay in control; and technology is one of many tools they use to do just that. If the perpetrator seems to know a lot about you, he/she may be collecting this information by tracking your devices, accessing your online accounts, monitoring your location or collecting online data about you.

Becoming an online target may make you feel as if things are getting out of control. There are, however, protective measures you can take without blaming yourself. Here are some of them:

- Gather data to identify the perpetrator and document what happened. Documenting a series of events may demonstrate to the police or the court that there is a pattern of stalking or harassment. The documents can also help you see an increase in activity and plan your security accordingly.

- Get a screenshot. Screenshots are very fundamental and useful tools to store information you gather on the internet.

- You can report the irritating online behavior to the website or app it happened on. If the behavior is in violation of the terms of service of the platform, that content can be removed or the person can be banned. It is important to know that the report content can be totally removed; therefore, evidence should be documented before reporting.

- Twitter ve sosyal medya hesaplarından faili teşhir etme kararı alabilirsiniz. **#tacizvar #tacizesesver #sendeanlat #susmabitsin**

- Share your experience with people you trust, get support from a women's consultation center.

- Consult lawyers specializing in this area to learn about the legal processes. Talk to Women's Consultancy Centers of the Bar Organizations.

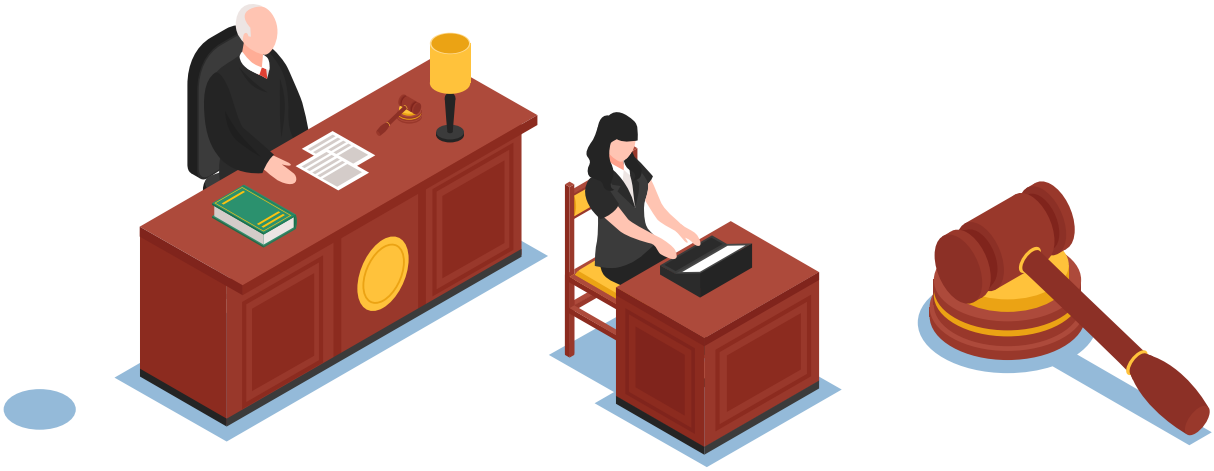
- You can file a complaint with the nearest police precinct or the prosecutor's office. Also, if urgent intervention is required, you should demand a restraint order regulated in Act 6284. It is also possible to file a lawsuit for punitive damages.

- You can demand that the content be removed according to Act 5651. If the related content is not considered critical, and if it is not based on a real decision, the person who does not want to be associated with this content can still demand its removal as part of their right to be ignored. If the right conditions for legal counselling have emerged, a lawyer can be demanded.

- In any case, it is vital for the victim to know their rights in the eyes of the law and raise their awareness about the legal process as well as knowing what constitutes a crime.

- You can complain about acts of lynching, sexist rhetoric, and digital violence against other people, too. This way, you can help the accounts of the perpetrators get terminated.

- You can organize online and offline campaigns to raise awareness about the fight against gender based digital violence; create an agenda; and engage in digital activism to get both internet companies and politicians to come up with solutions.



LEGAL ASPECTS OF DIGITAL VIOLENCE IN TURKEY

Digital Violence Action	Under the scope of which crime/law	What are the possible sanctions?
Persistent tracking: Sending messages or calling continuously, forcing to report location or send photos. Insisting on establishing communication even though he/she states that he/she does not want or respond.	**Deterioration of peace and order of people Turkish Penal Code Article 123** Calling another person insistently or making noise with the intention of deteriorating peace and order or executing any other unlawful act for this purpose.	Upon the complaint of the victim, the perpetrator is sentenced to imprisonment from three months to one year.
Disclosure of private correspondence and images	**Violation of Communicational Secrecy Turkish Penal Code Article 132** Violation of secrecy of communication between persons. Secrecy is violated by by recording contents of communication between persons Unlawful disclosure of contents of communication between himself and others without obtaining their consent. Unlawful and public disclosure of the content of communication with himself without obtaining the consent of the other party Disclosure of data through press and broadcast **Tapping and recording of conversations between individuals Turkish Penal Code Article 133** Any non-general conversations between the individuals listened to through a device without obtaining the consent of any of the parties or recording these conversations by use of a recorder	- One to three years of imprisonment - The sentence is increased by one half. - Two to five years of imprisonment - One to three years of imprisonment - One to three years of imprisonment - Six months to two years of imprisonment or punitive fine

	Recording a conversation not open to public with a recorder without the consent of the participants Disclosing unlawfully the data obtained by recording conversations not open to public between persons Disclosure of data through press and broadcast Other crimes such as violation of privacy and violation of personal data may occur at the same time.	- Two to five years of imprisonment and punitive fine up to four thousand days - Two to five years of imprisonment and punitive fine up to four thousand days
Cyber exploitation / Sexual blackmail: Shooting intimate images of a person and threatening by sharing them and/or sharing them with others on the Internet, social networks or private messaging	**Violation of Privacy** **Turkish Penal Code Article 134** Violating secrecy of private life Privacy violation by use of audio-visual recording Unlawful disclosure of images or sounds of one's private life Disclosure of data through press and broadcast Disclosure of personal data is also possible.	- Imprisonment from one to three years - The penalty to be imposed is increased by one half - Two to five years of imprisonment - Two to five years of imprisonment
	Threat – **Turkish Penal Code** **Article 106** Threatening another person by saying that he intents to kill himself or one of his relatives, or to violate corporal or sexual immunity of others Threatening by causing a great property loss or other misconduct	- Six months to two years of imprisonment - Up to six months of imprisonment or punitive fine

	Threatening; a) with a gun, b) by unsigned letter or use of special signs concealing one's identity, c) by more than one person, d) by taking advantage of the terror actions of existing or potential organized groups,	- Two to five years of imprisonment
	In case of commission of defense by threat resulting from felonious homicide, felonious injury or damage to property If threatening statements are directed to a person through social media, the same crime will be considered as committed. Together with the offense of insult and in connection with the same action, this crime is also committed.	- Additional punishment from these offenses.
	Defamation **Turkish Penal Code** **Article 125**	
	Any person who attacks with the intention to harm the honor, reputation or dignity of another person through concrete performance or giving impression of intent In order to punish the offense committed in absentia of the victim, the act should be committed in presence of at least three persons.	- Three months to two years of imprisonment or punitive fine
	The commission of offense in writing or by use of audio and visual means directed to the aggrieved party.	- Three months to two years of imprisonment or punitive fine
	In case of commission of offense with defamatory intent a) against a public officer b) due to disclosure, change or attempt to spread religious, political, social and philosophical belief, opinions and convictions and to obey the orders and the restriction of one's religion; c) by mentioning sacred values in view of the religion with which a person is connected,	- The minimum limit of the punishment to be imposed may not be less than a year.

	Open Defamation In case of public officers working as a committee to perform a duty, then the offence is considered to have committed against the members forming the committee. In this case, the provisions of the article relating to successive offense applies.	The punishment to be imposed is increased by one sixth.
Cyber Harassment: Sending a person messages and/ or messages or images with sexual content without his/her consent	**Sexual harassment** **Article 105** If a person is subject to sexual harassment by another person - Commission of the offense against a child - a) by taking advantage of the convenience of public office or service relationship or family relationship; b) by persons who offer services as guardian, educator, instructor, caregiver, foster family or healthcare or persons with the obligation of protection, care and supervision c) benefiting from the convenience of working in the same workplace, d) benefiting from the convenience offered by post or electronic communication tools, e) by exposure The victim is obliged to leave the business place, school or house for this reason	- Three months to two years of imprisonment or punitive fine - Six months to three years of imprisonment - The punishment to be imposed according to the above paragraph is increased by one half. - The punishment to be imposed may not be less than a year.

Privacy violation: Retrieving the person's e-mail and/or social media passwords and accessing their accounts, checking the information on their devices without permission	**Recording of personal data Turkish Penal Code Article 135**	
	Recording of personal data unlawfully	- One to three years of imprisonment
	Recording the political, philosophical or religious concepts of individuals, or recording unlawfully personal information relating to their sexual origins, ethical tendencies, health conditions or connections with syndicates	- The punishment to be imposed in accordance with the first paragraph shall be increased by half.
	Giving or acquiring data unlawfully Turkish Penal Code Article 136	
	Giving, disseminating or acquiring personal data unlawfully	- Two to four years of imprisonment
	The subject of the offense shall be the statements and images recorded in accordance with paragraphs 236 / 5-6 of the Turkish Penal Code	- The punishment to be imposed is increased by one half.
	Qualified forms of offense **Turkish Penal Code Article 137**	
	In case of commission of the offenses defined in above articles; a) by a public officer or due influence based on public office, b) by exploiting the advantages of a performed profession and art,	- The punishment to be imposed is increased by one half.
	Destruction of data Turkish Penal Code Article 138	
	Failure to fulfill the duties of those responsible for destroying the data within the system despite the expiry of the legally prescribed period	- One to two years of imprisonment
	If the subject of the offense is data that need to be eliminated or destroyed according to the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure.	- The punishment to be imposed is increased by one half.

	Accessing the data processing system **Turkish Penal Code Article 243**	
	Accessing a part or whole of the data processing system and remaining there unlawfully	- Up to one year of imprisonment or punitive fine
	Committing the abovementioned offenses which involve systems which are benefited against charge	- The punishment to be imposed is increased up by one half.
	Deletion or alteration of data within the content of the system due to this offense	- Six months to two years of imprisonment
	Monitoring illegally the data transmissions that occur in an information system itself or between the information systems without entering the system by means of technical tools	- One to three years of imprisonment
	Hindrance or destruction of the system, deletion or alteration of data **Turkish Penal Code** **Article 244**	
	Hindering or destroying operation of a data processing system	- One to five years of imprisonment
	Garbling, deleting, changing or preventing access to data, or installing data in the system or sending available data to other places	- Six months to three years of imprisonment
	Committing these offenses on the data processing systems of a bank or credit institution or a public institution or corporation	- The punishment to be imposed is increased by one half.
	Execution of the abovementioned acts not constituting any other offense apart from unjust benefit secured by a person for himself or others	- Two to six years of imprisonment and up to five thousand days of punitive fine

	Improper Use of Bank or Credit Cards **Turkish Penal Code** **Article 245**	
	Any person who acquires or holds bank or credit cards of another person(s) whatever the reason is, or uses these cards without consent of the card holder or the receiver of the card, or secures benefit for himself or third parties by allowing use of the same by others	- Three to six years of imprisonment and up to five thousand days of punitive fine
	Producing, selling, transferring, purchasing or accepting counterfeit bank or credit cards by linking them with the bank accounts of others	- Three to seven years of imprisonment and up to ten thousand of punitive fine
	Any person who secures benefit for himself or others by using a counterfeit or falsified bank or credit card (unless the act constitutes an offense that requires a more severe punishment)	-Four to eight years of imprisonment and up to five thousand years of punitive fine
Kişi adına internette sahte hesaplar açarak onun adına paylaşım yapmak	If the offense in the first paragraph is committed to the detriment of a) one of the spouses whose separation decision has not been made, b) lineal kinship or one of such a brother-in-law or adopted, c) one of the siblings living together in the same dwelling. The effective remorse provisions relating to crimes against the assets of this Law shall apply to the acts falling within the scope of the first paragraph.	- No punishment is imposed on the relative

Opening fake accounts on the internet on behalf of the person and sharing posts	**Unlawful delivery or acquisition of data** **Turkish Penal Code** **Article 136** In addition, through these accounts, the insult crime may occur, or secrecy of private life may be violated. Or a person's memory may be insulted. Such an offense may also be committed against legal persons.	The punishments are explained above.
Hate speech: Sharing humiliating, insulting, sexist messages on the Internet, social media, digital games, messaging applications, targeting people and exposing them to virtual lynch	**Defamation Turkish Penal Code Article 125** **Determination of the aggrieved party Turkish Penal Code Article 126** Even if the name of the aggrieved party is not clearly indicated or the accusation is implicitly expressed, both the name of the aggrieved party and the act of defamation is assumed to have been declared provided that there is clear indication of defamation of a person's character based on the quality of the offense. **Provoking people to be rancorous and hostile** **Article 216/2** Any person who openly provokes a group of people belonging to different social class, religion, race, sect, or coming from another origin, to be rancorous or hostile against another group Openly disrespecting the religious belief of group. (If this act is conducive to disrupt public peace)	The punishments are described above. Regulated by Article 126 of the Turkish Penal Code, targeting a person or a member of a group through media or through conventional means of media is a criminal offense - Six months to one year of imprisonment - Six months to one year of imprisonment

Doxxing: To collect detailed information about the person on the internet and to disseminate and use this information to cause harm to the person.	**Unlawful delivery or acquisition of data** **Turkish Penal Code Article 136**	The punishments are explained above.
Defamation: Sharing posts in a way that damages a person's commercial reputation, revealing trade secrets	**Compensation for violation of personal rights** **Civil Code Article 24** **Turkish Commercial Code Article 56 Unfair Competition** Infringement of trademark right, Provisions of the Law No. 6769 Provisions of the Law Number 5651	The compensation provisions specified in the relevant laws shall apply. Compensation and penal provisions specified in the relevant law shall apply. Blocking access and removing content.
Checking: Checking a person's social media posts, trying to limit social media communication	**Prevention of communication** **Turkish Penal Code Article 124** Unlawful prevention of communication among persons Unlawful prevention of communication among the public institutions Unlawful prevention of broadcasts or announcements of all kinds of press and publication organs. In addition, violation of constitutional rights such as freedom of expression, the right to receive information and the right to information could also be possible.	- Six months to two years of imprisonment or punitive fine - One to five years of imprisonment - Punishable according to paragraph two. The relevant penal provisions and compensation provisions of the Turkish Penal Code and other laws shall apply according to the relevant act.

Threat / Blackmail: Using digital means to threaten and blackmail with death, sexual assault and physical violence	**Threat** **Turkish Penal Code Article 106** **Blackmail** **Turkish Penal Code Article 107** Any person who forces a person to perform an act contrary to the law; or to execute or not to execute a duty beyond his responsibility; or to derive unjust benefit from a thing by declaring his will to perform or not to perform an obligation which he is entitled to do so Threatening to reveal or charge with issues that may harm the dignity or prestige of a person to derive benefit for himself or others	- Punishment is explained above. - One year to three years of imprisonment and up to five thousand days of punitive fine - Punishable according to paragraph one.
Disclosure of personal data: disclosing personal data of persons	**Recording personal data** **Unlawful delivery or acquisition of data** **Turkish Penal Code** **Articles 135, 136, 137, 138** Law No. 6698 for the Protection of Personal Data ARTICLE 18. Misdemeanors Failure to comply with the obligations of disclosure and data security.	- Punishment is explained above. - Punitive fine of up to 5000 to 1,000,000 Turkish Lira

AVRUPA BİRLİĞİ
SivilDüşün

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