



## **Economic and Social Council**

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### **Commission on the Status of Women**

**Seventieth session**

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**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”**

### **Statement submitted by United Nations Association of the United States of America, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council\***

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

\* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

## Statement

### Justice That Evolves Faster Than Harm: A Digital Century Compact for Women and Girls

The UNA Women Affinity Group of the United Nations Association of the United States of America, with 60% youth membership, submits this intergenerational statement. Our membership spans students, professionals, mothers, widows, and elders. We advocate for equipping all women and girls in all their diversity with solutions that strengthen access to justice in the digital century.

Justice systems are being outpaced by harms that scale instantly. In 2023, the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation reported a 1,000% surge in sextortion cases, a red-alert indicator that when online harms evolve faster than laws, the cost is measured in lives and dignity. Globally, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children logged 26,718 sextortion cases in 2023, up from 10,731 in 2022, with evidence of artificial intelligence-assisted blackmail and cross-border exploitation. Artificial intelligence (AI) technologies now enable the large-scale production of deepfakes, weaponizing the identities of women and girls through doxxing, the dissemination of non-consensual images, and other forms of "digital misogyny", defined as online gender-based hate, harassment, and abusive behavior directed at women and girls

Simultaneously, the United Nations Office on Drugs & Crimes (UNODC) reported that 61% of human trafficking victims detected in 2022 are women and girls, with online recruitment accelerating post-pandemic. The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment

of Women and UNODC confirmed that 89,000 women and girls were intentionally killed in 2022, nearly 50,000 by intimate partners or family members, underscoring that femicide remains a grave and persistent manifestation of gender-based violence, demanding urgent and coordinated global action. Cyberbullying affects one in three young people across 30 countries, per the United Nations Children's Fund. AI now produces deepfakes at scale, weaponizing identity against women and girls. If harms evolve at exponential speed, justice must evolve even faster. Otherwise, impunity is not an accident but an outcome.

We honor the foundational scaffolding established by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Platform for Action, and United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325. Yet, this scaffolding must be extended into new and emerging terrain. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women General Recommendation No. 35 on gender-based violence against women, General Recommendation No. 38 on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration, Human Rights Council Resolution 38/5 on digital violence, and the United Nations General Assembly's 2024 resolutions on AI (A/RES/78/265 on trustworthy AI and A/RES/78/311 on digital inclusion) collectively provide a robust normative compass. What remains absent are the concrete pathways to translate these normative commitments into enforceable justice and protection mechanisms for the daughters of 2045.

We stand at a historic crossroad. The digital century brings extraordinary promise, but also unprecedented harms for women and girls. A Digital Century Compact must do more than articulate

aspirations; it must establish the infrastructure of justice fit for this new era. This compact should criminalize sextortion and sextortion-based trafficking, digitize access to justice through inclusive portals and evidence preservation mandates, institutionalize Femicide Reviews, create cyber anti-trafficking units, embed youth representation, treat connectivity as justice infrastructure, and enforce AI governance standards that prioritize gender equality and human rights.

By 2030, we must set clear global benchmarks: at least 75% of States enacting sextortion laws, 90% deploying inclusive portals, 40+ States adopting Femicide Reviews, and digital platforms achieving sub-12-hour evidence preservation. The 70th session of the Commission on the Status of Women is the moment to act. We call for a United Nations Task Force on Digital Justice for Women and Girls to consolidate model laws, publish evidence preservation protocols, and ensure that the law evolves faster than harm. The daughters of the year 2045 will not judge us by rhetoric, they will judge us by whether we built a justice web strong enough to catch the harms we cannot yet see. Let us meet this moment with courage, clarity, and collective resolve.

Five Access-to-Justice Shifts the 70th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women Should Champion:

1. Name the Crimes of the Present

Laws must evolve as rapidly as the harms they are meant to stop. Member States should define and criminalize emerging forms of technology-facilitated gender-based violence, including:

1. Financial sextortion and sextortion-based trafficking, explicitly covering deepfakes and other AI-generated sexual abuse, doxxing, and coercive control.

2. Digital misogyny, including coordinated harassment campaigns, gendered hate speech, cyberstalking, and targeted online abuse designed to silence women and girls in public spaces.

3. Non-consensual intimate image abuse, including the creation, distribution, or threat of distribution of intimate images without consent, whether captured, digitally altered, or AI-generated.

These offences must be anchored in clear legal definitions that align with international human rights obligations, tied to survivor-centered remedies and protective orders with cross-border enforceability.

## 2. Digitize the Justice On-Ramps

Access to justice must be as seamless online as it is intended to be offline. Member States should fund multilingual, disability-inclusive electronic reporting portals for cyberbullying, online exploitation, domestic violence, and digital misogyny, ensuring anonymous triage, panic-exit user interfaces, and Application Programming Interface channels for schools, shelters, and non-governmental organizations.

## 3. Build the Femicide Early-Warning and Review Loop

Femicide is both a preventable tragedy and a systemic failure. Member States must normalize Femicide Reviews as independent, multidisciplinary mechanisms to examine and correct institutional failures after each killing. In parallel, real-time, non-identifiable risk dashboards should be established to map protective-order breaches, stalking complaints, and other lethality indicators.

#### 4. Close the Trafficking–Technology Nexus

Technology has become a key enabler of human trafficking. States must resource Counter-Trafficking Cyber Units within anti-trafficking task forces to detect online recruitment patterns, encrypted advertising, and exploitative digital networks.

Mutual legal assistance templates must be updated to include platform data, metadata, and algorithmic outputs (audit logs), ensuring compliance with emerging international AI governance standards on safety and rights, including United Nations General Assembly Resolutions A/RES/78/265 (on trustworthy AI) and A/RES/78/311 (on digital inclusion).

#### 5. Justice Literacy and Inclusion as Infrastructure

Justice cannot be accessed if it is not understood. Digital justice literacy must be integrated into curricula from lower-secondary through university, teaching young people and communities how to document abuse, preserve evidence, and assert their data and procedural rights.

Connectivity itself must be treated as justice infrastructure. Special attention should be given to Least Developed Countries and low-income settings, where only 27–35% of the population is online. Safe community access points, integrated with legal aid and survivor services, should be deployed, drawing on frameworks from the International Telecommunication Union and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

## What Would Be Novel Recommendations

### 1. Comprehensive Institutional Request

An integrated, explicit request to the United Nations Economic and Social Council and the United Nations General Assembly combining Secretary-General reporting, the establishment of a United Nations system-wide task force, the creation of a Multi-Partner Trust Fund, and a Compact for Justice Access with digital platforms and telecommunications companies, is more comprehensive than most existing United Nations mandates.

### 2. Alignment with Emerging Normative Instruments

The alignment to Human Rights Council Resolution 38/5, the 2024 United Nations General Assembly AI Resolutions A/RES/78/265 and A/RES/78/311, and the explicit inclusion of digital misogyny and non-consensual intimate image abuse in this unified recommendation package represents a forward-looking innovation that connects gender justice, digital governance, and international law.

### 3. Standardized Global Indicators

The mandate for common standardized indicators across Member States on technology-facilitated violence, sextortion, femicide, and related crimes is rarely fully systematized across United Nations entities, making this a strategic gap that your text addresses directly.

### 4. Structural Engagement with Private Sector Actors

The phrasing “Compact for Justice Access”, aimed at digital platforms and telecommunications companies as partners in justice and aligned with international human rights law, is more activist and structurally ambitious than what currently exists in binding United Nations texts, positioning technology companies not merely as intermediaries but as co-responsible actors in justice ecosystems.

### Final Call

The daughters of 2045 will not measure us by our rhetoric, but by the strength of the justice web we built. If we criminalize digital misogyny and non-consensual image abuse, legislate the crimes of the present, digitize pathways to remedy, govern AI with human rights at the center, and treat connectivity as justice infrastructure, the 70th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women can boldly answer: Yes — we built faster than harm could spread.