



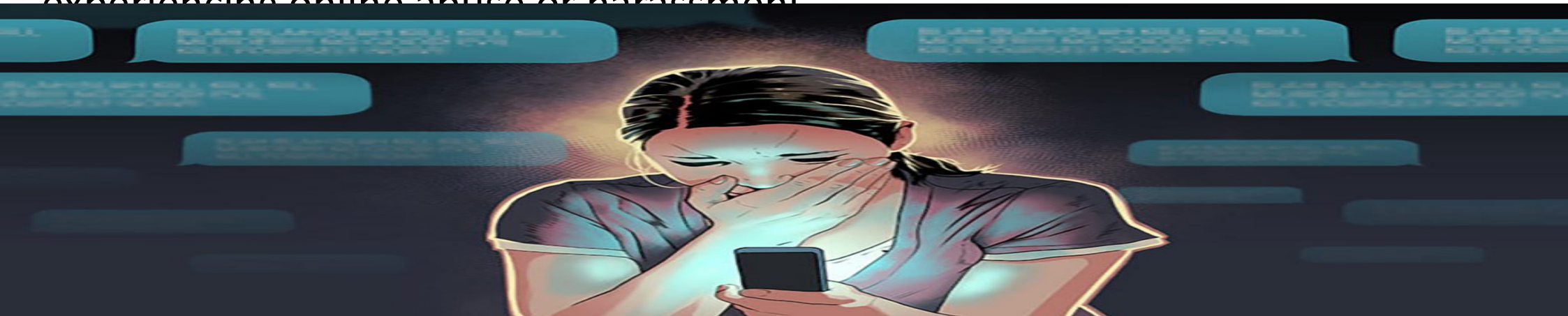
Cyber violence against women

- Cyber violence is an increasing problem worldwide and is often gender-based and targeting women and girls.
- **Violence against women including in online environment can take many forms**, cyber harassment, threats of rape, sexual assault or murder. Perpetrators can be partners or ex-partners, colleagues, schoolmates or, as is often the case, anonymous individuals. Some women are particularly exposed, such as women's rights defenders, journalists, bloggers, video gamers, public figures and politicians.

Statistics on Cyber violence against women

- 58% of girls experienced online harassment
- 50% said they experience more online harassment than street harassment
- 46% of women responding to the survey who had experienced online abuse or harassment said it was misogynistic or sexist in nature
- 36% of women in the UK said it made them feel that their physical safety was threatened
- 20% of young women in the European Union had experienced some form of cyber sexual harassment

- Predominantly, root cause of violence against women and girls is gender inequality (discrimination, gender stereotypes, sexism). Moreover, women who have more than one commonly-targeted characteristic – for example, women of color, members of minority religions, or people who identify as LGBTQ – may be attacked more frequently.
- Chilling **effect that cyber violence has on women**: Violence and abuse online may limit women's right to express themselves equally, freely and without fear, women are often silenced. In many instances the impact on victims that experienced online abuse or harassment is major such as lower self-esteem or loss of self-confidence as a result to stress, anxiety or panic attacks after experiencing online abuse or harassment.



- Cyber violence affects women disproportionately not only causing them psychological harm and suffering but also deterring them from digital participation in political, social and cultural life. **Cyber violence hampers the full realization of gender equality and violates women's rights.**
- Cyber-attacks and violence against women are often not taken seriously. This should change, and **states must address cyber violence as much as any other form of violence against women. Staying silent will not make any changes. All of us should raise our voices.**