Building safe and empowering digital spaces for women and girls

Monday, 11\textsuperscript{th} March 2019, 1.15 p.m. – 2.30 p.m.
Conference Room D, Conference Building, UNHQ

Today over half of the world’s population is online. Information and communications technologies have contributed to the rise of cyber violence and harassment. Despite significant effort to raise awareness and fight against cyber violence and harassment, it is evident that cyber violence and harassment are not recognized as a form of violence against women and girls and consequently existing legislation and activities to prevent cyber violence and harassment do not take into account gender dimension. As has been pointed out many times, the online digital violence is gendered and, as the research has shown, the risk for cyber victimization is twice as high for young girls and women.

One of the future challenges is how to combat gender stereotypes, sexisms and existing gender norms that make online violence and harassment as well as hate speech acceptable, and support and maintain the culture of tolerance. The next challenge is to identify, involve and train all actors that could contribute to the better recognition and coping with the problem and make them gender sensitive.

This side event will explore ways and means on how effectively address and prevent cyber violence and harassment as a forms of gender-based violence and abuse. The event will also highlight good national, regional and international practices in this field, such as #HerNetHerRights and #Click-off - Stop Cyber Violence and Harassment against Women and Girls, with the aim of challenging existing traditional gender norms and to foster the development of innovative approaches to combat cyber violence and harassment as well as hate speech against all women and girls.

Introductory remarks:
- Ms. Breda Božnik, Vice Minister, State Secretary at the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of the Republic of Slovenia
- Ms. Caren Marks, Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth of the Federal Republic of Germany

Speakers:
- Ms. Maruša Gortnar, M.Sc., Head of Department for Equal Opportunities, Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of the Republic of Slovenia
- Ms. My Hellberg, Head of Office in the Swedish CSO “Tjejers rätt i samhället” (ie. “Girls’ rights in society”)
- Ms. Ana Sofia Fernandes, European Women’s Lobby
- Ms. Alia El-Yassir, Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, UN Women
- Ms. Caterina Bolognese, Head of Gender Equality Division, Council of Europe

Moderator
- Ms. Diana Rusu, Innovation for Women’s Economic Empowerment UN Women, Economic Empowerment Section

All CSW63 delegates with a valid UN pass are invited (room capacity is limited to 53).
Please RSVP to https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1FV8TwXYn7m8bFgGL-idhL_67lxCRWSxXF3VMKSGGlxc/viewform?edit_requested=true.