Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls in the Digital and Technological Age

A CSW side event hosted by the Government of Australia in association with Women’s Services Network (WESNET)

Tuesday 10 March, 1.15pm to 2.30pm
Conference Room 7, UN Headquarters New York

CONCEPT NOTE

This Australian Government hosted side event at CSW59 will explore the intersection between technology and gender-based violence against women and girls, highlighting a trending issue across the globe. The session will promote the safe use of technology as a safety and empowerment tool for women and girls, and discuss how it can be used to gather evidence for police and courts. This side event will contribute to understanding and preventing violence against women, one of the core focus areas of the Beijing Platform of Action.

Overview

Technology is moving faster than our imagination. Previously, a domestic abuser checked the family car’s odometer to track and control a victim. Today, technology assisted abuse knows no bounds, with apps, GPS, and mobile phone technology that allow a perpetrator to track every movement.

We need to work cooperatively across the globe at the local level and in partnership with tech companies, to know what’s next and keep ahead of perpetrators.

But with women across the world having increased access to mobile technology, we can also share our knowledge to help women use their technology as a tool for safety and empowerment. Safe access to technology will:

- help prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls;
- assist in collecting evidence against perpetrators and abusers, help empower women and girls;
- further gender equality and empowerment for women and girls;
• help close gender gaps through economic and social participation – for full economic and social participation women must have equal access to and participation in the technological and digital world;
• ensure that barriers are removed which might hinder women’s full and equal representation in policy and decision making;

At this side event participants will join with WESNET (Australia) and the National Network to End Domestic Violence (USA) to discuss multi-country approaches to delivering training, sharing information and together to stop technology-assisted abuse. Participants will also hear from Saathi (Nepal) about the challenges of technology in a developing country, and from Australia’s Global Ambassador for Women and Girls about other ways Australia is use technology for social change.

**Chair**
Senator the Hon. Michaelia Cash, Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Women, Australian Government.

**Keynote speakers**
Julie Oberin, WESNET (Women’s Services Network), AWAVA (Australian Women Against Violence Alliance), Australia
Cindy Southworth, NNEDV (National Network to End Domestic Violence) USA
Bandana Rana, Executive Chair, Saathi, Nepal
Natasha Stott Despoja, Ambassador for Women and Girls, Australia