



Scientific Analysis and Advice
on Gender Equality in the EU

Building Effective Responses to Cyber Violence Against Women

SAAGE Seminar

Tuesday, 18 June 2023

ThonEU Hotel, Rue de la loi 75
1040 Brussels

ABOUT THE EVENT

Background

Addressing gender-based violence has been an ongoing commitment of the European Union (EU). Currently, the European Commission '[Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025](#)' identifies that 'gender-based violence, in all its forms, remains under-reported and overlooked, both inside and outside the EU. The EU will do all it can to prevent and combat gender-based violence, support and protect victims of such crimes, and hold perpetrators accountable for their abusive behaviour'.

The European Union has taken valuable steps to address gender-based violence that have included a focus on cyber violence, including:

- accession to the Council of Europe [Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence](#) (Istanbul Convention) in 2023, the application of which to the field of online violence has been addressed by the [Greivio General Recommendation No. 1 on the digital dimension of violence against women](#) (2021);
- adoption of the [Digital Services Act](#), Regulation EU 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and the Council of 19 October 2022, with its due diligence requirements; and
- political agreement on the proposed [Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on combating violence against women and domestic violence](#), giving effect to the Istanbul Convention.

The Scientific Analysis and Advice on Gender Equality in the EU (SAAGE) network is funded by the European Commission to support EU level policy initiatives by providing expertise and knowledge in the field of gender equality, and is coordinated by Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini, an independent research centre.

Purpose

The seminar seeks to:

- Share and deepen knowledge about and understanding of the issue of cyber violence and to inform the policies and practices required for its elimination.

Format

The seminar will be an in-person event, hosted in Brussels. Online participation is also possible.

Participants

The participants at this seminar will be European Commission staff, a number of the experts involved in this field, and European level stakeholders relevant to this issue.

Moderator

Niall Crowley, Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini (FGB).



AGENDA



Activity

Speaking

9.30

Opening Session

European Commission perspective

Karen Vandekerckhove,
Head of Gender Equality Unit of DG JUST,
European Commission

9.45

Keynote Address

'Online Violence against Women: forms, spaces, tools, perpetrators, impact and the requirements for an effective response.'

Professor Kim Barker,
Professor of Law, University of Lincoln, United Kingdom, and Director of the Observatory on Online Violence Against Women.

Questions and Answers followed by Discussion

10.45

Break

11.15

Forms of Cyberviolence

'Exposing Online Pornography as Cyber Violence Against Women and Girls: Understanding the Dangers and Evaluating Its Consequences'

Professor Elena Martellozzo,
Criminologist at Middlesex University and Associate Director for the Centre of Abuse and Trauma Studies (CATS), United Kingdom.

'Addressing cyberhate as a form of cyberviolence against women'

Professor Chara Bakalis,
Associate Professor, Deputy Head (Strategy and Development), School of Law and Social Sciences, Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, United Kingdom

Questions and Answers followed by Discussion



Activity

Speaking

13.00 **Lunch**

14.00 **Legal Initiative to Combat Pornography as Cyberviolence**

'Legal implications of revenge pornography and deep-fake pornography and possible responses'

Dr. Karolina Mania

Ph.D in Law, Assistant Professor,
Institute of Economics, Finance and
Management, Faculty of Management
and Social Communication, Jagiellonian
University, Kraków, Poland

*'The Challenges in Regulating Internet
Pornography'*

Professor Abhilash Nair

Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor for
Business Engagement and Innovation &
Associate Professor of Internet Law,
University of Exeter, United Kingdom

Questions and Answers followed by Discussion

15.15 **Closing Remarks**

15.30 **Close**