



DIGITAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

sociological study

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AGENȚIA NAȚIONALĂ DE PREVENIRE ȘI
COMBATERE A VIOLENȚEI ÎMPOTRIVA
FEMEILOR ȘI A VIOLENȚEI ÎN FAMILIE



MINISTERUL MUNCII
ȘI PROTECȚIEI SOCIALE
AL REPUBLICII MOLDOVA



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

NAPCV	National Agency for Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence
CAPI	Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing assisted by an electronic device (tablet, laptop)
Istanbul Convention	Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence
DSA	Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council, from 19 October 2022 regarding a single market for digital services and for amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act)
FG	Focus group
GREVIO	Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence
IIA	In-depth one-on-one interview
IIS	Semi-structured individual interview
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MEDD	Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalization
MJ	Ministry of Justice
MLSP	Ministry of Labor and Social Protection
UN	United Nations
OSCs	Civil Society Organisations
GP	General Prosecutor's Office
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
EU	European Union
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Context

The rapid development of digital environment is profoundly transforming means of communication, relationships and social participation, while generating new forms of vulnerability and risks, especially for women. Digital violence against women manifests itself as an extension and in some contexts, as an amplification of gender-based violence, integrating into an online-offline continuum of control, intimidation and abuse. Anonymity, availability of digital technologies and the ability to replicate, and perpetuate abusive content create favourable conditions for the perpetration of digital violence with low social costs for the perpetrators and with a greater impact on the victims.

At international and European level, digital violence is increasingly recognised as a human rights and gender equality issue. Documents from United Nations (UN), *the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence* (Istanbul Convention) and *the European Union Directive (EU) 2024/1385 on combating violence against women and domestic violence* underline the gender nature of digital violence and the need for integrated responses adapted to the digital environment.

For the Republic of Moldova, this framework has a double strategic relevance: on the one hand, as a normative benchmark in the process of accession and harmonization with the *acquis communautaire*, and on the other hand, as a guiding tool for the development of data-driven public policies.

Despite the recent regulatory progress, data on the extent, forms and impact of digital violence on women in the Republic of Moldova remain limited. The lack of a solid empirical basis affects the ability of institutions to formulate effective interventions, adapt protection mechanisms and assess the impact of existing policies. In this context, the present study responds to a critical need to understand the phenomenon of digital violence against women in the Republic of Moldova.

Purpose of the research, objectives and methodology of the study

The general goal of the research is aimed at knowing the phenomenon of digital violence against women in the Republic of Moldova, by generating relevant empirical data that allow an in-depth understanding of the prevalence, forms, impact and institutional responses associated with this phenomenon.

The specific objectives of the study were:

- i. estimating the prevalence of digital violence against women, both from direct and indirect perspectives (victims) (witnesses, people who know victims);
- ii. identifying the main forms of digital violence, spaces of occurrence and patterns of aggression;
- iii. analysing the impact of digital violence on women's psycho-emotional well-

- being, social life and participation in the digital environment;
- iv. exploring social norms and attitudes towards digital violence, including accountability mechanisms;
- v. assessing the capacities and limitations of the institutional system of intervention, and protection;
- vi. formulating empirically substantiated recommendations for improving public policies, prevention and response mechanisms.

The research methodology was mixed, combining quantitative and qualitative methods, in order to capture both the magnitude of the phenomenon and the complexity of associated experiences and perceptions. The quantitative component consisted of an opinion poll conducted among the adult population using the internet, on a probabilistic, stratified, nationally representative sample of 1016 respondents, which allowed the estimation of the prevalence and analysis of the sociodemographic distribution of digital violence. The qualitative component included 7 in-depth individual interviews with women affected by digital violence and 7 interviews with women from risk groups, 10 semi-structured interviews with specialists from public institutions and civil society organizations (CSOs), as well as 4 scenario-based focus group discussions, which allowed for a detailed exploration of forms of violence that were experienced, impact on personal, social and professional life, as well as coping strategies, facilitated the exploration of social norms and institutional reactions. This complex methodological approach allowed for the triangulation of data and contributed to increasing the validity and reliability of obtained results.

Perception, prevalence and impact of digital violence

Quantitative and qualitative data confirm that digital violence against women is a significant social phenomenon with increased visibility but a high level of underreporting. The intense connectivity of adult population to the online environment, characterized by the daily use of internet by the majority of respondents, creates a structural context favorable to exposure to digital risks.

From the point of view of the prevalence, the research indicates that 12.0% of internet users over the age of 18 have been victims of at least one form of digital violence, and 25.4% have witnessed such situations. The substantial difference between direct and indirect experience suggests a social normalization of digital violence and an underestimation of the real dimension of the phenomenon when it comes to self-reporting.

The distribution of digital violence is deeply socially and gender-unequal. Women are disproportionately affected, and age works as a major vulnerability factor, with the 18–29 age group recording the highest levels of both direct victimization and indirect exposure. The socio-demographic profile of victims indicates an increased vulnerability among young women, students, unmarried women and those in urban areas, correlated with the intensity of digital participation.

From a typological point of view, digital violence appears as a multidimensional phenomenon, organized around recurrent nuclei: (i) verbal and reputational aggressions; (ii) digital control, monitoring and stalking practices; (iii) sexualized forms of abuse, including non-consensual distribution of intimate images; (iv) threats and intimidation. These forms are added to emerging practices facilitated by advanced technologies, such as the manipulation of images and audio-video content through artificial intelligence.

The areas of occurrence of digital violence are social networks, on which 70.2% of cases were found, followed by instant messaging applications (26.8%). These platforms bring together cumulative risk conditions – high visibility, recurrence, rapid distribution, and overlapping relationships with known and unknown people. The impact of digital violence is predominantly psycho-emotional and is displayed through anxiety, insecurity, fear, persistent stress and impaired self-esteem. Frequently, the effects go beyond the online environment and transfer to offline, influencing social relationships, professional activity and public participation. Victims' reactions are predominantly defensive – restricting online visibility and self-censorship, which indicates the existence of significant social costs of digital violence.

Social norms and attitudes towards digital violence

The qualitative analysis, based on focus group discussions with women and specialists, highlights a complex set of social norms and attitudes that shape how digital violence is recognized, interpreted and managed. While there is a broad consensus regarding the recognition of the situations analysed as forms of violence, this consensus is often fragile and conditioned by the public visibility of the abuse, the existence of explicit threats and the clarity of the legal framework.

Obvious forms of violence – such as the non-consensual distribution of intimate images or public denigration – are quickly and unambiguously recognized. In contrast, subtle psychological violence, exercised through repetitive messages, monitoring and control, is more frequently minimized or reinterpreted as a "*private*" problem, especially in the absence of direct threats. This kind of ambiguity reflects the limitations of current social norms in recognizing digital violence as a real threat to women's safety.

A cross-cutting pattern is the persistence of victim blaming mechanisms. Especially among middle-aged women and some institutional actors, responsibility is indirectly redistributed to the victim, by referencing to relationship choices, lack of prudence or insufficient management of online risks. Young women tend to formulate more clearly the responsibility of the perpetrator and explicitly reject the victim's blame, indicating a possible generational change in gender norms.

Another major result of the research is the confirmation of the perception of digital violence as part of an online-offline continuum of gender-based violence. Digital control, online stalking, and denigration are understood as extensions of previously

exercised psychological and physical violence, keeping the abuser present in the victim's life even after separation. In this context, emerging technologies amplify the feeling of insecurity and loss of control, generating new regulatory and institutional challenges.

Witness reactions are dominated by non-intervention and caution. The fear of exposure, the risk of becoming secondary targets, and the perception of digital violence as a private problem limit public intervention. Prevention is predominantly conceptualized as individual responsibility, centered on education and personal vigilance, while community and institutional responsibility remains poorly internalized.

System of intervention and protection against digital violence

The Republic of Moldova has made important progress by adjusting its legislation and taking on international and European commitments. The analysis of the intervention system reveals the existence of a normative and institutional framework that is in a process of consolidation, but still fragmented and insufficiently adapted to the peculiarities of digital violence. Digital violence is mainly tackled as an established form of violence (psychological, sexual, economic), which provides a legal basis for intervention, but generates procedural ambiguities. The lack of clear protocols, well-defined competences and adequate technical tools limits the ability of institutions to intervene quickly and effectively.

Interviewed specialists reported recurrent barriers, such as: lack of trained human resources, difficulties in collecting and preserving digital evidence, cumbersome procedures and lack of effective cooperation with online platforms. Intervention is often conditional on the existence of explicit threats or solid evidence, which leaves subtle but persistent forms of digital violence uncovered. As a result, women affected by digital violence first turn to informal support networks, while reaching out to institutions is perceived as difficult, stigmatizing and uncertain in terms of results. This gap between victims' needs and institutional response contributes to underreporting and the perpetuation of violence.

Priorities for countering digital violence in the Republic of Moldova

The integrated analysis of quantitative and qualitative data shows the need to define clear strategic priorities for preventing and combating digital violence against women, reflecting the particularities of the digital environment, the dynamics of the phenomenon and the interdependence between online and offline violence.

A first priority is to strengthen support for women affected by digital violence, by ensuring access to specialized services, adapted to the online environment. Affected women need not only legal mechanisms, but also psychological support, digital safety counselling and practical guidance for evidence and risk management. Data show that the lack of integrated support contributes to the predominantly defensive nature of coping strategies and to the withdrawal of women from the digital space.

A second priority is to improve the institutional capacity for recognition and intervention, in particular in cases of digital psychological violence, coercive online control and the use of information and communication technologies (ICT). The persistence of restrictive intervention criteria, centred on explicit threats or 'visible' harm, limits the protection of women and allows violence to escalate. An approach that integrates risk assessment, gender perspective and subjective victim experience is needed.

A third strategic priority is the harmonization of the national policy framework with European standards, not only at the formal level, but by effectively adapting the mechanisms for prevention, protection and data collection. The European integration process offers an opportunity to develop a coherent response to digital violence, including by aligning with *EU Directive 2024/1385* and *Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a single market for digital services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Regulation)* (DSA).

Finally, a cross-cutting priority is to change social norms that tolerate digital violence, including by promoting collective responsibility and witness involvement. Without a transformation of social norms and attitudes, institutional interventions risk remaining reactive and limited in impact.

Overall, the study highlights that digital violence against women in the Republic of Moldova is a systemic phenomenon, at the intersection of gender inequalities and digital transformations. An effective response to this phenomenon requires a paradigm shift – from fragmented responses and individual accountability to an integrated, victim-centered, prevention, and institutional and collective accountability approach.

General recommendations

The results of the research highlight the need for a systemic and integrated approach to digital violence against women that goes beyond fragmented and predominantly reactive responses. Formulated recommendations are in direct correlation with the empirical findings of the study and are structured on the following levels of intervention: (i) legal and public policy; (ii) institutional and procedural; (iii) training and skills development; (iv) prevention and change of social norms; (v) cross-sectoral collaboration and coordination.

INTRODUCTION

The accelerated development of internet and digital platforms favours the emergence of new and increasingly aggressive forms of violence against women. Perceived anonymity online, digital freedom of expression and lack of immediate consequences contribute to the multiplication of abusive behaviors. New technologies create favourable contexts for the perpetuation of gender-based violence, further deepening existing inequalities and preventing victims from fully exercising their fundamental rights.

Digital violence against women is internationally recognised as an extension of gender-based violence in the digital environment. The UN and the Council of Europe stress that online abuse is not an isolated incident, but is part of a continuum of violence that women can suffer throughout their¹ lives. In other words, harassment, threats or abuses that once took place only in physical space are now also occurring online. The Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), highlights the gender nature of digital violence and the close link with existing inequalities, highlighting that cyberattacks often continue (or amplify) the offline abuse suffered by women.⁴ In this regard, UN stresses that the violation of women's rights in the digital space represents a new frontier in the fight for equality, which requires the same attention as physical or psychological violence offline.

International documents emphasize that gender-based digital violence is a dynamic phenomenon, difficult to capture through stable categories, as it depends on the evolution of platforms, communication architecture and ICT. The report of the European Institute for Gender Equality on *Combating Cyber Violence against Women and Girls*² shows that European states have had to correlate gender equality policies with digital policies, precisely because of the expansion of forms of abuse in the online space and the difficulties of measuring and comparing data. The Council of Europe also stresses that data collection systems often do not capture the complexity of ICT-facilitated violence, legal and regulatory frameworks are inconsistent, and data remain fragmented, leaving decision-makers without the necessary tools for effective interventions and policy impact assessment.³

*Directive (EU) 2024/1385 on combating violence against women and domestic violence*⁴ marks an important milestone in the recognition of certain behaviours in the digital environment as facts requiring criminalization, prevention and protection, including through victim support tools and institutional cooperation mechanisms. The relevance of this directive for the Republic of Moldova is twofold: (1) reference standard for convergence in the European accession process; (2)

1 <https://rm.coe.int/coe-book-en-study-on-the-digital-dimension-20240316-1-002-/1680af4f22>, Study on the digital dimension of violence against women in the Republic of Moldova, 2024, Council of Europe

2 https://eige.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/combating_cyber_violence_against_women_and_girls.pdf, Combating Cyber Violence against Women and Girls, 2022, European Institute for Gender Equality

3 <https://rm.coe.int/collecting-data-on-technology-facilitated-violence-against-women-chall/488029b1f9>, Council of Europe

4 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32024L1385>, EUR-Lex

methodological benchmark for defining the phenomenon and for designing data systems (administrative data, institutional reports, surveys) capable of capturing the particularities of digital violence.

The Republic of Moldova is going through a rapid digital transformation. Internet access has become widespread – if in 2015 only about 50% of the population used the internet, in 2024 the proportion of users exceeded 80%. More and more Moldovans, including women and girls, use social networks and connected devices on a daily basis. For example, 54% of the adult population used Facebook for information purposes in September 2025, and among women the proportion is 57%.⁵ This trend is also confirmed by data from the European⁶ Commission and the World⁷ Bank, which highlight a steady increase in the share of the population using internet in the Republic of Moldova.

In this digital ecosystem, women actively participate in online communication, but participation is accompanied by specific social costs: intimidation, control, harassment, non-consensual exposure of data/images, smear campaigns or blackmail – forms that affect not only psychological well-being, but also reputation, relationships and socio-economic opportunities. Gender biases and stereotypes migrate from the real to the virtual space, where violence is amplified, replicated and maintained over time. Moreover, a continuum is created between online and offline, in which practices such as cyberstalking, misogynistic trolling, or image-based sexual abuse prolong and intensify existing violence.

In the Republic of Moldova, digital violence is increasingly recognized as an emerging risk in the area of violence against women. *The National Programme on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence for 2023-2027*⁸ admits the existence of the phenomenon, but highlights that the lack of reliable data affects the ability to adjust policies and measure interventions.

A deep understanding of digital violence and the development of an evidence-based institutional response is an essential component of modernising the state and strengthening the protection of human rights in a digitised society. In this context, the importance of studying digital violence against women is strategic and is determined by: (i) the need to measure the phenomenon in order to create a solid basis for the development of public policies in this field; (ii) identifying limitations of the legal framework that generate protection barriers and inequities in accessing justice and services and (iii) harmonizing the legal framework with European standards.

The national study initiated by the International Center "La Strada", in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) of Moldova and the National

5 <https://ipp.md/2025-09/prezentarea-rezultatelor-sondajului-barometrul-opinie-publice-septembrie-2025/>, Public Opinion Barometer, September 2025 edition, IPP

6 https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Key_figures_for_European_Neighbourhood_East_countries, data from the European Commission

7 <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/IT.NET.USER.ZS?locations=MD>, World Bank data

8 https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=140367&lang=ro, Government of the Republic of Moldova, Decision no. 332/2023

Agency for Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (NAPCV) aims to analyze the phenomenon of digital violence, social norms and attitudes towards it, existing procedures and capacities to help develop an evidence-based policy in the field of digital violence, preventing and combating digital violence.

I. RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

1.1. Purpose and objectives of the research

In the context of the accelerated digital transformation in the Republic of Moldova and the expansion of the use of online platforms in social, professional and personal life, a new form of violence has emerged and is gaining momentum – the digital one that is intrinsically linked to the use of ICTs.

Digital violence against women is an insufficiently documented and researched form of gender-based violence, fueled by the use of ICT and the digital environment as tools of control, intimidation, harassment, blackmail or abusive exposure. This new form of violence disproportionately affects women and girls, causing serious consequences for their continued education and mental health, causing social exclusion, anxiety and incitement to self-harm, and in extreme cases, suicide.

The normative and public policy framework in the Republic of Moldova recognizes the digital dimension of violence⁹, but empirical data on the magnitude, concrete forms and impact of this phenomenon remain limited. The lack of reliable data is a major gap in the substantiation of public policies, adjustment of intervention mechanisms and development of services aligned to the needs of affected women, as underlined in the national strategic documents in force.

In this context, the present study aims at strengthening the knowledge base of the phenomenon of digital violence against women in the Republic of Moldova, by generating relevant empirical data that allow an in-depth understanding of the prevalence, patterns, impact and institutional responses to this phenomenon.

To achieve this goal, the research has set itself **the following specific objectives:**

- i. Explore and describe forms of digital violence** against women, with a focus on forms that cause significant psychological, emotional, reputational or physical harm, including non-consensual distribution of intimate materials, online harassment, threats, blackmail and stalking in the digital space.
- ii. Estimate the prevalence of digital violence against women** at the national level, by collecting and analysing quantitative data on direct (as victims) and indirect (as witnesses or people who know someone who has been a victim) experiences of such behaviours online.
- iii. Analyse the impact of digital violence** on the emotional well-being, psychological health, social and professional life, as well as on their participation in the digital space.
- iv. Identify coping strategies and help-seeking behaviours** adopted by women affected by digital violence, including informal and formal mechanisms used to deal with situations of abuse, as well as barriers encountered in accessing support services

⁹ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=150197&lang=ro, Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, Law 252/2025

v. Assess the level of preparedness and institutional capacity of relevant actors in the field of social protection, justice, law enforcement, education and civil society, to recognize, prevent and respond effectively to cases of digital violence against women.

vi. Generate empirically substantiated recommendations for improving the policy framework, prevention and intervention mechanisms and support services for women affected by digital violence, in line with the international and European commitments taken on by the Republic of Moldova.

By achieving these objectives, the study intended to contribute to evidence-based interventions to prevent and combat digital violence, and strengthen a national response focused on the rights and needs of affected women.

1.2. Digital violence against women: conceptual aspects

In recent decades, with the development and expansion of ICT, the digital space has become a significant medium for reproductions, expansions and new displays of gender-based violence. These manifestations, facilitated by the use of technologies, include a variety of actions with harmful impacts that can take place in digital environments such as social networks, messaging applications, content-sharing platforms and other online services. In this way, new technologies create favourable contexts for the perpetuation of violence against women, deepening existing inequalities and preventing victims from fully exercising their fundamental rights.

Currently, in international documents, different terms are used: "online violence", "digital violence", "cyber violence" or "technology-facilitated violence."

The term 'digital violence' is used in public policy documents to describe any act of gender-based violence that is facilitated, amplified or exercised through ICT and that has as its purpose or effect the physical, psychological, sexual or economic harm to a woman.¹⁰ This definition reflects some key conceptual elements: (1) the link to gender-based violence, i.e. abuse disproportionately directed at women; (2) the systemic nature of violence; and (3) the use of ICT as an environment or tool by abusers.

The term "online violence" is synonymous with "digital violence" and is more accessible, but it can sometimes be understood restrictively, as referring only to social media or the visible online space.

The term 'cyberviolence', sometimes used in European, legal or security documents, traditionally refers to forms of violence or harassment that take place online, by electronic means, without the direct involvement of physical contact, and is usually associated with terms such as cyberbullying, online stalking, publication of

¹⁰ https://www.eviolenta.md/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/GLOSAR_TERMENI_VIOLENTA_DIGITALA_RO_2025_WEB.pdf, *Glossary of terms on digital violence against women and children. Resource for professionals*. La Strada, 2025

offensive content or threats through electronic channels.¹¹

The term "technology-facilitated gender-based violence" is used by UN organizations to refer to gender-based violence committed, facilitated or aggravated by the use of technology and includes online harassment, digital stalking, distribution of non-consensual intimate images, threats, deepfakes and other emerging forms of abuse. Among analyzed terms, "digital violence against women" is considered accessible and inclusive, while being the easiest to use in educational and prevention contexts.¹² Thus, in the present study, the term "digital violence" is preferred because it more adequately reflects the scale and complexity of the phenomenon. The preference is determined by the fact that digital violence is the structural reference concept, which: (1) includes the gender dimension in the analysis of the phenomenon; (2) reflect how ICT transforms and amplifies existing inequalities and abuses in the offline environment; and (3) provides a broader conceptual framework, capable of integrating both the sociological perspective and the normative and public policy implications.¹³ At the same time, we emphasize that digital violence includes, but is not limited to: (i) online harassment and abuse; (ii) non-consensual distribution of intimate images; (iii) digital stalking or monitoring (cyberstalking); (iv) online threats, hate speech and defamation; (v) non-consensual handling and distribution of personal data.¹⁴

Elements that differentiate digital violence from other traditional forms of violence include: (i) the default anonymity of the digital environment, which facilitates aggressive behaviors with low risk of accountability; (ii) carrying out the actions remotely, without physical contact with the victim, which allows it to be carried out from anywhere; (iii) automation thanks to ICT, which requires less time and effort; (iv) accessibility, which allows abusers to commit acts of violence with increased efficiency; (v) impunity because abusers may not be held accountable or often escape punishment; (vi) the possibility of perpetuating and amplifying abusive content in the long term, without clear control or effective sanctions. Digital violence is thus part of a continuum of gender-based violence, in which the digital environment is not a separate space, but an extension of the existing power relations in offline, interconnecting with women's everyday experiences and directly influencing their safety, dignity and social participation.

We also emphasize that in the research the following terms are understood as follows:

- digital/online environment – any platform or electronic channel/social network used for the creation, storage and distribution of digital content (photos, videos, podcasts, etc.);
- internet – a worldwide computer network between computers connected to different social networks that allows the interconnection of local and global

11 https://eige.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/ti_pubpdf_mh0417543ron_pdfweb_20171026164004.pdf, *Cyberviolence against women and girls*, European Institute for Gender Equality

12 *Glossary of terms on digital violence against women and children. Resource for professionals*. La Strada, 2025, p.4.

13 https://www.eviolenta.md/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/GLOSAR_TERMENI_VIOLENTA_DIGITALA_RO_2025_WEB.pdf, *Glossary of terms on digital violence against women and children. Resource for professionals*. La Strada, 2025

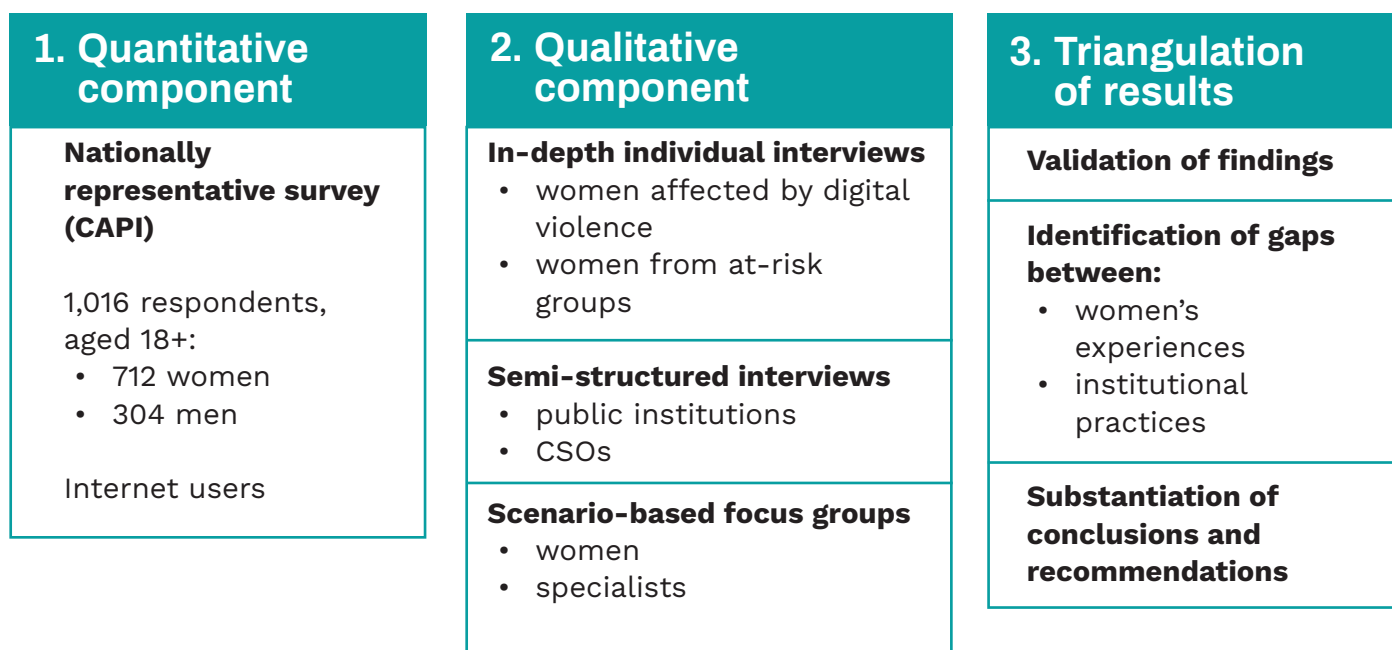
14 Ibidem.

- networks, facilitating the exchange of data and information in various fields;
- social networks – digital platforms made up of communities of individuals with common interests, activities or relationships that allow contact between people and function as a means of communication and exchange of information.

1.3. Research methodology

In order to achieve the purpose and objectives of the research, a complex methodological approach was applied, aimed at knowing both the prevalence of digital violence against women and the perceptions, experiences and practices associated with this phenomenon from the perspective of affected women and relevant institutional actors (Figure 1). This approach allowed the triangulation of data by combining several sources and research methods with the aim of reducing the limitations inherent in each method used and increasing the validity and robustness of obtained results.

Figure 1. Research methodology



The research was based on primary and secondary data sources. Thus, at the initial stage, a documentary analysis was carried out, which targeted the terms used in international and national documents regarding digital violence, its types and forms of occurrence, as well as the relevant studies and reports existing at the national and international level. The desk review included public policy documents, reports from international organizations and civil society, as well as conceptual and terminological tools used to measure the phenomenon of digital violence against women.

Quantitative component of the research

The quantitative component aimed to estimate the prevalence of digital violence against women and to analyze the distribution of this phenomenon according to relevant sociodemographic characteristics.

The quantitative research was carried out through a national sociological survey, using the technique of face-to-face interview assisted by an electronic device (CAPI). This method allowed for standardised data collection and reduced information entry errors.

The target population was people aged 18 and over, internet users,¹⁵ from the Republic of Moldova. The sample was probabilistic, stratified, representative at the national level, with a size of 1016 respondents (Table 1), ensuring an acceptable margin of error for the statistical analyses performed ($\pm 3.1\%$).

Table 1. Basic sociodemographic characteristics of respondents

		Number	%
Total		1016	100%
Gender¹⁶	Male	304	45,3%
	Female	712	54,7%
Age	18-29 years old	248	15,5%
	30-44 years old	302	27,6%
	45-59 years old	283	27,0%
	+60 years	183	29,9%
Language of communication	Romanian	766	76,0%
	Russian or other	250	24,0%
Level of education	Low	403	38,3%
	Average	306	31,6%
	High	305	30,1%
Occupation	Employed	549	52,3%
	Student	67	3,7%
	Unemployed	243	19,7%
	Pensioner / person with disabilities	154	24,3%
Socioeconomic level	Low	321	33,1%
	Average	342	33,0%
	High	353	33,9%
Place of residence	Urban	482	42,4%
	Rural	534	57,6%

¹⁵ Who uses the internet at least once a month,

¹⁶ To increase the accuracy of the estimates for female respondents, the sample was intentionally disproportionate in favour of this group. Subsequently, gender proportionality was restored by weighting.

The data collection tool was a structured questionnaire, developed in Romanian and Russian, adapted to the specifics of the phenomenon of digital violence. The questionnaire included questions on: (1) the use of the internet and digital platforms; (2) the recognition and experience of different forms of digital violence; (3) experiences as a victim and witness, as well as perceptions of safety online; (4) reactions, coping strategies and willingness to report cases of violence.

The quantitative data collection was carried out by the company C.B.S. Research during October 4-27, 2025. The analysis of quantitative data included frequencies, comparative analyses and statistical correlations, being carried out with the help of the SPSS statistical program.

The qualitative component of the research

The qualitative component of the research aimed to deepen the understanding of experiences of women affected by digital violence, knowledge of norms and attitudes towards digital violence, the intervention and protection system. This component allowed the exploration of subjective, relational and institutional dimensions of digital violence, which cannot be exhaustively captured by quantitative methods. The qualitative research included several data collection methods, used complementary, to capture the diversity of relevant perspectives and experiences:

- 7 in-depth individual interviews with women affected by digital violence, which allowed for a detailed exploration of the forms of violence experienced, impact on personal, social and professional life, as well as coping strategies;
- 7 in-depth individual interviews with women from risk groups, which aimed to identify specific vulnerabilities, perceptions of digital safety and risk and protection factors associated with the use of digital technologies (Annex 1);
- 10 semi-structured individual interviews with representatives of institutions and organizations involved in preventing and combating digital violence, including from the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MAI), Prosecutor General's Office (PG), Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalization (MEDD), Ministry of Labor and Social Protection (MLSP), Ministry of Justice (MJ), as well as from civil society organizations (CSOs) and specialized service providers. These interviews allowed for the analysis of institutional practices, existing intervention framework, difficulties encountered in managing cases of digital violence and the need for capacity building (Annex 2);
- focus group discussions, carried out in the form of mini-groups and using 4 scenarios (vignette-based),¹⁷¹⁸ which allowed the exploration of different dimensions of digital violence in a safe setting, adapted to the nature of each category of participants. To this end, the following were carried out:
 - 2 focus groups with women, in which a total of 12 people participated;
 - 2 focus groups with specialists, in which 20 people participated (Annex 3).

17 Scenario-based focus group (FG) is a method that allows the analysis of social norms. In the present research, this method allowed us to understand what women and specialists recognize as digital violence and what they do not, to know the degree of social acceptability of digital violence and to interpret the reactions to situations of violence.

18 <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1745-493X.2011.03232.x>, *The vignette in a scenario-based role-playing experiment*, M. Rungtusanatham, Cynthia Wallin, Stephanie Eckerd, 2021

Focus groups with women aimed to explore social norms, perceptions and reactions to situations of digital violence, based on the 4 scenarios. This approach facilitated the expression of opinions on the boundaries between acceptable and abusive behaviours in the digital environment, risk perceptions, informal protection mechanisms and barriers to case reporting, while reducing the risk of re-traumatisation of participants.

The focus groups with specialists aimed to explore the way in which digital violence is understood and conceptualized from a professional perspective, as well as the specialists' representations of actors involved in episodes of digital violence (victims, perpetrators, witnesses, responsible institutions). The discussions aimed, in particular, at identifying the typologies of cases recognized by specialists, delineating institutional responsibilities, perceptions of the seriousness of different forms of digital violence, as well as their views on the causes of the phenomenon, existing gaps in the intervention and the needs to strengthen professional and interinstitutional capacities.

Women participating in the qualitative component were selected through intentional sampling, with the support of CSOs, to ensure ethical and safe access to women affected by digital violence and women from risk groups. The selection followed the diversity of experiences, depending on criteria such as age, place of residence, socio-economic status and level of exposure to the digital environment.

The qualitative tools were developed based on the objectives of the research and included topics such as: types and dynamics of digital violence, impact on victims, individual and institutional reactions, barriers in accessing support services, inter-institutional collaboration and recommendations for improving the national response.

The qualitative data collection was carried out by the company Sociopolis Consultancy, between November 5 and 25, 2025. The qualitative data analysis was carried out through thematic analysis, the results being subsequently integrated with the quantitative data in the process of interpretation and formulation of conclusions.

1.4. Ethical considerations

Research on digital violence against women involves a number of specific ethical risks, determined both by the sensitive nature of the subject and by the potential emotional, social and security consequences for the participants. In this context, the present study was designed and implemented in strict compliance with the ethical principles of sociological research and research in the field of gender-based violence, in accordance with the relevant international standards.¹⁹

¹⁹ https://moldova.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-06/Safe-consultations-with-survivors-of-violence-against-women-and-girls-en_ro_.pdf, Guide to Safe Consultations with Survivors of Violence against Women and Girls, UN Women Moldova, 2022

The ethical approach to the research had as its central principle the protection of the rights, safety and dignity of the participants, a priority in relation to any data collection objective. Participation in the study was strictly voluntary, based on obtaining the informed consent of all interviewees. Prior to inclusion in the research, participants were provided with clear and accessible information on the purpose and objectives of the study; the way of participation and types of questions addressed; the right to refuse to answer any question or to withdraw from the research at any time without consequences; privacy, protection and use of data. Consent was obtained in verbal format and the language used was adjusted to the participants' level of understanding.

An essential principle of the research was to ensure the absolute confidentiality of the identity of participants. Data collected does not contain information that would allow the direct or indirect identification of the interviewees. In the process of transcription, analysis and reporting, real names and any identifiable details were removed and encoded; The quotes used in the report are anonymised and worded in such a way as not to allow for the recognition of specific persons or contexts. The data was stored in secure formats, with limited access only to authorized members of the research team.

The qualitative component of the study was carried out using an approach centred on women affected by digital violence and which was trauma-sensitive. This involved: avoiding intrusive questions or pressure to disclose personal experiences; use of scenario-based discussion techniques in focus groups to reduce the risk of re-traumatisation; adapting the pace and depth of interviews to the comfort level of participants; training researchers and moderators in recognizing signs of emotional distress and managing sensitive situations.

The research team also followed internal safety protocols, designed to protect both participants and researchers involved in data collection and analysis. Participants were informed about the support services available, including support lines, specialised psychological and legal services. This practice was intended to ensure that participation in the study does not generate additional vulnerabilities and that the research indirectly contributes to facilitating access to support.

At all stages of the research, the principle that the scientific value of the data cannot prevail over the safety and well-being of the participants was respected. Methodological decisions were constantly evaluated from the perspective of ethical risks, and data collection was adjusted whenever deemed necessary to reduce potential negative effects.

1.5. Limitations of the research

In carrying out the present study on digital violence against women in the Republic of Moldova, there are a number of methodological and contextual limitations. Their explanation is necessary for a correct interpretation of the results and for the deliniation of the area of generalization of formulated conclusions:

- **Limitations related to the nature of the studied phenomenon.** Digital violence is a dynamic, latent and frequently underreported phenomenon, characterized by manifestations that can be difficult to recognize, deliniate or verbalize by the affected people. Social norms, stigmatisation of victims, internalisation of guilt and normalisation of certain abusive behaviours online can lead to: (i) underestimating the real prevalence of digital violence; (ii) difficulties in self-identifying experiences as forms of violence; (iii) restraint in reporting personal experiences, including in research. These structural features of the phenomenon inevitably influence collected data, especially those based on self-reporting.
- **Limitations of the quantitative component.** The quantitative component of the research is based on respondents' statements, which implies risks specific to survey-type research, such as: (i) memory errors, especially in reporting previous experiences; (ii) tendencies of desirable social response, which may lead to the minimization or omission of experiences perceived as sensitive; (iii) differences in the interpretation of questions, determined by the level of digital literacy or the degree of familiarity with the terminology used. Last but not least, the research targeted adult users, who use internet at least once a month, which excludes from the analysis people who do not use the digital environment or do so very rarely, limiting the generalization of the results to this category.
- **Limitations of the qualitative component.** The qualitative component offers depth and contextualization, but has, by its nature, a non-representative statistical character. For ethical and safety reasons, the research did not aim to exhaustively collect factual details on individual cases, which limits the analysis of specific dimensions of digital abuse.
- **Limitations related to the institutional and legal context.** The analysis of the institutional response capacity is based on the perspectives of interviewed specialists and the practices reported by them. These data reflect professional perceptions located in a certain institutional and temporal context and may not fully capture the existing variations at the national or local level. At the same time, the normative and policy framework on digital violence is in a process of development and adaptation, and the results of the study reflect the situation existing at the time of data collection. Subsequent changes in legislation or institutional arrangements may influence the relevance of findings over time.
- **Limitations related to the rapid evolution of the digital environment.** The digital environment is characterized by a rapid evolution of technologies, platforms and practices of use, which makes some emerging forms of digital violence insufficiently known or conceptualized. In this regard, the study

captures the phenomenon at a specific moment in time, without being able to fully anticipate future transformations of technology-enabled violence.

Acknowledging these limitations does not diminish the relevance of the study results, but provides a responsible and realistic framework for interpretation. By using a mixed methodology and integrating quantitative and qualitative data, the research aimed to provide a coherent and empirically grounded picture of digital violence against women in the Republic of Moldova, constituting a solid basis for further development of public policies, intervention mechanisms and future research in this field.

II. PERCEPTION, PREVALENCE AND IMPACT OF DIGITAL VIOLENCE

12.0% of adults who use the digital environment in the Republic of Moldova are victims of at least one form of digital violence

25.4% witness situations of digital violence

2.1. Use of internet and of digital platforms

Research participants use internet frequently and constantly: 78.5% *a few times a day*, and 14.9% – *once a day*. This high level of connection indicates a social basis deeply anchored in the digital environment and justifies addressing digital violence as a phenomenon of immediate relevance, integrated into everyday life, and not as a marginal or occasional risk.

This finding is also supported by the qualitative analysis. In in-depth one-on-one interviews, the online environment is frequently described as a constant and natural presence, integrated into the daily routine, not as a space separate from offline life. For many participants, the digital environment is perceived as indispensable, used almost reflexively to meet everyday needs: *"I think that Internet is for everyone, a very important aspect in their lives, because it is used every day, every second"* (IIA_S_3).

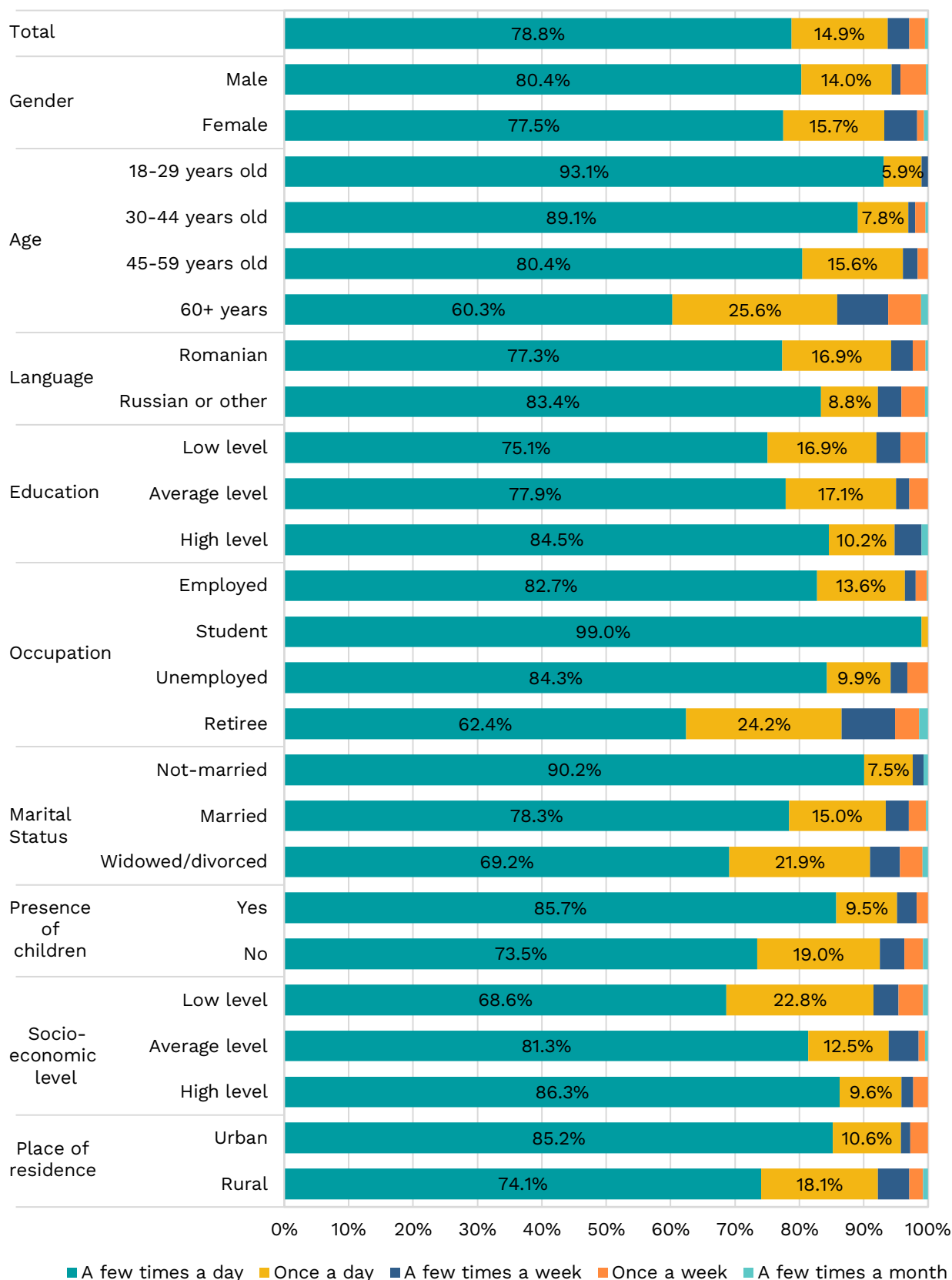
The digital environment thus appears not only as a source of information, but as an extension of memory and personal organization, a space in which communication, access to information and coordination of daily activities are concentrated. At the same time, its use is often clearly delineated by the scope of work, especially among people who have had predominantly offline work experiences. This distinction indicates that, for many women, the online environment remains a personal space, not an institutional or professional one.

However, there are clear socio-demographic differentiations in terms of the intensity of use. Among people aged 18–29 years, the use of *several times a day* reaches 93.1%, after which a progressive moderation towards older age groups is observed. Among people over 60 years of age, the intensity of use visibly decreases to 60.3%, being accompanied by a consistent segment that uses the internet *once a day* – 25.6%. In-depth individual interviews suggest that this differentiation is not only related to digital skills, but also to social roles and everyday priorities.

For girls and young women, the use of the online environment is closely linked to studies, information and communication, being perceived as indispensable: *"I use it for educational purposes and for communication and for fun... Not for professional*

purposes" (IIA_S_3). On the other hand, for women with young children, especially in rural areas, the use is lower, being determined by childcare and household responsibilities: "There is not much time for internet now... We use it more for homework with my older one" (IIA_S_1). These reports show that the high frequency of connection does not automatically imply intensive or diversified use, but may reflect selective and pragmatic use, adapted to the life context.

Figure 2. Frequency of internet use, %



There are some peculiarities depending on the sociodemographic characteristics regarding the use *several times a day* (Figure 2). Gender differences are small (80.4% of men and 77.5% of women), but there are important structural differences depending on the residence, studies, socioeconomic level, occupational area and marital status.

In urban areas, the use of *several times a day* reaches 85.2%, compared to 71.1% - in rural areas. The intensity of use increases depending on the level of education – from 75.1% with a low level of education to 77.9% with a medium level and 84.5% with a high level. Likewise, the intensity of use increases, at the socioeconomic level, from 68.6% in low-level groups to 86.3% in high-level groups. Occupational differentiations are the most pronounced: students are almost fully connected daily (99.0%), unemployed report intensive use (84.3%), employed maintain high levels (82.7%), while retirees rank last (62.4%).

Single people have the highest level of use (90.2%), followed by married women (78.3%) and divorced or widowed women (69.2%). A relevant element for interpretation is the fact that married people with children report intensive use more frequently (85.7%) than those without children (73.5%), suggesting that the need for connection is often functional, related to the organization of family and educational life.

In terms of platforms used, quantitative data indicate a clearly hierarchical structure of digital consumption. Social media and messaging apps are at the core of daily usage (Figure 3). Facebook is at the top of the hierarchy (52.9% use *several times a day* and 22.2% - *once a day*), followed by WhatsApp/Viber (47.0% and 17.1%) and YouTube (45.9% and 19.9%). In-depth individual interviews confirmed the centrality of these platforms, described as the main channels of communication and information.

A second level of use is occupied by visual entertainment and social media platforms (TikTok, Instagram). However, interviews reveal that for some women, in rural areas, these platforms also become spaces for work and economic autonomy: "*I use TikTok for advertisements, for work... for selling berries*" (IIA_S_5). This story shows how the online environment works as an alternative to traditional markets, but also how public exposure increases with the professional use of platforms, sometimes without clear protection mechanisms.

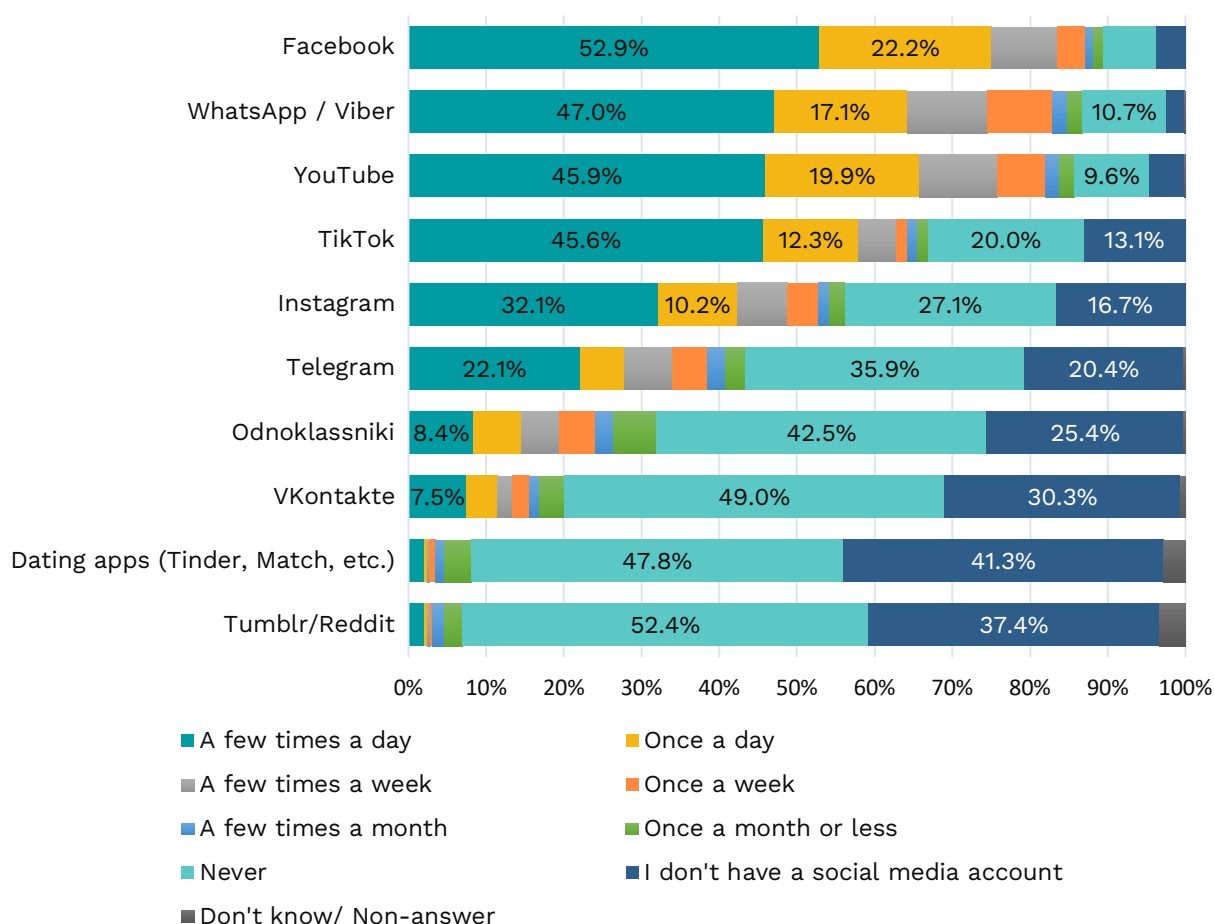
The other platforms (Telegram, Odnoklassniki, VKontakte, dating apps) remain peripheral, with high shares of non-use or lack of account. This concentration of use indicates that everyday digital interactions, and thus risk exposure, are predominantly located around a limited number of dominant platforms.

Internet access is almost entirely mobile. The mobile phone is the main connection device for 95.4% of respondents, and all other options remain marginal: desktop - 1.7%, laptop - 1.5%, tablet - 0.6%, console/TV - 0.6%. Basically, the connection

is personal, permanent and centered on applications, not on office use (Annex 4, Table 13).

And the place of use confirms a stable, household routine. Internet is most often used at home (87.3%), while the workplace (10.0%) appears as the second relevant location. The rest of the spaces are characterized by low use, almost non-existent: at home with friends/relatives - 0.7%, at school - 0.2%, at the library - 0.1%, internet café/club - 0.1%. Therefore, internet is not lived in the public space (cafes, WiFi networks), but is an extension of private space (Annex 4, Table 14).

Figure 3. Frequency of use of social media platforms/networks, %



Data collected during in-depth individual interviews reveal that for certain groups, especially women with disabilities, the online environment takes on a structural role, becoming the main channel of communication and social participation, compensating for the limitations of mobility and access to physical public space: *"I don't really manage to go out and communicate... and then we have online meetings, on Facebook"* (IIA_R_5). Thus, for this group of people, internet and social media platforms are not just resources, but conditions for personal and social autonomy, which facilitate inclusion and reduce isolation.

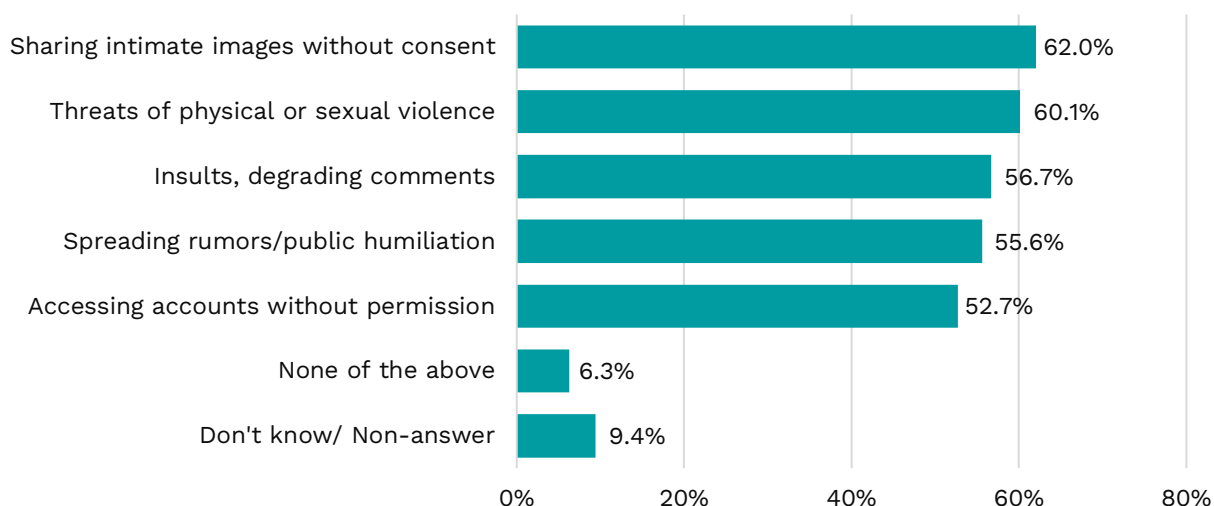
Thus, the research data reveal that the use of Internet and social media platforms is widespread, intense and deeply integrated into the daily life of the population of the Republic of Moldova. The everyday, familiar and seemingly safe nature of use

contributes to extensive exposure and often late recognition of risks and abuses in the digital space.

2.2. Understanding the phenomenon and perception of risk

The quantitative data are shaping a social climate marked by a relatively high recognition of forms of digital violence, but also by low trust in protection, which preemptively structures both the perception of risks and the ways of responding. The recognition of forms of digital violence is focused on "severe" manifestations that are easy to identify as abuse. At the top is the distribution of non consensual intimate images (62.0%) and threats of physical or sexual violence (60.1%), followed by insults and degrading comments (56.7%), spreading rumors/public humiliation (55.6%) and accessing accounts without permission (52.7%). The number of those who did not identify any of the situations as digital violence is low (6.3%), as well as of those who admitted that they did not know or did not respond (9.4%), which shows a relatively high awareness base of the phenomenon (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Recognizing forms of digital violence, %



For the interviewed women affected by digital violence, online abuse is defined by concrete situations, experienced or observed, that have produced fear, shame, loss of control or withdrawal from the digital space. The understanding of digital violence, in their discourse, does not start from the concept, but from the effect – what happened and "*what remained*" after.

Women in risk groups described the phenomenon as a set of intentional actions of aggression, blackmail or humiliation, carried out through messages, images or the use of personal data. At the community level, the most common forms mentioned by these women in the qualitative study were:

- Blackmail and the threat of spreading intimate images. This form was constantly mentioned in the interview, women know such cases: "*When someone blackmails you. When we are blackmailed with some pictures or some information, or they can take the face from your picture and put it on another picture*" (IIA_R_3).

- Offensive messages, hate speech and verbal harassment. Verbal violence is perceived as a frequent and visible form of online aggression: *"More incitement to violence, hatred, messaging that attacks the person"* (IIA_R_5); *"They write, offend, but don't do go any further than that . This writing is the most common"* (IIA_R_6).
- Fraudulent use of personal data. Women referred to situations of unauthorized use of data: *"You can be robbed of personal data"* (IIA_R_7).
- Online scams. Women also reported cases of scams and financial losses: *"They can also steal your money"* (IIA_R_1).

For women with disabilities, digital violence is experienced as a continuation and amplification of already existing social exclusion. They described the digital environment not as a space of protection or emancipation, but as one in which stigmatization and bullying double: *"People with disabilities feel marginalized by society and bullying intensifies if they go online"* (IIA_R_5).

The qualitative data collected, show a pragmatic and experiential understanding of digital violence, centered on effects and consequences, not on formal definitions.

2.3. Prevalence and forms of digital violence

To estimate the prevalence of digital violence, two important aspects need to be understood: (i) what are the most common forms of online violence (Figure 5) and (ii) which forms have actually been reported as direct or indirect experiences in the last 12 months (Figure 6). This differentiation is important, because digital violence often functions as a socially visible phenomenon before being declared as a personal experience (for reasons of stigmatization, shame, fear or normalization). Research data show that digital violence is not reduced to rare episodes, but includes a spectrum of behaviors with varying degrees of intensity (Figure 5). On the one hand, there are more *"classic"* forms (harassment, intimidation, public humiliation, non-consensual distribution), and on the other hand, forms that express control through technology (account hacking, surveillance/stalking, digital manipulation). In this regard, digital violence is frequently a means of maintaining power and control, not just an exchange of hostile comments (persecution through messages, use of digital tools for intimidation).

Digital violence is a dynamic phenomenon, dependent on ICT development. A clear example of this is the application of digital surveillance/tracking forms, including the installation of geolocation applications without permission – forms that reveal the transition from symbolic aggression (comments/insults) to a threat to everyday autonomy and safety.

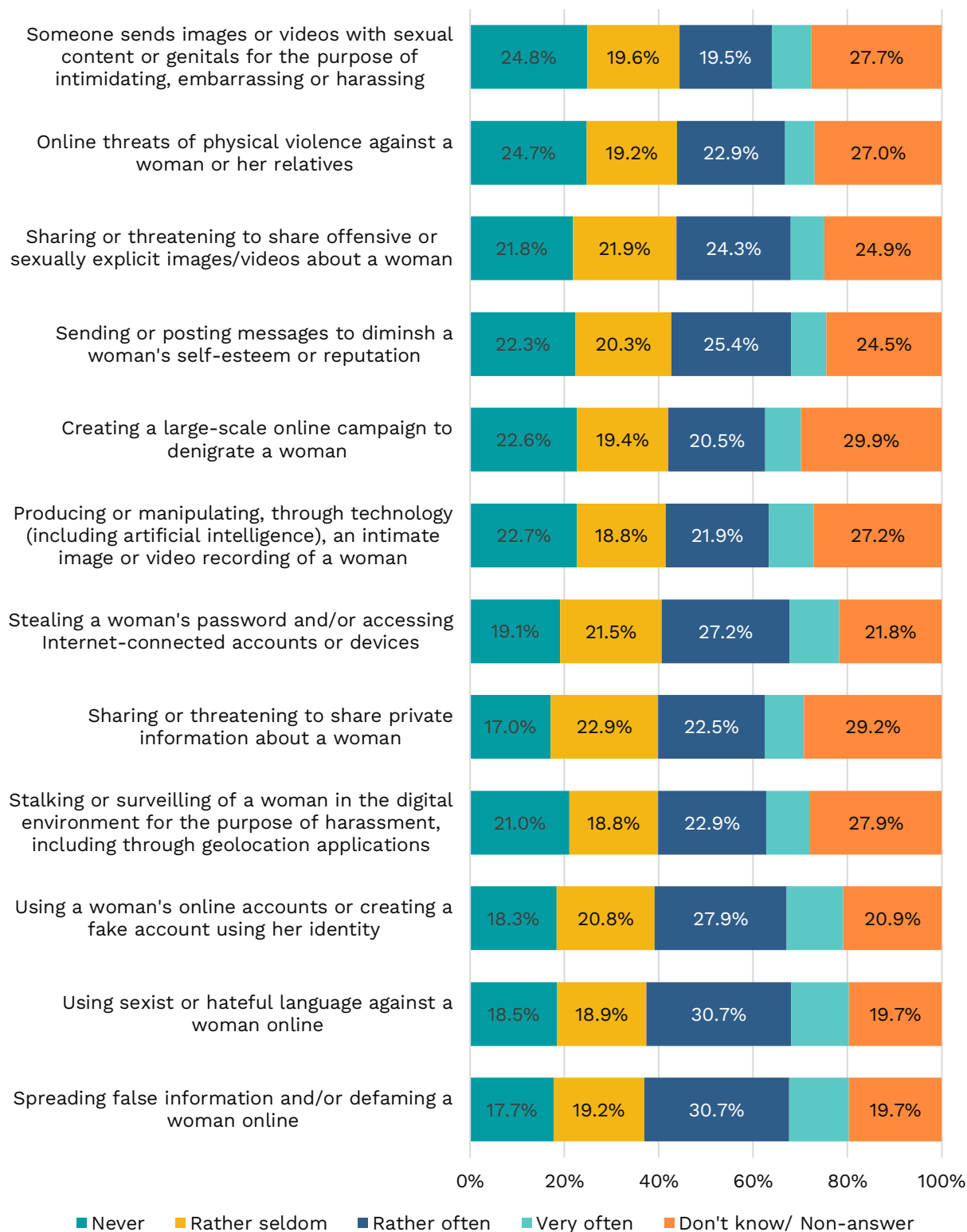
The prevalence of reported digital violence must also be perceived through aspects related to:

1. Social normalization. Frequent forms can become part of online experiences

and can be less reported because *"that's how the internet is"*.

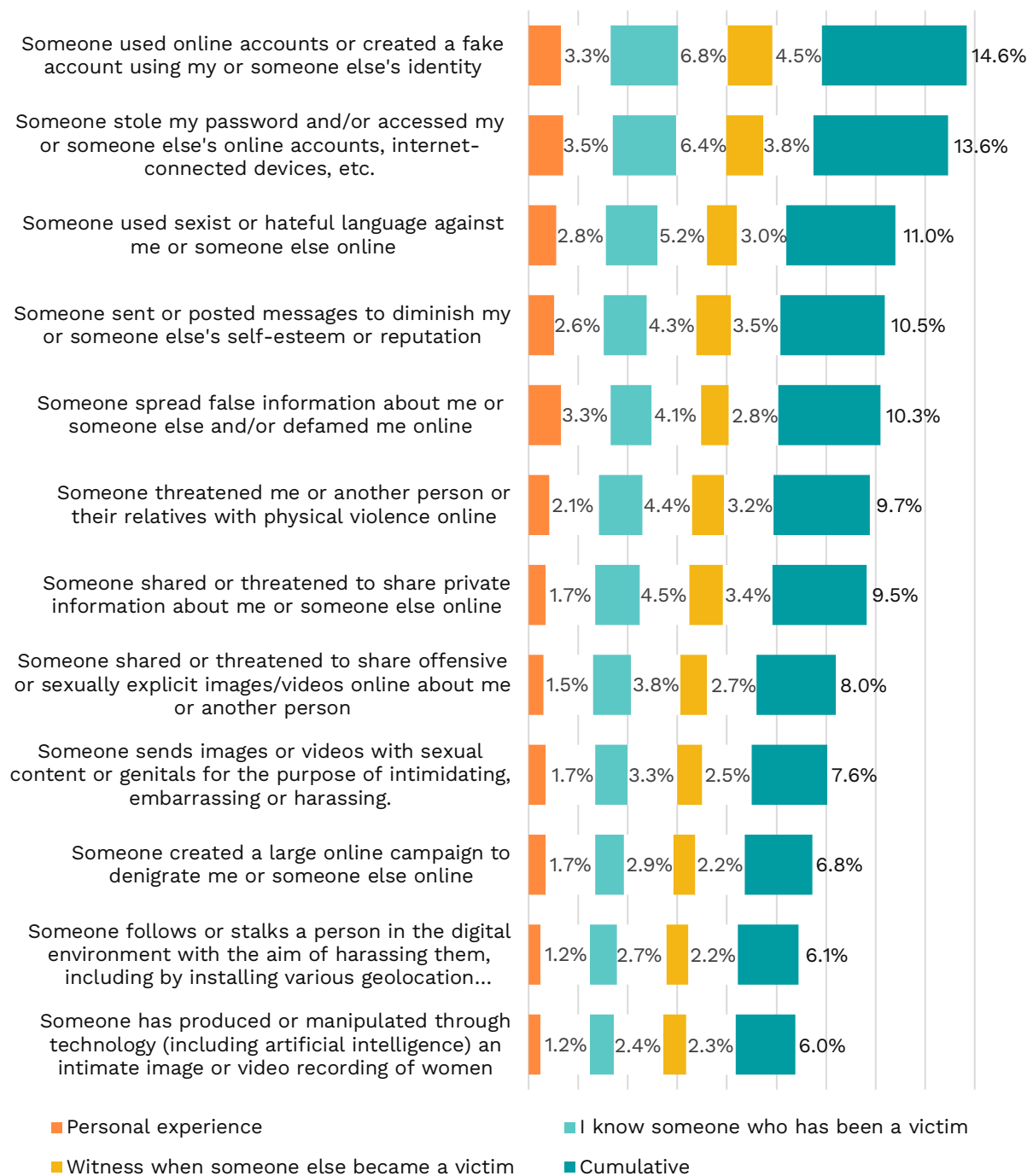
2. Social visibility. The cumulative prevalence (data reported by victims and those reported by witnesses) shows an exposure that goes beyond strictly personal self-reporting, suggesting that the phenomenon is more socially present than the statement alone - *"I was a victim"*.

Figure 5. Assessment of women's exposure to different forms of digital violence, %



For all the forms analyzed, the cumulative share of exposure (*I was personally a victim, I know someone who has been a victim and I have been a witness*) is between 6.0% and 14.6% (Figure 6). A consistent element is that indirect exposure (as a witness or knowing a victim) outweighs direct exposure (as a victim), indicating a broader social presence of the phenomenon than the response "*I was a victim*" suggests.

Figure 6. Prevalence of direct and indirect forms of digital violence, in the last 12 months, %



This difference is relevant from a sociological point of view because digital violence appears as a phenomenon observed, discussed and recognized in the social environment, even if it is not always perceived as a personal experience. This suggests the existence of underreporting mechanisms and, at the same time, a

high level of exposure in nearby social networks.

The most prevalent forms of digital violence are those aimed at controlling identity and digital access. At the top of the hierarchy is the use of identity/creating a fake account (14.6% cumulatively) and password theft/accessing accounts or devices (13.6% cumulatively). These forms imply a direct intrusion into the digital personal space, with the potential for rapid expansion to other types of abuse (defamation, blackmail, surveillance). This signals a shift in violence from talking to the area of technological control, where reporting and providing evidence is more difficult, and the victim loses control over their own digital identity. In the same logic is cyber stalking/surveillance (6.1% cumulatively), which, although appears below as prevalence, represents a form with a high degree of intrusion and with a severe impact.

A second major block of digital violence is the forms of reputational and verbal aggression, which appear to be widespread and relatively frequent. This category includes: sexist language/hate speech (11.0% cumulatively), messages diminishing reputation (10.5% cumulatively), defamation through false information (10.3% cumulatively) and coordinated denigration campaigns (6.8% cumulatively). These forms are characterised by a high degree of public visibility and repetitiveness and can have significant effects on reputation, social relations and professional status. The fact that these forms consistently appear at the top of prevalence suggests that digital violence is often integrated into the dynamics of online interactions, rather than manifested through isolated episodes.

Forms with a sexualized component or explicit bullying appear somewhat lower in the hierarchy of prevalence, but remain frequent enough not to be treated as exceptions. This category includes threats of physical violence (9.7% cumulatively), sharing or threatening to share private information (9.5% cumulatively), offensive video images or images with a sexually explicit content (8.0% cumulatively), sending images/videos with sexual content (7.6% cumulatively). These forms involve a higher level of stigmatization and intimidation, and their relatively lower frequency compared to reputational assaults may reflect both a more selective nature of abuse and a greater reluctance to self-report, given the sensitive nature of sexualized experiences.

At the bottom of the prevalence hierarchy are the emerging but significant forms of digital violence associated with advanced technologies. The manipulation of intimate images or recordings by technologies, including artificial intelligence, is reported at a cumulative level of 6.0%. Although less prevalent than other forms, this practice is relevant because it combines technological innovation with existing vulnerabilities related to image and privacy control.

Overall, prevalence data show that digital violence is structured around three main cores: (1) control of identity and digital access, (2) reputational and verbal aggression, (3) sexualized forms and direct intimidation, to which is added (4) an emerging

set of advanced technological practices through the use of artificial intelligence. This structure confirms that digital violence is not a marginal or homogeneous phenomenon, but a differentiated one, in which various forms are present. Also, this phenomenon is not a static one, but one in typological expansion, which tends to diversify as technologies become more accessible.

2.4. Profile of victims and witnesses of digital violence

Digital violence is not randomly distributed among the population, but follows clear lines of social stratification, correlated with gender, age, residence and digital integration.

At an aggregate level, 12.0% of respondents said they had been victims of at least one form of digital violence, while 25.4% said they had witnessed such situations (Figure 7). The ratio of more than 1:2 between victims and witnesses indicates a high social visibility of the phenomenon and suggests that digital violence is frequently observed in social proximity, even if it is not always perceived as a personal experience. This constant difference between "being a victim" and "being a witness" reinforces the idea that self-reported prevalence underestimates the true dimension of the phenomenon and that indirect exposure is a central component of the social experience of digital violence.

Gender differences are consistent and show greater exposure of women. The proportion of women who declared themselves victims is 14.2%, almost double that of men (6.9%). This difference is also maintained in the group of witnesses (27.5% women versus 20.4% men), suggesting not only a more frequent victimization, but also a greater visibility of digital violence in women's social networks. These data confirm that beyond the generic risks of the online environment, there is a gender-specific vulnerability component, which manifests itself through both direct experience and indirect exposure.

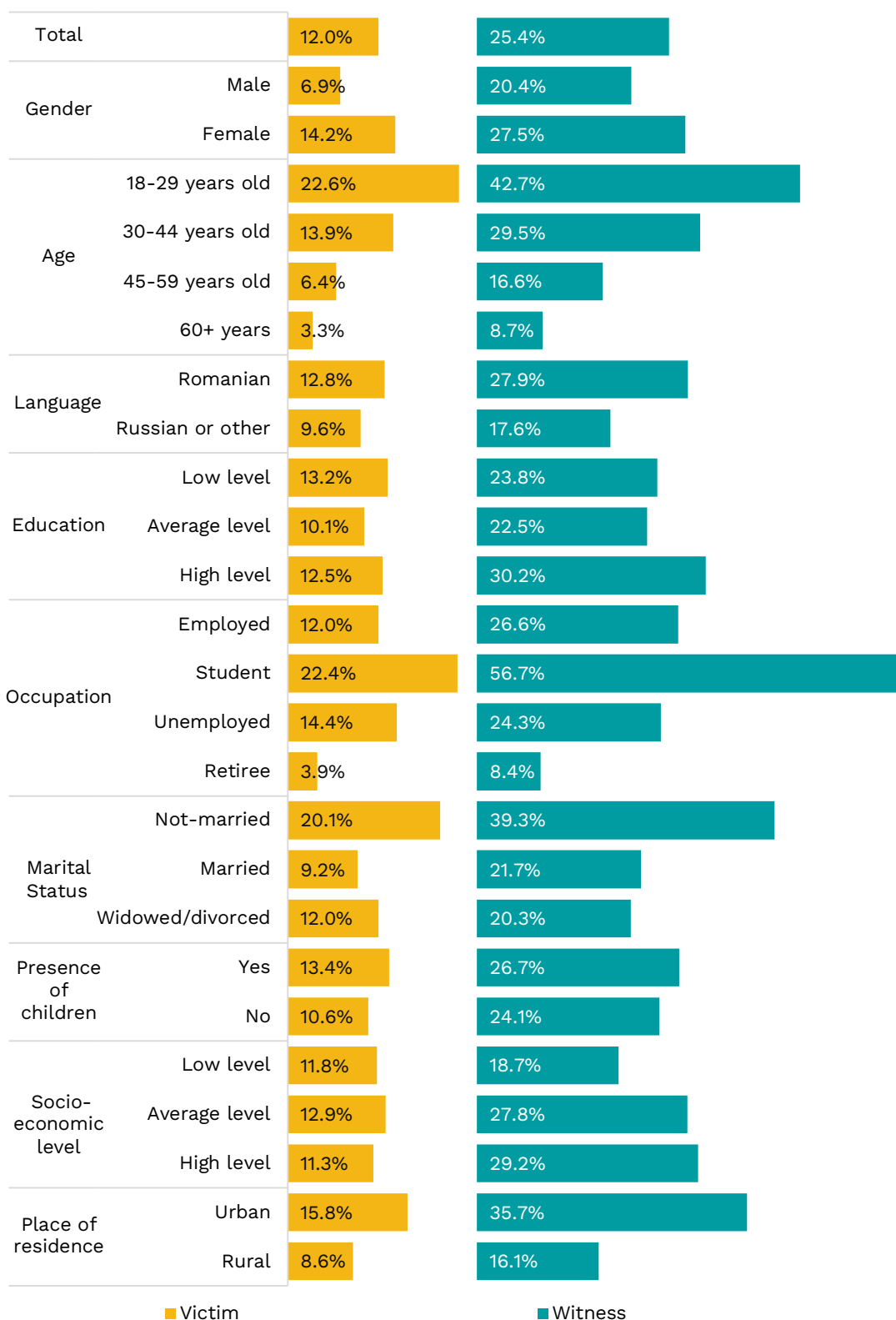
By age, exposure decreases almost linearly with age. The 18–29 age segment clearly stands out as the most exposed – 22.6% declared personal victimization, and 42.7% – identified themselves as witnesses. These values allow this group to be identified as the central core of vulnerability, both through direct experience and social exposure. This profile was also confirmed by the operational data collected within the Single National Service for Emergency Calls (112 service), according to which most of the victims are young women – 16–30 years old, and the source of the aggression is a known person (partner/former partner).²⁰

At 30–44 years of age, levels remain high (13.9% victims and 29.5% witnesses), but they already show a moderation. Subsequently, at 45–59 years, the incidence decreases significantly (6.4% victims and 16.6% witnesses), and at 60+ it reaches minimum levels (about 3% victims and 8.7% witnesses). This distribution confirms that digital

20 IIS_E_5.

violence is a deep generational risk, associated with early digital socialization, intensive use of platforms and active participation in extensive online networks.

Figure 7. Socio-demographic profile of victims and witnesses, %



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The urban-rural differences are pronounced and show a significantly higher incidence in urban areas - 15.8% victims and 35.7% witnesses, compared to 8.6% and 16.1% in rural areas. The magnitude of these differences suggests a combination of factors:

more intense use of the internet, more active presence on social platforms and a higher probability of observing and acknowledging situations of digital violence. From the perspective of the spoken language, the data show that Romanian speakers report exposure to digital violence more frequently (12.8% victims and 27.9% witnesses) than Russian or other language speakers (9.6% and 17.6%). These data indicate structural effects (area of residence, digital integration) rather than strictly linguistic differences.

Education differentiates above all the visibility of the phenomenon, not necessarily direct victimization. The proportion of witnesses increases with the level of education (up to 30.2% among those with higher education), while victimization remains relatively close between levels of education (10–13%). This distribution suggests that education increases the ability to recognize digital violence, more than the actual exposure.

Depending on the occupational criterion, students clearly stand out as the group with the highest exposure (22.4% victims and 56.7% witnesses), reflecting the combination of young age and intense digital use. Employees are around the general average, unemployed show a slightly higher victimization, and retirees are at minimum levels, consistent with a low online usage profile.

The socioeconomic level does not produce major differences in victimization (about 11–13%), but it influences that of witnesses, which increases from 18.7% (low level) to 29.2% (high level). This pattern once again confirms the role of digital integration and wider social networks in exposure to the phenomenon.

Marital status outlines a distinct profile of vulnerability. Non - married women are the most exposed (20.1% victims and 39.3% witnesses), followed by widowed or divorced women (12.0% and 20.3%). Married women have significantly lower levels (9.2% victims and 21.7% witnesses).

The presence of children differentiates exposure less. Individuals with children report slightly more situations of digital violence (13.4% victims and 26.7% witnesses) than those without children (10.6% and 24.1%), suggesting a moderate effect, probably related to use and more active social networks.

In qualitative research, most participants believe that women are more vulnerable than men online. The given explanations were formulated in relation to the social roles and structural position of women. Domestic responsibilities determine the use of Internet as the main communication channel: *"Women are more at home, with their children, and spend more time online. That exposes them"* (IIA_R_5).

Another central element identified in interviews with women is the lack of digital skills and information about online safety, perceived as a risk factor for both women and children: *"If women are not well versed in social media, children are not protected either"* (IIA_R_6).

In the words of some participants, the presence of gender stereotypes towards some women was also outlined: *"There are more naïve women, who accept anyone and then are afraid"* (IIA_R_2), which is reflected on their digital experiences.

However, some of the women rejected the idea of a "typical profile" of the victim and stressed the unpredictable nature of online violence: *"Any woman may find herself in such situations. It doesn't matter the age, the education"* (IIA_R_3). This perspective points to a mature understanding of digital risk as diffuse and cross cutting, not limited to certain social categories.

Overall, the socio-demographic profile of victims indicates that digital violence disproportionately affects young women, students, unmarried and urban women. This combination reflects an intense online presence, high integration into digital networks, and a higher likelihood of encountering and acknowledging forms of digital violence. Therefore, the prevalence of violence in the online environment must be understood as the result of the interaction between social factors (norms, stereotypes, etc.) and the way in which digital technologies and platforms are used, not as a sum of isolated incidents. This conclusion provides the empirical basis for the analysis of spaces and platforms where violence is most frequently manifested.

2.5. Spaces and platforms where digital violence manifests itself

The analysis of spaces where digital violence manifests itself shows that the phenomenon is closely linked to the daily communication platforms, frequently used by women. Digital violence occurs mainly where interactions are visible, recurrent and integrated into everyday life, which amplifies both the exposure and the social and emotional impact of the abuse.

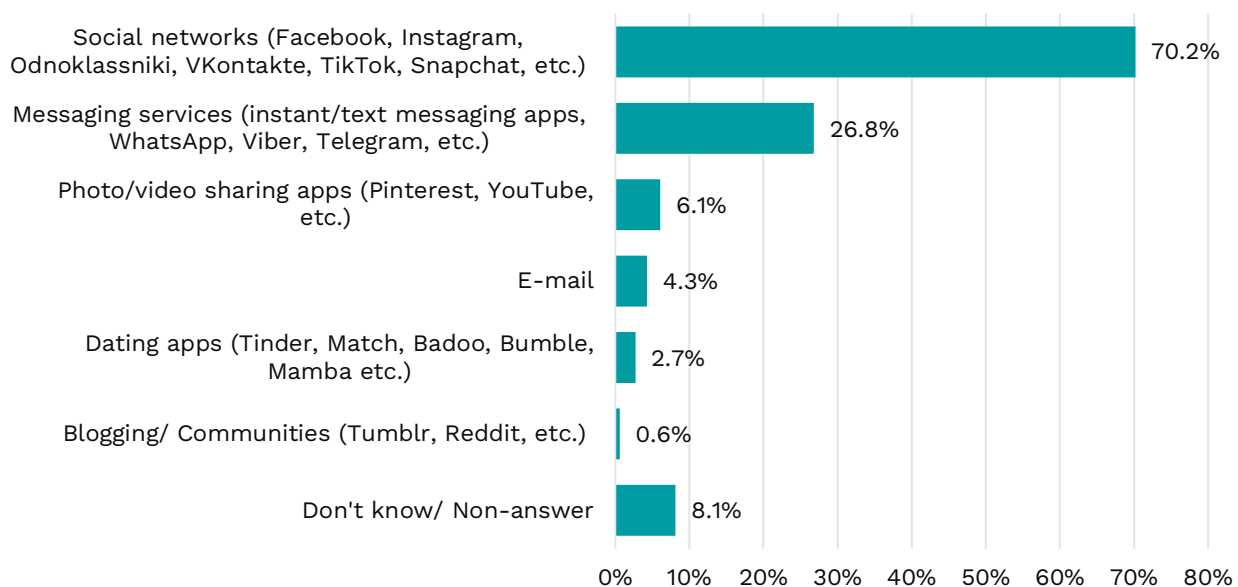
Quantitative data indicate social networks as the main space for the manifestation of digital violence - 70.2% of respondents mentioned these platforms as a place of abuse (Figure 8). However, these data must be interpreted in relation to the status of the persons who answered the question, most of whom had experiences as witnesses, and not as direct victims. In this context, it is natural that social networks are mainly mentioned, as they represent public or semi-public spaces in which abusive behaviour is more easily observed. These data also indicate that acts of digital violence become more accessible to public perception when they take place in open stations. At the same time, social networks combine several risk conditions: the possibility of public comments, the rapid distribution of content, interaction with known and unknown people and the difficulty of controlling the audience. From this perspective, digital violence does not appear as an accident, but as a structural risk of active participation in these spaces.

Women's accounts in in-depth one-on-one interviews confirm this centrality of social media, frequently described as the place where abuse begins, accumulates,

and becomes visible to others: *"It all started on Facebook. That's where he put the pictures, that's where the comments started. After that, everyone in the village already knew"* (IIA_S_5); *"It was the hardest on TikTok, because a lot of people are looking, and you don't know who is watching and who is taking screenshots"* (IIA_S_6).

Some particularities of gender, age, area of residence, occupation and socioeconomic level were found. Women more often indicated that in the last 12 months, they had been a victim or witness of digital violence against women on social networks (75.8%), compared to men (61.0%). This difference suggests a lower awareness among men of behaviors that constitute forms of digital violence, as well as a lower recognition of them as a problem on social networks. Age amplifies these differences - at 18–29 years old, social networks reach a maximum of 82.7% as a space of violence, confirming that for younger generations digital violence is integrated into their main socialization ecosystem. At over 60 years of age, the share of social networks decreases, and the role of messaging increases, indicating a shift in violence towards more private but no less intrusive spaces (Annex 4, Table 37). This dynamic was also captured in individual interviews, where younger women reported about public exposure, and older women on direct, repeated messages: *"It was not about posts, it was about messages. He was always writing to me on Viber, day and night"* (IIA_R_4).

Figure 8. Platforms where digital violence occurs, %



The second major category of spaces of digital violence is instant messaging applications (WhatsApp, Viber, Telegram), indicated by 26.8% of respondents. Although less publicly visible, messaging violence is more intimate and repetitive in nature, often being described by women as a form of constant pressure, control and threat. In in-depth individual interviews, messaging frequently appears as a space for continuous harassment, emotional blackmail, and threats: *"He didn't post anything, but he always wrote to me. If I didn't respond, he started with threats"* (IIA_S_6); *"The messages were harsher than the comments, because they were*

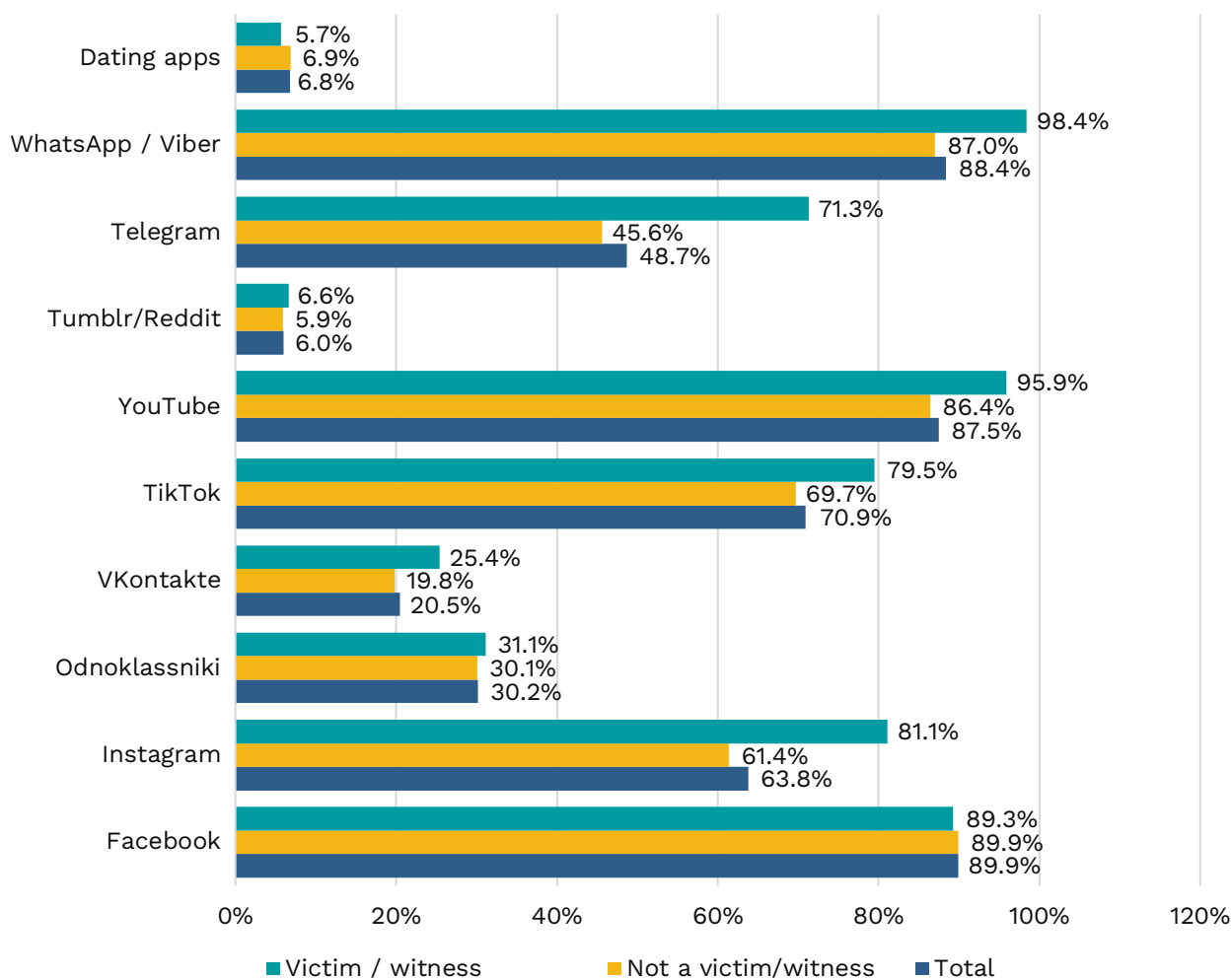
directed at me, I couldn't get rid of them" (IIA_S_2).

Other digital spaces appear much less frequent as the main place of violence: photo/video sharing apps (6.1%), email (4.3%) and dating apps (2.7%). Blogging and online forum communities (Tumblr, Reddit) are marginal (0.6%).

This distribution confirms that digital violence in the Republic of Moldova is concentrated on mainstream platforms, used daily by the female population. Interviews support this observation, with women rarely mentioning specialized platforms, but almost exclusively social networks and messaging.

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! **Figure 9. Rate of social media use and status of victim of digital violence, %**



An important analytical element is the overlap between the rate of use of platforms and the status of victim or witness of digital violence. Data show significant discrepancies across some platforms: Instagram usage is about +20% higher among victims/witnesses compared to unexposed, TikTok and YouTube +10%, Telegram +25%, and WhatsApp/Viber +11% (Figure 9). These differences indicate that digital violence is not evenly distributed across platforms, but tends to be concentrated in those spaces that combine high visibility, intense interaction and the possibility of direct communication.

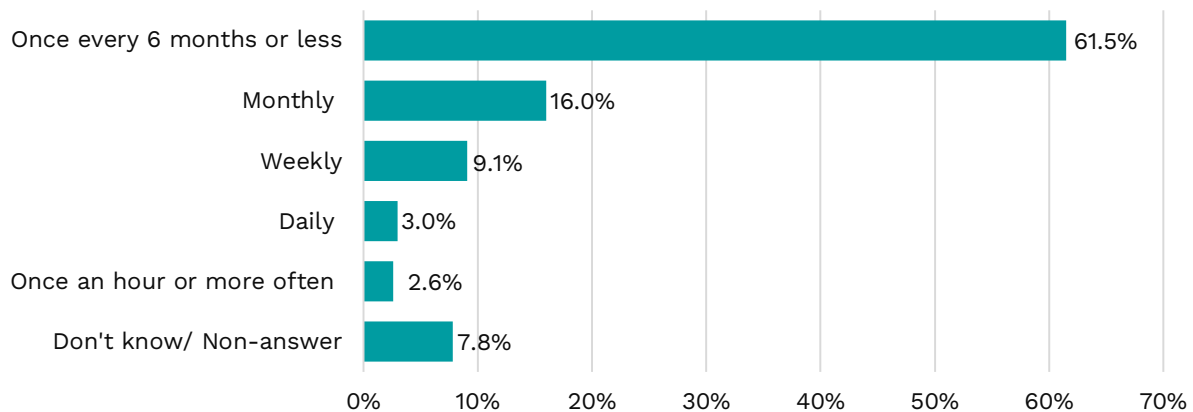
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As for the frequency of manifestation, digital violence is perceived as a periodical one. However, 61.5% of respondents indicated the occurrence of these behaviors

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once every 6 months or less often. However, a significant segment described a higher frequency: 16.0% – monthly and 9.1% – weekly. Although daily forms (3.0%) or once an hour or more (2.6%) are rare, they signal the existence of cases of persistent harassment, with a high risk of escalation (Figure 10). In-depth individual interviews give consistency to these figures: *"It wasn't once and that was it. It was every week, it seemed like it would never end"* (IIA_S_1).

Figure 10. Frequency of digital violence, %



2.6. Types of perpetrators

The analysis of types of perpetrators²¹ involved in experiences of digital violence reveals the heterogeneous, cumulative and relational character of this phenomenon. From an analytical point of view, two main categories of digital aggression are outlined. The first category consists of perpetrators characterized by social distance and lack of identifiability – anonymous users and people previously unknown to the victim. The second category is represented by relational perpetrators – people known to the victim, either exclusively from the online environment or from real life. The coexistence of these categories indicates that digital violence is not an exclusively exogenous phenomenon, produced by random actors, but is frequently anchored in pre-existing social relationships, which can be reactivated, continued or intensified through digital technologies.

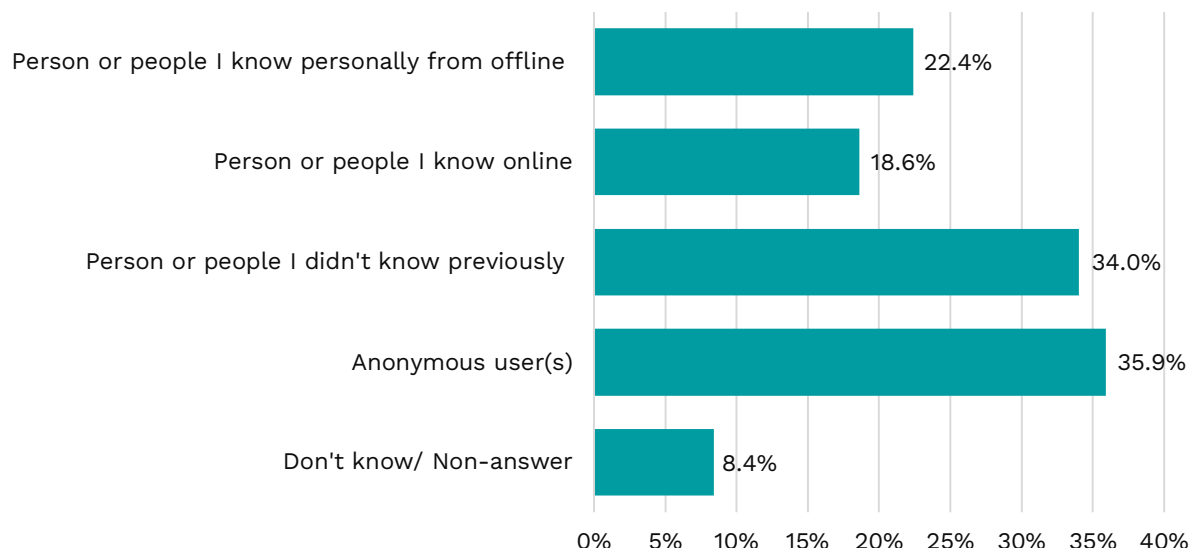
In terms of frequency of mentions, the category of anonymous users (35.9%) is the most often indicated, followed very closely by previously unknown persons (34.0%) (Figure 11). This distribution suggests a significant role of anonymity in facilitating violent behaviors. Anonymity functions as a mechanism to reduce normative constraints and the social costs of aggression, allowing the manifestation of behaviors that would be less likely in contexts of face-to-face interaction.

This finding is constantly supported by the accounts of women interviewed, who described the difficulty of identifying the perpetrator and the feeling of helplessness generated by the lack of a clear face or identity: *"I didn't know who he was. Profile*

21 Given that the question allowed for the multiple selection of response options, data do not describe an exclusive profile of the perpetrator, but capture variable configurations of actors who may be simultaneously or successively involved in the production of digital violence. Therefore, the results should be interpreted as indicating types of perpetrators and contexts of violence, not as a rigid or exhaustive typology.

without a picture, without a name. This scares you the most, because you don't know where it comes from" (IIA_S_6); "When he's anonymous, he seems to have more courage. He wrote things that he certainly wouldn't say to her face" (IIA_S_3). Anonymity is not just a technical feature of platforms, but a symbolic resource of power, which amplifies the asymmetry between the perpetrator and the victim and makes reporting and sanctioning more difficult.

Figure 11. Types of perpetrators involved in digital violence experiences, %



A substantial proportion of respondents indicated the involvement of acquaintances, both offline (22.4%) and in the online environment (18.6%). The presence of these perpetrators highlights the relational and contextual dimension of digital violence, in which the aggression is exercised by actors who have information about the victim, have access to their social networks and can mobilize resources for control or intimidation. At the same time, this differentiation shows that the border between online and offline is permeable, and digital violence can represent either an escalation of existing tensions or a continuation of control and conflict in real relationships.

In in-depth individual interviews, women frequently described situations where digital violence occurred in relational contexts already marked by power imbalance: *"I knew him. After we broke up, he started on the internet. It seems like it never ends" (IIA_S_4); "He was not a stranger. He was someone I had talked to before, he knew a lot about me" (IIA_S_1).*

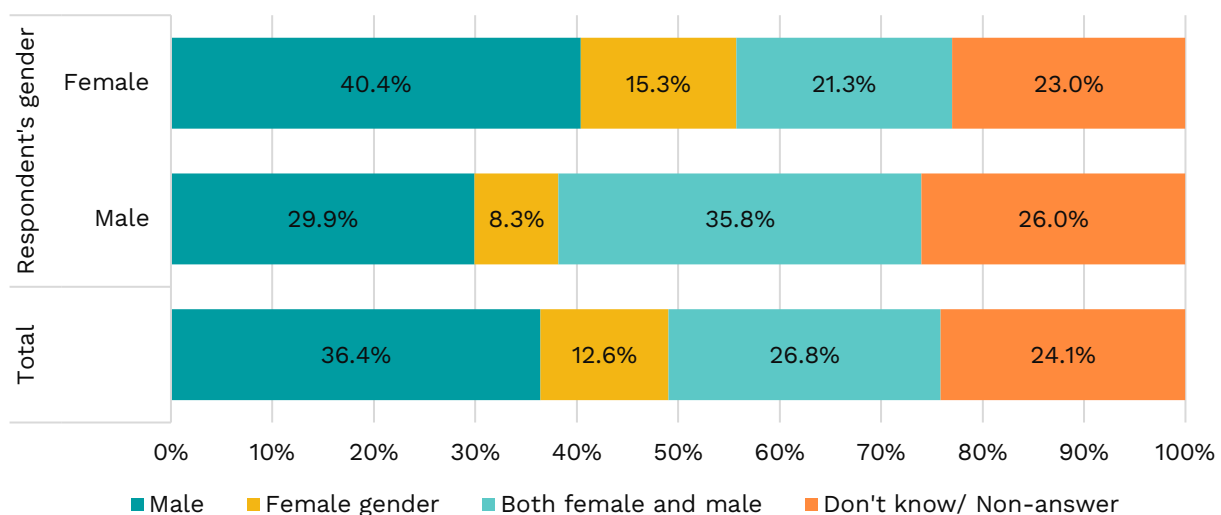
These experiences indicate that digital violence must be understood as a complex phenomenon, in which anonymity is a facilitating factor, and pre-existing relationships represent frameworks for escalation and continuity of abuse. This approach has direct implications for the intervention, suggesting the need for differentiated responses that address both the technological dimension of anonymity and the relational dynamics of gender-based violence in the digital environment.

Quantitative data reveal clear differences in perceptions between women and men of what is considered digital violence in relationships, which are influenced by

social norms and gender stereotypes. Women more frequently indicate anonymity (38.4%) and known offline perpetrators (26.1%), while men more often mention perpetrators known only online (27.0%) (Annex 1, Table 39). This difference suggests that for women, digital violence is experienced simultaneously from 2 perspectives: the impersonal one, marked by anonymity and diffuse threat, and the personal one, connected to real relationships, which amplifies the perception of risk and vulnerability. The interviews confirm this overlapping of registers: *"Sometimes you don't even know what's worse – when you don't know who he is or when you know very well who he is"* (IIA_R_2).

Overall, the gender profile of the digital violence perpetrator is male - 36.4% of respondents indicated male perpetrators, compared to 12.6% - female perpetrators. At the same time, a significant share (26.8%) considers that perpetrators can be both women and men, and 24.1% cannot appreciate it (Figure 12).

Figure 12. Gender of the perpetrator in the digital environment, %



The differences between respondents are relevant: women identify a male gender pattern more clearly (40.4%) and indicate female aggressors more often (15.3%), while men tend to attribute violence more frequently to a mixed profile (35.8%). This difference suggests that women perceive digital violence more often as a gender-structured phenomenon, while men interpret it more as a generalized, diffuse behavior.

In the qualitative research, women interviewed described the perpetrators almost exclusively as men, especially in cases of control, threat and repetitive harassment: *"It was a man. And the messages were exactly about control, about what I am allowed and what I am not"* (IIA_S_3).

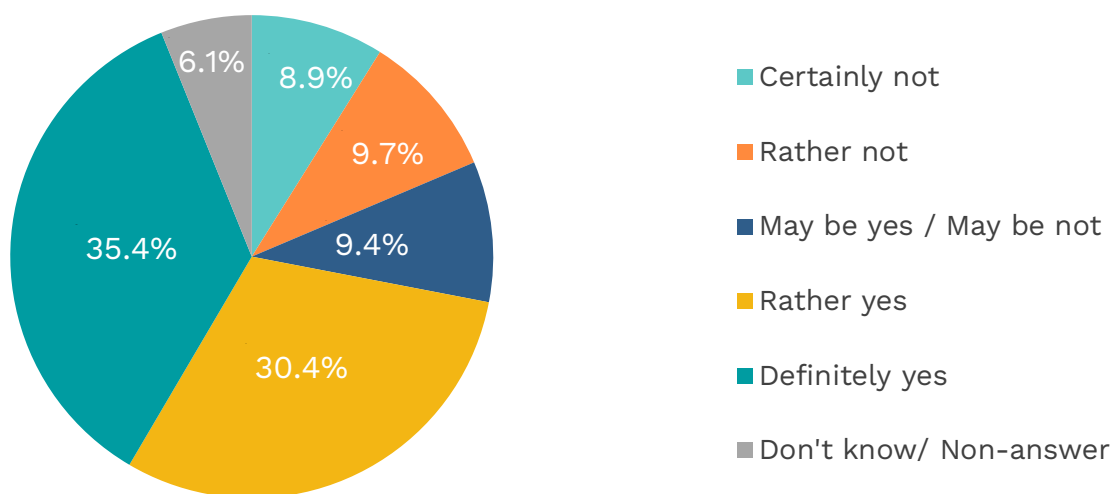
The profile of the perpetrator outlined by the research data indicates a digital violence located between anonymity and proximity, between impersonal abuse and violence connected with real relationships. Anonymity facilitates bullying by reducing social costs, while known bullies (online or offline) bring digital violence into a deeply relational environment with greater potential for escalation and impact.

The dominant perception is that perpetrators are more frequently men, but the existence of an area of ambiguity (mixed profile, response options: *don't know/non-answer*) indicates that digital violence is a complex phenomenon, which cannot be reduced to one single type.

2.7. Reporting

At the declarative level, quantitative data indicate a relatively high willingness to report digital violence, but this willingness is marked by important nuances of ambivalence. Cumulatively, 70.0% of respondents say they would report a case of digital violence if they became victims, but the internal distribution shows that a significant part of this segment is in the area of conditional intention (yes – 34.6%) rather than firm decision (*certainly yes* – 35.4%) (Figure 13). This difference is sociologically relevant, as it indicates that reporting is perceived as context-dependent, not an automatic reflex. In addition, the existence of a core of indecision – 9.4% who oscillate between yes and no and 6.1% who cannot appreciate – suggests a high potential for underreporting in concrete situations, especially when emotional or institutional barriers arise.

Figure 13. Availability to report cases of digital violence, %



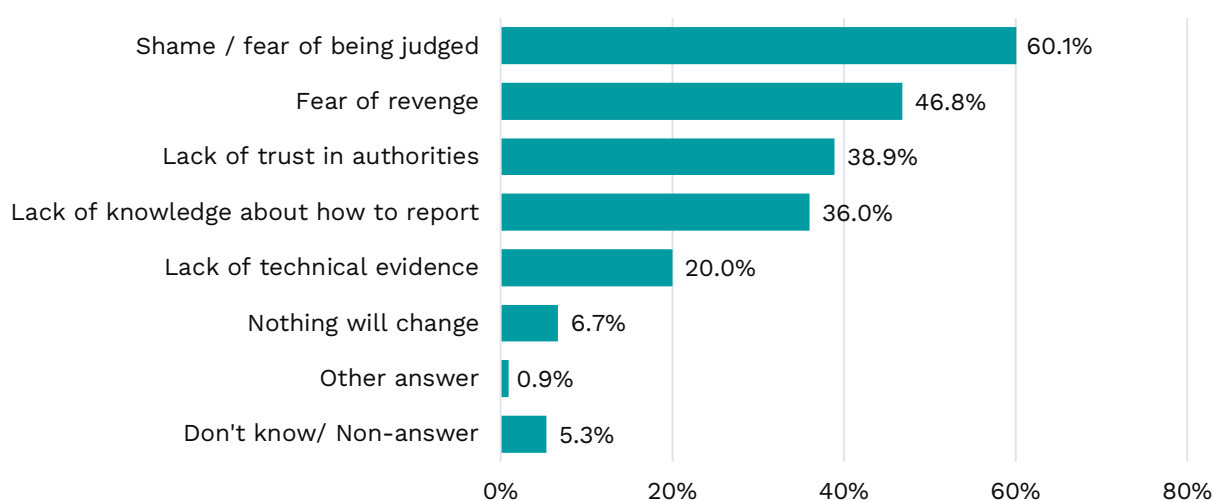
The analysis by socio-demographic segments confirms that the availability of reporting is not evenly distributed. Women are more willing than men to report, but, paradoxically, they are even more critical of the effectiveness of protection. Young respondents (18–29 years old) are more polarized. Although they are the most exposed to digital violence, they more frequently mentioned the rejection of reporting (*certainly not* – 18.8%). Women who have been victims or witnesses of digital violence (10.8% and 11.1%, respectively), as well as those who are unmarried or widowed/divorced (21.9% and 14.3%, respectively) were also less willing to report. Last but not least, we highlight that the availability of reporting is the lowest among the population with a low socioeconomic status (14.2%) (Annex 4, Table 17). These data suggest a tension between high exposure and distrust in the usefulness of reporting.

Qualitative data confirm this ambivalence. Many women describe reporting not as an act of protection, but as a risky, uncertain, and emotionally costly process: *"You think ten times before you go. It's not that you don't want to report, but you ask yourself: What's next? If people found out ? If it turns against me?"* (IIA_S_6).

The underreporting of digital violence is explained, in quantitative data, by a complex of interdependent factors, in which the emotional dimension is dominant (Figure 14). The main obstacle identified is shame and fear of judgment (60.1%), which indicates the persistence of a social climate in which responsibility is, implicitly, shifted to the victim. Reporting thus becomes a form of secondary public exposure, not a sure path to protection.

The second major factor is fear of revenge (46.8%). This fear is particularly relevant in the context of digital violence, where the abuser may remain anonymous, return to other accounts, or escalate abuse. From this perspective, violence is not perceived as a completed event, but as a process with the potential for continuity. The institutional dimension completes the picture - almost four out of ten respondents indicate a lack of trust in the authorities (38.9%), as well as a lack of knowledge about how to report (36.0%). These data suggest that, beyond emotional barriers, there is also a deficit of procedural clarity and institutional legitimacy.

Figure 14. Causes of underreporting of cases of digital violence, %



In-depth one-on-one interviews with women turn these figures into concrete experiences. Many described the relationship with institutions as discouraging, bureaucratic or even disabling: *"They told us that it is not something serious, that they are just messages. But for me they weren't just messages. There was fear, there was control, there was permanent stress"* (IIA_S_5). In more complex cases, the lack of a clear answer or the delay in solving amplifies the feeling of helplessness: *"I had evidence, I had messages, threats, everything. And yet the case was closed without a solution. This makes you wonder: why report?"* (IIA_S_4).

There were also some relevant particularities on sociodemographic categories regarding the causes of underreporting:

- Women more often indicate lack of confidence (41.0% versus 36.2%) and fear of revenge (49.5% versus 43.2%), and men lack of knowledge (38.1% versus 34.4%) and lack of inaction – nothing will change (8.7% versus 5.2%).
- In females aged 18–29 and 30–44 years, the reasons for distrust are more pronounced (45.4% and 46.3%), the lack of technical evidence (28.0% at 30–44 years). And in women aged +60, the fear of revenge (57.1%) and lack of knowledge (42.9%) are higher.
- Unmarried women more often invoke distrust (46.5%) and lack of evidence (29.0%), while widowed/divorced women are distinguished by a very high fear of revenge (59.0%) and the lowest level of shame (47.4%).
- In rural areas, shame is more present (61.2% versus 58.0%) and especially fear of revenge (51.8% versus 37.8%), while in urban areas there is an emphasis on evidence (24.8% versus 17.3%).

The research data, both quantitative and qualitative, indicate that reporting cannot be stimulated solely through information, but requires a coherent support ecosystem that reduces the risks perceived by the victim. Firstly, the reporting system must be clear, predictable and accessible. The lack of knowledge about procedures (36.0%) shows that the existing mechanisms are not sufficiently visible or understandable to the general public. The reporting must be accompanied by clear explanations of the steps, victim's rights and possible outcomes. Secondly, the dimension of protection against coercion from perpetrators is essential. The fear of revenge constantly appears in women's discourse, especially in cases of repetitive harassment or digital control: *"If you report, you have to know that someone protects you afterwards. Otherwise, you are left alone with fear"* (IIA_R_2). Thirdly, psychological support and specialized counseling appear as key elements. For many women, digital violence has severe emotional effects, and the decision to report is directly related to the ability to cope with stress and anxiety: *"I wouldn't have gone any further if I didn't have someone to talk to. The psychologist helped me understand that it was not my fault"* (IIA_S_7).

A cross-cutting element that emerges from the data analysis is the fact that reporting digital violence is not perceived as a simple administrative act, but as a symbolically charged social process. For many women, reporting means visibly assuming victim status, with the risks of stigma and self-blame that come with it. At the same time, negative reporting experiences produce a collective discouraging effect – women who have gone through such situations become more skeptical of the usefulness of reporting, influencing other women on their social networks as well. In this regard, reporting must be understood not only as individual responsibility, but as an indicator of the functioning of the social protection system. The level of reporting reflects not only the courage of the victims, but also the degree of trust in a system that should support them.

Actions to protect against digital violence, in the opinion of the survey participants, first of all, must be oriented towards reducing personal exposure and protecting data, indicating an internalization of the idea that online safety depends, to a

large extent, on self-protection. Thus, 71.7% of respondents indicated as essential measures to avoid the publication of information that allows to identify the location, and 70.2% - not to communicate personal contact data, such as phone number or email address. Setting profiles as private (61.9%) also appears as a central recommendation (Figure 15).

Figure 15. Actions of protection against digital violence, %



This focus on visibility control confirms observations in interviews, where women describe withdrawal, self-censorship, and restriction of online presence as necessary coping strategies, not as free choices. At the same time, these recommendations indicate a disproportionate responsibility of victims, who come to perceive prevention as the main form of protection available.

Also, the respondents' opinions highlight the ability to react and prove. 61.3% of respondents consider it important to report to authorities or legal institutions, and 60.9% - to preserve evidence of digital violence. This result is significant because it shows that, at the declarative level, reporting is recognized as a legitimate solution, but it comes into tension with the data on real behaviors, where actually reporting to authorities is at a very low rate.

This discrepancy suggests that the problem is not the lack of awareness, but the perceived costs of reporting – emotional, procedural and social, which is confirmed by qualitative interviews. The recommendation to preserve evidence thus appears not only as technical advice, but as a reaction to the perception that without sufficient evidence, institutional support is unlikely.

Last but not least, quantitative data show a consistent valuation of informal and community support. 53.7% of respondents recommend immediately reporting people who make you uncomfortable in the digital environment, 52.3% - discussing the situation with people in your close circle and 51.4% - informing other people online about the perpetrator. These results confirm the tendency of women to first seek validation and support in personal networks, before turning to formal channels. From the perspective of women interviewed, this type of support is perceived as more emotionally secure and less at risk of judgment or minimization.

2.8. The impact of digital violence

Digital violence rarely produces immediate material effects, but it does generate persistent emotional and social costs that shape behaviors, relationships, and the perception of personal safety.

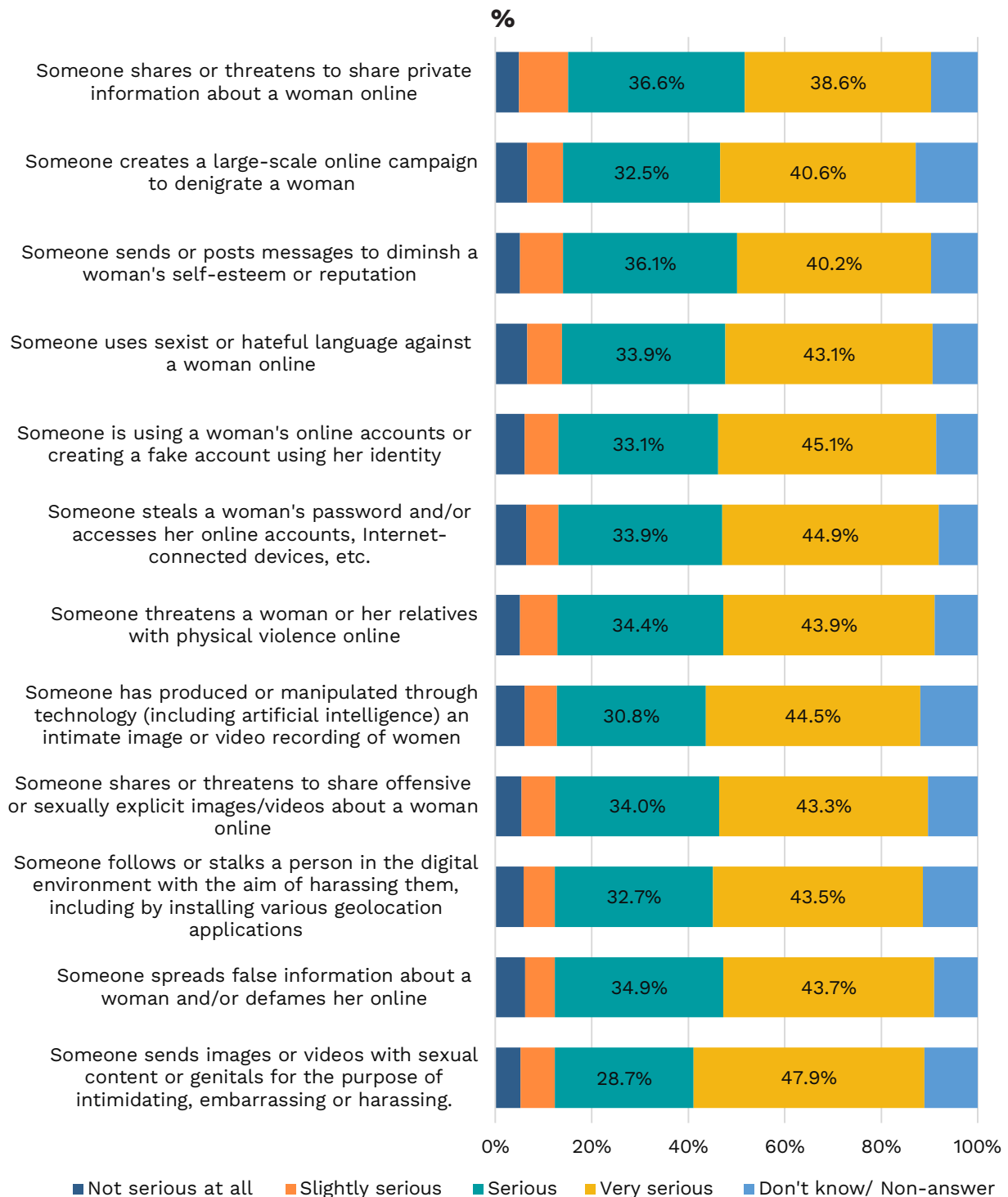
Participants described online violence as predominantly psychological, but with profound and lasting effects. Unlike physical violence, which is seen as limited in time, online violence is described as persistent and difficult to overcome: *"Psychologically it is more serious. Physically it goes away, but mentally it can stay for life. Online it's also psychic"* (IIA_R_1). This comparison appears spontaneously in the discourse and indicates that women do not perceive online violence as *"lighter"* or *"less real"*, but, to the contrary, as a form that can have a deeper emotional impact precisely because it is continuous, public and difficult to control. Regardless of the concrete form, digital violence is associated with serious emotional consequences on women, and the anticipated impact was described by respondents as *generally* quite a lot or *very much* (Figure 16). Thus, sending images or videos with sexual content or genitals, used for the purpose of intimidating, embarrassing or harassing, is perceived as having the most severe impact, with 47.9% of respondents appreciating it as *very serious*. By comparison, sharing or threatening to share private information about a woman is perceived as having a relatively lower impact, although it remains significant, suggesting a hierarchy of forms of abuse according to the intensity of associated emotional harm.

Also, the perception of the impact of materials produced or handled through technology, including artificial intelligence, is considered by 44.5% of respondents to be *very serious*. This assessment places such practices at a level of severity comparable to or even higher than online smear campaigns and the distribution of private information, indicating an increase in awareness of the emerging risks associated with the digital manipulation of women's identity and image. These perceptions suggest that research participants perceive these behaviors not as an online incident, but as a real threat to personal integrity, privacy, and safety.

The overall impact of digital violence is seen primarily as a combination of self-protection strategies and psycho-emotional costs, rather than as direct material effects. The most common reaction is one of blocking communication channels

(41.1%), which confirms that the first response is to immediately reduce exposure and limit the perpetrator's access. Also in the same logic of self-protection is the creation of a new/private profile (16.8%), the reporting of behavior on the platform (13.3%) and, in fewer cases, more radical measures such as changing the phone number (9.5%) or even giving up the respective online platform (6.0%) (Figure 17).

Figure 16. Assessing the impact of different forms of digital violence on women, %



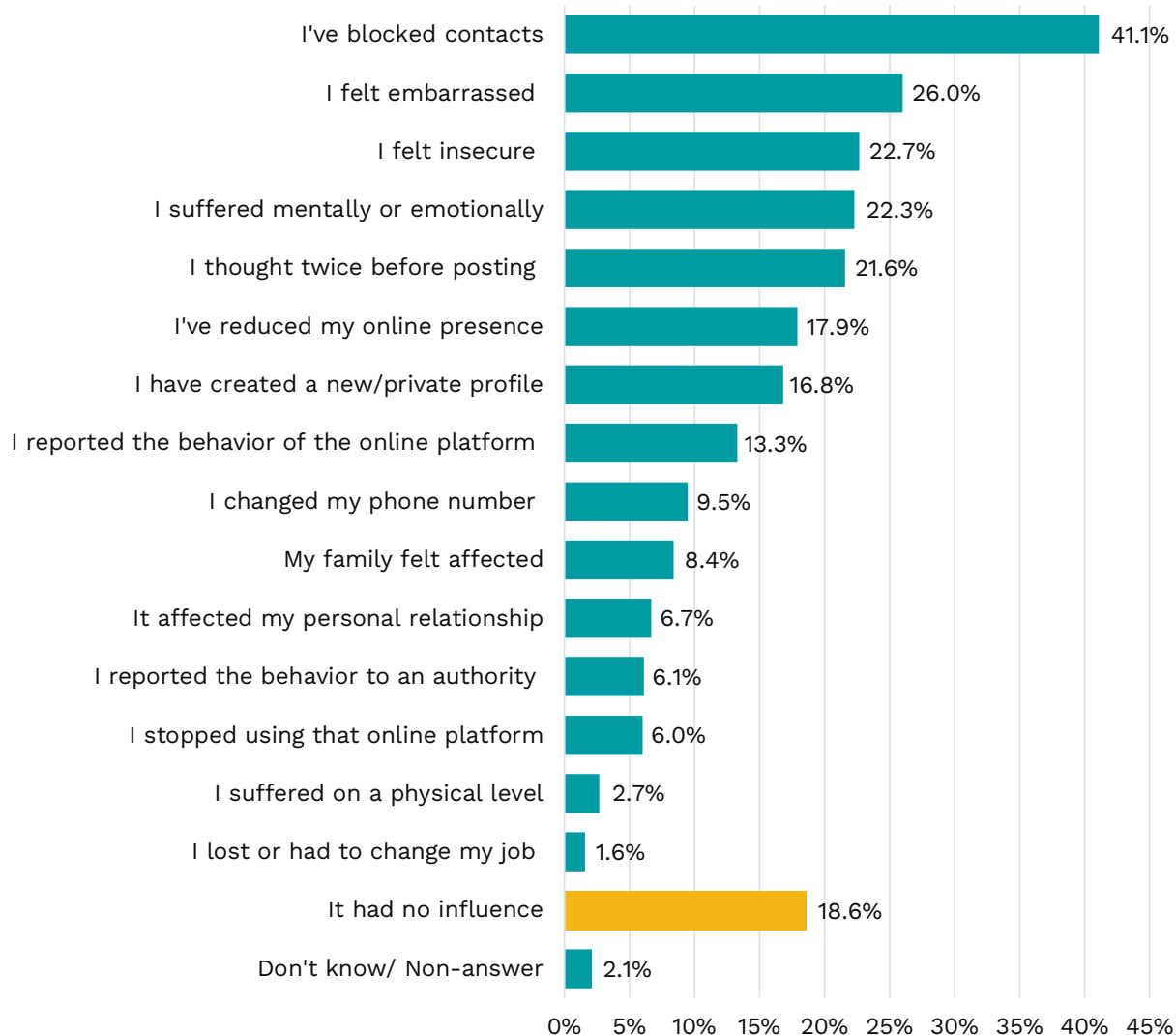
Emotional impact is the most obvious component of the experience of digital violence. A significant proportion of victims reported direct negative feelings: 26.0% felt offended, 22.7% indicated a marked feeling of insecurity, and 22.3% mentioned mental or emotional distress (Figure 17). These results indicate that digital violence

is not perceived as a simple communication incident, but as a threat to personal identity and safety.

In in-depth individual interviews, women frequently described digital violence as an experience that *"infiltrates"* everyday life, producing constant anxiety, hypervigilance, and emotional exhaustion: *"It wasn't just when I went online. I was thinking all the time: Will he write again? Will there be anything else?"* (IIA_S_7).

For some women, the feeling of insecurity is amplified by the unpredictable nature of the aggression – the anonymity of the perpetrator, the possibility of reappearance under other accounts, the lack of control over the dissemination of content: *"The hardest thing is that you don't know when it stops. Even if you block it, it pops up again"* (IIA_S_1). This uncertainty explains why, even in cases where episodes are perceived as *"rare"*, the emotional impact can be disproportionate and long-lasting.

Figure 17. Impact of digital violence on the victim, %



An essential indicator of the social impact is the fact that some of the victims reported *"no longer knowing out of fear who they can trust"*. This loss of trust is not limited to online interactions, but extends to social relationships in general. Digital violence thus produces an erosion of social capital, affecting women's ability to feel

safe in their relationships. The qualitative stories clearly capture this dimension: *"After that, you seem to see everyone differently. You wonder who it was, who said, who distributed?"* (IIA_S_5).

In some cases, this distrust extends even to the close circle, especially when the aggression takes place in small communities or is related to people I know: *"I no longer had the courage to speak openly even with people close to me. I thought that maybe they would judge too"* (IIA_S_4).

Another major impact of digital violence is the restriction of social and digital participation. Almost one in five victims (17.9%) indicated that they had reduced their online presence, confirming the existence of a withdrawal and self-limitation mechanism. Most of the time, this reaction does not imply the complete abandonment of the digital space, but a more cautious, less visible and more self-censored participation: *"I had Facebook until a certain point, when I gave birth to the little girl. I often put her photos on the internet. And men wrote to me, men I did not know wrote to me... And I was really scared and deleted. I also deleted pictures of the child and everything. And now I don't put any more photos"* (IIA_R_6); *"He was writing to me, I blocked him, he created another account and he kept writing to me... Then he started writing comments under pictures and again I blocked him and in the end I deleted that account"* (IIA_R_7). However, there are also situations when women have totally abandoned the digital environment: *"... I don't have anything left, not even Facebook, just Viber, WhatsApp"* (IIA_R_4).

Although less frequently reported, the impact of digital violence also extends to close relationships. 8.4% of the victims mentioned that family felt affected, and 6.7% indicated the deterioration of personal relationships. These effects suggest that digital violence can generate tensions, conflicts, and secondary stress in the family circle.

In in-depth individual interviews, some women described the difficulty of explaining or justifying the experience to their family: *"My parents didn't understand why it affected me so much. For them they were just messages"* (IIA_R_1). This lack of understanding can exacerbate the feeling of isolation and reduce access to informal support.

Although digital violence is often perceived as a personal phenomenon, data show that there is a real impact on women's professional life, even if it is reported by a smaller segment. Quantitatively, 1.6% of victims said they had lost their job or had to change it as a result of digital violence. Although the percentage is low, the sociological significance is high because it indicates that digital violence produces structural consequences, with direct effects on economic security and professional status.

Beyond the actual loss of employment, the professional impact is more frequently manifested through psychological pressure, impaired concentration and reputational damage. In interviews, women described difficulties in maintaining

their professional performance when digital violence overlaps with work activity or becomes known in the professional environment: *"I was going to work already mentally tired. I couldn't work normally anymore, I was just thinking about whether something else would appear"* (IIA_S_7).

In cases where the bullying involved sharing of compromising information or images, women reported fear of educational or professional stigma and the risk of digital violence being interpreted as a personal image issue, not abuse: *"I was afraid that it would reach colleagues. At that moment it doesn't matter that you are a victim, the world judges you"* (IIA_S_4). This kind of indirect impact – professional self-censorship, avoidance of exposure, withdrawal from interactions – is difficult to quantify, but it constantly appears in qualitative discourses.

The economic impact of digital violence is less visible in quantitative data, but not absent. In addition to losing their job (1.6%), some women mentioned costs associated with self-protection measures: changing their phone number (9.5%), creating new accounts or quitting platforms (6.0%) (Figure 16). These actions involve financial, time and effort costs. The interviews provide concrete examples of these invisible costs: *"I had to change my number, then all my contacts, all my applications. It doesn't seem like a big deal, but it's stress and money"* (IIA_S_6). For women with limited economic resources, these costs can become discouraging and increase vulnerability. Moreover, withdrawing from the online space or reducing the digital presence can have indirect economic consequences, especially for women who use the internet for work, promotion or sales.

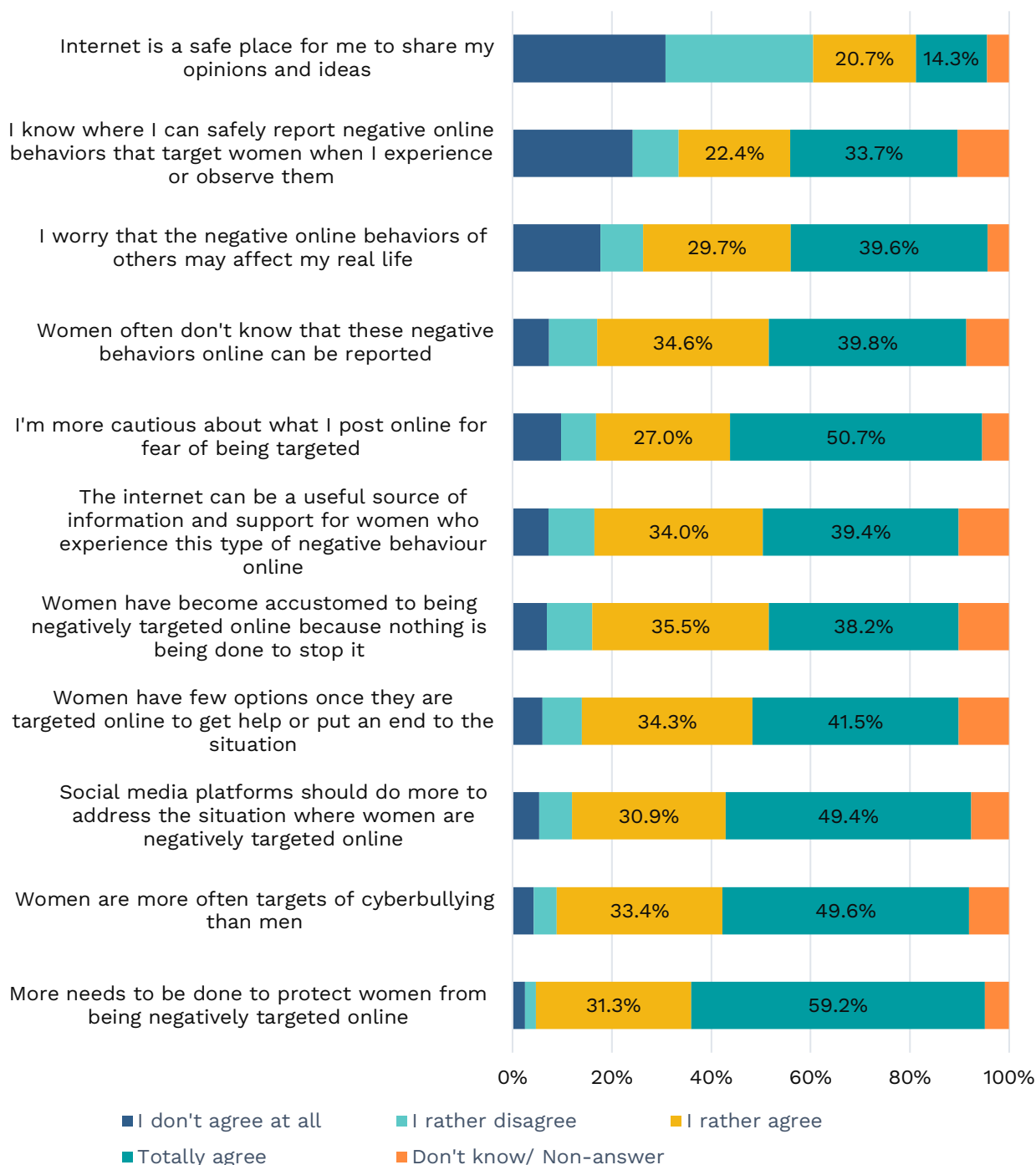
Although rare, the profound effects of digital violence cannot be ignored. 2.7% of victims mentioned suffering at the physical level, which indicates the existence of cases in which emotional stress translates into somatic symptoms - insomnia, pain, heightened anxiety. These situations confirm that digital violence does not remain limited to the virtual space, but can have effects on general health. The interviews clearly describe this transfer of impact from online to offline: *"I started not sleeping at night. My head hurt, I was always tense"* (IIA_R_3).

Views and attitudes towards digital violence support the views expressed regarding the impact of digital violence. 50.7% of respondents said they are more cautious about what they post online (*totally agree*), and 30.8% *do not agree at all* that internet is a safe space for expressing ideas and opinions. In the meantime, 73.7% believe that women have become accustomed to online violence, as nothing is being done to change it, (35.5% - *somewhat agree* and 38.2% - *totally agree*) which indicates a normalization of risk and a passive adaptation to an environment perceived as hostile (Figure 18). Interviews with women turn these trends into concrete experiences: *"I don't post anything personal anymore. Better to be silent than to go through it again"* (IIA_S_2). This perception points to a passive coping mechanism, in which violence is tolerated and response strategies move from confrontation to avoidance. As a result, the withdrawal has significant social implications, as it limits women's freedom of expression, visibility and their equal

participation in the digital public space.

So, the emotional and social impact of digital violence manifests itself through a combination of insecurity, stress, loss of confidence and social withdrawal. Although the direct economic and professional consequences are reported by a small segment, the cumulative effects on the emotional side, social relationships, digital participation and sense of security are widespread.

Figure 18. Views and positions on the phenomenon of digital violence, %



2.9. Coping

The research attests that in the absence of a firm perception of institutional protection, women's reactions to digital violence are predominantly oriented towards self-risk management. Coping does not appear as a strategy of confrontation or claiming rights, but as a set of cognitive and behavioral efforts to reduce exposure, aimed at restoring a minimum sense of control and security.

Women's first reaction to digital violence is one of limiting contact with the perpetrator, not reporting or formally seeking support. The most common action is blocking contacts (41.1%). These behaviors reflect a reactive and defensive coping strategy, centered on immediate solutions, perceived as accessible and controllable. In interviews, women described these reactions as almost automatic, instinctive, triggered by the urgent need to stop the aggression: *"The first thing was to block him. I didn't think twice. It was the only thing I could do on the spot"* (IIA_S_3).

Blocking, however, is not experienced as a definitive solution, but rather as a temporary one, especially in cases where the perpetrator returns under other accounts or through other channels: *"I blocked one, another appeared. Then you realize that it is no longer enough"* (IIA_S_6).

Self-restricting online behavior indicates a coping by avoidance strategy, in which protection is achieved by reducing visibility and exposure. This withdrawal is not, however, socially neutral. It involves symbolic costs – restricting participation, access to social spaces and expression: *"We don't post anything anymore. I felt that if I kept silent, I was safer"* (IIA_S_2).

The more cautious attitude towards what they post online is common and reveals an internalization of risk, in which the responsibility for safety is shifted almost entirely to women.

Beyond observable behaviors, coping also includes an important cognitive dimension. Interviews show that many women try to reinterpret the experience to make it bearable: minimization (*"it's not that serious"*), normalization (*"it happens to many"*) or shifting responsibility (*"maybe I wasn't careful enough"*). These cognitive efforts temporarily reduce stress, but contribute, in the long term, to the normalization of digital violence and to decreasing the likelihood of reporting or seeking support. Reporting to platforms (13.3%) or authorities (6.1%) appears as a secondary reaction, activated rather when avoidance and control strategies no longer work. This positioning in the chain of reactions is sociologically significant because it shows that reporting is not perceived as a first line of defense, but as a last option, associated with emotional costs and additional risks. The interviews confirm this gradual logic: *"I reported only after I saw that it didn't stop. Until then, I tried to manage it on my own"* (IIA_S_5).

At the same time, we highlight that some women perceive reporting on digital platforms as fast and accessible, with a greater degree of individual control and without direct interaction, which reduces the fear of social judgment: *"I reported on Facebook, because it was simple. I didn't even think about the police"* (IIA_S_6). However, both the quantitative data and the interviews underline the limited and temporary nature of this solution. Reporting, blocking, or privacy settings are understood as measures to reduce exposure, not as mechanisms for justice or accountability for the abuser: *"You block him, you report him, but that doesn't mean it's solved"* (IIA_S_2).

Overall, women's reactions to digital violence are dominated by defensive and individual strategies: blocking, withdrawal, self-censorship, and cognitive reinterpretation. These forms of coping reflect not women's lack of initiative, but rational adaptation to an environment perceived as insufficiently protective, in which direct confrontation or reporting is associated with additional risks.

After the immediate self-protection reactions, some of the women activate coping strategies oriented towards seeking support. However, the data indicate that this step is selective, often late and deeply conditioned by trust, accessibility and previous experiences. Support is not sought automatically, but after an assessment of the social and emotional risks associated with disclosure.

More than half of respondents believe that, in situations of digital violence, women should tell someone in their close circle – family, relatives or friends (52.3%) (Figure 15). This option reflects a perception of support as relational and emotional, not as a formal or legal process.

In-depth individual interviews reveal that the family is the first institution where most women affected by digital violence have sought help and support. Especially among young, unmarried girls, parents actively act to protect the child, mobilizing school and community resources – *"If I didn't have parents, I don't know what was going to happen. But with the support of my parents I got over it"* (IIA_S_3). The mother is often perceived as the person who understands and offers emotional security, even if she does not have the resources or knowledge to intervene on a legal or technical level: *"When I found out that he was much older, then I told the mother. My mother understood and supported me"* (IIA_S_6).

It is important to note that sometimes, even married women with children turn to their parents as the first source of support: *"The help of parents mattered a lot. They helped me physically, emotionally, mentally. I didn't even have the strength to get through the situation, I was also pregnant"* (IIA_S_1). Thus, disclosure to family is often the first step in *"getting out of isolation."* The support received is described mainly as emotional and validating, less often it is about providing tools or protection support.

However, this help is not always possible, as it is sometimes affected by traditional norms or by the relationships formed over the years between parents and children: *"Mother and father can sometimes be close, but if not, then 2-3 trusted people are needed..."* (IIA_S_7).

Some women described isolation from extended family, especially in contexts of severe violence or high risk. This isolation indicates not only the absence of support, but also the internalization of responsibility, with women choosing not to involve the family to avoid judgment, shame, or conflict. In the absence of family support perceived as effective, women tend to rely on friends, who are evaluated as more competent and less judgmental: *"There were people next to me who called me two or three times a day: Are you okay? Where are you?"* (IIA_S_7); *"I told a friend. I needed to hear that I wasn't crazy, that what was happening to me was real"* (IIA_S_2). These situations reflect a transition of trust from the traditional family to informal networks.

Thus, qualitative data indicate that the family plays an ambivalent role in the experiences of women affected by digital violence – it constitutes the first source of emotional support, but provides limited, often passive, rarely support tools. In specific cases, the family acts as an active protection factor, especially in relation to minors, but overall, family support is insufficient to respond to the complexity of digital violence, which determines women to seek external support.

Addressing formal support institutions in cases of digital violence appears as a marginal and predominantly reactive behavior, not as a natural first response option. This step is outlined as a selective, phased and profoundly conditioned process of trust, the evaluation of the emotional costs and the anticipation of the concrete usefulness of the intervention. Both quantitative and qualitative data indicate that formal support is rarely accessed and, in most cases, reactively, after individual coping strategies have been exhausted.

In interviews with women, the police are rarely mentioned as a support option. The fear of revictimization through exposure and repeated interviews makes reporting to police perceived as an additional risk, not as protection. Several women described contact with police as difficult to initiate without outside support from the CSO or friends: *"I wouldn't have gone there alone. I didn't even know where or what to say. It was as if I had to know everything beforehand"* (IIA_S_7). The lack of clear explanations regarding the next steps or evidence requirements are perceived as discouraging.

This uncertainty is also accompanied by the anticipation of a skeptical reaction, which minimizes situations of digital violence: *"I had the impression that I had to explain why it affected me. As if I had to prove that it is bad"* (IIA_S_6). Such experiences often lead to the abandonment of active strategies and the strengthening of institutional avoidance. Police appears rather as a symbolic institution of sanctioning, not as a space for immediate protection or emotional

support, which drastically limits the likelihood of direct reporting.

The justice system is even less present in the real coping pathways of affected women. In qualitative data, courts are perceived as distant and difficult to access, dependent on a large volume of technical evidence and associated with long duration, emotional effort and uncertainty of the result: *"There you already have to have evidence, documents, to know what you are doing. If not, you get lost"* (IIA_S_7).

For many women, justice is seen as a space where the responsibility for evidence is transferred almost entirely to the victim, and the lack of specialized legal support amplifies the feeling of powerlessness. In this context, the avoidance of interaction with justice does not reflect passivity, but a rational assessment of the cost-benefit ratio, in which the risk of emotional exhaustion and lack of control over the process outweigh the anticipated benefits.

Unlike state institutions, CSOs specialized in providing protection and assistance to women, appear in interviews as central points of trust and safety. Specialized services offered by the International Center "La Strada" were mentioned as an important and reliable reference, especially for women who have had negative experiences with institutions or who fear stigmatization. Women described these services as spaces of validation and non-judgment, where experience is recognized without being questioned: *"At the organization I felt safe. No one judged me there"* (IIA_S_1).

At the same time, CSOs are perceived as clear and adapted sources of information, which reduce the confusion and anxiety associated with formal procedures. An essential role is that of intermediation, through which the pressure of direct interaction with the institutions is diminished: *"I didn't have the power to talk to everyone. It helped me that someone took the steps for me"* (IIA_S_7).

This form of delegation does not indicate withdrawal, but an adaptive strategy of preserving emotional resources, frequently encountered in situations of high stress. Positive experiences with CSOs can work as catalysts for the subsequent activation of formal strategies (reporting, complaints), where they are considered feasible: *"When you go to the 'La Strada' Center, you have this support, there are people with a temperament appropriate for this job. You don't feel that at the government institutions"* (IIA_S_6).

The evaluation of support experience is deeply polarized. When interaction provides empathy, validation, and procedural clarity, women describe support as stabilizing and regaining control: *"When someone has made it clear to you that it's not your fault, it's like a weight is lifted from your shoulders"* (IIA_S_4). On the other hand, experiences perceived as formal, rushed or skeptical, amplify helplessness and reinforce avoidance: *"I left more confused than when I came. It was as if I had to prove that I deserve help"* (IIA_S_1).

Overall, reaching out for support in the context of digital violence is not a single act, but a relational and layered process, in which women test different channels depending on the level of risk, available resources and previous experiences. The quality of support received thus becomes a central determinant of the transition from passive coping (avoidance, withdrawal) to active coping and resilience.

The positive experiences of support, although few and present, in particular, in the assistance provided by CSOs, outline some recurrent good practices, relevant for the development of future services:

- Active listening, without interruptions, judgments or relativization. Women appreciate spaces where they can speak about the experience in full, without having to defend themselves or justify themselves: *"It was for the first time that I was able to say everything head to tail, without anyone stopping me with questions like: Why didn't you do it differently?"* (IIA_S_5).
- Accompaniment, not just information. Support is perceived as significant when it includes concrete help in navigating procedures – drafting a referral, explaining terms, or simply being present in interaction with institutions.
- Lack of temporal pressure. Women describe as positive, situations in which they have been allowed to postpone decisions, come back later or change strategy, without being blamed for hesitation.

Quantitative and qualitative data converge towards the same conclusion – interaction with state institutions is perceived as difficult, unpredictable and often discouraging. This perception is not the result of an isolated incident, but is cumulatively constructed, through direct experiences, other women's accounts and negative anticipations related to how institutions react to violence that leaves no visible physical traces.

In addition to some positive experiences of support, women affected by digital violence also highlighted challenges they faced. One of the most frequently mentioned challenges is minimizing the experience, especially in situations where digital violence does not involve explicit threats of physical or sexual violence. Interviews show that women often feel that they have to *"justify"* their suffering and demonstrate the seriousness of the emotional or social impact: *"I felt like I had to explain why it affected me. As if this had to be justified"* (IIA_S_7). This minimization is all the more problematic as quantitative data show that the impact of digital violence is socially recognized as severe, but this recognition does not automatically translate into institutional practices sensitive to the psycho-emotional dimension of the phenomenon.

A second major challenge is the transfer of responsibility to the victim, which appears in the form of implicit questions or suggestions such as *"Why didn't you block?"*, *"Why did you answer?"*, *"Why did you continue the communication?"* This type of reaction is felt by women as a form of secondary blame, which shifts attention from the perpetrator's behavior to the victim's behaviors. In terms of coping, this mechanism weakens trust in institutions and discourages taking an

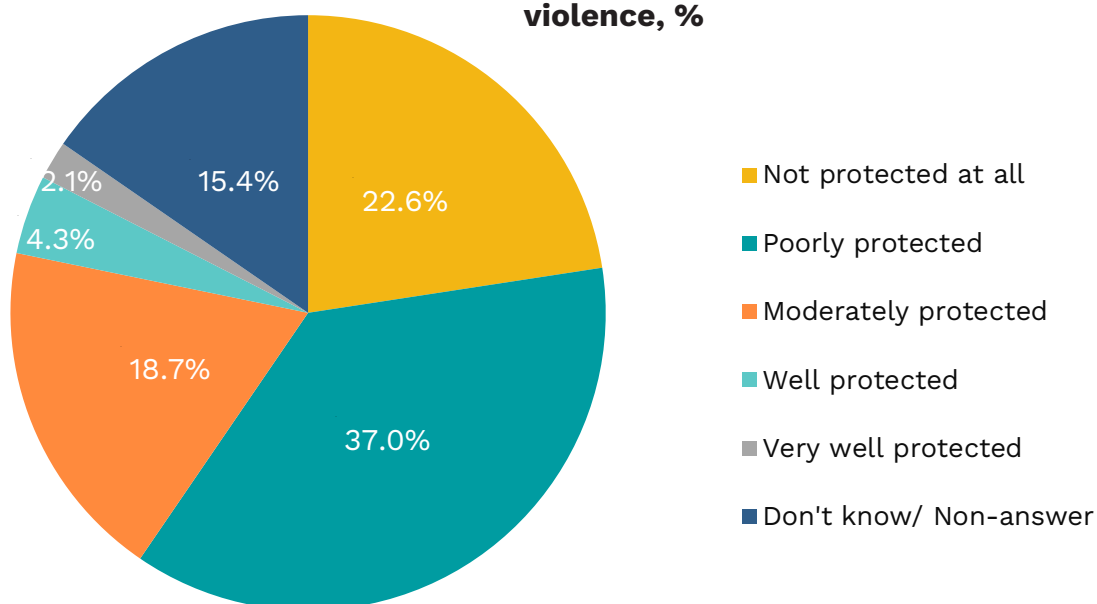
active role in reporting.

A third category of difficulties, frequently mentioned in interviews, is the lack of procedural clarity and the fragmentation of institutional responsibilities. Women describe confusion about fundamental questions: where to turn, which institution is competent, what evidence is needed and what the next steps are. This lack of procedural clarity amplifies anxiety and the feeling of unpreparedness for institutional interaction, especially in the context of an already high emotional vulnerability.

These concrete experiences are not without consequences for subsequent behaviors. For many women, they confirm negative expectations about institutions and reinforce their avoidance in the future: *"After I was there once and they didn't take me seriously, I didn't even think about going back"* (IIA_S_6). Thus, problematic institutional interactions not only fail to offer protection, but become an additional deterrent, contributing to underreporting and directing women towards individual or informal coping strategies.

What was found in interviews explains why the general perception of protection offered to women in the face of digital violence is predominantly negative. 37.2% of respondents consider that women are offered *little protection* and 22.6% - are saying that they are not protected at *all* and positive evaluations are marginal (Figure 19). The research data attest to some gender particularities in assessing the degree of protection of women against digital violence. Women are more critical and report higher levels of perceived vulnerability - 25.8% consider that they are not at *all protected* and 41.9% are *less protected*, than men - 18.4% - *not at all* and 30.6% - *little protection* (Annex 4, Table 16). Interviews reveal that this appreciation not only reflects individual experiences, but also those of other women, which contributes to a general climate of mistrust: *"I have heard from others that nothing has been resolved. That makes you think twice"* (IIA_S_3).

Figure 19. Assessment of the degree of protection of women against digital violence, %



Research data allowed the identification of 3 dominant types of coping²², which are not mutually exclusive, but can coexist or succeed over time:

- **Active coping. At least 45–50% of victims use at least one coping strategy** – blocking, reporting on the platform, collecting evidence, reporting to CSOs or institutions, changing security settings. This type occurs more frequently among women who receive informed support or who have access to resources (digital education, organisational support);
- **Passive/avoidant coping** is the most widespread at the social level, manifesting itself through withdrawal, self-censorship and institutional avoidance, being **explicitly present in almost 18% of victims and latent in 30–50% of the female population active online**. Although often labeled negatively, this type of coping represents a rational strategy for preserving emotional resources, in a context perceived as unsafe.
- **Coping geared towards resilience**²³ - Women manage to integrate the experience of digital violence into a process of personal reconstruction and regaining control. It involves combining emotional support, information and redefining the relationship with technology: *"I'm not the same as I used to, but now I know how to protect myself and I don't feel guilty anymore"* (IIA_S_1).

The coping of women affected by digital violence reflects not only individual resources and strategies, but also the quality of the social and institutional response. The dominance of defensive and avoidance strategies indicates a context in which protection is perceived as insufficient and confrontation as risky. In this regard, coping becomes an indirect indicator of the limits of the protection system and of the need for integrated interventions, which would reduce the pressure of individual adaptation and restore trust in collective support mechanisms.

22 The share of coping types can NOT be calculated directly, but has only been analytically estimated, by grouping reported reactions and behaviors. This means that the percentages will NOT add up to 100% and that they indicate the presence of strategies, not exclusive types of people.

23 It could not be quantified based on quantitative data and is documented exclusively through qualitative analysis, where it appears as a process of transformation and regaining control.

III. SOCIAL NORMS AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS DIGITAL VIOLENCE

"It's hard to go to the police when it comes to something like this, it's a lot of shame"

"Maybe I would write a message in private, but I wouldn't get involved publicly"

"If everyone is silent, the perpetrator wins"

"Education about digital violence is very important..."

As part of the research, 4 scenarios with different forms of digital violence were developed and subsequently discussed in focus group meetings with women and specialists. Scenario-based focus group discussions allowed for an understanding of social norms and attitudes towards digital violence among women and specialists. The scenario analysis highlights how different forms of digital violence are recognized, interpreted and managed socially and institutionally, as well as the tensions between the perceived victim experience and the formal frameworks of intervention.

3.1. Perceptions and reactions to the non-consensual sharing of intimate images in relationships

Scenario 1 (Box 1) addresses a form of digital violence that combines several dimensions of abuse – sexual, psychological and coercive – manifested through the non-consensual distribution of intimate images, blackmail and post-separation control.

Box 1. Non-consensual sharing of intimate images in relationships (scenario 1)

Olga (27 years old) lived a violent marriage. After separating, she met Sergiu. Gradually he became toxic because he always controlling her. Olga suspected that something was wrong, she saw him being aggressive.

Olga told him that they were separating. After Sergiu's departure, she came across a video of her making sex to Sergiu, on social networks. Sex was voluntary, and it happened during cohabitation. However. Olga did not know that some of it was secretly recorded.

At the same time, Olga received messages from Sergiu: "You decide when I stop", "What did you decide? Are you going to make me happy today? Or should I continue?" Olga also received gifts at home, nicely wrapped boxes, and threatening messages inside.

Olga perceived Sergiu's intention to return, in exchange for him not posting the intimate images. But she always refused any compromise. Distributing photos and videos to her relatives and bosses was Sergiu's next step.

After receiving messages and videos, Olga's management insisted that the young woman resign voluntarily.

Understanding and interpreting the form of digital violence

Both women and specialists almost unanimously recognized the situation described as a form of violence. Among women, especially younger participants (18-25 years old), the recognition of violence was firm and direct, being explicitly associated with the lack of consent and the abusive nature of the distribution of intimate images. Participants stressed that the recording without the victim's knowledge and the subsequent use of materials as a tool of blackmail is a serious violation of personal boundaries and fundamental rights: *"It is clearly a form of abuse, since he made the videos without her consent and put them online"* (FG_1_F).

In the group of women aged 26-50, although the situation was also qualified as violence, they referred more frequently to the relationship context and the difficulty of anticipating risk when the perpetrator was an intimate partner. Some participants emphasized the unpredictable nature of violence in relationships of trust: *"When this a close person, you don't think that he can do something like this... it is difficult to prevent"* (FG_2_F).

Among specialists, the interpretation of the situation as violence was unanimous, but formulated in a language anchored in legal and procedural criteria. Both the specialists from the multidisciplinary community team and those from the specialized services identified the non-consensual distribution of intimate images as a form of violence and blackmail, emphasizing its role in the continuation of coercive control after separation: *"Here we see very clearly manipulation and blackmail, it is violence, even if it happens online"* (FG_1_S). At the same time, specialists stressed that the seriousness of the situation is often assessed in terms of the possibility of proving the fact: *"For the intervention, it matters a lot if there is clear evidence and if the lack of consent can be proved"* (FG_2_S).

Perception of responsibility

The analysis of discussions in this section revealed important differences between groups in the way they assigned responsibility. Participating women identified the

perpetrator as the main responsible, but, especially in the group of women aged 26-50, there were some who indirectly transfer part of the responsibility to the victim, through references to the choice of partner or to warning signs that *"these could have been seen."* These formulations did not take the form of directly putting the blame, but rather of strategies of explanation and prevention, indicating the internalization of social norms that place on women the task of anticipating and managing relationship risks: *"Maybe they should have seen in advance what kind of person he is... Not everyone is like that, but you have to be careful"* (FG_2_F). In the group of 18-25 year old women, the responsibility was formulated more clearly and less conditional, the emphasis being placed exclusively on the perpetrator's actions and the lack of consent: *"She is not guilty, she is the victim. He did this without her consent"* (FG_1_F).

In case of professionals, the responsibility was clearly assigned on the perpetrator, but the professional discourse introduced an institutional conditionality: the woman becomes implicitly, responsible for activating the protection mechanisms by collecting evidence and reporting to authorities. Although it does not explicitly blame the victim, this approach transfers the burden of proving the violence onto her: *"It is clear who the perpetrator is but without evidence it is very difficult to move forward"* (FG_1_S).

There were, however, some differences between the professionals of the multidisciplinary community team and those in the specialized services. The former placed more emphasis on procedural constraints, while those from specialized services highlighted more frequently the psychological impact and the need for immediate support, even in the absence of a formal complaint.

Perception of intervention institutions and of social services

In terms of reactions and solutions identified, women mentioned informal and emotional support as a priority. In both groups of women, the first reaction was the need to go to trusted people – family, close friends – and only later to institutions: *"The first thing would be to tell parents, because you need emotional support"* (FG_1_F).

Reporting to police was seen as necessary, but perceived as difficult and accompanied by shame, fear or insecurity regarding the effectiveness of the intervention: *"It's hard to go to the police when it comes to something like this, it's a lot of shame"* (FG_2_F).

Professionals showed formal avenues of reporting – police, reporting content on digital platforms, specialized services – and stressed the importance of documenting the case. At the same time, professionals from specialized services emphasized the role of psychological counseling as a first-line intervention, before or at the same time with legal proceedings: *"Even if she does not go to police immediately, the woman needs psychological*

support to be able to cope with the situation" (FG_2_S).

The difference in perspective highlights a gap between the solutions perceived as accessible and safe by women and those promoted by the institutional framework, oriented towards procedure and formalization.

Witness reactions and ways of prevention

Discussions regarding witness responses revealed a widespread trend of non-intervention or limited intervention, both by women and professionals. Women mentioned fear of exposure, lack of information, and the feeling that such situations are about private life, as factors that deter the involvement as witnesses: *"Maybe I would write a message in private, but I wouldn't get involved publicly"* (FG_1_F). Prevention has been conceptualized mainly at the individual level, through education, vigilance and the ability to recognize abusive behaviors in intimate relationships. Especially in women's groups, prevention has been associated with personal responsibility to *"choose more carefully"* one's partner: *"We need to learn to read people better, although this is not always possible"* (FG_2_F).

Specialists mentioned the need for public information and strengthening reporting mechanisms, but recognized the limits of prevention in contexts of intimacy and easily accessible technologies: *"When abuse happens in intimate relationships, prevention is extremely difficult"* (FG_1_S). Thus, prevention is perceived as a process of individual responsibility and continuous education, rather than as a structured community intervention.

Thus, the analysis of scenario 1 highlights the existence of a broad consensus regarding the recognition of the non-consensual distribution of intimate images as a form of violence, but also the persistence of subtle mechanisms of victim blaming and a gap between solutions perceived as accessible by women and available institutional responses.

3.2. Perceptions and reactions regarding online psychological violence

Scenario 2 (Box 2) addresses a form of digital violence characterized by psychological control, surveillance and post-divorce stalking, manifested through repeated messages, apparently non-threatening, but correlated with the daily actions of the victim.

Box 2. Psychological violence online (scenario 2)

Alina, 35 years old and a businesswoman. She was married to Radu for 10 years. Their relationship was bad. Radu was psychologically, physically and

sexually aggressive with Alina. Spouses divorced. Radu left the common home, and Alina and the two children stayed to live in the shared apartment.

Alina and Radu met only during the marriage dissolution proceedings. A few times, Radu came to Alina's door and knocked aggressively on the door. Alina didn't open, she notified the police, but when police arrived, Radu was already gone.

At first glance, it seems that Alina has solved the problem. But it had only just begun.

Night after night, Alina received messages on her phone referring to all her actions. In the evening when she turned on the light in the kitchen, she immediately received a message "Bon appetite!" or "You used to drink tea with me, with whom are you drinking it now?" Or messages with the following content: "Today you came later than usual, who were you with?" "Good night!" Messages alternated depending on her actions in the house. If she turned on the light in the bedroom, she would receive the message: "Good night baby, who sleeps in our bed today?"

Alina said that she never saw him around the house, only once she saw Radu's car near the building. She felt in danger, so during the children's vacation she went with them to a different location. But messages continued: "Be careful how you park, you were going to take down the neighbor's fence." She described the situation when she really parked differently than usual, chose another spot and another position of the car and gently hit the neighbor's fence.

Alina turned to police who said: "The messages did not contain any direct threat."

Alina can't control the situation or stop the messages. Radu changed SIM cards or wrote web messages. She had a business, so Alina could not change her phone number because she is in contact with all her partners.

Understanding and interpreting the form of digital violence: online problem or real threat

Among the female participants, the situation described in the scenario was predominantly interpreted as a real threat, even if messages received do not contain explicit threatening language. The participants underlined the intrusive and frightening nature of messages, emphasizing that they contain a form of permanent stalking and control over the victim's life. Women aged 26-50 explicitly noted that synchronizing messages with the victim's daily actions amplifies the feeling of insecurity: "At every step he knew what she was doing, where she was going, when she was coming. This is no longer just online" (FG_2_F). In the group

of young women (18-25 years old), the emphasis was placed on stalking and its emotional impact, even in the absence of direct aggression: *"Even if it doesn't threaten her directly, the fact that he knows everything she does, makes you feel followed"* (FG_1_F).

Among professionals, the situation was recognized as one that combines online and offline violence. Both specialists from the multidisciplinary team and those from the specialized services highlighted the systematic nature of messages and their connection with stalking behaviors: *"Here, stalking is combined with psychological violence, even though the messages are not direct threats"* (FG_2_S). However, specialists from the multidisciplinary team stressed that from an institutional perspective, the lack of explicit threats significantly complicates formal intervention.

Perception of responsibility and institutional response

Discussions highlighted an important discrepancy between women's perception and institutional response, especially in relation to police response. Women interpreted the authorities' reaction that the messages *"do not constitute direct threats"* as insufficient and disabling for the victim's experience of fear and insecurity. In the group of women aged 26-50, this reaction was associated with the idea of institutional abandonment: *"If he didn't threaten you clearly, it means that no one is helping you, even though you're afraid"* (FG_2_F). Younger participants also expressed distrust in institutions' ability to recognise subtle forms of digital violence: *"Something serious has to happen to be taken seriously"* (FG_1_F).

Among specialists, police's reaction was explained through existing legal and procedural constraints. Specialists from the multidisciplinary team mentioned that the intervention is limited by strict legal aspects: *"Unfortunately, without a direct threat or clear evidence, institutions have their hands tied"* (FG_1_S). However, specialists in specialised services have placed greater emphasis on the need to recognise the risk and the importance of early intervention, even in the absence of a formal criminal complaint.

Necessary response, solutions and support services

When it comes to identified solutions, participating women highlighted the difficulty of acting in a context where violence is subtle, continuous and difficult to prove. Changing the phone number, although mentioned as a theoretical option, was perceived as unrealistic, especially in the case of Alina, who manages a business: *"You can't change your number when you depend on it for work"* (FG_2_F). Women also mentioned the need for emotional and psychological support as the first line of intervention, before any formal steps.

Specialists indicated institutional routes of reporting – police, social services, reporting messages, but recognized their limits in the absence of legal mechanisms adapted to digital violence. Specialists from specialized services stressed the

importance of counseling to help women understand the dynamics of abuse: *"It is important for women to understand that this is a form of psychological violence, not just messages"* (FG_2_S).

Witness reactions and ways of prevention

Both women and specialists described reactions as limited, dominated by non-intervention and caution. Women invoked the fear of involvement and the perception that such situations are related to the couple's personal problems: *"Many would say that it is their business, you don't get involved in other people's lives"* (FG_2_F). Prevention was predominantly conceptualized in terms of education and awareness, especially among girls and younger women, who emphasized the importance of information about digital violence and its limits: *"Education about digital violence is very important, especially for young people"* (FG_1_F).

Specialists supported the need for information campaigns adapted to new forms of digital violence and recognized the difficulty of prevention in a context where technology allows constant surveillance: *"It is difficult to prevent when someone uses technology to exert control on a daily basis"* (FG_1_S).

Scenario 2 highlights the difficulty of recognising and intervening in cases of psychological violence online, especially when it manifests itself without explicit threats. The analysis highlights a significant gap between women's perception of insecurity and institutional criteria for intervention, as well as the risk of normalisation of digital control.

3.3. Perception of the severity and impact of production and manipulation of images, video recordings through technologies

Scenario 3 (Box 3) explored a form of digital violence, characterized by the use of artificial intelligence-based technologies to create and distribute false, denigrating, and sexualized content.

Box 3. Production and manipulation of images and videos using ICT (scenario 3)

Galina (44 years old) is a public figure, with a management position. Like any person, Galina is active on social networks. She published personal posts or photos from her personal archive. Likewise, there are online photos of Galina's participation in various public events in her area of activity.

A year ago, various videos created through artificial intelligence began to appear on the internet. Messages had a threatening nature. Initially, Galina thought it was a joke and did not pay too much attention to the messages post-

ed and the videos that appeared. She was sure that they would end soon. But things had an ugly turn.

Since video and audio content is created with the help of artificial intelligence, Galina cannot understand who is behind it, or whether if it is a woman, a man or a child. Moreover, messages with denigrating and uncensored content are posted as if they were made personally by Galina, but also from a third person, addressing Galina. Initially, messages went privately to Galina, but then a multitude of accounts began to appear on social networks with denigrating titles and using real photos of Galina taken from online.

Likewise, a channel was created on YouTube where videos were posted. Although Galina tried to block fake accounts, others immediately appeared.

At the same time, Galina's real photos were used and modified, including those where she participated in public events. If someone close to Galina tried to intervene with comments in Galina's defense, their photos were taken over and transformed, as well.

Galina also received pictures of places and events where she was, or pictures of her at work, pictures taken secretly. She always felt followed.

Technology as a tool of violence and loss of control

Among the participating women, the use of artificial intelligence and deepfake technologies was perceived as extremely dangerous, precisely because of the possibility of creating false but credible content. Both younger and older participants emphasized the feeling of total loss of control over their own image and identity. Women stressed that the seriousness of the situation lies not only in the false content, but also in the impossibility of identifying the perpetrator: *"The worst thing is that you don't know who is behind it and where everything comes from"* (FG_2_F).

In the group of young women, technology has been associated with an invisible but ubiquitous form of violence that can escalate rapidly: *"With deepfakes you can do anything, tomorrow another video can appear and you don't know what's real"* (FG_1_F).

Specialists recognized the highly problematic nature of the use of artificial intelligence, highlighting the fact that technologies complicate both the prevention and punishment of violence. Specialists from the multidisciplinary team emphasized the difficulty of identifying the perpetrator and the lack of clear intervention tools: *"When it comes to artificial intelligence, it is very difficult to determine who the author is and what law to apply"* (FG_1_S). Unlike them, specialists in specialized services insisted more on the immediate psychological impact on the victim,

emphasizing that uncertainty and lack of control amplify the trauma.

Severity of violence and comparison with other forms of digital abuse

Participants rated this form of violence as as serious or even more serious than other types of digital violence, due to its public, repetitive and difficult to stop nature. In the group of women aged 26-50, severity was associated with the destruction of reputation and public exposure: *"It destroys your image, especially when you are a public figure, people no longer makes a difference"* (FG_2_F). Younger women have emphasized the irreversible nature of online sharing: *"Once it appeared online, you can no longer delete it completely"* (FG_1_F).

Specialists recognized the seriousness of this form of violence, but compared it to other types of abuse from the perspective of legal consequences. Specialists from the multidisciplinary team mentioned that, in practice, deepfake cases are difficult to qualify legally and risk being treated as marginal situations: *"We do not yet have clear tools to qualify these cases"* (FG_1_S). Specialists from specialized services insisted that the psychological effects are comparable to those of sexual violence and systematic harassment.

Impact on the victim and the spread of violence on relatives

The discussions highlighted multiple consequences – emotional, professional and social. Women cited constant anxiety, fear of public exposure, and social isolation as direct consequences. In the group of young women, the impact on professional life and relationships was emphasized: *"You no longer have the courage to appear publicly or post something"* (FG_1_F).

A distinct element of this scenario is the extension of violence to the victim's relatives and supporters. Women perceived this as extremely discouraging, as it reduces available social support: *"If you know that even those who defend you can become targets, you seem to be left alone"* (FG_2_F). Specialists have confirmed that this strategy is frequently used to isolate the victim. Respectively, it was underlined that the extension of violence to the support network increases the vulnerability of the victim and the risk of re-traumatization.

Reactions and the role of online community

Regarding possible reactions, women expressed uncertainty and distrust in the ability of institutions to handle such cases. Reporting to digital platforms was mentioned, but perceived as insufficient in the face of the constant reappearance of content: *"You block an account and others appear immediately"* (FG_1_F).

Specialists showed the need to combine several routes of reporting – reporting on platforms, notifying the authorities and psychological support, but acknowledged the fragmentation of the institutional response. At the same time, specialists highlighted the lack of clear procedures for managing digital violence through ICT.

Regarding the role of the online community, both women and specialists rejected the idea of ignoring the situation. Participants stressed the importance of public reporting and support, even if it involves risks: *"If everyone is silent, the bully wins"* (FG_1_F).

Scenario 3 highlights how technologies amplify existing forms of digital violence, leading to loss of identity control, major intervention difficulties, and the spread of violence to support networks. The analysis reveals the gap between the perceived seriousness of the situation and the current capacity of institutional systems to adequately respond to this type of abuse.

3.4. Perception of barriers and the role of family, community, institutions in online harassment, stalking and systemic denigration

Scenario 4 (Box 4) captures a complex and cumulative form of digital violence, integrated into a history of severe domestic violence, which continues and escalates after separation. Online harassment, digital stalking, threats and the distribution of denigrating information are used as mechanisms of control, intimidation and social isolation, affecting not only the victim but also their children.

Box 4. Online harassment, stalking, and systemic denigration (scenario 4)

Sorina (31 years old) had a violent marriage. She divorced. Following her marriage, she was taking care of her daughter. Later, Sorina went abroad and worked at a guesthouse. There she met Gabriel who worked at the neighboring guesthouse and who seemed to be nice. Everyone encouraged her to create a relationship with him. In a short while they became a couple. They came to Moldova to meet their parents. And then the family moved to Sorina's native village.

She didn't really know anything about him, nor about his family. She didn't ask many questions. He didn't tell the story. But she always had to do as he said. 2 other children appeared in the family and a new pregnancy.

One day Gabriel came home, saw Sorina taking a bath and took a picture of her. "He told me that if we broke up, he would create a Facebook account and post that picture. That kept me in the relationship."

Even though she was pregnant, Gabriel beat her. Then he went abroad. Back at home he installed surveillance cameras and was constantly demanding accountability for all her actions – why did you talk to the neighbor, why the child is on the road, why she is dressed like this, etc. He did not allow anyone to come and visit her.

He threatened to open the gas can and lock her and the girls in the house. So-

rina was afraid. This was the point when she decided to separate. He got angry and came to the country, broke all the things and left.

This is when Sorina noticed that multiple accounts with her real name and surname began to appear on Facebook. Her pictures from the family archive were posted, but she didn't want them posted. Pictures were accompanied by comments: "I was left alone with 3 children and I am looking for a man, call me anytime." Her contact details were posted. The messages implied that Sorina is looking for sexual partners and is available to anyone: "I'm looking for a man, whoever wants may call me." Such messages were posted both on Facebook among friends and in thematic groups in the village and the district.

Sorina says that from the beginning when the posts appeared she was affected, she cried constantly, and now she has adapted and threats and denigrations are part of her life. She lives in a world where she is denigrated and without security for herself and her 4 children.

Continuity of online-offline violence and perception of risk

Both the participating women and specialists perceived the situation of the victim in this scenario, as a real and serious threat, which clearly goes beyond the area of online environment. Digital violence was understood as a direct extension of physical and psychological violence previously exercised by the partner, being part of a continuum of coercive control.

Among women aged 26-50, the emphasis was placed on the immediate danger to life and the presence of children in the context of violence: *"Here we are no longer just talking about the internet, there is a real danger for her and her children"* (FG_2_F). Younger participants highlighted the systematic nature of stalking and denigration, pointing out that online violence keeps the victim in a permanent state of fear: *"Even though he is not next to her, he is always present on the internet"* (FG_1_F).

Specialists confirmed this interpretation. They described this scenario as an example of a situation where digital violence cannot be separated from offline violence: *"It is a classic case of continuous violence, online and off-line go hand in hand"* (FG_2_S).

Public denigration, exposure and isolation of the victim

A central element of the scenario is the use of online platforms to publicly denigrate the victim, by creating fake accounts, sharing real photos and associating them with sexualized messages and their contact details. Participating women perceived this practice as extremely humiliating and destructive to the victim's reputation, especially in a small community context.

Younger participants emphasized the invasive nature of publishing personal data and the additional risk of aggression: *"When you publish her number and*

write something like this, you expose her to even greater dangers" (FG_1_F). Women aged 26-50 highlighted the social impact and stigmatization: *"In the village, after something like this, people judge you, the truth doesn't matter anymore"* (FG_2_F).

Specialists have confirmed that online denigration is frequently used to isolate the victim and reduce their support networks. Specialists have highlighted the fact that social stigma discourages asking for help: *"After denigration, the woman remains alone, she is ashamed to ask for help"* (FG_2_S).

Barriers to applying for help

Discussions highlighted multiple barriers that prevent the victim from seeking help. Participating women cited fear, economic dependence, responsibility for children and lack of trust in institutions as major factors. The victim's adaptation to violence was interpreted as a survival mechanism, not as acceptance: *"When you live like this for a long time, you come to believe that you have no other way out"* (FG_2_F). Young women also stressed the social pressure to *"keep the family together"*, even when there is violence: *"Many still say that you have to endure for the sake of children"* (FG_1_F).

Specialists from the multidisciplinary team admitted that the intervention is hampered by the lack of official reports and the withdrawal of victims from the process: *"Many women give up along the way, out of fear or fatigue"* (FG_1_S). Specialists from specialized services emphasized the need for continuous support and an integrated approach, which takes into account safety of women and children.

The role of family, community and institutions

Participating women expressed high expectations from the family and community, but signaled that, in practice, they can become additional sources of pressure and judgment. In the group of women aged 26-50, family is seen ambivalently – both as a potential support and as a constraint: *"Family can help you, but it can also force you to be silent"* (FG_2_F).

Police were perceived as a necessary but insufficient actor, especially in the absence of rapid and coordinated intervention. Participants mentioned the need for immediate protection for children: *"This is no longer just about her, children are also at risk"* (FG_1_F).

Specialists stressed the importance of inter-institutional collaboration. The role of multidisciplinary teams was emphasized, but also the need for specialized social services and shelters: *"Without collaboration between police, social assistance and non-governmental organizations, such cases cannot be managed effectively"* (FG_2_S).

Scenario 4 illustrates an extreme form of digital violence as part of domestic violence, where the online environment is used to maintain control, amplify fear, and isolate the victim. The analysis highlights major risks to the safety of women and children, multiple barriers to accessing support and the need for an integrated response that treats digital and offline violence as interconnected phenomena.

3.5. Differences in perceptions regarding social norms and attitudes towards digital violence

The comparative analysis of the 4 scenarios highlights both common elements in the way of perceiving and interpreting digital violence, as well as significant differences determined by the type of violence and the institutional framework of intervention. Scenarios allowed the exploration of social norms, mechanisms of accountability and blame, as well as the limits of the institutional response, from the perspective of women and specialists.

Acknowledging digital violence: Apparent consensus, persistent ambiguities

In all 4 scenarios, participants recognized the situations described as forms of violence. However, the degree of consensus and clarity of recognition varies depending on the type of digital violence. Forms involving explicit public exposure (distribution of intimate images, public denigration) were quickly and unambiguously recognized. In contrast, subtle and persistent digital violence (psychological control and stalking) has generated more hesitation, especially in the absence of direct threats.

Deepfaking and manipulation by artificial intelligence has been perceived as extremely serious, but also as difficult to conceptualize, precisely because of its emerging nature and lack of familiarity with this type of abuse. Both women and specialists expressed uncertainty about the legal limits and the real possibilities of intervention.

Overall, the analysis shows that the recognition of digital violence is conditioned not only by the objective severity of the act, but also by the social visibility of the abuse, the existence of clear legal references and knowing those.

Responsibility, blaming and gender norms

A cross-cutting pattern identified in all scenarios is the persistence of mechanisms for redistributing responsibility to the victim, especially in the words of older women, but also in case of members of the multidisciplinary team. Blaming arises from questions related to the woman's relationship choices - *"Why did she accept?"*, *"Why did she stay?"* (scenarios 1 and 4), and responsibility is transferred by minimizing violence - *"there are no direct threats"* (scenario 2). Blaming is less explicit in deepfake situations (scenario 3), but appears in the form of a suggestion

that public exposure or online activity would have increased the risk.

Generational differences were found. Girls and young women formulated the responsibility of the perpetrator more clearly and firmly rejected the victim's blame, while women aged 26-50 used normative explanations more frequently, centered on individual prevention and prudence.

Among specialists, the perpetrator's responsibility is explicitly recognized, but the focus on evidence, procedures and legal criteria indirectly makes the victim responsible for activating the protection mechanisms. This tension is more visible among members of the multidisciplinary team than among specialists in specialized services, where the psychological impact and the safety of the victim are more frequently placed in the forefront.

Digital violence as an extension of offline violence

A major result of the analysis is the confirmation that digital violence is perceived as part of an online-offline continuum, not as an isolated phenomenon. This is particularly evident when digital control, stalking and denigration online are inseparable from previously exercised physical and psychological violence (scenarios 2 and 4). In these scenarios, women described digital violence as a constant presence of the perpetrator in the victim's life, even in the absence of physical contact. Specialists confirmed this interpretation, stressing that fragmented interventions (only online or only offline) are insufficient.

Situations of production or manipulation through ICT (scenario 3) extend this logic, demonstrating that emerging technologies allow violence to be exercised without direct contact, amplifying the feeling of insecurity and the difficulty of identifying a clear perpetrator.

Reacting, reporting and differences of opinion between women and specialists

In all 4 scenarios, women indicated an initial preference for informal support channels (family, friends), while reporting to institutions is perceived as difficult, stigmatizing or ineffective. Shame, fear, lack of trust and responsibilities towards children are recurrent barriers.

Specialists have predominantly indicated formal ways (police, social services, reporting on platforms), but have recognized their limitations, especially in cases of psychological violence and ICT. The difference between members of the multidisciplinary team and the specialists in the specialized services lies in the approach. The former emphasize procedural and legal constraints, and the latter focus on early intervention, counseling, and a victim-centered approach. This difference reflects a structural gap between women's immediate needs and the system's current capacity to respond flexibly and in an integrated manner.

Witness reactions and ways of prevention

A common pattern of all scenarios analyzed is the non-intervention of witnesses, justified by the fear of involvement, the normalization of abuse and the perception of digital violence as a private issue. From the perspective of participating women, witnesses' response is strongly influenced by the fear of public exposure, the risk of becoming targets of aggression and the lack of confidence that the intervention would produce real effects.

Generational differences were found – younger women were more likely to express a willingness to provide limited forms of support online, such as reporting content or sending messages of support in private, while older women were more cautious, avoiding direct involvement and public exposure. In both groups, open intervention is perceived as risky and insufficiently socially or institutionally protected.

From the perspective of specialists, the non-intervention of witnesses is interpreted not only as a result of individual fear, but also as an effect of the absence of clear and safe mechanisms of involvement. Specialists from multidisciplinary teams pointed out that witnesses do not know who and how to report, the lack of standardized reporting or intervention procedures reduces the likelihood of involvement: *"People don't intervene because they don't know what comes next and if someone will protect them"* (FG_1_S).

Specialists from specialized services emphasized the role of social norms and stigmatization, emphasizing that witnesses avoid involvement so as not to be associated with situations considered *"shameful."* From this perspective, non-intervention is seen as part of a broader culture of tacit tolerance of gender-based violence, including online.

As far as prevention is concerned, both women and specialists tend to conceptualize it predominantly as individual responsibility, centered on education, vigilance and women's ability to recognize and avoid risk situations. This approach is more obvious in women's statements, but it also appears in the formulations of specialists, especially members of the multidisciplinary team, where prevention is associated with information and prudent behaviors of users.

Specialists in specialized services have more frequently formulated a broad vision of prevention, which includes community and institutional responsibility, awareness campaigns, digital education and the involvement of online platforms. However, this vision remains poorly reflected in current practices and insufficiently internalized at the social level. As a result, we witness few interventions that ultimately lead to the isolation of victims.

Data collected based on the 4 scenarios allow us to conclude that digital violence is socially recognized, but interpreted and managed in a fragmented normative and institutional framework. Mechanisms for blaming victims, differences between

risk perception and intervention criteria, as well as major difficulties in addressing emerging forms of digital violence, persist. These findings underline the need for an integrated approach that addresses digital violence as part of gender-based violence, reduces reporting barriers and strengthens cooperation between institutions, communities and digital platforms.

IV. SYSTEM OF INTERVENTION AND PROTECTION AGAINST DIGITAL VIOLENCE

"Digital violence is not yet part, as a distinct dimension of policies, it is something that we are just trying to develop"

"We must intervene both at the legal and at the procedural level to ensure that the intervention is as quick and as correct as possible"

"We cannot use special investigative measures on less serious cases... Many of the online harassment offences do not reach this threshold"

"Professionals are not prepared. We have very few trained professionals and those who are trained, are only specialized in juveniles"

4.1. International and european commitments against digital violence, guiding the work of various institutions

The analysis of institutional commitments on preventing and combating digital violence against women shows that Moldovan authorities rely mainly on general international instruments regarding violence against women, in the absence of documents solely dedicated to digital violence. *The Istanbul Convention* is constantly referred to as the main normative framework of reference: *"Currently, the department and the ministry are guided by the Istanbul Convention, including the recommendations of GREVIO, but also by other relevant conventions in the area of violence against women"* (IIS_E_6).

This reference to *the Istanbul Convention* reflects the adherence to general obligations regarding the prevention, protection of victims and punishment of acts of violence, but their application in case of digital violence is mainly achieved through extensive interpretation, not through dedicated mechanisms: *"Digital violence is not yet part, as a distinct area of policies, it is something that we are just trying to develop"* (IIS_E_6).

Commitments in relation to the EU Gender Equality Strategy (2020–2025)

At the European framework level, *the EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020–2025* is positioning prevention and combating violence against women as part of the objectives for a 'Union of Equality', with a focus on prevention, protection and coordinated action.²⁴ Data collected from representatives of different key

24 https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-equality-strategy_en?, European Commission

institutions, through semi-structured individual interviews, suggest that the *EU Gender Equality Strategy* is invoked as a general guidance document. However, the level of its effective integration into the institutional work remains uneven.

An important indicator of this situation is the low degree of institutional familiarity in certain key structures: *"If I'm honest, I don't know that strategy. We are guided more by the National Program for preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence for the years 2023-2027 and by the Istanbul Convention"* (IIS_E_1). This statement shows that, in practice, national instruments and *the Istanbul Convention* remain the dominant benchmarks, while the EU strategy is perceived as a political-institutional background, not as a direct source of inspiration and planning.

Some interviewees pointed out a to broader framework of European references, but also with a focus on the still insufficiently operationalized nature: *"Amendments have been made to Law no. 45, based on EU accession commitments, but there are no clear guidelines and mechanisms"* (IIS_E_6).

These qualitative data signal a formal alignment (through legislative amendments) without equivalent transformation into administrative capacities (procedures, inter-institutional instruments, minimum sets of services, reference routes).

Commitments under the Istanbul Convention

The Istanbul Convention imposes obligations on State Parties regarding coordinated policies, prevention, protection, prosecution, data collection, and institutional coordination and cooperation mechanisms, including a victim-centred approach. Interviews with representatives of different institutions confirm that at the institutional level, *the Istanbul Convention* is perceived as the main international normative framework for violence against women, including when the discussion extends to the online environment.

Commitments to *the Istanbul Convention* also depend on the mandate of each institution. In case of NAPCV, the commitment is formulated both as a general mandate and as an orientation towards strengthening the tools: *"our mission is to prevent and combat any form of violence. By supporting Law no. 252 which mandates the digital component, we must intervene both at the legal and the procedural level"* (IIS_E_1).

However, a cross-cutting finding is that, in the absence of dedicated mechanisms, digital violence often remains dealt with through extensive interpretation of existing norms and by embedding it into related crimes. The Public Prosecutor's Office points out, for example, to the usefulness of legislative changes regarding private data and violation of privacy: *"currently this norm has been amended and has given the possibility to carry out investigations with the use of broader tools"* (IIS_E_7). It shows that the institutional response is first strengthened in the criminal area,

before there is a complete architecture of prevention and protection specific to digital violence.

Commitments under EU Directive 2024/1385 on combating violence against women

EU Directive 2024/1385 establishes a common EU-wide framework for preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, including digitally relevant components.²⁵ Although the Republic of Moldova is not a member state, the accession process and the harmonization of legislation amplifies the pressure for alignment, and interviews with representatives of different institutions reveal that the *Directive* is perceived in the logic of accession and Chapter 23 (Justice and fundamental rights), as a point of reference that should produce concrete institutional effects.

EU Directive 2024/1385 has been mentioned in interviews as a future reference point, which is being developed or transposed, but which, at the time of research, does not yet produce concrete effects on existing practices. Respectively, it was mentioned that the area of women's rights and the fight against domestic violence are structural elements in the negotiations. This positioning is important because it shows that the *Directive* is not only perceived as an EU document, but as a vehicle for standardising obligations.

At the institutional level, it signals a commitment to anticipatory alignment (taking up standards and preparing for transposition), even if, at the time of the research, internal mechanisms are still under development.

Interviews with representatives of institutions in the area of digitization and regulation of platforms (MEDD, ANRCETI) show that the European commitments on online safety will be transposed, practically, because of the need to harmonize with the DSA, which will constitute the regulatory infrastructure through which obligations can be created for platforms and mechanisms for taking down/management of illegal content: *"we are going to transpose the provisions of the DSA which provides obligations for online platforms aimed at countering the phenomenon of violence"* (IIS_E_3).

At the time of research, however, a critical institutional gap was identified, which directly affects the ability to respond to digital violence: *"There is currently no authority that would regulate and supervise platforms... We are going to create this authority - Digital Services Coordinator"* (IIS_E_3).

Some interviewees mentioned European integration as pressure for independent institutions and coordination, including in the regulatory ecosystem: *"The first step in European integration must be based on the establishment of an independent public authority..."* (IIS_E_2). In terms of commitments, it indicates that the electronic

25 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1385/oj/eng>, EUR-Lex

communications sector structures its reforms on the basis of alignment with the EU architecture, but the question remains on how to connect this architecture to the issue of digital violence against women. At present, however, digital violence against women is still dealt with fragmentarily between cybercrime, fundamental rights, gender equality and the regulation of platform activity.

The semi-structured interviews with representatives of different institutions outline a model of stepwise commitments of the Moldovan authorities:

- *Istanbul*²⁶ Convention functions as a central and legitimizing reference for anti-violence policies, but digital violence is often integrated by extension and without dedicated procedures.
- *EU Gender*²⁷ Equality Strategy is invoked less as a practical tool and is little used.
- *EU Directive 2024/1385*²⁸ and the accession agenda are perceived as factors that will determine clarifications of mandate, standards and harmonization, while when it comes to platforms the need to strengthen the legal framework according to the DSA model is outlined.²⁹

Thus, the presence of institutional commitments on preventing and combating digital violence against women at international and European standards was identified, but with limited operationalization at the national level. Interviews with authorities indicate a clear recognition of the phenomenon and the need for intervention, but also an early stage of policy development, marked by a lack of clear responsibilities, functional mechanisms and dedicated tools.

4.2. Institutions' priority objectives regarding digital violence and the protection of women's rights in the process of accession to the European Union

The analysis of interviews with public authorities indicates that digital violence against women is currently not formulated as a distinct priority objective in the EU accession process, but it is part of broader areas, such as the protection of human rights, gender equality, the fight against domestic violence or online safety. This position directly influences the level of visibility, allocated resources and the degree of development of intervention mechanisms.

The representative of a key institution in the Chapter 23 negotiation process, described the accession priorities in a general framework: *"one of these is the protection of women's rights, ensuring gender equality, combating domestic violence"* (IIS_E_10). This wording reflects an approach in which digital violence is implicitly

26 <https://rm.coe.int/168046253e>, Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence

27 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/RO/legal-content/summary/european-union-gender-equality-strategy.html>, EUR-Lex

28 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1385/oj/eng>, EUR-Lex

29 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/RO/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32022R2065>

included, but not conceptually or operationally differentiated from other forms of violence. From an institutional perspective, this approach to digital violence can be interpreted as an acknowledgement of the existence of the phenomenon, but which is not yet sufficiently delineated to generate dedicated objectives, indicators or clear responsibilities in the accession process.

The institutions responsible for digitalisation and electronic communications (MEDD, ANRCETI) formulate the priorities in the EU accession process in terms of cybersecurity, regulation of the digital market and alignment with relevant European acts. Digital violence against women appears in this discourse as a related issue, but not as the main objective. The representatives of these institutions clearly described this position: *"we are focused on implementing the provisions of Law no. 48 and on the transposition of the DSA"* (IIS_E_3). Although the DSA includes relevant obligations to combat illegal and abusive content, interviews show that the institution's priorities are related to the regulatory architecture, not to the protection of victims as such.

ANRCETI, for its part, places its priorities in the logic of European integration and the consolidation of independent authorities: *"the first step in European integration... it must be an independent public authority"* (IIS_E_2). This approach creates premises for future interventions, but at present, the direct link to digital violence against women remains poorly defined.

From the perspective of justice and law enforcement institutions, priority objectives are formulated within the limits of existing legal competences, without an explicit strategic orientation towards digital violence against women. The interviews indicate a clear delineation of responsibilities and a predominantly reactive approach. This institutional positioning makes the objectives focused on: (1) Enforcement of existing criminal legislation; (2) Management of reported cases through police; (3) Prioritization of crimes that are considered serious. As a result, digital violence against adult women, often classified as a less serious crime, does not receive the same priority as other types of offenses, a fact also confirmed by representatives of civil society.

This institutional positioning leads to a reactive approach, in which priorities are set according to the legal severity of crimes and the possibility of using special investigative tools. From this perspective, many forms of digital violence against adult women remain on the periphery of law enforcement bodies, being considered offences with a limited impact or difficult to prove.

The representative of the Ministry of Internal Affairs also highlighted another structural tension in defining priorities: the overlap between digital violence as a form of gender violence and cybercrime. Thus, conceptual and operational difficulties were reported in this area. In particular, the confusion generated by the term 'cyber' was highlighted: *'the perception of the term 'cyber' can lead in the wrong direction* (IIS_E_5). In the context of EU accession, this ambiguity affects the ability

to formulate clear priorities, and digital violence risks being treated exclusively through the lenses of cybercrime, losing the gender dimension, psychological and social impact on victims.

The institutions with a coordinating role in the field of preventing and combating violence against women (NAPCV) define their priority objectives in general terms, focused on strengthening the existing framework and implementing the already approved policies. Digital violence is addressed indirectly, as part of psychological violence or other forms of abuse: *"The national program for preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence is the basic policy by which we are guided. When it comes to digital violence, we do not yet have a separate policy"* (IIS_E_1). In this regard, institutional objectives focus on: the implementation of existing national programme, monitoring of compliance with international commitments and the gradual development of inter-institutional coordination mechanisms. Digital violence thus appears as a cross-cutting topic, without dedicated objectives, indicators or distinct budget lines.

In the field of social protection and gender equality, the objectives of public institutions are mainly oriented towards reducing domestic violence, protecting vulnerable victims and promoting the social and economic inclusion of women. Digital violence is recognized as an associated phenomenon, but not as a distinct objective. MLSP representatives explained this approach as follows: *"Our objectives are related to strengthening the social protection and support system for women affected by violence. Digital violence is included here, but not separately"* (IIS_E_6). This implicit integration limits the possibility of developing interventions tailored to the nature of the digital environment, such as rapid protection measures, digital safety guidelines or cooperation mechanisms with online service providers.

A recurring element in the interviews is the difference in approach between digital violence against children and that against adult women. The institutional objectives are much more clearly formulated in case of child protection in the online environment. Representatives of public institutions recognize this asymmetry: *"When it comes to children, things are better structured. There are mechanisms, trainings, collaborations. In case of women, we are still at the beginning"* (IIS_E_6). This difference directly influences the prioritization of resources and interventions, contributing to the low visibility of digital violence against adult women on the institutional agenda.

The above mentioned allows us to conclude that the priority objectives of the institutions in the EU accession process reflect an indirect recognition of digital violence against women, but not an explicit strategic assumption. Interviews show that: (i) digital violence is a sub-component of broader areas (fundamental rights, domestic violence, cybersecurity); (ii) priorities are formulated according to existing institutional mandates, not to specific needs of victims; (iii) the lack of explicit prioritisation reduces the visibility of the phenomenon in the accession agenda and delays the development of dedicated mechanisms. This situation creates a

gap between the expectations associated with the EU accession process and the current capacity of institutions to respond coherently and in a coordinated manner to digital violence against women.

4.3. Reflecting international and European commitments against digital violence in the national regulatory and policy framework

In the Republic of Moldova, the recognition and regulation of digital violence against women is a relatively recent process, at a stage of regulatory consolidation. Until recently, legislative acts have dealt with the phenomenon through the lenses of cyber crimes, personal data protection or domestic violence, without explicitly formulating violence committed with the use of ICT, as a distinct form of gender-based violence.

Interviews with representatives of public institutions show a consensus regarding the fact that in recent years, Republic of Moldova has made normative progress in integrating the digital dimension into the legal framework on preventing and combating violence against women. Representatives of various institutions described this approach as a necessary but intermediate step. A central example of this is *Law no. 252/2025*³⁰, which explicitly introduced the digital dimension of violence into the relevant legislation.

From an institutional perspective, this amendment is interpreted as a formal alignment with international commitments, in particular to the *Istanbul Convention* and developments of the European framework. However, some limitations of the current transposition were also underlined: *"we must intervene both at the legal level and at the level of procedures to ensure an intervention that is done as quickly and as correctly as possible"* (IIS_E_1).

This observation reflects a broader structural problem: although rules have been adjusted, secondary mechanisms (instructions, protocols, reference routes, intervention standards) have not yet been developed in a coherent and uniform manner at the institutional level.

In the justice system, a structural aspect relevant for the reflection of commitments in practice was highlighted - the fact that certain actions of online harassment/abuse can be legally qualified. However, the investigation is limited by the classification of these crimes as less serious, which reduces the available procedural instruments of the PG: *"We cannot carry out special investigative measures on less serious cases. Many of the harassment offences do not reach this threshold"* (IIS_E_7).

*Law no. 48/2023 on cybersecurity*³¹ is a primary tool aimed at the security of networks and information systems and the functioning of critical sectors, not towards the

30 https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=150197&lang=ro, Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, Law 252/2025

31 https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=136732&lang=ro, Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, Law 48/2023

protection of victims of gender-based violence. From an analytical perspective, the relevance of this law for digital violence against women is indirect, by: (i) strengthening the cybersecurity architecture (institutions, obligations, incident reporting); (ii) the potential for cooperation with providers/platforms in situations involving digital infrastructures or services. Interviews with MEDD and ANRCETI representatives show that these frameworks are designed mainly for the security of digital infrastructures, networks and services, not for the protection of victims of gender-based digital violence.

The MEDD explicitly stressed that the institutional mandate is geared towards aligning with the EU acquis on security and digital services, on tools as platform regulatory mechanisms and not on victim protection policies. At the same time, MEDD acknowledges the existence of a major institutional gap: *"currently... The authority responsible for platform regulation and supervision... does not exist"* (IIS_E_3). This absence limits the state's ability to systematically intervene in cases of digital violence, especially in relation to online platforms and hosting service providers.

ANRCETI, in turn, places the reforms in the area of electronic communications in the logic of European integration and the strengthening of independent authorities. Although this development creates important institutional premises, the direct link to the protection of the rights of women affected by digital violence currently remains poorly articulated. Interviews show that the main issue for victims is not only the security of systems, but the rapid intervention on abusive content, the identification of the perpetrator and effective protection.

Therefore, the reflection of commitments in national legislation is visible through the extension of the regulatory framework, but its effectiveness is critically dependent on enforcement mechanisms (procedures, technical instruments, operational competences).

At the level of public policies, international and European commitments are mainly reflected in general strategy papers on preventing and combating violence against women and gender equality. The interviews indicate that digital violence is implicitly integrated in these documents, without constituting a distinct field of intervention. This approach has direct consequences on the implementation of commitments. In the absence of objectives and indicators dedicated to digital violence, institutions implement existing policies by interpreting the notions of psychological violence, harassment or violation of privacy. This fact favors the variability of institutional responses, depending on the capacity and sensitivity of actors involved.

This observation is also supported by representatives of civil society interacting with public systems. They pointed out that, although the phenomenon is described in normative acts, the distribution of responsibilities and the ability to intervene on online content remains unclear: *"there is a general legal framework, but it is not clear who does what when we talk about digital violence against women"* (IIS_E_4);

"Currently there is something very vague...the concept is nice to be part of a title, but what's behind it?" (IIS_E_9).

Overall, the reflection of commitments in national strategies, programmes and regulatory acts can be described by: (1) Regulatory consolidation in progress, accelerated by recent legislative changes (including *Law No 252/2025*), but still insufficiently transposed into operational procedures and instruments; (2) Predominantly implicit integration of digital violence into existing policies, without sufficiently specific objectives/indicators for the online environment; (3) Lack of capacities and intervention mechanisms, repeatedly highlighted in interviews: lack of institutional clarity, barriers in investigation, differences in intervention between cases involving minors and cases involving adult women. In this context, international and European commitments function as references rather than comprehensive operational tools, and their effectiveness depends on the institutions' ability to transform these commitments into policies, practices and services tailored to the nature of digital violence against women.

4.4. Institutional practices in preventing and combating digital violence

Funding to prevent and combat digital violence

Individual interviews with representatives of public institutions reveal that, at the time of the research, there was no funding dedicated to preventing and combating digital violence against women or funding dedicated to this type of violence. The area of digital violence in the Republic of Moldova is approached in a piecemeal manner, through its partial integration into broader programs on gender-based violence, domestic violence or the digitization of public administration, without benefiting from clear budget allocations: *"We do not have any funding lines or programs dedicated specifically to the area of digital violence. Our funding is a general one, it comes from the state budget for the implementation of the National Program for preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence"* (IIS_E_1).

Representatives of different institutions reported that digital violence is currently not a separate budget category within social protection or gender equality policies, but it is part of a number of more general objectives: *"Digital violence is not yet a distinct part of policies or budgets. It appears incidentally, when we are talking about violence against women or child protection, but it does not have a separate funding line"* (IIS_E_6).

Interventions in this area are mainly carried out through funding allocated to legislative reform processes, professional training and alignment with European standards, without there being distinct budgetary resources for digital violence: *"We intervene through policies, through legislative changes, through training, but*

we do not have a separate budget for cyberviolence" (IIS_E_10).

The only funding area explicitly mentioned in relation to the infrastructure necessary to address the phenomenon is the development of information systems for the collection and integration of data on gender-based violence, including digital violence. However, this funding is conceived as part of a broader institutional consolidation approach, not as a specific response to digital violence: *"We have planned financial sources from the state budget for the creation of the information system, which will include all forms of violence. Digital violence will be monitored, but there is no separate funding" (IIS_E_1).*

In the law enforcement and the prosecutor's office, interviews do not show the existence of specific budget allocations for investigating digital violence against women, resources being integrated into the general budgets of the institutions: *"There is no separate funding for this type of cases. We work with existing resources, depending on priorities and the seriousness of the facts" (IIS_E_7).*

Organisations that are providing services for women affected by violence, including digital violence, reported that interventions in given cases are funded from external sources (international donor projects). Basically, there are no programs dedicated exclusively to digital violence, and the respective component is integrated into general training and legal assistance programs: *"There were no specific programs for the digital component, but this component was integrated into the general program of activity" (IIS_E_4).*

The same situation is reflected in the case of the International Center "La Strada", where the management of cases of digital violence is carried out within the newly created services, financed through external projects.

Thus, in the absence of structural funding, service providers are forced to carry out a selective management of cases, depending on the organizational mandate and available resources. Respectively, Women's Law Center tends to intervene as a priority in cases where digital violence is associated with domestic violence, and cases of "pure" digital violence are redirected to "La Strada" International Center, precisely in order to rationally use existing limited resources: *"If it is pure digital violence, we prefer to direct the person to La Strada, because they have a program developed in this area" (IIS_E_4).*

This approach highlights that current funding does not support a systemic and coherent intervention, but favours fragmented, project-dependent solutions and the capacity of CSOs to integrate digital violence into existing funding frameworks. In the absence of dedicated budget lines, the sustainability of interventions remains vulnerable and the institutional response is highly dependent on the initiative and expertise of civil society actors.

The role of institutions in preventing and combating digital violence

Qualitative data indicate that institutional roles in preventing and combating digital violence against women are distributed among several actors, depending on the institution's mandate. Digital violence is thus approached in a cross cutting fashion, through sectoral mandates (justice, public order, digitalization, regulation, social protection).

The Ministry of Justice has a predominantly normative and strategic role, focused on the development and harmonization of the legislative framework, including in the context of alignment with the *acquis communautaire*. Respectively, digital violence is currently treated as part of violence against women or crimes committed online, without the development of dedicated policies or specific operational tools.

MLSP coordinates policies to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence, having a central role in the institutional architecture. However, digital violence is not yet systematically integrated into these policies. Respectively, the approach remains a general one, oriented towards domestic violence.

MEDD is an actor with an indirect role, focused on digitalization policies, IT infrastructure and the relationship with digital service providers: *"We do not have a direct role in relation to cyberviolence. Our policies are on digitalization, economy, infrastructure"* (IIS_E_3).

The MIA, through its structures responsible for crime prevention, records and investigates various forms of abuse by means of ICT, which constitute manifestations of digital violence against women: *"We intervene when there is a complaint and elements of crime or misdemeanor"* (IIS_E_5).

Representatives of this institution stressed that in recent years, the magnitude of the phenomenon of digital violence is increasing, both in terms of reporting and the complexity of tactics used by the perpetrators. However, the intervention of the Ministry of Internal Affairs is conditioned by the legal qualification of the facts, and many forms of digital violence against women remain outside the criminal threshold, which limits the possibility of action. It has been reported that in case of investigations into cases of violation of the inviolability of personal life, depending on the circumstances of the act committed, law enforcement bodies may take several investigative measures, such as: (1) requesting information regarding the domain registrar, (2) requests to hosting companies, (3) if payment methods are exposed, these are analyzed, and subsequently requests are sent to the issuing banks, (4) requests to social media platforms to block abusive accounts and filter messages, (5) issuing press releases to raise public awareness about the legal and ethical consequences of digital violence.

PG has a strictly legal role, limited to leading the criminal investigation in cases that meet the elements of a serious crime. The institution's representatives underlined

the lack of a strategic mandate or policies in the field. This positioning leads to a fragmented intervention dependent on the legal qualification of the facts, many cases of online harassment being classified as minor crimes or misdemeanors – those related to women, with the exception of those against children.

NAPCV has a coordination, monitoring and methodological support role in the field of violence. The Agency implements the National Programme and facilitates inter-institutional cooperation. Digital violence is approached as an emerging phenomenon, in the process of gradual integration into existing mechanisms.

ANRCETI is responsible for regulating electronic communications providers and digital infrastructure. The agency's representatives underlined the strictly technical and regulatory nature of its mandate: *"ANRCETI has no competences on content or violence. We regulate the market and the infrastructure"* (IIS_E_2). Thus, although ANRCETI plays a key role in the digital ecosystem, the institution is not directly involved in preventing or combating digital violence against women, and collaboration with other institutions on this subject is limited.

In the existing institutional architecture, "La Strada" International Center is perceived by public actors and other service providers as the only and main actor specialized in the management of cases of digital violence against women, especially cases that are not directly associated with domestic violence. The role of the organization is operational and expertise based, focused on direct support for victims, information and referral to available mechanisms. According to representatives of other institutions and CSOs, the International Center "La Strada" ensures: (1) the takeover and management of cases of digital violence; (2) legal assistance and psychological counseling adapted to the nature of digital violence; (3) support for the development of digital safety plans; (4) thematic expertise and advice for other actors involved.

Thus, the analysis of the roles of different institutions in preventing and combating digital violence reveals the need to strengthen them because there is currently a predominantly technical or legal approach, with limited integration of the gender perspective. This institutional architecture contributes to treating digital violence against women as a secondary issue, insufficiently internalized in current institutional policies and practices.

Coordination of institutions' work with other authorities in the field of digital violence

Qualitative data indicate that existing inter-institutional coordination mechanisms are not specifically designed for digital violence against women, but operate predominantly within the broader framework of preventing and combating gender-based violence and domestic violence. Digital violence is, in this regard, indirectly integrated into already existing coordination structures and platforms, without benefiting from dedicated procedures, protocols or cooperation flows.

At the level of social policies and violence prevention, NAPCV is the main institution of inter-institutional coordination. The central instrument mentioned by the interviewees is the National Coordinating Council, which brings together representatives of ministries, agencies, law enforcement authorities and civil society. However, digital violence has only been tackled within this mechanism incidentally, as part of discussions on recent legislative changes or as an emerging form of violence, without generating dedicated decisions or coordinated actions so far.

The coordination between the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the PG and other law enforcement institutions is described as functional, but reactive, activated mainly on the basis of individual reports and investigative needs: *"When there are reports, they are sent to the police, then to the prosecutor's office."*³² *Coordination is based on the case, not on policies"* (IIS_E_7). This form of targeted coordination does not allow for the development of common practices or standardised protocols for digital violence, especially in cases that do not meet the criteria for a serious crime.

In the case of actors in the field of digitalization and technical regulation, such as MEDD and ANRCETI, the interviews indicate the lack of institutionalized coordination mechanisms with actors in the field of violence prevention against women: *"We do not have separate cooperation on cyberviolence. Our mandate is technical"* (IIS_E_2). This separation between digitization and women's rights protection policies limits the integrated approach to online safety and reduces the state's ability to respond coherently to the phenomenon.

Civil society is constantly mentioned as a key actor in coordination, especially in terms of expertise, advocacy modalities and direct support to victims. However, collaboration with non-governmental organizations remains advisory rather than operational.

Thus, the research data show that inter-institutional coordination in the field of digital violence against women is characterized by: (1) the existence of general coordination platforms, without a focus on the digital dimension; (2) the predominance of coordination at the level of policies and legislation, not of practical intervention; (3) reactive cooperation, based on individual cases; (4) institutional separation between the field of digitalisation and the protection of women's rights. In the absence of dedicated coordination mechanisms, digital violence remains a diffuse responsibility, with a negative impact on the coherence and effectiveness of institutional interventions.

Collaboration and interinstitutional cooperation mechanisms

The institutional response to digital violence against women is based on fragmented, predominantly informal and reactive forms of collaboration, in the

³² Cases of children.

absence of dedicated inter-institutional coordination mechanisms for this type of violence. Collaboration is usually activated at case level or in specific contexts (policy development, consultations), not as part of a coherent and stable system of intervention.

At the central level (ministries, NAPCV, Ombudsman), collaboration between institutions is described as formally existing, but limited in content when it comes to digital violence. The representatives of ministries and agencies mentioned the participation in working groups, consultations and general coordination platforms, especially in the processes of elaboration or modification of public policies: *"Working groups are set up with all relevant institutions – the Ministry of Internal Affairs, MLSP, Prosecutor's Office, other authorities"* (IIS_E_10). However, these forms of collaboration are mainly oriented towards policies and legislation, and digital violence is only incidentally addressed, as a subcomponent of domestic violence or cybercrime. No common procedures or dedicated operational flows are mentioned.

In the case of NAPCV, inter-institutional collaboration is achieved through the National Coordinating Council, which functions as a platform for dialogue between authorities and civil society. However, interviews show that digital violence has so far not generated clear mechanisms or decisions within this format: *"The Council is the platform where all the authorities are present, but digital violence is discussed more as an emerging phenomenon"* (IIS_E_1).

The collaboration with the Ombudsman's Office is not described as structured or constant in the area of digital violence, and it is only mentioned implicitly, in the context of the general protection of human rights.

The interviews reveal the absence of inter-ministerial mechanisms dedicated to coordinating the response to digital violence against women. Although there are general cooperation structures, they are not adapted to the nature of this phenomenon.³³ This lack leads to a diffuse distribution of responsibilities, in which each institution acts strictly within the limits of its own mandate, without a common vision of intervention.

The collaboration with police and the prosecutor's office is described as functional, but predominantly reactive, activated following individual reporting. Representatives of CSOs and public institutions emphasize that interaction is carried out on a case-by-case basis, without clear protocols or unitary standards. In practice, this collaboration is often mediated by CSOs, which act as interface between victims and authorities. Both "La Strada" International Center and the Women's Law Center described informal collaboration, based on personal relationships and accumulated experience, rather than institutionalized mechanisms.

³³ *Mechanism for intersectoral cooperation in cases of domestic violence.* The Guideline on intersectoral cooperation was approved on 25.05.2022, by the Joint Order of 5 institutions with responsibilities in the area: MLSP, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice and the President of the National Council for State-Guaranteed Legal Aid, which is the administrative body of the state-guaranteed legal aid system for victims of domestic violence.

From the perspective of the interviewees, inter-institutional cooperation includes: (1) punctual collaboration in serious cases, especially when central institutions are involved; (2) informal cooperation between CSOs and certain institutions; (3) mechanisms developed for the protection of the child, which are often invoked as good practice. On the other hand, it does not work or works insufficiently: (1) systemic coordination between institutions on digital violence against women; (2) cooperation with actors in the field of digitalisation and technical regulation; (3) transfer of best practices in the field of child protection against digital abuse to cases involving adult women.

As a result, in the absence of clear mechanisms for inter-institutional cooperation, the response to digital violence remains fragmented, dependent on individual initiative and the capacity of CSOs to fill institutional gaps.

4.5. Capacities and barriers to intervention and protection against digital violence

Human resources and their training

Human resources are one of the most vulnerable components of the intervention system in cases of digital violence against women. Although there are institutions and specialists with relevant mandates, the level of specific training for the recognition, qualification and management of digital violence is described as insufficient and uneven. Representatives of public institutions and CSOs stressed that most specialists are not trained in this form of violence, and interventions frequently depend on individual initiative and the personal experience of key actors: *"Specialists are not trained. We have very few specialists and they are those from cybercrimes, but they are specialized only in juveniles"* (IIS_E_9).

Although there are structures specialized in cybercrime, interviews indicate that their expertise is mainly oriented towards cases involving juveniles, while cases of digital violence against adult women are handled by officers without specific training in the field: *"In case of adults, it is often dealt with by an inspector who does not have the necessary education and experience for such cases"* (IIS_E_8). Within law enforcement bodies, the lack of specific training translates into difficulties in the legal characterization of facts and an often superficial approach to complaints. Digital violence is often perceived as a "secondary" problem or as an extension of personal conflicts, which limits the timeliness and effectiveness of the response: *"The police do not understand what happened, even though the woman brings real evidence"* (IIS_E_4).

In the social services sector, the shortage of qualified human resources is underlined by the high turnover of staff and the overload of existing specialists. The interviewees mentioned that the lack of training in the area of digital violence overlaps with older difficulties related to the management of cases of domestic

violence: *"The biggest problem is people: the lack, turnover and an over-burdened staff"* (FG_2_S).

Within CSOs that have specialists with relevant practical experience (except for the International Center "La Strada"), the training on digital violence was mainly carried out by integrating the theme into general programs, not through dedicated trainings: *"The digital component was integrated into the general trainings, we did not have trainings specifically created only for digital violence"* (IIS_E_4). At the same time, it is relevant to underline that CSOs' ability to invest in lifelong learning is conditional on external funding and limited-term projects, which affects the sustainability of skills development.

Overall, the lack of a coherent strategy for human resource development and specialised training is a major barrier to effective intervention against digital violence. The absence of systematic training programmes, adapted to the roles of different institutional actors, contributes to a fragmented approach and the perpetuation of unequal practices in case management.

Procedures

Procedures for intervening in cases of digital violence against women are insufficiently developed, fragmented and, in many cases, non-existent as distinct tools. In the absence of standardised procedures, institutions apply general mechanisms designed for other types of crime or domestic violence, which limits the adequacy of the response to the nature of digital violence.

Procedures applied in the investigation of cases of digital violence against adult women are described as similar to those used for other crimes, without adaptations to the nature of digital evidence. Unlike cases involving minors, where there are clearer practices and faster interventions, in case of adult women there is a lack of specialized procedural tools: *"In case of children, there are clearer procedures and practices. In case of adults, things are not as well regulated"* (IIS_E_8); *"In case of children, the reaction is prompt. In case of adults, the reaction is practically zero"* (IIS_E_9). This asymmetry generates the perception of a hierarchy of victims, in which digital violence against adult women is considered less serious or more difficult to manage.

Representatives of public institutions reported that there are no operational procedures or methodological guides dedicated to digital violence, especially for cases targeting adult women. The intervention is based on the individual interpretation of the existing legislation and on the professional experience of specialists involved: *"We do not have any framework regulation that explains to the police how to intervene in cases of digital violence"* (IIS_E_9).

At police, the lack of clear procedures is reflected in significant variations in the way complaints are received and documented. Some cases are registered as

simple petitions or administrative reports, without prompt initiation of criminal prosecution, even when relevant digital evidence is presented: *'The report is registered, but the verification takes months and, in the meantime, the content continues to be distributed'* (IIS_E_4). This slow and uneven procedural approach is perceived as a form of revictimization, as the goal of immediately ending abuse and removing content – is not achieved.

Interviews indicate that procedures for collecting, preserving and capitalizing on digital evidence are applied inconsistently. Victims are often uninformed about the importance of keeping evidence, and the lack of clear instructions from the authorities leads to the loss of evidence: *"Very often women delete messages, pictures, without knowing that they are essential evidence"* (IIS_E_4).

In the social services sector, existing procedures are designed to manage domestic violence and do not include specific tools for digital risk assessment or the development of online safety plans. This limits the ability of services to respond adequately to cases where digital violence is the main or predominant form of abuse.

Few CSOs have developed adapted internal procedures, in particular for risk assessment and to support victims in documenting cases. However, these procedures are not recognised or taken over by other institutions, remaining dependent on organisational capacity and available funding: *'We make digital safety plans, but these are not officially recognised procedures'* (IIS_E_8).

Overall, data indicate that the absence of standardised procedures and interinstitutional protocols is a major barrier to effective intervention. The lack of procedural clarity affects not only the efficiency of the institutions' work, but also victims' trust in the state's ability to provide them with protection, contributing to the underreporting of cases and the perpetuation of violence in the digital environment.

Challenges

There are several structural and operational challenges that affect the system's ability to respond effectively to cases of digital violence against women. These challenges are cross-cutting for different categories of institutional actors and reflect both the limits of the existing framework and the early stage of recognition and institutionalisation of the phenomenon.

One of the most frequently mentioned challenge is the lack of a prompt and effective response from authorities, especially in terms of immediately stopping the abuse in the digital environment. Victims turn to institutions with the expectation that the main harm – the distribution or maintenance of abusive content – will be stopped, but this goal is rarely achieved: *"The woman simply wants this content to stop existing. Of all the cases we have, there has been none where the police*

helped remove the content" (IIS_E_4). This discrepancy between victims' needs and institutional intervention capacity contributes to distrust in formal protection mechanisms and discourages reporting.

Another major challenge is the difficulties related to evidence. Interviews reveal that victims are not sufficiently informed about the importance of keeping digital evidence, and the lack of clear procedures for collecting and preserving evidence often leads to the impossibility of documenting cases: *"Very often people delete messages, photos, without knowing that they are evidence"* (IIS_E_5). This situation is aggravated by the lack of technical capacity of authorities to identify, track and document content distributed online, especially when platforms are international or the servers are outside the national jurisdiction.

An additional challenge is the lack of institutional clarity regarding competences. During the interviews, persistent confusion was reported about who is responsible for monitoring online content, blocking it or for rapid intervention in the digital environment: *'It is not clear who is blocking the content, who has the competence'* (IIS_E_4). This vagueness leads to the transfer of responsibility between institutions and significant delays in case management.

At the same time, the interviews also indicate challenges related to the level of digital literacy of victims, but also of professionals. Terms such as 'digital violence' and 'cyberviolence' are not always understood, and information messages are perceived as too technical: *'We speak in a language that the beneficiaries do not understand'* (IIS_E_4).

Overall, the challenges identified reflect a structural gap between formal recognition of the phenomenon and the actual capacity to intervene, which affects both institutional efficiency and women's effective access to protection and justice in the digital environment.

Barriers

The interviews highlight the existence of multiple structural barriers, which limit the effectiveness of intervention and protection in cases of digital violence against women. These barriers are interdependent and manifest themselves simultaneously at legislative, institutional, technological and human levels, contributing to a fragmented and often inadequate response to the nature of the phenomenon.

Although the regulatory framework has seen recent developments, including through the criminalisation of certain forms of digital violence, interviews indicate that existing legislation is perceived as difficult to apply in practice, especially in the absence of clear procedural regulations. The representatives of public institutions and CSOs pointed out: (1) general legal formulations, which leave room for divergent interpretations; (2) difficulties in legally qualifying the facts; (3) the lack of clear provisions on rapid intervention to block or remove online content: *"It*

is clearly described what the crime is, but it is not clear who and how intervenes" (IIS_E_4).

Technological barriers were constantly mentioned by different interviewees. They concern both the limited capacity of authorities to intervene in the digital environment and their dependence on platforms and providers outside their national jurisdiction. The representatives of the prosecutor's office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the CSO highlighted the difficulties related to: (1) identifying the perpetrators online; (2) locating and preserving digital evidence; (3) Rapid blocking or removal of abusive content: *"It is not in our power to block content that is on platforms outside the country"* (IIS_E_5).

The actors in the field of regulation and digitization (ANRCETI, MEDD) have also indicated the limits of the institutional mandate, which does not include intervention on online content, which creates a functional vacuum in situations of digital violence: *"We regulate the infrastructure, not the content"* (IIS_E_2). This strict separation between technical regulation and victim protection reduces the state's ability to respond coherently and in an integrated manner.

The lack of specialized human resources is one of the most frequently invoked barriers. At the same time, staff turnover and lack of continuous training affect the coherence of interventions and the accumulation of institutional expertise. During the interviews, the following was highlighted: (1) the insufficiency of staff trained on digital violence: *"In case of adults, it is often dealt with by an inspector who investigates all types of crimes"* (IIS_E_9); (2) the absence of proceedings for cases involving adult women; (3) overburdened existing staff, especially in the police and social services.

A cross-cutting barrier, highlighted by the majority of respondents, is the lack of clear coordination between institutions, both at strategic and operational levels. The absence of a mechanism dedicated to digital violence causes: fragmented interventions, dependence on informal relationships and disproportionate involvement of CSOs in compensating for institutional gaps. This situation is perceived as structural, not cyclical, and affects the sustainability of the long-term response.

The analysis of capacities and barriers in the intervention against digital violence reveals a significant gap between the formal recognition of the phenomenon and the effective capacity of an institutional response. Although the regulatory framework has been expanded to include certain forms of digital violence, its implementation is limited by persistent structural constraints.

When it comes to human resources, the system faces a shortage of specialists trained specifically for digital violence. Training is fragmented, unsystematic and dependent on punctual initiatives, leading to unequal practices and often reactive interventions. This situation is compounded by staff turnover and overburdened frontline actors.

In the absence of standardised procedures, institutions apply general mechanisms, designed for other forms of violence or crime, without adaptation to the nature of the digital environment. The lack of operational guidelines and inter-institutional protocols affects both the quality of the intervention and the confidence of victims in the available protection mechanisms.

Identified operational challenges – difficulties in quickly stopping abuse, handling digital evidence, lack of clarity regarding institutional competences and differences in treatment between cases involving minors and those involving adult women – reflect a system insufficiently adapted to the cross-border and dynamic nature of digital violence. These shortcomings are reinforced by legislative, technological and institutional barriers, including limited applicability of legal rules, technical constraints vis-à-vis international online platforms, lack of specialisation and weak inter-institutional coordination. In this context, the response to digital violence remains fragmented and dependent to a significant extent on the capacity and expertise of CSOs, in particular, of the International Center "La Strada", to fill some gaps in the public system.

The above mentioned indicate the need for a systemic approach, which goes beyond the formal integration of digital violence into the legislative framework and aims at strengthening institutional capacities, clarifying procedures and developing functional cooperation mechanisms, adapted to the nature of this type of violence.

V. PRIORITIES FOR COUNTERING DIGITAL VIOLENCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Clarification of institutional duties and responsibilities

Strengthening the operational capacities of the responsible institutions and developing a specialized intervention, adapted to the nature of the digital environment

Reorienting the institutional response to the real needs of victims

5.1. Needed support for women affected by digital violence

From a women's perspective, the support needed in the context of digital violence is not defined as a priority by punitive interventions, but by the combination of validation, practical guidance and emotional protection. Although reporting and punishing the perpetrator are recognized as important, they rarely arise as immediate needs. Much more frequently, women talk about the need to be listened to, believed and guided, in a moment characterized by confusion, shame and fear of escalation.

In-depth individual interviews reveal that the support perceived as the most useful is the one that reduces isolation and self-confidence. Women frequently describe the initial state as one of ambivalence: they are not sure if what is happening to them is "serious enough", if it is "worth it" to ask for help, or if they themselves have made a mistake. In this context, the simple confirmation of the fact that the lived experience constitutes violence has a major stabilizing effect: *"I wasn't even sure it was violence. I thought I was exaggerating. When I was clearly told that what was happening to me was not normal, then I calmed down a bit"* (IIA_S_3).

The need for validation is closely linked to the invisible dimension of digital violence, which leaves no physical traces. In the absence of external recognition, women tend to internalize responsibility and adopt strategies of silence or avoidance.

Another central element of helpful support is clear guidance. In most cases, women do not ask for imperative solutions, but for explanations of available options, risks associated with each option and the concrete steps that can be taken: *"I didn't need them to tell me: do this or that. I needed him to explain to me what I could do and what was happening next"* (IIA_S_6). This orientation is perceived as supportive when it is adapted to the woman's pace and does not exert pressure for immediate reporting. From this perspective, useful support is the one that restores the feeling of control, in a situation perceived as chaotic and unpredictable.

Interviews with women affected by violence and those at risk highlighted persistent structural shortcomings:

- The absence of easily accessible services, specialising exclusively on digital violence, combining psychological, legal and technical support in a single point of contact. Women often describe fragmented routes, in which they are sent from one institution to another, without coordination.
- Accessible psychological support. For many women, the emotional impact of digital violence persists long after the bullying has stopped, but access to counselling remains limited or financially conditioned: *"It's been a while now, but it's still affecting me. I don't know where to go and talk to someone about it"* (IIA_R_1).
- Lack of clear, centralised information, presented in simple language, about rights, procedures and forms of protection. This deficit fuels dependence on informal sources and increases the risk of misinformation or giving up on seeking support. Messages formulated by women to authorities are not articulated as abstract demands, but as very concrete expectations, built from lived or anticipated experiences:
- At the heart of these is the need to recognise digital violence as real violence, with effects comparable to those of other forms of abuse. Women ask, first of all, to be taken seriously without being forced to demonstrate the seriousness of the suffering or compare it to physical violence: *"I would like them to no longer have to explain why it affected me. If I say that it has affected me, let it be enough"* (IIA_S_7). This requirement is closely linked to the experiences of minimization and relativization described in the interviews and indirectly confirmed by quantitative data on the low level of trust in the protection provided by the state. Women perceive digital violence as being treated as 'less serious', which discourages them from reporting and reinforces their tendency to manage situations on their own.
- Another recurring message is about the clarity and predictability of the institutional response. Women don't necessarily ask for quick sanctions or guaranteed results, but want to know what's next after they take a step towards reporting. Procedural uncertainty is perceived as a major stress factor : *"I wasn't so scared by the idea of going, as by the fact that I didn't know what was coming next"* (IIA_S_6). This need for clarity is consistent with quantitative data showing that more than 1/3 of respondents indicate lack of knowledge about procedures as a reason for non-reporting, and almost 1/4 cite lack of evidence. Women's message is thus a pragmatic one - without clear explanations and predictable standards, reporting becomes an additional risk.
- No less important is fair and non-blaming treatment. Women explicitly ask that interaction with authorities does not include questions or attitudes that shift the responsibility onto them. From their perspective, such reactions are not neutral, but produce retraumatization and close access to support: *"When they ask you why you didn't block, they seem to tell you that you were also wrong"* (IIA_S_2).

Quantitative data on recommendations regarding protection complement women's qualitative statements, outlining a pragmatic logic of the necessary support, centered on prevention and exposure control rather than on post-factum interventions. This guidance is relevant for understanding the real expectations of authorities and other actors, but also for the perceived limitations of the protection system.

The necessary support reveals 3 complementary areas: (1) reducing exposure and increasing control over personal information; (2) strengthening the capacity to respond, through evidence and reporting, where feasible; (3) activating informal and community support, as the first level of protection and validation.

For the authorities, these results send a clear message - women do not reject reporting or institutional intervention, but condition it on the existence of a system that reduces the additional risks for the victim. In the absence of it, strategies of self-protection and informal support become the dominant solutions, even if they imply restricting participation and freedom of expression in the digital space.

The recommendations made by the women can be grouped into several coherent areas, which correspond to both the qualitative data and trends identified in the quantitative study.

- 1. Strengthening the institutional capacity to recognize digital violence.** Women request specialized training for the front-line actors (police, social assistance), so that digital violence is understood as a complex phenomenon, not reduced to "*online conflicts*" or "*personal problems*". This recommendation is supported by the widespread perception that women are insufficiently protected online and by the high level of underreporting.
- 2. Creating clear and simplified reporting pathways.** Interviews show the need for an easy-to-understand pathway, with explained steps, centralized information and procedural guidance. Women do not necessarily ask for a formal "*one-stop-shop*", but they ask for coherence and continuity between institutions: "*They should not send you from one place to another, without knowing what the other person is doing*" (IIA_R_3).
- 3. Integrating psychological support into institutional response.** Women's recommendations go beyond the legal domain and aim to include emotional support as a legitimate part of the intervention. The persistent emotional impact of digital violence justifies the need for accessible counselling services, regardless of the decision to formally report.
- 4. Systematic collaboration with CSOs.** The positive experiences with the International Center "La Strada" lead women to recommend expanding their role as intermediaries and providers of specialized support. From their perspective, CSOs can act as a bridge between victims and institutions, reducing the fear of exposure and the emotional strain of direct interaction: "*If it hadn't been for La Strada, I don't think I would have ever reached the authorities*" (IIA_S_1).
- 5. Public messages and campaigns that shift responsibility from the victim.**

Women emphasize the importance of public communication that clearly conveys that the responsibility for violence belongs to the perpetrator and that reporting is a right, not a moral obligation. This recommendation aligns with quantitative data indicating shame and fear of judgment as the main barriers to reporting.

Thus, the necessary support, as formulated by women, is not reduced to punctual interventions, but requires a coherent, empathetic and predictable response, which reduces the emotional costs of reporting and transforms institutions from spaces perceived as risk into real spaces of protection. Women's messages and recommendations indicate that improving support is not just about additional resources, but about how interaction with victims of digital violence is organised and delivered.

5.2. Key priorities for an effective national strategy to prevent and combat digital violence

One of the key priorities consistently identified by the interviewees for a more effective national strategy to combat digital violence against women is **the clarification of institutional duties and responsibilities**. The current institutional architecture is characterized by fragmentation, rigid delineations of mandate and the absence of an authority with explicit responsibility for digital violence. Both representatives of public institutions and service providers have reported persistent confusion regarding the competences in the field of digital violence, in particular in terms of monitoring the online environment, rapid intervention and blocking of abusive content. Digital violence is located at the intersection of several areas – justice, public order, digitization, technical regulation and the protection of women's rights – without being fully assumed by any of them.

Ministries and central agencies define their predominant role at the level of public policies and regulatory frameworks, highlighting the lack of direct implementation powers. At the same time, law enforcement institutions make intervention conditional on the existence of the elements of a crime, which limits the ability to react in the early stages of abuse. Actors in the field of digitization and technical regulation invoke a strictly technical mandate, which excludes intervention in the online content. This sectoral distribution of responsibilities creates a functional vacuum, in which digital violence is formally recognized, but insufficiently operationally assumed.

Interviews show that existing inter-institutional coordination mechanisms are not tailored specifically to digital violence. General cooperation platforms, such as the National Coordinating Council of NAPCV, provide a framework for dialogue, but do not generate procedures, decisions or operational flows dedicated to this type of violence. In the absence of an inter-ministerial mechanism with a clear mandate, coordination remains sporadic and dependent on individual initiatives.

The consequences of this institutional ambiguity are directly felt at the level of intervention in concrete cases. Responsibility is frequently passed between institutions, and victims are forced to navigate a complex system without clear reference points. In this context, CSOs end up taking on a disproportionate role, not only as service providers, but also as mediators between victims and authorities, compensating for the lack of institutional clarity: *"We end up explaining to the authorities who should intervene and how"* (IIS_E_9).

The interviewees underlined the need to define the institutional attributions, by: (1) clearly designating the institutions responsible for each stage of the intervention (prevention, notification, investigation, limitation of damage); (2) the delimitation of competences between actors in the field of justice, public order, digitization and the protection of women's rights; (3) establishment of a national coordination mechanism with a clear mandate regarding digital violence against women. The clarification of the institutional architecture is perceived as a prerequisite for streamlining the other dimensions of the strategy – capacity building, improving procedures and focusing the response towards the victim. In the absence of this clarification, digital violence risks remaining a phenomenon managed in a fragmented way at the periphery of existing institutional mandates.

The second key priority for an effective national strategy to combat digital violence against women is **to strengthen the operational capacities of responsible institutions and develop a specialised intervention, adapted to the nature of digital environment**. The interviews indicate that the existence of the regulatory framework, in the absence of appropriate institutional capacities, does not generate an effective and coherent response.

One of the most frequently invoked aspects is the insufficiency of specialized human resources. Although there are structures and specialists in the field of cybercrime, their expertise is mainly oriented towards cases involving minors, while digital violence against adult women is managed by staff without specific training. This lack of specialization affects the ability to recognize the phenomenon, to have adequate legal qualification and to manage digital evidence.

The interviews highlight that professional training in the field of digital violence is fragmented and lacking in continuity, being achieved, in most cases, by integrating the topic into general trainings or through specific initiatives, often facilitated by CSOs. The lack of dedicated training programmes leads to significant differences in practice between institutions and even between territorial units of the same institution.

Another central element of this priority is the absence of standardised operational procedures. Interviews indicate that authorities do not have clear guidelines on documenting, investigating and managing cases of digital violence against women. In the absence of digitally adapted procedures, intervention relies on general mechanisms, which do not respond to the specific needs of victims, in particular

in terms of rapid stopping of harm.

The interviews also highlight the limitations of authorities' technical capacities, in particular in terms of identifying perpetrators, preserving digital evidence and interacting with international online platforms. The lack of technical tools and adequate expertise reduces the efficiency of prosecution and contributes to the perpetuation of online abuse.

In this context, CSOs, such as the International Center "La Strada" and the Women's Law Center, play a key role in compensating for institutional gaps by providing legal assistance, psychological counseling, and digital safety plans. However, interviews show that this *de facto* outsourcing of intervention cannot replace a strengthened public capacity.

Several interviewees stressed the need to take over and adapt existing good practices in the field of child protection, where specialised structures, clear procedures and international cooperation have been developed in order to extend these capacities to cases involving adult women. This comparison appears recurrently in interviews as an example of a functional intervention, which could be replicated.

Overall, the strengthening of operational capacities is perceived as an essential condition for transforming the regulatory framework into an effective instrument of protection. Without investment in human resources, training, procedures and technical capacities, digital violence risks to remain an area where responsibility is formally recognized, but intervention remains limited and ineffective.

The third key priority for an effective national strategy to combat digital violence against women is to **reorient the institutional response to the real needs of victims**, while strengthening the prevention dimension. Interviews show that in its current form, the public response is predominantly legal and reactive, while the victims' experience is marked by the urgency of stopping harm, immediate protection and reducing the psychosocial impact of violence.

It has been consistently emphasized in interviews that for women affected by digital violence, the priority is not necessarily to criminalize the perpetrator, but to stop the abuse and remove harmful content from the online environment. This discrepancy between the objectives of the justice system and the needs of victims generates frustration, mistrust and, in many cases, abandonment of formal procedures.

The interviews highlight the need to develop rapid intervention mechanisms to limit harm in real time, including through cooperation with online platforms and the use of internationally available tools to report and remove abusive content, such as in the case of children. The absence of such mechanisms makes institutional intervention perceived as late and ineffective.

A central element of a victim-centric response is the integration of digital safety into existing services. CSOs have developed practices such as digital safety plans, evidence preservation guidance and online counselling, but these tools are not systemically recognised or taken over by public institutions. Respectively, there is a need to extend these practices at national level, by integrating them into social, legal and psychological assistance services.

In parallel, prevention must be conceptualized as an institutional and social responsibility, not exclusively individual. Interviews indicate a low level of digital literacy among the population, including in terms of recognising digital violence, the risks associated with sharing personal content and the importance of preserving evidence: *"People don't understand what digital violence means and what consequences it has"* (IIS_E_8).

It was also pointed out that existing information messages are often formulated in technical language, inaccessible to the general public, and do not take into account the diversity of the target groups. An effective prevention strategy should include: (1) information campaigns tailored to different ages and levels of digital competence; (2) integrating online safety into education and training programmes; (3) the involvement of local communities and civil society in the dissemination of prevention messages.

Interviews also highlight the importance of strengthening cooperation with the non-governmental sector, which is recognised as a key actor in supporting victims and developing innovative solutions. However, it was stressed that the role of CSOs needs to be integrated into a clear institutional framework, in order to avoid their overload and over-reliance on projects.

Overall, this priority reflects the need for a paradigm shift: from a response centred solely on sanctions, to an integrated, victim-oriented response, prevention and reduction of the impact of digital violence. Without this reorientation, national strategies risk remaining disconnected from the realities experienced by affected women and the rapid dynamics of the online environment.

Conclusions

- Digital violence against women in the Republic of Moldova must be understood as a social phenomenon integrated into the daily practices of using the online environment. Participants to the study are deeply anchored in the digital space in their daily lives, which determines exposure to risks.
- In terms of prevalence, the research indicates that 12.0% of people over the age of 18 who use internet at least once a month have been victims of at least one form of digital violence, and 25.4% have witnessed such situations in the last 12 months. These data signal a high social visibility of the phenomenon and suggest that self-reported prevalence tends to underestimate the true dimension of digital violence, as indirect exposure exceeds direct exposure
- The distribution of the phenomenon is unequal and follows clear lines of social stratification. Digital violence disproportionately affects women, and age functions as a major vulnerability factor – the 18–29 age segment stands out as the core of exposure through both direct and indirect exposure. From the perspective of the sociodemographic profile, there is a more pronounced vulnerability among young women, students, unmarried women and those in urban areas, which reflects the interaction between social position and the intensity of digital participation.
- From a typological point of view, digital violence appears as a differentiated phenomenon, organized around recurring nuclei: (1) practices of identity control and digital access; (2) reputational and verbal aggression; (3) sexualized forms and direct bullying, and (4) practices facilitated by advanced technologies, such as the use of artificial intelligence.
- Spaces for the manifestation of digital violence confirm the structural nature of the risk: social networks are the main medium of digital violence (70.2%), followed by instant messaging applications (26.8%). Social networks concentrate cumulative risk conditions (visibility, recurrence, rapid sharing, combining interactions with known and unknown people), and the segment analysis shows that women indicate these spaces more frequently than men, young people being the group that mentions them the most. At the same time, the role of violence in messaging apps is increasing at older ages, where violence is described as repetitive and intrusive pressure.
- The typology of perpetrators reveals a dual structure of digital violence, located between anonymity and relational proximity. On the one hand, anonymous users (35.9%) and previously unknown persons (34.0%) indicate the role of anonymity in reducing regulatory constraints and the social costs of bullying. On the other hand, known perpetrators (online and/or offline) place digital violence in a deeply relational framework, with the potential for escalation and increased impact. Overall, the gender of the perpetrator is predominantly perceived as male, and women tend to interpret digital violence more clearly as a gender-structured phenomenon than men.
- The social perception of protection outlines a climate of vulnerability: 37.2% of respondents consider that women are protected a little, and 22.6% – not at

all protected, with gender differences showing a higher level of criticism and perceived vulnerability among women. This climate has direct consequences on response strategies, as it reduces the anticipation of the effectiveness of the intervention and encourages the orientation towards self-protection and avoidance of public exposure.

- The reporting illustrates one of the central tensions of the phenomenon. At the declarative level, there is a relatively high willingness to report (70%), but this is strongly nuanced by ambivalence and conditioning, and in practice formal reporting appears late and rarely. In the chain of reactions, reporting is frequently placed as a secondary or last option, after the exhaustion of individual control strategies (block, withdrawal). The discrepancy between the normative validation of reporting and actual behaviors suggests that the barriers are not only related to information, but to the perceived costs (emotional, procedural, social) and the uncertainty of the effectiveness of the intervention.
- The impact of digital violence is psycho-emotional dominant and translates into states of insecurity, emotional suffering, anxiety and hypervigilance, with lasting effects that go from online to offline. Immediate reactions are mainly defensive: blocking communication channels is the most common action (41.1%), followed by other measures to reduce exposure. This guidance indicates that digital violence produces not only individual harm, but also social costs by restricting participation and self-censorship, affecting women's freedom of expression and presence in the digital public space.
- The data allowed the distinction of 3 dominant types of coping: active, passive/avoidant, resilience-oriented, which coexist and succeed each other over time. The dominance of defensive and avoidance strategies functions as an indirect indicator of the limits of institutional response, as protection is perceived as insufficient and confrontation as risky.
- The analysis of social norms highlights a broad consensus on the recognition of digital violence as a form of abuse, but also the persistence of normative ambiguities in its interpretation and management. Forms of violence involving explicit public exposure (distribution of intimate images, public denigration) are quickly and unreservedly recognized as violence, while subtle, repetitive digital violence devoid of explicit threats (psychological control, online stalking) is more frequently minimized or treated as an "*insufficiently serious*" problem for formal intervention.
- Attitudes towards digital violence are marked by individual responsibility and shifting the blame onto the victims, a fact found both in the discussion of the scenarios and in the in-depth individual interviews. Violence prevention is seen through women's behaviors (prudence, limiting online exposure, visibility control), while the responsibility of perpetrators and platforms is marginally mentioned.
- The intervention system reveals a response that is still fragmented and insufficiently adapted to the nature of digital environment: a shortage of trained human resources, limited standardised procedures, difficulties in managing digital evidence, rapid halting of abuse and inter-institutional cooperation.

- A systemic approach to digital violence is needed, which goes beyond the formal integration of the subject into policies and operates a paradigm shift – from a reactive and predominantly sanctioning response to an integrated, victim-oriented response, prevention, impact reduction and clarification of institutional responsibilities.

Recommendations

The results of the research highlight the need for a systemic and integrated approach to digital violence against women that goes beyond fragmented and predominantly reactive responses. The recommendations below are formulated in direct correlation with the empirical findings of the study and are structured by levels of intervention:

1. Legal framework and public policies

- **Progressively align the national regulatory framework with European standards**, in particular with the provisions of *EU Directive 2024/1385* on combating violence against women and domestic violence, with a focus on the explicit criminalisation of certain forms of digital violence, victim protection and inter-institutional cooperation.
- **Clarify and strengthen the recognition of digital violence as a form of gender-based violence**, including through the development of distinct operational definitions and procedures tailored to the nature of the digital environment. Although the existing legal framework allows certain digital behaviors to be classified in established forms of violence (psychological, sexual), the lack of clear regulations and operational mechanisms generates ambiguities in application and limits early intervention.
- **Mainstreaming digital safety into national policies on preventing and combating violence against women**, including through the explicit inclusion of digital violence in sectoral strategies, action plans and inter-institutional coordination mechanisms. This integration would overcome the fragmentary treatment of the phenomenon and strengthen the approach to digital violence as part of the online-offline continuum.
- **Reorient public policies from a predominant sanctioning response to a victim-centred response** that prioritises the swift cessation of abuse, harm reduction and immediate protection, including through cooperation mechanisms with digital platforms to remove abusive content.

2. At institutional and procedural level

- **Develop clear, coherent and accessible reporting and intervention pathways** to reduce the current fragmentation of the institutional response. Affected women need centralized information, procedural guidance and continuity in the intervention of institutions, in order to avoid retraumatization and abandonment of formal procedures.
- **Integrating digital safety into existing protection and support services**, including through the recognition and systemic take-up of practices developed by CSOs (digital safety plans, guidance on evidence preservation, advice tailored to the online environment).
- **Strengthening the capacity of frontline institutions** (police, social services, community services) to recognise and manage digital violence as a complex phenomenon that goes beyond the category of '*online conflicts*' and requires risk assessment, including in the absence of explicit threats.
- **Standardise procedures for documentation and management of digital**

evidence, through clear operational guidelines for institutions. The difficulty of collecting, storing and evaluating digital evidence currently shifts a disproportionate share of responsibility on victims and constitutes a major barrier to accessing protection. Standardised procedures would help reduce discrepancies in practice and increase the predictability of the intervention.

- **Institutionalize the collection and use of data on digital violence**, by including specific indicators in the administrative systems of the relevant institutions. The lack of systematic data limits the ability to monitor the phenomenon, evaluate policies and adjust interventions according to the evolution of abusive practices in the digital environment.
- **Develop institutional mechanisms for rapid coordination between actors**, in particular between police, social assistance, specialised services and CSOs, for high-risk cases. The lack of functional coordination leads to fragmented interventions and the overloading of victims with tasks of navigating between institutions. A coordination mechanism would facilitate integrated intervention and reduce re-traumatisation.

3. Training and skills development

- **Implementation of specialized training programs for professionals involved in preventing and combating digital violence**, with a focus on the dynamics of online coercive control, subtle psychological violence and digital evidence management.
- **Integrating the trauma-centred approach and victim experience into training programmes** to reduce the risk of institutional disqualification and re-victimisation. The training should include components on the psycho-emotional impact of digital violence, the dynamics of fear and shame, as well as empathetic and non-blaming ways of communication.

4. Prevention and change of social norms

- **Reconceptualizing prevention as an institutional and community responsibility**, not exclusively individual. Data indicate an internalization of the idea that online safety depends predominantly on women's self-protection, which leads to disproportionate accountability.
- **Integrating education about digital violence and healthy relationships into formal and non-formal educational curricula** with a focus on recognising coercive control, digital consent and the responsibility of perpetrators. Young women have demonstrated a greater ability to recognise digital violence, suggesting the potential of early childhood education as a tool for long-term normative change.
- **Develop digital information and education campaigns tailored to different age groups and skill levels**, which contribute to the recognition of subtle and emerging forms of digital violence, reduce stigma and encourage witness intervention.
- **Promote the responsible involvement of witnesses and online communities**, by clarifying safe reporting and intervention mechanisms, so that non-intervention no longer functions as the dominant social norm.

- **Promote positive models of witness intervention**, adapted to the online environment, which provide concrete examples of safe and responsible involvement. The lack of clear guidelines on "*how to intervene*" contributes to non-intervention and passivity. The visibility of legitimate and protected forms of involvement can contribute to the redefinition of the norms of social reaction.

5. Intersectoral collaboration and coordination

- **Strengthen cooperation between public institutions, CSOs and digital platforms** to ensure rapid, coherent and effective interventions. However, it was stressed that the role of CSOs needs to be integrated into a clear institutional framework, in order to avoid their overload and over-reliance on projects.
- **Institutionalize a permanent national cross-sectoral coordination mechanism on digital violence**, bringing together representatives of key ministries, regulators, law enforcement bodies, specialised social services and CSOs. This mechanism should have clear tasks of harmonising policies, exchanging information, monitoring complex cases and formulating coordinated responses, avoiding the current fragmentation of interventions.

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Annexes

Annex 1. Data on women affected by digital violence and those in risk groups with whom in-depth individual interviews were conducted

Nr.	Code	Age	Education	Marital status	Number of children	Place of residence	Other features
1.	IIA_S_1	31	Vocational	Concubinage	4 children	Rural	
2.	IIA_S_2	32	Higher	Married	1 child	Urban	
3.	IIA_S_3	18	College	Single	-	Urban	
4.	IIA_S_4	18	Lyceum	Single	-	Rural	Survivor of digital violence
5.	IIA_S_5	48	Secondary school	Married	3 children	Rural	Survivor of digital violence and other forms of violence at the workplace
6.	IIA_S_6	21	College	Single	-	Rural	Survivor of digital violence
7.	IIA_S_7	30	Higher	Divorced	1 child	Urban	Survivor of domestic violence and digital violence
8.	IIA_R_1	21	Special secondary school	Married	1 child	Rural	Survivor of domestic violence
9.	IIA_R_2	21	Secondary school	Married	1 child	Rural	Survivor of domestic violence
10.	IIA_R_3	24	Vocational	Single	1 child with disabilities	Rural	Single mother
11.	IIA_R_4	42	Higher	Divorced	1 child	Urban	Woman returned from migration
12.	IIA_R_5	46	Higher	Married	-	Urban	Woman with disabilities
13.	IIA_R_6	34	Vocational	Divorced	1 child	Urban	
14.	IIA_R_7	22	College	Not-married	-	Rural	

Annex 2. Data about specialists with whom semi-structured individual interviews were conducted

Nr.	Code	Gender	Professional experience, years	Institution
1.	IIS_E_1	F	5 years	National Agency for Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence
2.	IIS_E_2	M	11 ani	ANRCETI – National Regulatory Agency for Electronic Communications and Information Technology
3.	IIS_E_3	M	8 years	Ministry of Economic Development and Digitization
4.	IIS_E_4	F	15 years	Women's Law Center
5.	IIS_E_5	M	25 years	Ministerul Afacerilor Interne
6.	IIS_E_6	F	5 years	Ministry of Labor and Social Protection
7.	IIS_E_7	M	25 years	General Prosecutor's Office
8.	IIS_E_8	F	10 years	"La Strada" International Center
9.	IIS_E_9	F	10 years	"La Strada" International Center
10.	IIS_E_10	F	15 years	Ministry of Justice

Annex 3. Data about people participating in group discussions regarding scenarios

WOMEN		
Group discussion code	Participants category	Number of participants
FG_1_F	Young women, 18-25 years old	8 women
FG_2_F	Women, 26-50 years old	4 women
Total 2 FG	Women	12 women
SPECIALISTS		
Group discussion code	Category of participants	Number of participants
FG_1_S	Members of a multidisciplinary team from rural area	10 specialists
FG_2_S	Specialists from specialized services for women survivors of domestic violence and women at risk	10 specialists
Total 2 FG	Specialists	20 specialists

Annex 4. Disaggregation of quantitative data

Table 1. Sample structure:

		Number (unweighted)	% (weighted)
Total		1016	100,0%
Respondent's gender:*	Male	304	45,3%
	Female	712	54,7%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	248	15,5%
	30-44 years old	302	27,6%
	45-59 years old	283	27,0%
	60+ years	183	29,9%
Victim / Witness of online aggression:	Victim	122	12,0%
	Witness	258	25,4%
	No	711	70,0%
Language of communication:	Romanian	766	76,0%
	Russian or other	250	24,0%
Level of education:	Low level	403	38,3%
	Average level	306	31,6%
	High level	305	30,1%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	549	52,3%
	Student	67	3,7%
	Unemployed	243	19,7%
	Pensioner / person with disabilities	154	24,3%
Marital status:	Not-married	224	17,2%
	Married	632	65,1%
	Widowed/divorced	158	17,7%
Presence of children:	Yes	506	43,1%
	No	510	56,9%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	321	33,1%
	Average level	342	33,0%
	High level	353	33,9%
Place of residence:	Urban	482	42,4%
	Rural	534	57,6%

* The sample was intentionally oversized in favor of women. Subsequently, for analysis purposes, data weighting was used to render natural proportionality by gender.

Table 2. How often do you use the internet?

		A few times a day	Once a day	A few times a week	Once a week	A few times a month
Total		78,8%	14,9%	3,4%	2,4%	0,5%
Respondent's gender:	Male	80,4%	14,0%	1,4%	4,0%	0,3%
	Female	77,5%	15,7%	5,1%	1,1%	0,6%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	93,1%	5,9%	1,0%	0,0%	0,0%
	30-44 years old	89,1%	7,8%	1,1%	1,6%	0,4%
	45-59 years old	80,4%	15,6%	2,3%	1,6%	0,0%
	60+ years	60,3%	25,6%	7,9%	5,1%	1,1%
Victim / Witness of online aggression:	Victim	88,8%	9,8%	1,4%	0,0%	0,0%
	Witness	87,3%	11,1%	1,6%	0,0%	0,0%
	No	76,2%	16,0%	4,1%	3,1%	0,6%
Language of communication:	Romanian	77,3%	16,9%	3,3%	2,0%	0,4%
	Russian or other	83,4%	8,8%	3,7%	3,6%	0,5%
Level of education:	Low level	75,1%	16,9%	3,7%	3,9%	0,4%
	Average level	77,9%	17,1%	2,1%	2,9%	0,0%
	High level	84,5%	10,2%	4,2%	0,0%	1,0%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	82,7%	13,6%	1,7%	1,7%	0,2%
	Student	99,0%	1,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
	Unemployed	84,3%	9,9%	2,6%	3,2%	0,0%
	Pensioner / person with disabilities	62,4%	24,2%	8,3%	3,7%	1,4%
Marital status:	Not-married	90,2%	7,5%	1,7%	0,0%	0,7%
	Married	78,3%	15,0%	3,6%	2,7%	0,3%
	Widowed/divorced	69,2%	21,9%	4,6%	3,5%	0,9%
Presence of children:	Yes	85,7%	9,5%	3,0%	1,8%	0,0%
	No	73,5%	19,0%	3,8%	2,9%	0,8%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	68,6%	22,8%	3,9%	3,8%	0,8%
	Average level	81,3%	12,5%	4,6%	1,0%	0,5%
	High level	86,3%	9,6%	1,8%	2,3%	0,0%
Place of residence:	Urban	85,2%	10,6%	1,4%	2,8%	0,0%
	Rural	74,1%	18,1%	4,9%	2,1%	0,8%

Table 3. How often do you use internet to access the following social media platforms/networks?

		Facebook								
		A few times a day	Once a day	A few times a week	Once a week	A few times a month	Once a month or less	Not at all	I don't have a social media account	Do not know/no answer
Total		52,9%	22,2%	8,5%	3,6%	1,0%	1,3%	6,8%	3,8%	0,0%
Respondent's gender:	Male	48,6%	22,0%	7,9%	4,0%	1,4%	1,4%	10,0%	4,7%	0,0%
	Female	56,4%	22,4%	8,9%	3,2%	0,7%	1,1%	4,2%	3,1%	0,0%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	45,1%	15,0%	11,5%	6,0%	1,5%	2,9%	12,6%	5,3%	0,0%
	30-44 years old	69,7%	17,6%	5,2%	0,8%	0,7%	0,8%	4,1%	1,1%	0,0%
	45-59 years old	51,8%	24,4%	7,4%	4,2%	2,2%	0,6%	6,9%	2,5%	0,0%
	60+ years	42,4%	28,2%	10,8%	4,2%	0,0%	1,5%	6,2%	6,8%	0,0%
Victim / Witness of on-line aggression:	Victim	54,2%	22,6%	3,2%	5,8%	0,5%	2,4%	5,3%	6,1%	0,0%
	Witness	55,7%	17,2%	8,2%	3,2%	1,1%	3,3%	6,1%	5,2%	0,0%
	No	51,5%	23,6%	8,7%	3,5%	1,0%	0,8%	7,3%	3,6%	0,0%
Language of communication:	Romanian	55,8%	23,1%	8,7%	2,9%	0,8%	1,0%	5,4%	2,2%	0,0%
	Russian or other	43,6%	19,2%	7,6%	5,7%	1,6%	2,0%	11,2%	9,0%	0,0%
Level of education:	Low level	51,4%	22,4%	9,5%	2,6%	1,0%	1,6%	7,2%	4,5%	0,0%
	Average level	53,1%	26,2%	6,8%	3,1%	1,2%	0,6%	5,7%	3,3%	0,0%
	High level	54,5%	17,9%	8,6%	5,3%	0,8%	1,6%	7,6%	3,6%	0,0%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	58,0%	21,8%	5,8%	3,7%	1,0%	0,8%	6,3%	2,6%	0,0%
	Student	25,1%	21,6%	20,1%	8,4%	2,7%	5,1%	10,7%	6,2%	0,0%
	Unemployed	59,1%	15,6%	9,9%	3,3%	2,0%	0,8%	7,2%	2,3%	0,0%
	Pensioner / person with disabilities	40,5%	28,9%	11,3%	2,9%	0,0%	1,8%	7,2%	7,5%	0,0%
Marital status:	Not-married	41,6%	16,2%	10,1%	5,9%	2,1%	3,9%	14,2%	5,9%	0,0%
	Married	58,0%	22,6%	8,3%	2,9%	0,5%	0,9%	3,7%	3,2%	0,0%
	Widowed/divorced	44,6%	26,8%	7,7%	3,7%	1,9%	0,0%	11,1%	4,1%	0,0%
Presence of children:	Yes	57,8%	20,9%	7,6%	3,0%	1,6%	0,6%	5,2%	3,4%	0,0%
	No	49,1%	23,2%	9,1%	4,0%	0,6%	1,8%	8,1%	4,2%	0,0%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	44,4%	29,3%	7,7%	5,3%	1,2%	1,4%	6,3%	4,3%	0,0%
	Average level	56,5%	17,9%	10,4%	2,6%	0,2%	1,1%	6,6%	4,8%	0,0%
	High level	57,6%	19,5%	7,3%	2,7%	1,7%	1,3%	7,5%	2,4%	0,0%
Place of residence:	Urban	53,7%	18,5%	7,2%	2,9%	1,0%	2,2%	8,7%	5,9%	0,0%
	Rural	52,3%	24,9%	9,4%	4,1%	1,0%	0,6%	5,4%	2,3%	0,0%

Table 4. How often do you use internet to access the following social media platforms/networks?

		Instagram								
		A few times a day	Once a day	A few times a week	Once a week	A few times a month	Once a month or less	Not at all	I don't have a social media account	Do not know/no answer
Total		32,1%	10,2%	6,4%	4,0%	1,4%	2,0%	27,1%	16,7%	0,0%
Respondent's gender:	Male	29,9%	11,7%	4,4%	5,9%	1,2%	1,9%	26,3%	18,8%	0,0%
	Female	34,0%	9,0%	8,1%	2,5%	1,5%	2,1%	27,7%	15,0%	0,0%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	70,1%	13,0%	4,7%	1,9%	0,6%	0,0%	6,8%	2,9%	0,0%
	30-44 years old	43,4%	11,8%	8,2%	4,6%	1,1%	2,5%	20,1%	8,2%	0,0%
	45-59 years old	19,9%	12,3%	7,6%	6,8%	1,8%	3,4%	24,2%	24,0%	0,0%
	60+ years	13,0%	5,5%	4,4%	2,2%	1,7%	1,4%	46,7%	25,2%	0,0%
Victim / Witness of on-line aggression:	Victim	44,2%	19,8%	2,6%	7,2%	2,3%	2,2%	12,7%	8,9%	0,0%
	Witness	44,7%	10,9%	6,7%	4,5%	1,2%	2,7%	13,6%	15,5%	0,0%
	No	28,5%	9,6%	6,4%	3,7%	1,4%	1,9%	31,1%	17,5%	0,0%
Language of communication:	Romanian	30,7%	9,4%	6,8%	3,8%	1,6%	1,4%	30,9%	15,3%	0,0%
	Russian or other	36,6%	12,7%	5,1%	4,7%	0,8%	4,0%	15,1%	21,2%	0,0%
Level of education:	Low level	33,7%	7,6%	4,9%	3,9%	1,2%	2,0%	29,8%	16,9%	0,0%
	Average level	25,2%	12,8%	8,8%	3,9%	2,3%	3,4%	26,4%	17,2%	0,0%
	High level	37,3%	10,9%	5,5%	4,4%	0,6%	0,6%	24,5%	16,2%	0,0%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	36,3%	11,9%	8,5%	3,7%	1,0%	2,4%	21,1%	15,2%	0,0%
	Student	72,1%	12,6%	3,4%	5,0%	1,0%	0,0%	4,9%	1,0%	0,0%
	Unemployed	38,4%	11,3%	4,2%	4,6%	2,3%	2,9%	25,7%	10,6%	0,0%
	Pensioner / person with disabilities	12,0%	5,6%	4,1%	4,1%	1,6%	0,9%	44,8%	26,9%	0,0%
Marital status:	Not-married	58,6%	13,0%	3,6%	3,2%	0,2%	1,1%	10,1%	10,2%	0,0%
	Married	29,2%	9,4%	6,6%	4,4%	1,6%	1,7%	28,9%	18,1%	0,0%
	Widowed/divorced	16,9%	10,5%	8,2%	3,4%	1,7%	4,3%	37,1%	18,0%	0,0%
Presence of children:	Yes	38,7%	11,3%	6,9%	3,8%	1,4%	2,2%	22,5%	13,2%	0,0%
	No	27,1%	9,4%	6,0%	4,2%	1,4%	1,9%	30,6%	19,4%	0,0%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	20,1%	12,1%	9,8%	3,2%	2,1%	1,3%	28,7%	22,7%	0,0%
	Average level	35,7%	9,8%	3,5%	4,8%	1,5%	1,4%	28,9%	14,5%	0,0%
	High level	40,4%	8,7%	5,8%	4,2%	0,6%	3,4%	23,8%	13,1%	0,0%
Place of residence:	Urban	37,9%	12,9%	4,5%	5,0%	1,6%	2,7%	18,4%	17,1%	0,0%
	Rural	27,9%	8,3%	7,8%	3,4%	1,2%	1,5%	33,5%	16,4%	0,0%

Table 5. How often do you use internet to access the following social media platforms/networks?

		Odnoklassniki								
		A few times a day	Once a day	A few times a week	Once a week	A few times a month	Once a month or less	Not at all	I don't have a social media account	Do not know/no answer
Total		8,4%	6,2%	4,8%	4,7%	2,3%	5,5%	42,5%	25,4%	0,2%
Respondent's gender:	Male	10,0%	6,5%	2,8%	5,3%	1,6%	6,2%	41,0%	26,4%	0,3%
	Female	7,2%	5,9%	6,5%	4,2%	3,0%	4,8%	43,6%	24,6%	0,1%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	6,5%	0,7%	1,8%	5,0%	1,3%	7,5%	48,7%	28,3%	0,0%
	30-44 years old	9,7%	3,2%	4,1%	3,8%	3,1%	6,1%	44,2%	25,5%	0,3%
	45-59 years old	9,1%	7,1%	4,8%	6,2%	2,9%	5,1%	36,7%	27,7%	0,5%
	60+ years	7,7%	11,0%	7,0%	4,0%	1,7%	4,1%	42,8%	21,7%	0,0%
Victim / Witness of on-line aggression:	Victim	8,6%	5,2%	2,7%	6,3%	1,1%	8,9%	38,4%	27,9%	0,9%
	Witness	7,5%	3,0%	5,0%	4,5%	1,8%	9,0%	32,7%	36,4%	0,0%
	No	8,5%	7,0%	4,7%	4,5%	2,5%	4,2%	45,9%	22,6%	0,2%
Language of communication:	Romanian	6,5%	6,1%	4,9%	4,2%	2,2%	5,0%	48,7%	22,1%	0,3%
	Russian or other	14,7%	6,4%	4,3%	6,3%	2,9%	6,8%	22,7%	35,8%	0,0%
Level of education:	Low level	9,9%	7,2%	4,2%	4,4%	2,6%	5,8%	43,6%	21,7%	0,6%
	Average level	10,1%	6,6%	7,4%	5,7%	3,3%	5,8%	40,1%	21,0%	0,0%
	High level	4,9%	4,5%	2,8%	4,1%	1,1%	4,6%	43,0%	34,9%	0,0%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	9,3%	5,4%	4,6%	5,2%	2,9%	4,5%	39,6%	28,4%	0,1%
	Student	2,1%	0,0%	0,0%	2,6%	0,0%	14,3%	57,4%	23,6%	0,0%
	Unemployed	11,0%	4,3%	7,2%	8,0%	2,6%	6,5%	41,0%	19,3%	0,0%
	Pensioner / person with disabilities	5,7%	10,5%	4,0%	1,4%	1,3%	5,4%	47,5%	24,3%	0,0%
Marital status:	Not-married	9,7%	1,7%	0,7%	3,0%	1,6%	5,8%	46,8%	30,7%	0,0%
	Married	8,8%	6,6%	5,8%	5,4%	2,6%	4,7%	40,7%	25,1%	0,3%
	Widowed/divorced	6,1%	9,0%	5,0%	3,6%	2,1%	8,0%	45,2%	20,9%	0,0%
Presence of children:	Yes	8,0%	4,4%	5,5%	4,8%	2,7%	6,6%	42,7%	25,3%	0,0%
	No	8,8%	7,5%	4,2%	4,6%	2,1%	4,6%	42,3%	25,5%	0,4%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	9,8%	10,6%	6,0%	4,7%	2,8%	3,9%	36,1%	26,2%	0,0%
	Average level	9,1%	5,6%	3,9%	5,6%	2,3%	6,9%	41,9%	24,4%	0,2%
	High level	6,4%	2,4%	4,4%	3,9%	1,9%	5,6%	49,2%	25,7%	0,4%
Place of residence:	Urban	5,1%	3,1%	2,4%	4,5%	1,9%	7,6%	36,7%	38,4%	0,2%
	Rural	10,9%	8,5%	6,5%	4,8%	2,7%	3,9%	46,7%	15,8%	0,2%

Table 6. How often do you use internet to access the following social media platforms/networks?

		VKontakte								
		A few times a day	Once a day	A few times a week	Once a week	A few times a month	Once a month or less	Not at all	I don't have a social media account	Do not know/no answer
Total		7,5%	4,0%	1,9%	2,2%	1,3%	3,1%	49,0%	30,3%	0,7%
Respondent's gender:	Male	8,4%	3,0%	1,7%	3,0%	0,9%	2,5%	48,1%	31,5%	0,8%
	Female	6,7%	4,8%	2,0%	1,5%	1,7%	3,6%	49,6%	29,3%	0,7%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	7,9%	3,6%	2,6%	3,8%	1,4%	5,8%	52,8%	22,2%	0,0%
	30-44 years old	6,4%	3,9%	2,0%	1,8%	1,2%	2,3%	50,2%	32,0%	0,3%
	45-59 years old	5,7%	3,7%	1,4%	1,7%	2,0%	3,0%	44,0%	37,3%	1,1%
	60+ years	9,8%	4,5%	1,8%	2,2%	0,9%	2,6%	50,4%	26,7%	1,2%
Victim / Witness of on-line aggression:	Victim	8,4%	5,4%	1,0%	4,2%	0,5%	4,8%	42,5%	32,3%	0,9%
	Witness	5,6%	5,2%	2,2%	1,6%	1,3%	4,6%	42,0%	36,5%	0,8%
	No	7,9%	3,5%	1,8%	2,3%	1,4%	2,8%	51,1%	28,6%	0,6%
Language of communication:	Romanian	5,1%	3,8%	1,3%	1,3%	0,9%	2,4%	57,5%	26,8%	1,0%
	Russian or other	14,8%	4,6%	3,7%	5,2%	2,6%	5,5%	22,0%	41,5%	0,0%
Level of education:	Low level	7,3%	4,8%	2,2%	1,3%	1,4%	3,2%	50,7%	28,0%	1,1%
	Average level	9,5%	3,4%	1,7%	4,0%	1,5%	2,6%	49,5%	27,8%	0,0%
	High level	5,6%	3,7%	1,6%	1,5%	1,1%	3,6%	45,7%	36,2%	1,0%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	8,1%	3,3%	1,6%	1,5%	1,5%	2,5%	46,5%	34,5%	0,5%
	Student	5,8%	0,8%	2,3%	5,4%	1,9%	12,9%	49,2%	21,7%	0,0%
	Unemployed	8,1%	5,0%	2,2%	3,1%	1,7%	2,9%	49,8%	25,6%	1,6%
	Pensioner / person with disabilities	6,0%	5,2%	2,2%	2,7%	0,6%	3,1%	53,6%	26,6%	0,0%
Marital status:	Not-married	8,6%	2,5%	3,1%	3,3%	1,5%	5,3%	43,5%	32,1%	0,0%
	Married	6,7%	4,2%	2,1%	2,4%	1,6%	2,0%	49,8%	30,3%	1,0%
	Widowed/divorced	9,4%	4,5%	0,0%	0,4%	0,4%	5,1%	51,1%	28,6%	0,4%
Presence of children:	Yes	6,3%	3,7%	2,4%	1,6%	2,1%	3,2%	49,9%	30,7%	0,0%
	No	8,3%	4,2%	1,5%	2,7%	0,8%	3,0%	48,2%	30,1%	1,3%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	7,1%	4,0%	1,9%	3,5%	2,0%	1,4%	46,0%	34,0%	0,3%
	Average level	10,3%	3,3%	2,0%	1,3%	1,5%	3,5%	49,4%	27,5%	1,3%
	High level	5,1%	4,6%	1,8%	1,9%	0,6%	4,4%	51,4%	29,6%	0,6%
Place of residence:	Urban	6,8%	3,7%	1,7%	2,3%	1,3%	5,2%	40,4%	38,5%	0,2%
	Rural	8,0%	4,2%	2,0%	2,2%	1,4%	1,6%	55,3%	24,3%	1,1%

Table 7. How often do you use internet to access the following social media platforms/networks?

		TikTok								
		A few times a day	Once a day	A few times a week	Once a week	A few times a month	Once a month or less	Not at all	I don't have a social media account	Do not know/no answer
Total		45,6%	12,3%	4,8%	1,5%	1,2%	1,4%	20,0%	13,1%	0,0%
Respondent's gender:	Male	50,2%	11,5%	4,3%	1,3%	1,0%	0,6%	19,0%	12,1%	0,0%
	Female	41,8%	13,0%	5,2%	1,7%	1,4%	2,1%	20,8%	13,9%	0,0%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	72,1%	9,1%	4,4%	0,3%	0,7%	0,3%	5,5%	7,5%	0,0%
	30-44 years old	55,7%	10,5%	2,3%	1,8%	0,6%	2,8%	15,4%	10,9%	0,0%
	45-59 years old	38,3%	13,5%	4,5%	2,4%	1,5%	1,8%	20,0%	18,0%	0,0%
	60+ years	29,1%	14,7%	7,6%	1,2%	1,8%	0,4%	31,7%	13,6%	0,0%
Victim / Witness of on-line aggression:	Victim	53,7%	13,6%	6,3%	1,8%	0,0%	1,4%	9,5%	13,6%	0,0%
	Witness	51,8%	9,9%	5,3%	1,7%	0,3%	1,3%	12,1%	17,7%	0,0%
	No	43,9%	12,8%	4,6%	1,5%	1,5%	1,4%	22,5%	11,9%	0,0%
Language of communication:	Romanian	44,2%	12,4%	4,9%	1,3%	0,9%	1,0%	24,4%	10,9%	0,0%
	Russian or other	49,8%	12,0%	4,6%	2,2%	2,4%	2,8%	6,1%	20,2%	0,0%
Level of education:	Low level	54,7%	12,5%	5,1%	0,7%	1,5%	0,2%	16,0%	9,3%	0,0%
	Average level	43,5%	11,3%	4,1%	2,6%	1,0%	1,1%	24,7%	11,6%	0,0%
	High level	35,7%	13,3%	5,3%	1,5%	1,1%	3,3%	20,3%	19,5%	0,0%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	46,4%	14,6%	3,4%	1,5%	1,5%	2,1%	16,6%	13,9%	0,0%
	Student	70,4%	6,0%	2,8%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	11,3%	9,5%	0,0%
	Unemployed	57,4%	10,0%	3,9%	2,1%	0,6%	1,0%	15,7%	9,3%	0,0%
	Pensioner / person with disabilities	29,7%	10,4%	8,9%	1,5%	1,4%	0,5%	32,5%	15,2%	0,0%
Marital status:	Not-married	64,0%	13,0%	2,1%	1,2%	0,0%	0,0%	8,0%	11,8%	0,0%
	Married	43,9%	10,5%	4,8%	1,5%	1,4%	1,1%	22,7%	14,1%	0,0%
	Widowed/divorced	34,3%	18,1%	7,4%	2,0%	1,9%	3,9%	21,8%	10,5%	0,0%
Presence of children:	Yes	50,9%	10,2%	5,3%	0,9%	1,7%	2,4%	16,2%	12,5%	0,0%
	No	41,6%	14,0%	4,5%	2,0%	0,8%	0,7%	22,9%	13,6%	0,0%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	44,2%	15,9%	4,6%	1,9%	1,9%	1,1%	16,6%	13,9%	0,0%
	Average level	44,9%	11,2%	3,6%	0,7%	0,9%	0,8%	24,1%	13,8%	0,0%
	High level	47,6%	10,0%	6,2%	2,1%	0,9%	2,3%	19,3%	11,7%	0,0%
Place of residence:	Urban	47,0%	12,3%	4,5%	1,1%	0,8%	2,2%	12,5%	19,6%	0,0%
	Rural	44,6%	12,4%	5,0%	1,8%	1,5%	0,8%	25,5%	8,3%	0,0%

Table 8. How often do you use internet to access the following social media platforms/networks?

		YouTube								
		A few times a day	Once a day	A few times a week	Once a week	A few times a month	Once a month or less	Not at all	I don't have a social media account	Do not know/no answer
Total		45,9%	19,9%	10,0%	6,2%	1,8%	1,9%	9,6%	4,6%	0,1%
Respondent's gender:	Male	50,6%	18,9%	8,4%	7,1%	2,5%	0,2%	8,9%	3,3%	0,0%
	Female	41,9%	20,7%	11,4%	5,4%	1,3%	3,3%	10,2%	5,7%	0,1%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	65,5%	18,1%	8,4%	3,7%	1,0%	1,0%	1,4%	0,8%	0,0%
	30-44 years old	61,4%	16,0%	6,3%	3,6%	1,8%	1,2%	8,5%	1,3%	0,0%
	45-59 years old	39,4%	22,6%	12,2%	9,5%	1,2%	1,3%	5,4%	8,2%	0,2%
	60+ years	27,1%	21,9%	12,4%	6,9%	2,9%	3,5%	18,8%	6,5%	0,0%
Victim / Witness of on-line aggression:	Victim	59,6%	16,7%	11,2%	3,5%	0,4%	3,0%	2,2%	3,4%	0,0%
	Witness	58,4%	16,3%	10,8%	5,3%	1,2%	1,2%	3,0%	3,8%	0,0%
	No	42,0%	20,8%	10,0%	6,6%	2,1%	1,9%	11,6%	5,0%	0,1%
Language of communication:	Romanian	44,0%	20,7%	10,7%	5,6%	1,5%	2,0%	11,2%	4,2%	0,0%
	Russian or other	51,6%	17,1%	7,9%	8,1%	2,8%	1,4%	4,6%	6,1%	0,3%
Level of education:	Low level	43,6%	18,2%	8,9%	8,4%	2,9%	1,0%	10,6%	6,4%	0,0%
	Average level	44,1%	19,4%	8,2%	6,1%	2,1%	1,7%	12,9%	5,3%	0,2%
	High level	50,1%	22,7%	13,5%	3,5%	0,2%	3,2%	5,0%	1,8%	0,0%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	48,8%	22,0%	9,3%	5,9%	2,1%	2,2%	6,1%	3,4%	0,1%
	Student	66,6%	17,2%	6,9%	5,6%	2,5%	0,0%	1,1%	0,0%	0,0%
	Unemployed	55,2%	14,9%	11,5%	5,4%	2,0%	1,0%	6,3%	3,7%	0,0%
	Pensioner / person with disabilities	28,2%	19,7%	11,0%	7,6%	1,1%	2,3%	21,2%	8,9%	0,0%
Marital status:	Not-married	60,2%	16,8%	6,6%	5,9%	2,4%	1,9%	2,5%	3,7%	0,0%
	Married	44,7%	20,4%	12,1%	5,8%	2,1%	0,5%	9,7%	4,7%	0,0%
	Widowed/divorced	36,5%	21,1%	5,3%	7,4%	0,4%	6,9%	16,5%	5,6%	0,4%
Presence of children:	Yes	53,6%	18,3%	10,6%	3,6%	2,1%	1,1%	7,1%	3,7%	0,0%
	No	40,0%	21,1%	9,6%	8,2%	1,6%	2,4%	11,6%	5,4%	0,1%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	36,8%	22,9%	6,2%	10,3%	2,5%	2,4%	11,5%	7,4%	0,0%
	Average level	46,4%	17,7%	14,3%	3,7%	2,0%	1,9%	10,0%	3,7%	0,2%
	High level	54,1%	19,1%	9,6%	4,6%	1,1%	1,3%	7,4%	2,9%	0,0%
Place of residence:	Urban	52,7%	18,7%	9,0%	4,8%	1,9%	1,6%	6,8%	4,3%	0,1%
	Rural	40,8%	20,8%	10,8%	7,2%	1,8%	2,1%	11,7%	4,9%	0,0%

Table 9. How often do you use internet to access the following social media platforms/networks?

		Tumblr / Reddit								
		A few times a day	Once a day	A few times a week	Once a week	A few times a month	Once a month or less	Not at all	I don't have a social media account	Do not know/no answer
Total		2,0%	0,4%	0,4%	0,3%	1,5%	2,3%	52,4%	37,4%	3,4%
Respondent's gender:	Male	3,1%	0,4%	0,7%	0,2%	0,8%	2,3%	50,9%	38,3%	3,2%
	Female	1,1%	0,3%	0,2%	0,5%	2,0%	2,3%	53,5%	36,6%	3,5%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	1,9%	0,9%	1,2%	0,5%	4,8%	2,6%	51,1%	35,3%	1,7%
	30-44 years old	3,3%	0,8%	0,7%	0,0%	1,7%	1,3%	52,0%	38,3%	1,9%
	45-59 years old	0,8%	0,0%	0,0%	0,2%	1,0%	3,5%	47,7%	41,6%	5,2%
	60+ years	2,1%	0,0%	0,0%	0,6%	0,0%	2,0%	57,5%	33,7%	4,0%
Victim / Witness of on-line aggression:	Victim	1,0%	1,2%	0,0%	0,0%	1,7%	2,4%	47,8%	42,8%	3,1%
	Witness	1,8%	0,4%	0,8%	0,0%	4,1%	0,8%	42,8%	45,0%	4,3%
	No	2,2%	0,2%	0,3%	0,4%	0,7%	2,7%	55,0%	35,3%	3,1%
Language of communication:	Romanian	1,3%	0,3%	0,3%	0,2%	1,6%	1,1%	60,2%	30,8%	4,1%
	Russian or other	4,2%	0,7%	0,6%	0,8%	1,0%	6,2%	27,5%	58,0%	1,0%
Level of education:	Low level	3,4%	0,3%	0,3%	0,2%	2,8%	2,5%	53,4%	33,2%	3,9%
	Average level	1,1%	0,3%	0,4%	0,7%	1,3%	3,0%	55,4%	34,7%	3,0%
	High level	1,2%	0,5%	0,5%	0,2%	0,0%	1,4%	47,9%	45,3%	3,1%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	2,4%	0,7%	0,5%	0,3%	0,6%	1,4%	49,0%	42,3%	2,9%
	Student	6,9%	0,0%	3,1%	0,0%	7,6%	6,9%	45,1%	29,4%	1,0%
	Unemployed	1,9%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	4,5%	3,9%	53,6%	32,8%	3,4%
	Pensioner / person with disabilities	0,6%	0,0%	0,0%	0,8%	0,0%	2,5%	60,5%	31,4%	4,3%
Marital status:	Not-married	2,5%	1,1%	1,1%	0,5%	1,7%	3,2%	46,5%	40,6%	2,7%
	Married	2,3%	0,1%	0,3%	0,4%	1,6%	1,3%	52,4%	37,6%	4,0%
	Widowed/divorced	0,8%	0,5%	0,0%	0,0%	0,6%	5,1%	58,2%	33,0%	1,8%
Presence of children:	Yes	3,5%	0,2%	0,3%	0,0%	3,0%	1,8%	51,5%	38,5%	1,2%
	No	0,9%	0,4%	0,5%	0,6%	0,3%	2,7%	53,0%	36,5%	5,0%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	1,7%	0,5%	0,2%	0,4%	1,1%	2,7%	51,7%	39,9%	1,8%
	Average level	3,1%	0,2%	0,7%	0,4%	0,5%	1,5%	55,4%	33,5%	4,7%
	High level	1,3%	0,3%	0,3%	0,2%	2,8%	2,8%	50,0%	38,7%	3,5%
Place of residence:	Urban	1,2%	0,4%	0,5%	0,3%	0,6%	2,9%	41,0%	50,7%	2,3%
	Rural	2,6%	0,3%	0,3%	0,3%	2,1%	1,9%	60,7%	27,5%	4,2%

Table 10. How often do you use internet to access the following social media platforms/networks?

		Telegram								
		A few times a day	Once a day	A few times a week	Once a week	A few times a month	Once a month or less	Not at all	I don't have a social media account	Do not know/no answer
Total		22,1%	5,7%	6,1%	4,5%	2,4%	2,5%	35,9%	20,4%	0,3%
Respondent's gender:	Male	27,2%	3,9%	6,9%	4,6%	2,2%	1,7%	32,2%	21,4%	0,0%
	Female	17,9%	7,1%	5,5%	4,4%	2,5%	3,3%	39,0%	19,6%	0,6%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	59,4%	10,8%	4,4%	3,0%	3,6%	1,4%	10,5%	6,8%	0,0%
	30-44 years old	28,5%	6,3%	11,1%	5,3%	2,1%	4,0%	28,9%	13,9%	0,0%
	45-59 years old	11,1%	4,6%	5,8%	5,7%	3,1%	3,7%	38,5%	27,0%	0,7%
	60+ years	6,7%	3,4%	2,7%	3,5%	1,5%	0,7%	53,4%	27,7%	0,5%
Victim / Witness of on-line aggression:	Victim	44,1%	7,2%	3,5%	6,4%	2,8%	4,3%	19,2%	12,5%	0,0%
	Witness	38,5%	8,2%	9,4%	3,3%	3,6%	5,6%	14,0%	16,8%	0,6%
	No	17,4%	4,9%	5,3%	4,5%	2,1%	1,7%	42,0%	21,7%	0,3%
Language of communication:	Romanian	18,3%	4,9%	5,9%	4,2%	2,2%	2,2%	41,9%	20,1%	0,3%
	Russian or other	34,0%	8,0%	6,9%	5,4%	3,1%	3,8%	17,1%	21,6%	0,3%
Level of education:	Low level	23,0%	4,0%	4,3%	4,5%	3,3%	4,8%	35,8%	19,7%	0,5%
	Average level	15,7%	5,3%	4,4%	3,9%	2,3%	1,7%	43,2%	23,2%	0,4%
	High level	27,8%	8,1%	10,4%	4,7%	1,4%	0,6%	28,4%	18,6%	0,0%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	26,3%	6,6%	7,9%	4,6%	2,6%	2,7%	29,6%	19,2%	0,3%
	Student	70,5%	12,0%	3,7%	3,2%	1,7%	2,0%	3,7%	3,1%	0,0%
	Unemployed	22,4%	4,9%	7,3%	6,0%	2,7%	3,0%	35,5%	17,5%	0,7%
	Pensioner / person with disabilities	5,3%	3,5%	1,8%	2,7%	1,8%	2,0%	55,3%	27,8%	0,0%
Marital status:	Not-married	49,5%	7,2%	5,2%	4,3%	3,0%	2,7%	14,8%	12,9%	0,4%
	Married	17,0%	5,3%	6,2%	4,9%	2,3%	2,5%	38,5%	22,8%	0,4%
	Widowed/divorced	14,2%	5,4%	6,7%	3,3%	2,1%	2,6%	47,4%	18,3%	0,0%
Presence of children:	Yes	26,5%	7,3%	6,6%	4,7%	3,0%	3,9%	29,2%	18,8%	0,0%
	No	18,7%	4,4%	5,8%	4,4%	1,9%	1,5%	41,0%	21,7%	0,6%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	16,0%	4,5%	6,4%	4,2%	2,4%	1,3%	41,5%	23,2%	0,5%
	Average level	24,9%	6,3%	4,9%	4,1%	3,1%	1,6%	38,2%	16,6%	0,4%
	High level	25,3%	6,2%	7,1%	5,2%	1,7%	4,8%	28,3%	21,4%	0,0%
Place of residence:	Urban	32,7%	8,1%	7,3%	4,7%	2,1%	2,9%	20,8%	21,3%	0,0%
	Rural	14,2%	3,8%	5,3%	4,4%	2,6%	2,3%	47,1%	19,8%	0,6%

Table 11. How often do you use internet to access the following social media platforms/networks?

		WhatsApp / Viber								
		A few times a day	Once a day	A few times a week	Once a week	A few times a month	Once a month or less	Not at all	I don't have a social media account	Do not know/no answer
Total		47,0%	17,1%	10,3%	8,4%	1,9%	2,0%	10,7%	2,4%	0,1%
Respondent's gender:	Male	44,2%	15,6%	8,8%	12,0%	3,2%	2,0%	10,8%	3,4%	0,0%
	Female	49,4%	18,3%	11,6%	5,4%	0,8%	2,0%	10,6%	1,6%	0,2%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	58,0%	13,4%	6,9%	5,6%	2,7%	1,0%	10,5%	1,8%	0,0%
	30-44 years old	57,9%	12,4%	11,2%	8,5%	1,0%	3,2%	4,3%	1,4%	0,0%
	45-59 years old	41,0%	12,1%	13,9%	11,7%	2,5%	2,2%	11,8%	4,7%	0,0%
	60+ years	36,7%	27,9%	8,1%	6,8%	1,7%	1,1%	15,7%	1,5%	0,5%
Victim / Witness of on-line aggression:	Victim	55,1%	18,5%	11,8%	6,5%	2,9%	4,2%	1,0%	0,0%	0,0%
	Witness	52,2%	16,4%	12,3%	6,2%	2,5%	3,6%	5,8%	1,1%	0,0%
	No	45,4%	17,1%	9,8%	9,2%	1,6%	1,6%	12,4%	2,8%	0,2%
Language of communication:	Romanian	41,5%	18,1%	12,0%	9,1%	1,9%	1,9%	12,8%	2,7%	0,0%
	Russian or other	64,6%	13,9%	5,0%	6,1%	1,9%	2,3%	4,2%	1,5%	0,6%
Level of education:	Low level	45,8%	12,8%	11,2%	6,2%	2,5%	2,7%	14,3%	4,5%	0,0%
	Average level	40,3%	19,0%	10,5%	12,7%	1,6%	2,7%	11,2%	1,5%	0,4%
	High level	55,2%	20,7%	9,1%	6,8%	1,5%	0,4%	5,7%	0,7%	0,0%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	52,5%	14,3%	10,7%	8,8%	2,2%	1,0%	8,1%	2,4%	0,0%
	Student	61,6%	13,1%	3,2%	7,4%	1,0%	2,0%	9,6%	2,1%	0,0%
	Unemployed	49,0%	11,7%	8,0%	8,0%	2,5%	6,4%	11,9%	2,6%	0,0%
	Pensioner / person with disabilities	31,3%	28,5%	12,1%	8,1%	0,9%	0,6%	15,7%	2,3%	0,6%
Marital status:	Not-married	56,4%	12,3%	7,3%	5,1%	2,2%	2,2%	10,0%	4,5%	0,0%
	Married	46,7%	16,5%	10,8%	9,8%	1,8%	2,1%	9,8%	2,4%	0,2%
	Widowed/divorced	39,4%	23,5%	11,7%	6,5%	2,0%	1,5%	14,9%	0,4%	0,0%
Presence of children:	Yes	55,2%	13,8%	10,9%	7,6%	1,0%	2,0%	7,5%	2,1%	0,0%
	No	40,8%	19,7%	9,9%	9,0%	2,6%	2,0%	13,2%	2,6%	0,2%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	42,6%	18,1%	10,5%	10,6%	1,4%	2,0%	11,6%	2,9%	0,4%
	Average level	47,1%	19,2%	10,0%	7,3%	2,6%	0,9%	10,5%	2,5%	0,0%
	High level	51,3%	14,1%	10,6%	7,3%	1,7%	3,0%	10,1%	1,8%	0,0%
Place of residence:	Urban	55,2%	17,0%	10,1%	6,3%	2,0%	1,0%	6,0%	2,3%	0,0%
	Rural	41,0%	17,2%	10,5%	10,0%	1,8%	2,7%	14,2%	2,4%	0,2%

Table 12. How often do you use internet to access the following social media platforms/networks?

		Dating apps (Tinder, Match, Badoo, Bumble, Mamba, etc.)								
		A few times a day	Once a day	A few times a week	Once a week	A few times a month	Once a month or less	Not at all	I don't have a social media account	Do not know/no answer
Total		2,0%	0,4%	0,3%	0,8%	1,1%	3,5%	47,8%	41,3%	2,8%
Respondent's gender:	Male	3,1%	0,9%	0,5%	0,9%	1,2%	3,0%	46,1%	42,0%	2,4%
	Female	1,1%	0,0%	0,1%	0,7%	1,1%	3,9%	49,2%	40,7%	3,2%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	2,6%	0,0%	0,7%	0,4%	2,6%	3,6%	50,9%	39,1%	0,0%
	30-44 years old	4,0%	0,0%	0,5%	1,2%	1,7%	3,1%	44,9%	42,9%	1,5%
	45-59 years old	0,4%	0,5%	0,0%	1,4%	1,0%	4,7%	42,9%	45,7%	3,5%
	60+ years	1,3%	0,9%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	2,8%	53,3%	36,9%	4,8%
Victim / Witness of on-line aggression:	Victim	0,9%	0,0%	0,0%	0,9%	0,5%	1,7%	43,0%	51,0%	2,1%
	Witness	0,4%	0,7%	0,9%	2,2%	0,5%	3,8%	41,3%	48,8%	1,4%
	No	2,4%	0,3%	0,1%	0,4%	1,3%	3,6%	49,5%	39,1%	3,1%
Language of communication:	Romanian	2,0%	0,3%	0,3%	0,8%	1,0%	2,2%	54,9%	35,1%	3,4%
	Russian or other	2,1%	0,6%	0,1%	0,7%	1,7%	7,6%	25,2%	61,0%	1,0%
Level of education:	Low level	3,6%	0,7%	0,1%	1,1%	0,5%	3,7%	51,0%	36,6%	2,8%
	Average level	1,2%	0,0%	0,3%	0,6%	1,0%	4,9%	48,5%	40,0%	3,5%
	High level	0,9%	0,5%	0,5%	0,6%	2,1%	1,8%	42,9%	48,6%	2,1%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	2,9%	0,3%	0,4%	1,4%	1,0%	2,3%	43,5%	45,7%	2,4%
	Student	0,0%	0,0%	0,8%	0,8%	2,7%	4,9%	52,1%	38,6%	0,0%
	Unemployed	2,4%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	2,6%	7,0%	48,7%	37,0%	2,3%
	Pensioner / person with disabilities	0,0%	1,1%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	3,0%	56,5%	35,4%	4,1%
Marital status:	Not-married	3,7%	0,0%	0,6%	0,4%	1,9%	3,6%	43,9%	44,3%	1,5%
	Married	2,0%	0,6%	0,0%	1,0%	1,1%	2,9%	47,2%	41,2%	3,9%
	Widowed/divorced	0,4%	0,0%	0,8%	0,4%	0,6%	5,5%	54,0%	38,1%	0,0%
Presence of children:	Yes	2,7%	0,6%	0,1%	0,5%	2,2%	3,6%	46,4%	42,2%	1,7%
	No	1,5%	0,3%	0,4%	1,0%	0,3%	3,4%	48,8%	40,6%	3,6%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	1,0%	0,8%	0,0%	0,0%	0,9%	3,0%	46,3%	46,3%	1,6%
	Average level	4,2%	0,0%	0,7%	1,2%	0,8%	2,0%	50,7%	36,8%	3,6%
	High level	0,8%	0,4%	0,1%	1,2%	1,7%	5,4%	46,5%	40,8%	3,1%
Place of residence:	Urban	1,4%	0,3%	0,4%	1,1%	0,7%	3,2%	37,8%	53,5%	1,7%
	Rural	2,5%	0,4%	0,1%	0,5%	1,5%	3,7%	55,2%	32,3%	3,7%

Table 13. Which of the following devices do you use most often to connect to the internet?

		Mobile phone	Tablet	Laptop	Desktop computer	Game console/TV	Something else	Do not know/ no answer
Total		95,4%	0,6%	1,5%	1,7%	0,6%	0,0%	0,1%
Respondent's gender:	Male	94,2%	0,5%	2,2%	2,1%	0,7%	0,0%	0,3%
	Female	96,5%	0,6%	1,0%	1,4%	0,5%	0,0%	0,0%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	95,0%	0,5%	1,7%	2,4%	0,5%	0,0%	0,0%
	30-44 years old	98,2%	0,0%	1,2%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,5%
	45-59 years old	93,6%	0,6%	3,0%	1,5%	1,3%	0,0%	0,0%
	60+ years	94,7%	1,1%	0,4%	3,3%	0,5%	0,0%	0,0%
Victim / Witness of on-line aggression:	Victim	96,4%	0,0%	2,7%	0,9%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
	Witness	94,0%	0,0%	1,5%	3,4%	0,4%	0,0%	0,7%
	No	95,8%	0,7%	1,4%	1,4%	0,6%	0,0%	0,0%
Language of communication:	Romanian	95,9%	0,5%	1,3%	1,6%	0,6%	0,0%	0,2%
	Russian or other	94,0%	0,9%	2,2%	2,3%	0,6%	0,0%	0,0%
Level of education:	Low level	98,5%	0,2%	0,2%	0,8%	0,3%	0,0%	0,0%
	Average level	93,0%	1,3%	2,6%	1,9%	1,1%	0,0%	0,0%
	High level	94,0%	0,2%	2,1%	2,8%	0,4%	0,0%	0,5%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	96,2%	0,3%	1,1%	1,5%	0,6%	0,0%	0,3%
	Student	89,5%	0,0%	4,8%	3,6%	2,1%	0,0%	0,0%
	Unemployed	96,5%	1,0%	1,6%	0,5%	0,4%	0,0%	0,0%
	Pensioner / person with disabilities	93,6%	1,0%	1,9%	2,9%	0,6%	0,0%	0,0%
Marital status:	Not-married	95,0%	0,6%	2,0%	2,0%	0,4%	0,0%	0,0%
	Married	95,3%	0,7%	1,3%	1,7%	0,6%	0,0%	0,2%
	Widowed/divorced	96,1%	0,0%	1,8%	1,7%	0,4%	0,0%	0,0%
Presence of children:	Yes	95,4%	0,3%	1,6%	2,1%	0,6%	0,0%	0,0%
	No	95,5%	0,8%	1,5%	1,5%	0,6%	0,0%	0,2%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	94,5%	0,3%	1,5%	2,6%	1,2%	0,0%	0,0%
	Average level	95,3%	1,0%	2,1%	1,1%	0,6%	0,0%	0,0%
	High level	96,5%	0,4%	1,1%	1,6%	0,0%	0,0%	0,4%
Place of residence:	Urban	94,3%	0,3%	2,8%	2,1%	0,2%	0,0%	0,3%
	Rural	96,2%	0,8%	0,6%	1,5%	0,9%	0,0%	0,0%

Table 14. Where do you use internet most often?

		Home	At a friend's or family member's home	At school	At work	At the library	Internet Cafe/Club or other similar location with available devices/computers	Public WiFi network (e.g., cafes, malls, restaurants, etc.)	Other	Do not know/no answer
Total		87,3%	0,7%	0,2%	10,0%	0,1%	0,1%	0,0%	1,6%	0,1%
Respondent's gender:	Male	85,2%	1,4%	0,3%	11,3%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	1,6%	0,2%
	Female	88,9%	0,0%	0,1%	8,9%	0,1%	0,2%	0,1%	1,6%	0,0%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	84,9%	0,4%	1,2%	10,7%	0,0%	0,0%	0,2%	2,1%	0,5%
	30-44 years old	84,5%	0,0%	0,0%	13,0%	0,3%	0,0%	0,0%	2,2%	0,0%
	45-59 years old	83,3%	1,3%	0,0%	12,8%	0,0%	0,4%	0,0%	2,1%	0,0%
	60+ years	94,5%	0,9%	0,0%	4,2%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,5%	0,0%
Victim / Witness of online aggression:	Victim	83,5%	2,0%	0,0%	12,6%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	1,9%	0,0%
	Witness	83,1%	0,3%	0,4%	15,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,2%	0,7%	0,4%
	No	88,8%	0,6%	0,1%	8,4%	0,1%	0,1%	0,0%	1,8%	0,0%
Language of communication:	Romanian	89,3%	0,6%	0,2%	9,2%	0,1%	0,0%	0,0%	0,4%	0,1%
	Russian or other	80,7%	0,8%	0,0%	12,5%	0,0%	0,5%	0,2%	5,4%	0,0%
Level of education:	Low level	90,6%	1,3%	0,5%	6,2%	0,0%	0,0%	0,1%	1,3%	0,0%
	Average level	93,2%	0,5%	0,0%	5,6%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,7%	0,0%
	High level	76,7%	0,0%	0,0%	19,4%	0,2%	0,4%	0,0%	3,1%	0,3%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	78,5%	0,4%	0,0%	17,9%	0,1%	0,2%	0,0%	2,9%	0,0%
	Student	87,9%	0,5%	4,8%	2,1%	0,0%	0,0%	1,0%	1,5%	2,1%
	Unemployed	96,3%	2,3%	0,0%	1,1%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,3%	0,0%
	Pensioner / Disability	98,5%	0,0%	0,0%	1,5%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
Marital status:	Not-married	82,4%	1,5%	1,0%	10,9%	0,0%	0,0%	0,2%	3,4%	0,4%
	Married	87,8%	0,6%	0,0%	9,8%	0,1%	0,2%	0,0%	1,4%	0,0%
	Widowed/divorced	90,5%	0,0%	0,0%	8,8%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,7%	0,0%
Presence of children:	Yes	87,2%	0,1%	0,3%	10,8%	0,2%	0,0%	0,0%	1,4%	0,0%
	No	87,3%	1,1%	0,1%	9,3%	0,0%	0,2%	0,1%	1,8%	0,1%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	90,4%	0,8%	0,0%	7,6%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	1,2%	0,0%
	Average level	89,1%	0,6%	0,2%	8,5%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	1,3%	0,2%
	High level	82,4%	0,6%	0,3%	13,6%	0,2%	0,3%	0,1%	2,4%	0,0%
Place of residence:	Urban	81,2%	0,8%	0,4%	14,2%	0,2%	0,3%	0,1%	2,7%	0,2%
	Rural	91,7%	0,6%	0,0%	6,8%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,9%	0,0%

Table 15. Which of the following forms do you think represents digital violence (online violence) against women?

		Insults, degrading comments	Sharing intimate im- ages without consent	Threats of physical or sexual violence	Accessing ac- counts without permission	Spreading rumors/ public humiliation	Other	None of the above	Do not know/no answer
Total		56,7%	62,0%	60,1%	52,7%	55,6%	0,0%	6,3%	9,4%
Respondent's gender:	Male	50,2%	55,9%	53,5%	51,0%	54,4%	0,0%	9,1%	8,6%
	Female	61,6%	66,7%	65,1%	54,0%	56,5%	0,0%	4,1%	10,0%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	56,2%	63,1%	59,0%	60,0%	52,6%	0,0%	1,8%	6,1%
	30-44 years old	69,1%	75,6%	71,0%	68,9%	66,0%	0,0%	3,5%	5,0%
	45-59 years old	48,0%	53,3%	48,8%	43,8%	50,1%	0,0%	10,7%	10,1%
	60+ years	54,0%	57,8%	61,1%	43,7%	53,2%	0,0%	7,0%	13,9%
Victim / Witness of online aggression:	Victim	57,3%	66,7%	51,6%	60,8%	66,8%	0,0%	6,0%	3,2%
	Witness	62,1%	66,7%	54,5%	55,4%	58,3%	0,0%	1,7%	3,7%
	No	55,9%	61,7%	62,4%	52,1%	55,0%	0,0%	7,3%	11,2%
Language of com- munication:	Romanian	55,9%	60,2%	58,8%	49,1%	54,6%	0,0%	5,8%	10,7%
	Russian or other	60,0%	69,9%	65,7%	67,7%	59,9%	0,0%	8,3%	3,8%
Level of education:	Low level	54,2%	60,6%	54,4%	51,6%	52,0%	0,0%	6,8%	11,7%
	Average level	49,0%	51,4%	59,8%	49,4%	54,1%	0,0%	7,0%	12,5%
	High level	69,1%	77,5%	68,5%	58,0%	63,1%	0,0%	4,6%	2,3%
Respondent's oc- cupation:	Employed	60,2%	66,2%	67,7%	59,5%	59,5%	0,0%	5,2%	5,4%
	Student	67,4%	61,6%	63,1%	50,2%	44,8%	0,0%	0,0%	3,4%
	Unemployed	57,0%	63,2%	53,3%	59,2%	54,9%	0,0%	9,4%	8,2%
	Pensioner / Disability	49,8%	54,6%	52,8%	36,8%	51,2%	0,0%	6,4%	16,9%
Marital status:	Not-married	58,6%	66,4%	61,0%	59,9%	57,7%	0,0%	7,0%	3,0%
	Married	57,4%	63,6%	63,0%	53,1%	56,4%	0,0%	5,0%	9,7%
	Widowed/divorced	53,1%	52,9%	49,2%	46,0%	51,8%	0,0%	10,0%	13,5%
Presence of chil- dren:	Yes	58,3%	65,3%	62,7%	55,0%	56,1%	0,0%	6,8%	7,0%
	No	55,5%	59,7%	58,2%	51,0%	55,2%	0,0%	5,9%	11,2%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	55,4%	58,7%	49,9%	49,9%	46,4%	0,0%	11,1%	13,9%
	Average level	60,5%	61,4%	66,8%	53,4%	64,9%	0,0%	4,6%	5,2%
	High level	53,7%	66,2%	63,1%	54,9%	54,6%	0,0%	3,2%	9,5%
Place of residence:	Urban	56,8%	62,0%	59,4%	54,4%	55,1%	0,0%	6,9%	6,4%
	Rural	56,6%	62,1%	60,5%	51,8%	55,9%	0,0%	5,9%	11,1%

Table 16. In your opinion, how protected are women in the Republic of Moldova against digital violence (online violence)?

		Not protected at all	Poorly protected	Moderately protected	Well protected	Very well protected	Do not know/no answer
Total		22,6%	37,0%	18,7%	4,3%	2,1%	15,4%
Respondent's gender:	Male	18,4%	30,6%	22,1%	5,2%	3,3%	20,4%
	Female	25,8%	41,9%	16,0%	3,6%	1,1%	11,6%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	24,7%	34,6%	24,4%	8,7%	0,8%	6,9%
	30-44 years old	23,7%	43,1%	16,0%	4,3%	1,8%	11,0%
	45-59 years old	19,9%	32,9%	19,6%	5,4%	2,4%	19,7%
	60+ years	22,8%	36,7%	17,3%	1,3%	2,5%	19,4%
Victim / Witness of online aggression:	Victim	26,8%	33,4%	19,1%	12,2%	0,0%	8,6%
	Witness	31,0%	38,8%	17,1%	3,2%	3,1%	6,8%
	No	20,5%	36,7%	18,9%	4,0%	1,9%	18,0%
Language of communication:	Romanian	22,2%	36,9%	20,0%	4,5%	2,5%	13,8%
	Russian or other	24,2%	37,5%	12,8%	3,5%	0,0%	22,0%
Level of education:	Low level	23,4%	37,9%	16,4%	3,3%	1,1%	17,9%
	Average level	20,1%	38,0%	18,7%	5,1%	1,5%	16,7%
	High level	24,5%	34,9%	21,3%	4,8%	4,2%	10,3%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	23,7%	37,6%	22,6%	5,5%	4,0%	6,5%
	Student	10,0%	34,9%	32,7%	11,5%	0,0%	10,9%
	Unemployed	16,8%	35,2%	15,4%	4,1%	0,6%	27,9%
	Pensioner / Disability	26,8%	38,1%	13,1%	1,6%	0,0%	20,4%
Marital status:	Not-married	18,6%	39,2%	24,9%	6,0%	2,8%	8,5%
	Married	23,2%	38,8%	17,9%	5,1%	2,5%	12,5%
	Widowed/divorced	24,0%	29,5%	15,7%	0,0%	0,0%	30,9%
Presence of children:	Yes	21,6%	40,1%	20,0%	5,3%	2,9%	10,1%
	No	23,3%	34,8%	17,7%	3,6%	1,4%	19,2%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	23,4%	36,0%	14,0%	2,9%	1,0%	22,7%
	Average level	24,4%	32,7%	22,3%	4,4%	2,2%	14,1%
	High level	19,8%	42,9%	19,4%	5,5%	3,0%	9,4%
Place of residence:	Urban	17,8%	39,0%	24,2%	3,3%	2,2%	13,5%
	Rural	25,2%	35,9%	15,6%	4,8%	2,0%	16,5%

Table 17. If you were a victim of digital violence (online violence), how likely would you report the case to authorities (police, platform for equality and gender, NGO or the Hotline for women and girls)?

		Definitely no	Rather not	May be yes / May be not	Rather yes	Definitely Yes	Do not know/no answer
Total		8,9%	9,7%	9,4%	30,4%	35,4%	6,1%
Respondent's gender:	Male	12,2%	9,1%	8,1%	33,6%	31,5%	5,5%
	Female	6,4%	10,2%	10,3%	28,1%	38,3%	6,6%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	18,8%	12,4%	16,1%	23,0%	27,6%	2,1%
	30-44 years old	10,2%	6,8%	11,2%	23,8%	42,9%	5,1%
	45-59 years old	6,2%	10,7%	7,2%	36,9%	29,2%	9,8%
	60+ years	5,5%	10,0%	6,5%	34,0%	38,2%	5,9%
Victim / Witness of online aggression:	Victim	10,8%	6,1%	8,8%	31,5%	36,9%	6,1%
	Witness	11,1%	6,0%	16,5%	21,2%	44,8%	0,4%
	No	8,2%	10,8%	7,4%	32,9%	33,3%	7,4%
Language of communication:	Romanian	8,7%	7,7%	9,0%	28,7%	40,5%	5,4%
	Russian or other	9,8%	18,4%	10,9%	37,6%	14,0%	9,3%
Level of education:	Low level	8,6%	10,7%	6,6%	32,7%	38,4%	3,0%
	Average level	10,5%	7,7%	8,9%	34,0%	32,9%	6,0%
	High level	7,6%	9,9%	14,2%	23,2%	34,3%	10,9%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	10,4%	9,7%	9,9%	31,8%	32,1%	6,1%
	Student	5,8%	26,9%	10,0%	18,0%	39,3%	0,0%
	Unemployed	9,8%	5,2%	11,8%	26,5%	36,8%	9,9%
	Pensioner / Disability	6,2%	11,6%	6,6%	31,7%	40,1%	3,9%
Marital status:	Not-married	21,9%	10,0%	14,9%	24,2%	26,4%	2,6%
	Married	4,3%	10,9%	8,6%	29,3%	40,1%	6,8%
	Widowed/divorced	14,3%	5,7%	7,7%	38,6%	26,9%	6,8%
Presence of children:	Yes	6,2%	10,0%	10,6%	27,6%	40,3%	5,2%
	No	10,9%	9,5%	8,5%	32,5%	31,9%	6,8%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	14,2%	8,9%	7,0%	34,4%	29,0%	6,4%
	Average level	7,6%	8,4%	9,8%	26,4%	44,6%	3,3%
	High level	5,1%	12,1%	11,3%	31,0%	31,6%	9,0%
Place of residence:	Urban	10,5%	11,3%	12,5%	28,8%	31,6%	5,3%
	Rural	8,0%	8,8%	7,6%	31,4%	37,5%	6,6%

Table 18. What do you think are the main reasons for women not reporting cases of digital violence (online violence)?

		Lack of trust in authorities	Shame / fear of being judged	Lack of technical evidence	Fear of re-venge	Lack of knowledge about how to report	Nothing will change	Other answer	Do not know/ no answer
Total		38,9%	60,1%	20,0%	46,8%	36,0%	6,7%	0,9%	5,3%
Respondent's gender:	Male	36,2%	60,3%	19,6%	43,2%	38,1%	8,7%	1,5%	6,4%
	Female	41,0%	59,9%	20,2%	49,5%	34,4%	5,2%	0,4%	4,5%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	45,4%	64,3%	20,0%	43,3%	31,9%	5,5%	0,0%	4,0%
	30-44 years old	46,3%	63,7%	28,0%	46,5%	33,6%	8,8%	0,3%	4,4%
	45-59 years old	33,6%	51,6%	10,3%	36,2%	32,2%	7,4%	0,6%	8,5%
	60+ years	34,4%	62,0%	21,3%	57,1%	42,9%	4,9%	2,0%	4,2%
Victim / Witness of online aggression:	Victim	33,9%	56,9%	14,3%	39,8%	33,4%	11,2%	0,0%	6,9%
	Witness	39,4%	57,1%	23,6%	47,3%	28,7%	4,3%	0,4%	2,0%
	No	39,2%	62,0%	19,8%	47,2%	38,3%	7,0%	1,1%	5,8%
Language of communication:	Romanian	37,4%	58,6%	18,7%	45,8%	35,1%	7,3%	1,1%	5,9%
	Russian or other	45,3%	66,2%	25,1%	50,9%	39,8%	4,3%	0,0%	2,8%
Level of education:	Low level	35,2%	62,7%	18,0%	51,7%	36,4%	6,3%	0,4%	7,8%
	Average level	36,6%	58,9%	26,3%	39,2%	37,4%	9,5%	0,0%	4,3%
	High level	46,7%	58,0%	15,5%	48,9%	34,0%	3,9%	2,6%	3,0%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	44,7%	63,0%	16,4%	37,7%	38,5%	7,4%	0,0%	6,6%
	Student	45,6%	60,9%	41,0%	61,7%	29,4%	2,8%	0,0%	0,0%
	Unemployed	36,3%	55,2%	19,8%	49,1%	26,1%	9,3%	1,1%	2,7%
	Pensioner / Disability	30,6%	58,2%	24,2%	59,7%	40,6%	3,7%	2,4%	5,9%
Marital status:	Not-married	46,5%	55,9%	29,0%	44,4%	32,8%	8,4%	0,0%	5,5%
	Married	39,4%	64,9%	16,1%	43,8%	38,7%	6,7%	1,3%	4,1%
	Widowed/divorced	31,6%	47,4%	25,8%	59,0%	29,6%	5,4%	0,0%	8,7%
Presence of children:	Yes	40,9%	62,3%	17,4%	42,8%	33,3%	7,1%	2,1%	5,2%
	No	37,5%	58,4%	21,8%	49,7%	38,0%	6,4%	0,0%	5,4%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	40,1%	55,5%	16,4%	48,9%	29,4%	8,0%	0,5%	8,5%
	Average level	40,9%	62,9%	21,3%	48,6%	42,2%	5,1%	1,8%	3,1%
	High level	35,5%	61,5%	22,1%	42,6%	35,9%	7,1%	0,2%	4,6%
Place of residence:	Urban	40,5%	58,0%	24,8%	37,8%	35,2%	5,1%	1,8%	4,6%
	Rural	38,0%	61,2%	17,3%	51,8%	36,5%	7,6%	0,4%	5,8%

Table 19. How often do you think women are exposed to the following behaviors online?

		Someone shares or threatens to share private information about a woman online					Someone shares or threatens to share offensive or sexually explicit images/ videos about a woman online				
		Not at all	Rather seldom	Rather often	Very often	Do not know/ no answer	Not at all	Rather seldom	Rather often	Very often	Do not know/ no answer
Total		17,0%	22,9%	22,5%	8,4%	29,2%	21,8%	21,9%	24,3%	7,1%	24,9%
Respondent's gender:	Male	20,4%	24,7%	17,4%	6,6%	30,9%	25,7%	23,3%	19,1%	6,6%	25,2%
	Female	14,2%	21,4%	26,7%	9,8%	27,8%	18,7%	20,6%	28,6%	7,5%	24,6%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	8,9%	25,8%	42,5%	11,1%	11,6%	11,0%	30,5%	35,7%	13,8%	9,0%
	30-44 years old	13,4%	22,5%	26,7%	11,2%	26,2%	19,0%	26,7%	22,3%	9,6%	22,4%
	45-59 years old	19,2%	23,0%	13,4%	5,5%	38,9%	23,9%	21,7%	15,5%	3,6%	35,3%
	60+ years	22,5%	21,6%	16,4%	7,0%	32,5%	28,2%	13,1%	28,1%	4,5%	26,1%
Victim / Witness of online aggression:	Victim	13,3%	18,0%	42,2%	16,3%	10,2%	15,3%	22,4%	39,0%	14,3%	9,1%
	Witness	10,9%	25,2%	36,3%	14,5%	13,1%	11,8%	31,5%	33,0%	10,6%	13,1%
	No	18,5%	22,5%	18,4%	6,4%	34,2%	24,3%	19,2%	21,9%	5,9%	28,8%
Language of communication:	Romanian	15,4%	23,8%	24,3%	9,0%	27,5%	19,6%	23,7%	26,1%	6,7%	23,8%
	Russian or other	22,0%	20,0%	16,9%	6,2%	34,8%	28,8%	16,1%	18,6%	8,3%	28,3%
Level of education:	Low level	16,1%	21,4%	24,6%	8,8%	29,2%	23,8%	20,9%	24,7%	8,7%	22,0%
	Average level	20,7%	20,4%	19,9%	7,2%	31,8%	23,9%	20,6%	21,1%	4,9%	29,5%
	High level	14,3%	26,9%	22,8%	9,1%	26,9%	17,4%	24,2%	26,9%	7,5%	24,0%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	20,0%	22,8%	23,5%	7,3%	26,5%	26,1%	27,7%	17,5%	7,4%	21,3%
	Student	2,2%	28,0%	47,9%	10,1%	11,8%	6,1%	26,1%	45,4%	15,3%	7,1%
	Unemployed	11,7%	21,2%	20,8%	13,0%	33,3%	13,5%	18,1%	27,4%	9,4%	31,6%
	Pensioner / Disability	17,4%	22,9%	17,9%	6,9%	35,0%	22,2%	12,0%	32,7%	3,4%	29,7%
Marital status:	Not-married	8,0%	22,9%	35,6%	8,7%	24,7%	13,9%	22,6%	35,5%	10,2%	17,8%
	Married	19,9%	23,3%	19,8%	8,3%	28,8%	24,3%	23,3%	20,6%	6,8%	24,9%
	Widowed/divorced	15,3%	21,6%	19,4%	8,5%	35,2%	20,6%	15,9%	26,6%	5,4%	31,5%
Presence of children:	Yes	16,2%	23,6%	23,8%	9,4%	27,0%	20,4%	27,5%	19,8%	9,5%	22,8%
	No	17,6%	22,4%	21,5%	7,6%	30,9%	22,9%	17,6%	27,7%	5,3%	26,5%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	21,4%	15,4%	20,9%	5,8%	36,6%	27,0%	16,5%	19,4%	6,6%	30,4%
	Average level	16,9%	27,8%	20,6%	9,9%	24,8%	22,3%	24,1%	26,2%	7,2%	20,2%
	High level	12,9%	25,4%	25,8%	9,5%	26,4%	16,3%	24,9%	27,2%	7,5%	24,1%
Place of residence:	Urban	15,1%	26,0%	24,6%	8,3%	26,0%	17,6%	24,1%	24,9%	8,3%	25,0%
	Rural	18,4%	20,6%	20,9%	8,4%	31,6%	24,9%	20,2%	23,8%	6,3%	24,8%

Table 20. How often do you think women are exposed to the following behaviors online?

		Someone threatens a woman or her relatives with physical violence online					Someone sends or posts messages to diminish a woman's self-esteem or reputation				
		Not at all	Rather seldom	Rather often	Very often	Do not know/no answer	Not at all	Rather seldom	Rather often	Very often	Do not know/no answer
Total		24,7%	19,2%	22,9%	6,3%	27,0%	22,3%	20,3%	25,4%	7,4%	24,5%
Respondent's gender:	Male	29,0%	18,7%	18,4%	4,1%	29,8%	28,1%	18,6%	20,1%	6,5%	26,7%
	Female	21,1%	19,6%	26,6%	8,1%	24,6%	17,6%	21,8%	29,9%	8,2%	22,7%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	14,6%	35,6%	30,1%	9,9%	9,8%	9,6%	30,2%	40,0%	11,4%	8,7%
	30-44 years old	23,3%	15,3%	24,8%	9,4%	27,2%	22,7%	18,8%	26,1%	10,2%	22,2%
	45-59 years old	28,9%	20,1%	14,9%	2,7%	33,4%	26,5%	21,9%	20,4%	4,8%	26,4%
	60+ years	27,3%	13,5%	24,5%	4,8%	29,9%	24,8%	15,1%	21,8%	5,1%	33,1%
Victim / Witness of online aggression:	Victim	19,1%	16,9%	35,9%	13,3%	14,9%	10,4%	20,1%	42,3%	15,3%	11,9%
	Witness	14,2%	26,8%	34,8%	10,7%	13,4%	8,6%	27,1%	37,8%	12,3%	14,2%
	No	27,2%	17,2%	19,4%	5,0%	31,1%	26,1%	18,4%	21,8%	6,0%	27,7%
Language of communication:	Romanian	21,8%	20,5%	26,0%	6,9%	24,9%	20,2%	22,3%	27,7%	7,9%	21,9%
	Russian or other	33,9%	15,1%	13,0%	4,5%	33,5%	29,0%	14,1%	18,2%	5,9%	32,8%
Level of education:	Low level	24,3%	17,5%	23,3%	8,4%	26,6%	21,5%	18,5%	26,8%	9,3%	23,9%
	Average level	28,3%	17,3%	18,7%	5,7%	29,9%	28,0%	18,6%	24,1%	5,0%	24,3%
	High level	21,4%	23,2%	26,4%	4,4%	24,5%	17,6%	24,2%	24,9%	7,5%	25,7%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	28,2%	21,8%	19,5%	5,8%	24,8%	26,0%	20,2%	25,3%	8,2%	20,3%
	Student	7,1%	41,7%	36,5%	10,1%	4,6%	7,9%	28,7%	45,4%	12,4%	5,5%
	Unemployed	20,6%	17,1%	21,7%	10,0%	30,6%	17,6%	24,2%	22,4%	7,2%	28,5%
	Pensioner / Disability	23,5%	12,3%	28,4%	3,8%	32,0%	20,8%	15,9%	24,6%	5,1%	33,6%
Marital status:	Not-married	15,3%	24,7%	27,3%	9,4%	23,3%	13,4%	20,2%	37,2%	10,0%	19,2%
	Married	27,6%	18,0%	21,6%	5,9%	27,0%	25,0%	21,5%	22,5%	6,8%	24,3%
	Widowed/divorced	23,2%	18,7%	22,8%	5,0%	30,3%	21,5%	16,2%	24,7%	7,3%	30,3%
Presence of children:	Yes	23,9%	20,7%	21,3%	7,4%	26,7%	20,5%	21,2%	23,2%	9,4%	25,7%
	No	25,3%	18,1%	24,1%	5,4%	27,2%	23,7%	19,6%	27,1%	5,9%	23,6%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	29,2%	10,0%	24,0%	4,1%	32,7%	26,2%	11,3%	26,2%	7,6%	28,7%
	Average level	24,9%	21,5%	22,2%	8,2%	23,3%	20,7%	24,3%	27,0%	6,2%	21,8%
	High level	20,1%	26,0%	22,5%	6,5%	24,9%	20,2%	25,3%	23,1%	8,3%	23,0%
Place of residence:	Urban	21,3%	25,3%	21,1%	5,4%	26,8%	18,7%	23,0%	25,4%	6,6%	26,3%
	Rural	27,1%	14,7%	24,1%	7,0%	27,0%	25,0%	18,4%	25,5%	8,0%	23,2%

Table 21. How often do you think women are exposed to the following behaviors online?

		Someone sends images or videos with sexual content or genitals for the purpose of intimidating, embarrassing or harassing					Someone steals a woman's password and/or accesses her online accounts, internet-connected devices, etc				
		Not at all	Rather seldom	Rather often	Very often	Do not know/no answer	Not at all	Rather seldom	Rather often	Very often	Do not know/no answer
Total		24,8%	19,6%	19,5%	8,4%	27,7%	19,1%	21,5%	27,2%	10,5%	21,8%
Respondent's gender:	Male	28,5%	17,9%	16,4%	7,0%	30,3%	23,7%	18,5%	22,8%	8,4%	26,7%
	Female	21,7%	21,1%	22,0%	9,6%	25,6%	15,2%	24,0%	30,8%	12,2%	17,8%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	17,2%	26,4%	33,3%	12,7%	10,5%	10,5%	29,3%	43,8%	9,1%	7,3%
	30-44 years old	26,8%	15,6%	20,9%	10,1%	26,5%	17,4%	19,3%	27,4%	14,5%	21,5%
	45-59 years old	27,3%	22,1%	11,0%	5,4%	34,2%	21,5%	25,0%	20,7%	9,7%	23,1%
	60+ years	24,5%	17,6%	18,6%	7,4%	31,9%	22,8%	16,3%	24,2%	8,1%	28,6%
Victim / Witness of online aggression:	Victim	21,0%	14,3%	35,2%	17,9%	11,5%	9,8%	29,9%	36,5%	15,8%	8,0%
	Witness	18,0%	21,5%	29,4%	15,5%	15,7%	9,7%	27,0%	37,2%	17,0%	9,1%
	No	26,3%	19,6%	16,3%	6,2%	31,6%	21,6%	20,1%	23,9%	8,6%	25,8%
Language of communication:	Romanian	22,1%	22,0%	21,4%	9,3%	25,1%	17,0%	22,9%	28,8%	11,5%	19,9%
	Russian or other	33,2%	12,1%	13,3%	5,5%	35,9%	25,5%	17,1%	22,2%	7,3%	27,9%
Level of education:	Low level	22,3%	17,3%	22,1%	10,4%	27,9%	19,3%	17,2%	31,3%	12,4%	19,8%
	Average level	29,0%	19,0%	16,3%	6,5%	29,1%	21,5%	22,5%	21,9%	12,0%	22,1%
	High level	23,6%	23,0%	19,2%	8,0%	26,2%	16,3%	25,8%	27,3%	6,4%	24,2%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	29,2%	18,9%	18,5%	7,6%	25,8%	21,8%	23,4%	25,3%	10,2%	19,3%
	Student	10,3%	37,5%	32,6%	13,6%	6,1%	7,5%	43,7%	34,4%	8,0%	6,4%
	Unemployed	20,8%	19,8%	17,3%	11,3%	30,8%	16,3%	17,2%	30,2%	13,7%	22,6%
	Pensioner / Disability	21,0%	18,0%	20,7%	7,1%	33,1%	17,5%	17,7%	27,0%	8,6%	29,2%
Marital status:	Not-married	17,9%	21,5%	29,0%	12,0%	19,6%	9,0%	25,5%	34,5%	13,8%	17,2%
	Married	27,4%	20,2%	16,4%	7,7%	28,3%	21,9%	22,1%	24,6%	10,4%	21,0%
	Widowed/divorced	21,9%	15,9%	21,1%	7,7%	33,4%	18,1%	15,4%	30,0%	7,5%	29,1%
Presence of children:	Yes	23,2%	21,8%	18,5%	8,3%	28,2%	19,0%	22,0%	27,4%	10,3%	21,4%
	No	25,9%	18,0%	20,3%	8,5%	27,4%	19,1%	21,1%	27,0%	10,6%	22,2%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	28,4%	9,6%	21,7%	6,1%	34,2%	23,3%	15,7%	26,5%	11,1%	23,4%
	Average level	25,8%	23,9%	18,5%	9,6%	22,3%	20,5%	24,4%	26,6%	8,6%	19,8%
	High level	20,2%	25,3%	18,3%	9,5%	26,7%	13,5%	24,3%	28,4%	11,7%	22,2%
Place of residence:	Urban	24,5%	20,8%	19,1%	8,8%	26,8%	15,8%	24,9%	27,4%	7,7%	24,2%
	Rural	24,9%	18,8%	19,8%	8,1%	28,4%	21,5%	19,0%	27,0%	12,5%	20,1%

Table 22. How often do you think women are exposed to the following behaviors online?

		Someone is using a woman's online accounts or creating a fake account using her identity					Someone uses sexist or hateful language against a woman online				
		Not at all	Rather seldom	Rather often	Very often	Do not know/ no answer	Not at all	Rather seldom	Rather often	Very often	Do not know/ no answer
Total		18,3%	20,8%	27,9%	12,0%	20,9%	18,5%	18,9%	30,7%	12,3%	19,7%
Respondent's gender:	Male	22,8%	18,7%	24,4%	10,2%	23,9%	20,5%	17,6%	28,9%	8,9%	24,1%
	Female	14,6%	22,5%	30,9%	13,5%	18,5%	16,8%	19,9%	32,1%	15,2%	16,0%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	10,1%	26,2%	45,6%	15,7%	2,4%	11,7%	20,7%	46,0%	18,9%	2,7%
	30-44 years old	16,7%	18,9%	29,8%	15,9%	18,6%	17,6%	13,5%	36,4%	15,7%	16,8%
	45-59 years old	19,9%	23,9%	22,8%	9,2%	24,2%	21,1%	22,7%	25,1%	8,3%	22,8%
	60+ years	22,7%	16,9%	21,6%	9,1%	29,7%	20,4%	19,5%	22,3%	9,4%	28,4%
Victim / Witness of online aggression:	Victim	13,0%	22,1%	37,2%	23,2%	4,4%	18,9%	8,5%	37,8%	29,9%	4,9%
	Witness	6,4%	23,8%	39,3%	22,1%	8,3%	9,8%	15,0%	45,2%	22,0%	8,0%
	No	21,4%	20,0%	24,7%	8,9%	25,1%	20,2%	20,3%	26,9%	9,2%	23,4%
Language of communication:	Romanian	16,4%	23,0%	29,0%	12,7%	19,0%	16,4%	19,9%	33,6%	13,3%	16,6%
	Russian or other	24,5%	13,6%	24,6%	10,1%	27,1%	24,9%	15,5%	21,3%	9,0%	29,3%
Level of education:	Low level	19,2%	15,4%	29,7%	15,5%	20,3%	18,3%	14,1%	37,0%	14,7%	15,9%
	Average level	20,4%	22,3%	21,5%	12,0%	23,8%	22,0%	19,7%	24,4%	9,9%	24,0%
	High level	15,2%	25,9%	32,2%	7,8%	18,9%	15,1%	23,9%	28,9%	12,0%	20,1%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	20,4%	21,9%	25,5%	12,1%	20,2%	20,7%	20,3%	31,4%	10,6%	17,1%
	Student	8,3%	31,1%	42,1%	15,7%	2,9%	7,1%	29,8%	35,6%	26,6%	0,8%
	Unemployed	13,4%	20,6%	33,8%	16,4%	15,9%	15,8%	14,4%	31,1%	17,8%	20,9%
	Pensioner / Disability	19,7%	17,3%	25,5%	8,1%	29,4%	17,9%	18,2%	27,3%	9,6%	27,1%
Marital status:	Not-married	10,4%	22,7%	35,9%	16,1%	14,9%	9,4%	16,7%	39,2%	18,2%	16,6%
	Married	21,3%	20,9%	25,8%	11,7%	20,2%	21,6%	21,2%	28,0%	10,6%	18,6%
	Widowed/divorced	15,1%	18,6%	27,9%	9,3%	29,2%	15,9%	12,8%	31,9%	13,2%	26,3%
Presence of children:	Yes	17,3%	20,5%	29,9%	12,0%	20,4%	18,9%	18,6%	32,8%	13,2%	16,4%
	No	19,1%	21,0%	26,5%	12,1%	21,3%	18,1%	19,1%	29,0%	11,6%	22,2%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	22,5%	13,3%	26,2%	11,4%	26,7%	23,0%	13,0%	29,8%	8,3%	25,9%
	Average level	17,7%	26,8%	24,5%	12,0%	19,0%	17,9%	20,7%	33,7%	13,1%	14,5%
	High level	14,9%	22,3%	32,9%	12,7%	17,1%	14,6%	22,9%	28,5%	15,4%	18,7%
Place of residence:	Urban	14,7%	24,7%	29,1%	10,7%	20,8%	15,1%	20,0%	30,4%	13,1%	21,4%
	Rural	21,0%	17,9%	27,0%	13,0%	21,0%	21,0%	18,1%	30,8%	11,7%	18,4%

Table 23. How often do you think women are exposed to the following behaviors online?

		Someone spreads false information about a woman and/or de-fames her online					Someone creates a large-scale online campaign to denigrate a woman				
		Not at all	Rather seldom	Rather often	Very often	Do not know/no answer	Not at all	Rather seldom	Rather often	Very often	Do not know/no answer
Total		17,7%	19,2%	30,7%	12,7%	19,7%	22,6%	19,4%	20,5%	7,5%	29,9%
Respondent's gender:	Male	20,8%	19,1%	26,1%	11,2%	22,7%	25,2%	17,0%	18,8%	5,8%	33,2%
	Female	15,1%	19,2%	34,5%	14,0%	17,3%	20,5%	21,5%	22,0%	8,9%	27,1%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	12,5%	18,2%	44,8%	19,8%	4,7%	22,8%	26,0%	29,6%	9,3%	12,3%
	30-44 years old	15,2%	14,7%	38,5%	14,4%	17,3%	20,8%	19,1%	22,4%	8,3%	29,4%
	45-59 years old	20,4%	21,2%	24,6%	10,3%	23,6%	24,4%	19,4%	13,8%	7,0%	35,4%
	60+ years	20,2%	22,0%	21,7%	9,7%	26,4%	22,7%	16,3%	20,2%	6,2%	34,5%
Victim / Witness of online aggression:	Victim	16,2%	15,0%	39,7%	22,7%	6,5%	24,5%	20,8%	28,5%	12,8%	13,4%
	Witness	9,5%	18,2%	45,0%	21,6%	5,7%	15,8%	20,0%	35,3%	9,5%	19,4%
	No	19,4%	19,6%	27,1%	10,1%	23,9%	24,1%	19,4%	16,8%	6,7%	33,1%
Language of communication:	Romanian	15,7%	19,8%	33,1%	13,9%	17,6%	19,8%	21,1%	22,8%	8,2%	28,1%
	Russian or other	24,1%	17,2%	23,0%	9,1%	26,7%	31,6%	14,2%	13,3%	5,3%	35,7%
Level of education:	Low level	17,9%	14,0%	37,5%	12,5%	18,1%	23,1%	14,5%	24,5%	9,9%	28,0%
	Average level	20,3%	19,7%	24,8%	13,2%	22,0%	22,7%	20,7%	16,3%	6,9%	33,5%
	High level	14,8%	25,0%	28,0%	12,6%	19,6%	22,3%	24,3%	19,7%	5,1%	28,7%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	20,5%	20,1%	29,9%	12,3%	17,2%	27,7%	20,3%	18,3%	5,2%	28,6%
	Student	8,4%	27,9%	41,6%	20,3%	1,9%	12,1%	44,6%	26,6%	11,2%	5,5%
	Unemployed	12,6%	15,4%	34,3%	15,8%	22,0%	16,9%	17,2%	21,1%	13,8%	30,9%
	Pensioner / Disability	17,4%	19,1%	27,1%	10,0%	26,4%	18,5%	15,8%	23,1%	6,6%	36,0%
Marital status:	Not-married	10,0%	17,3%	37,8%	19,9%	15,0%	19,1%	24,5%	26,2%	10,4%	19,8%
	Married	19,7%	21,2%	29,7%	11,0%	18,4%	23,7%	19,9%	19,4%	6,3%	30,7%
	Widowed/divorced	17,9%	13,6%	27,2%	12,3%	29,0%	22,1%	13,0%	19,3%	9,1%	36,5%
Presence of children:	Yes	17,2%	19,5%	32,5%	13,0%	17,9%	22,5%	19,9%	20,2%	7,8%	29,6%
	No	18,0%	18,9%	29,3%	12,6%	21,1%	22,8%	19,1%	20,8%	7,2%	30,1%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	22,5%	10,8%	29,7%	10,2%	26,8%	25,1%	13,6%	19,4%	6,8%	35,1%
	Average level	17,9%	23,6%	31,2%	13,0%	14,3%	24,6%	21,7%	19,8%	6,7%	27,2%
	High level	12,7%	23,0%	31,2%	14,9%	18,2%	18,3%	23,0%	22,3%	8,9%	27,4%
Place of residence:	Urban	15,7%	21,4%	30,6%	12,2%	20,1%	22,6%	21,2%	19,1%	6,0%	31,1%
	Rural	19,1%	17,5%	30,8%	13,1%	19,5%	22,7%	18,1%	21,6%	8,6%	29,0%

Table 24. How often do you think women are exposed to the following behaviors online?

		Someone has produced or manipulated through technology (including artificial intelligence) an intimate image or video recording of a woman					Someone follows or stalks the person online with the aim of harassing them, including by installing various geolocation applications				
		Not at all	Rather seldom	Rather often	Very often	Do not know/ no answer	Not at all	Rather seldom	Rather often	Very often	Do not know/no answer
Total		22,7%	18,8%	21,9%	9,5%	27,2%	21,0%	18,8%	22,9%	9,3%	27,9%
Respondent's gender:	Male	26,7%	15,4%	19,0%	8,2%	30,7%	23,6%	17,7%	19,7%	9,0%	30,0%
	Female	19,3%	21,6%	24,3%	10,6%	24,2%	18,9%	19,7%	25,4%	9,6%	26,2%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	16,8%	26,4%	35,2%	14,6%	7,0%	13,5%	22,7%	33,7%	16,7%	13,3%
	30-44 years old	22,4%	16,1%	20,9%	13,1%	27,4%	20,8%	15,6%	29,0%	10,9%	23,6%
	45-59 years old	25,9%	18,9%	17,6%	5,0%	32,5%	25,1%	18,4%	15,3%	7,4%	33,8%
	60+ years	23,0%	17,2%	19,6%	7,6%	32,5%	21,5%	20,1%	18,5%	5,8%	34,2%
Victim / Witness of online aggression:	Victim	19,7%	19,9%	30,9%	17,3%	12,1%	13,0%	22,3%	32,3%	15,3%	17,1%
	Witness	12,2%	24,0%	33,6%	13,1%	17,1%	10,8%	23,1%	34,2%	13,5%	18,4%
	No	25,0%	17,5%	18,5%	8,4%	30,6%	23,5%	17,7%	19,9%	8,3%	30,6%
Language of communication:	Romanian	20,0%	20,6%	23,5%	10,0%	25,9%	18,7%	20,4%	24,3%	9,7%	26,8%
	Russian or other	31,0%	13,2%	16,7%	8,0%	31,0%	28,4%	13,7%	18,4%	8,3%	31,3%
Level of education:	Low level	20,4%	15,7%	25,4%	10,9%	27,6%	21,1%	14,5%	27,1%	10,9%	26,4%
	Average level	25,7%	16,9%	19,2%	8,1%	30,1%	25,0%	17,8%	17,0%	9,5%	30,7%
	High level	22,6%	24,5%	19,9%	9,3%	23,8%	17,0%	25,1%	23,4%	7,2%	27,3%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	27,7%	20,2%	19,7%	7,9%	24,6%	25,3%	20,0%	21,4%	9,2%	24,0%
	Student	13,1%	28,2%	36,1%	19,2%	3,3%	11,3%	27,2%	37,7%	19,3%	4,6%
	Unemployed	16,8%	17,5%	22,4%	13,8%	29,6%	15,7%	14,4%	25,7%	12,3%	31,9%
	Pensioner / Disability	18,4%	15,6%	23,1%	8,3%	34,5%	18,0%	18,9%	20,6%	5,5%	37,1%
Marital status:	Not-married	16,0%	18,3%	29,9%	15,5%	20,2%	13,7%	18,4%	32,1%	15,0%	20,8%
	Married	24,8%	20,5%	19,2%	8,0%	27,6%	23,8%	20,0%	20,5%	8,2%	27,5%
	Widowed/divorced	21,6%	12,7%	24,0%	9,5%	32,2%	18,1%	15,2%	22,3%	8,2%	36,2%
Presence of children:	Yes	23,3%	19,1%	21,0%	10,1%	26,5%	21,1%	17,3%	23,3%	9,9%	28,5%
	No	22,2%	18,6%	22,5%	9,0%	27,7%	21,0%	20,0%	22,5%	9,0%	27,5%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	26,3%	12,7%	21,2%	6,6%	33,2%	24,9%	12,3%	21,5%	7,8%	33,4%
	Average level	23,1%	22,8%	22,3%	9,2%	22,5%	21,0%	22,2%	24,8%	9,9%	22,1%
	High level	18,7%	20,9%	22,0%	12,7%	25,8%	17,3%	21,9%	22,4%	10,3%	28,2%
Place of residence:	Urban	21,7%	20,9%	21,3%	9,5%	26,5%	18,3%	23,3%	22,0%	9,0%	27,3%
	Rural	23,4%	17,3%	22,3%	9,5%	27,6%	23,1%	15,5%	23,5%	9,6%	28,4%

Table 25. In your opinion, how much can the following behaviors negatively affect when directed against women in the online environment?

		Someone shares or threatens to share private information about a woman online					Someone shares or threatens to share offensive or sexually explicit images/videos about a woman online				
		Not at all	Very little	Quite a lot	Very much	Do not know/ no answer	Not at all	Very little	Quite a lot	Very much	Do not know/ no answer
Total		4,9%	10,2%	36,6%	38,6%	9,6%	5,5%	7,0%	34,0%	43,3%	10,3%
Respondent's gender:	Male	6,3%	9,1%	38,5%	33,3%	12,9%	7,0%	7,8%	37,6%	36,0%	11,6%
	Female	3,8%	11,1%	35,1%	43,1%	6,9%	4,2%	6,2%	31,0%	49,4%	9,2%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	2,1%	10,7%	41,1%	43,7%	2,4%	2,5%	5,5%	39,6%	50,1%	2,3%
	30-44 years old	4,1%	7,1%	41,9%	42,4%	4,4%	2,9%	5,8%	39,6%	45,7%	6,0%
	45-59 years old	6,6%	13,8%	33,7%	34,0%	11,9%	7,4%	8,0%	31,2%	39,2%	14,2%
	60+ years	5,7%	9,6%	32,0%	36,8%	15,9%	7,6%	7,9%	28,4%	41,2%	14,9%
Victim / Witness of online aggression:	Victim	4,3%	8,2%	33,8%	49,6%	4,2%	4,2%	3,5%	33,1%	54,0%	5,2%
	Witness	2,6%	11,5%	36,0%	46,8%	3,1%	2,9%	7,4%	33,7%	51,9%	4,1%
	No	5,4%	10,0%	36,7%	36,5%	11,4%	6,0%	6,8%	33,8%	41,0%	12,3%
Language of communication:	Romanian	6,0%	9,8%	37,7%	38,9%	7,6%	6,3%	7,7%	33,6%	42,8%	9,6%
	Russian or other	1,5%	11,6%	33,2%	37,9%	15,8%	2,9%	4,5%	35,0%	45,1%	12,6%
Level of education:	Low level	6,2%	8,7%	39,4%	36,8%	8,9%	6,5%	5,0%	37,3%	41,8%	9,3%
	Average level	4,9%	10,2%	36,1%	38,7%	10,1%	5,7%	7,3%	31,3%	43,3%	12,4%
	High level	3,4%	12,2%	33,9%	40,8%	9,7%	3,9%	9,1%	32,8%	45,1%	9,0%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	4,6%	11,0%	40,7%	36,2%	7,6%	4,7%	6,8%	38,9%	40,3%	9,3%
	Student	2,7%	4,5%	38,7%	54,1%	0,0%	2,7%	3,0%	25,3%	69,0%	0,0%
	Unemployed	5,7%	9,8%	32,7%	40,0%	11,8%	4,9%	8,1%	32,1%	44,1%	10,8%
	Pensioner / Disability	5,5%	9,9%	30,8%	40,5%	13,3%	8,2%	7,1%	26,2%	45,2%	13,3%
Marital status:	Not-married	3,2%	10,3%	33,4%	44,9%	8,2%	4,9%	4,4%	33,9%	50,5%	6,3%
	Married	5,7%	10,7%	36,5%	36,5%	10,5%	5,9%	7,5%	33,0%	42,2%	11,3%
	Widowed/divorced	3,9%	8,3%	39,9%	40,2%	7,8%	4,4%	7,4%	37,5%	40,2%	10,5%
Presence of children:	Yes	3,8%	9,4%	39,4%	39,4%	8,0%	4,3%	6,6%	36,1%	43,7%	9,2%
	No	5,8%	10,8%	34,5%	38,0%	10,8%	6,3%	7,2%	32,3%	43,0%	11,1%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	7,6%	11,1%	32,7%	35,3%	13,2%	8,5%	4,7%	34,1%	37,0%	15,7%
	Average level	3,5%	12,9%	42,3%	36,5%	4,8%	4,0%	11,0%	36,6%	42,7%	5,8%
	High level	3,7%	6,7%	35,0%	44,0%	10,7%	3,9%	5,3%	31,3%	50,1%	9,4%
Place of residence:	Urban	3,7%	9,0%	38,5%	40,2%	8,6%	3,8%	6,7%	36,8%	45,2%	7,5%
	Rural	5,9%	11,1%	35,2%	37,5%	10,3%	6,7%	7,1%	31,9%	41,9%	12,3%

Table 26. In your opinion, how much can the following behaviors negatively affect when directed against women in the online environment?

		Someone threatens a woman or her relatives with physical violence online					Someone sends or posts messages to diminish a woman's self-esteem or reputation				
		Not at all	Very little	Quite a lot	Very much	Do not know/ no answer	Not at all	Very little	Quite a lot	Very much	Do not know/ no answer
Total		5,1%	7,8%	34,4%	43,9%	8,9%	5,1%	9,0%	36,1%	40,2%	9,7%
Respondent's gender:	Male	6,4%	8,9%	34,9%	37,8%	12,0%	6,5%	10,7%	35,7%	34,5%	12,6%
	Female	4,0%	6,8%	33,9%	49,0%	6,2%	3,8%	7,5%	36,4%	44,9%	7,3%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	4,5%	8,4%	36,3%	47,0%	3,8%	1,9%	11,9%	37,7%	45,1%	3,5%
	30-44 years old	3,6%	7,8%	38,8%	46,6%	3,3%	3,4%	7,2%	38,9%	45,3%	5,3%
	45-59 years old	6,7%	6,4%	34,9%	40,4%	11,5%	7,5%	7,5%	35,4%	38,4%	11,2%
	60+ years	5,3%	8,6%	28,8%	43,0%	14,2%	6,0%	10,4%	33,3%	34,7%	15,6%
Victim / Witness of online aggression:	Victim	6,4%	9,0%	37,0%	44,5%	3,1%	4,2%	9,0%	34,8%	48,1%	3,9%
	Witness	4,3%	6,1%	34,4%	51,8%	3,3%	3,1%	10,3%	33,7%	50,8%	2,1%
	No	5,2%	7,9%	34,1%	42,2%	10,6%	5,4%	8,6%	36,6%	37,4%	12,0%
Language of communication:	Romanian	6,4%	7,9%	34,6%	43,2%	7,9%	6,0%	9,4%	36,5%	39,7%	8,5%
	Russian or other	1,1%	7,3%	33,5%	46,2%	12,0%	2,1%	7,7%	34,9%	41,8%	13,5%
Level of education:	Low level	7,6%	7,5%	32,5%	44,9%	7,5%	5,9%	6,7%	37,9%	40,4%	9,3%
	Average level	4,7%	5,9%	38,4%	42,0%	8,9%	5,5%	8,5%	36,1%	40,3%	9,6%
	High level	2,4%	10,0%	32,7%	44,6%	10,3%	3,6%	12,4%	34,1%	39,8%	10,1%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	5,0%	8,3%	40,2%	39,6%	7,0%	5,2%	8,2%	40,5%	38,7%	7,4%
	Student	3,5%	5,8%	30,2%	59,5%	1,0%	3,5%	5,1%	36,2%	53,7%	1,6%
	Unemployed	5,8%	6,0%	31,0%	46,9%	10,2%	4,9%	10,5%	30,4%	43,5%	10,7%
	Pensioner / Disability	5,1%	7,9%	25,6%	48,3%	13,2%	5,1%	10,1%	31,3%	38,4%	15,1%
Marital status:	Not-married	3,6%	10,1%	30,1%	48,3%	8,0%	1,8%	11,6%	33,4%	44,6%	8,6%
	Married	5,9%	7,9%	34,2%	43,1%	8,8%	6,1%	8,6%	36,2%	39,5%	9,5%
	Widowed/divorced	3,6%	5,0%	38,9%	42,5%	10,0%	4,3%	7,7%	38,2%	38,3%	11,5%
Presence of children:	Yes	4,6%	6,8%	36,4%	44,0%	8,2%	4,7%	7,4%	36,7%	42,3%	8,8%
	No	5,5%	8,5%	32,8%	43,9%	9,4%	5,3%	10,1%	35,6%	38,6%	10,4%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	7,2%	4,8%	35,1%	40,9%	12,1%	8,5%	4,5%	37,8%	35,2%	14,0%
	Average level	5,4%	10,8%	34,6%	43,2%	6,0%	3,7%	13,2%	37,8%	39,1%	6,3%
	High level	2,8%	7,7%	33,4%	47,5%	8,5%	3,0%	9,2%	32,8%	46,2%	8,8%
Place of residence:	Urban	4,1%	8,7%	36,8%	43,5%	7,0%	3,8%	10,3%	38,0%	41,1%	6,8%
	Rural	5,8%	7,1%	32,6%	44,3%	10,3%	6,0%	8,0%	34,7%	39,5%	11,8%

Table 27. In your opinion, how much can the following behaviors negatively affect when directed against women in the online environment?

		Someone sends images or videos with sexual content or genitals for the purpose of intimidating, embarrassing or harassing					Someone steals a woman's password and/or accesses her online accounts, internet-connected devices, etc				
		Not at all	Very little	Quite a lot	Very much	Do not know/ no answer	Not at all	Very little	Quite a lot	Very much	Do not know/ no answer
Total		5,2%	7,2%	28,7%	47,9%	11,1%	6,4%	6,7%	33,9%	44,9%	8,1%
Respondent's gender:	Male	6,4%	8,3%	29,0%	42,2%	14,1%	7,7%	7,2%	35,6%	38,6%	10,8%
	Female	4,1%	6,2%	28,4%	52,6%	8,7%	5,3%	6,2%	32,5%	50,1%	5,9%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	2,8%	10,1%	31,1%	53,5%	2,6%	3,1%	12,6%	31,7%	51,2%	1,4%
	30-44 years old	3,4%	4,4%	35,6%	48,9%	7,7%	3,8%	6,0%	37,4%	49,1%	3,8%
	45-59 years old	8,6%	7,9%	29,1%	42,7%	11,6%	7,9%	7,6%	33,1%	40,8%	10,6%
	60+ years	4,9%	7,5%	20,6%	48,7%	18,4%	9,1%	3,5%	32,5%	41,4%	13,4%
Victim / Witness of online aggression:	Victim	7,4%	2,7%	28,5%	57,5%	3,9%	6,6%	7,4%	27,8%	54,6%	3,6%
	Witness	4,1%	9,2%	27,8%	54,9%	4,1%	4,9%	9,8%	32,1%	52,1%	1,1%
	No	5,3%	6,9%	28,6%	46,1%	13,1%	6,6%	5,9%	34,6%	42,8%	10,0%
Language of communication:	Romanian	6,5%	7,3%	29,1%	47,6%	9,6%	7,5%	7,1%	33,4%	44,9%	7,1%
	Russian or other	0,8%	6,8%	27,4%	48,9%	16,1%	2,7%	5,3%	35,4%	45,0%	11,5%
Level of education:	Low level	6,6%	4,1%	30,0%	48,5%	10,8%	6,4%	5,2%	33,7%	47,7%	7,1%
	Average level	5,0%	7,8%	26,5%	49,2%	11,5%	5,7%	7,2%	34,2%	44,8%	8,0%
	High level	3,5%	10,4%	29,4%	45,6%	11,0%	7,2%	8,1%	34,0%	41,4%	9,3%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	5,2%	7,0%	34,8%	44,8%	8,2%	5,8%	7,3%	38,7%	41,9%	6,3%
	Student	2,7%	4,3%	25,1%	65,8%	2,0%	2,7%	6,6%	26,7%	62,0%	2,1%
	Unemployed	6,3%	7,5%	25,3%	47,7%	13,2%	5,8%	9,2%	29,2%	46,5%	9,4%
	Pensioner / Disability	4,5%	7,9%	18,6%	51,7%	17,3%	8,9%	3,4%	28,3%	47,3%	12,1%
Marital status:	Not-married	3,8%	8,1%	27,3%	50,6%	10,2%	3,2%	11,3%	27,4%	50,6%	7,6%
	Married	5,6%	7,2%	27,9%	48,2%	11,2%	7,9%	6,4%	34,4%	43,6%	7,8%
	Widowed/divorced	5,1%	6,0%	32,8%	44,2%	11,9%	4,0%	3,5%	38,2%	44,2%	10,1%
Presence of children:	Yes	4,0%	5,5%	32,4%	48,0%	10,1%	5,6%	7,3%	34,4%	46,3%	6,5%
	No	6,0%	8,4%	25,8%	47,8%	11,9%	7,0%	6,3%	33,5%	43,9%	9,4%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	7,4%	4,5%	29,1%	42,4%	16,5%	7,9%	4,3%	35,7%	40,3%	11,8%
	Average level	4,5%	8,6%	29,9%	50,8%	6,3%	8,1%	6,2%	35,7%	45,6%	4,5%
	High level	3,6%	8,2%	27,1%	50,5%	10,6%	3,2%	9,5%	30,3%	48,8%	8,0%
Place of residence:	Urban	4,0%	7,7%	32,8%	46,3%	9,1%	4,3%	9,9%	33,6%	46,6%	5,7%
	Rural	6,0%	6,7%	25,6%	49,0%	12,6%	7,9%	4,3%	34,1%	43,7%	10,0%

Table 28. In your opinion, how much can the following behaviors negatively affect when directed against women in the online environment?

		Someone is using a woman's online accounts or creating a fake account using her identity					Someone uses sexist or hateful language against a woman online				
		Not at all	Very little	Quite a lot	Very much	Do not know/ no answer	Not at all	Very little	Quite a lot	Very much	Do not know/ no answer
Total		6,1%	7,0%	33,1%	45,1%	8,6%	6,6%	7,2%	33,9%	43,1%	9,3%
Respondent's gender:	Male	7,9%	7,8%	34,8%	38,3%	11,1%	8,3%	9,3%	35,3%	35,5%	11,7%
	Female	4,6%	6,3%	31,8%	50,7%	6,6%	5,1%	5,5%	32,7%	49,4%	7,3%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	2,7%	9,5%	38,1%	47,8%	1,9%	3,7%	9,1%	38,8%	45,9%	2,6%
	30-44 years old	3,4%	6,7%	36,5%	48,1%	5,3%	5,1%	6,3%	36,9%	45,7%	6,0%
	45-59 years old	7,6%	8,0%	31,4%	43,8%	9,3%	7,5%	8,7%	30,6%	42,5%	10,7%
	60+ years	9,1%	5,0%	29,0%	42,2%	14,7%	8,5%	5,7%	31,4%	39,9%	14,5%
Victim / Witness of online aggression:	Victim	5,8%	5,7%	30,4%	55,5%	2,5%	5,7%	8,3%	31,3%	53,1%	1,6%
	Witness	4,7%	8,3%	30,3%	54,7%	1,9%	3,7%	12,0%	25,5%	56,2%	2,6%
	No	6,4%	6,7%	34,0%	42,1%	10,8%	7,2%	6,1%	35,8%	39,6%	11,3%
Language of communication:	Romanian	7,7%	6,7%	33,8%	44,7%	7,1%	7,9%	6,1%	34,6%	44,0%	7,4%
	Russian or other	1,2%	7,8%	31,1%	46,4%	13,4%	2,4%	10,8%	31,4%	40,2%	15,1%
Level of education:	Low level	5,9%	6,2%	34,0%	47,0%	7,0%	6,2%	6,3%	34,6%	44,3%	8,6%
	Average level	5,3%	6,6%	31,8%	46,6%	9,7%	5,6%	7,3%	35,4%	43,4%	8,2%
	High level	7,4%	8,4%	33,6%	41,2%	9,4%	8,1%	8,3%	31,5%	41,2%	10,9%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	5,6%	6,7%	38,5%	42,4%	6,8%	5,4%	8,9%	38,4%	39,4%	8,0%
	Student	2,7%	9,7%	31,6%	51,5%	4,6%	4,8%	9,5%	27,3%	57,4%	1,0%
	Unemployed	4,8%	9,3%	29,6%	47,7%	8,6%	7,0%	4,5%	33,3%	44,6%	10,6%
	Pensioner / Disability	8,9%	5,3%	24,5%	47,9%	13,5%	9,0%	5,7%	25,5%	47,4%	12,3%
Marital status:	Not-married	2,7%	9,6%	28,7%	48,3%	10,7%	5,0%	9,3%	29,6%	45,8%	10,2%
	Married	7,5%	6,4%	33,2%	44,4%	8,5%	7,8%	6,0%	34,9%	41,7%	9,7%
	Widowed/divorced	4,5%	6,6%	37,1%	44,6%	7,2%	3,7%	9,8%	34,6%	45,2%	6,8%
Presence of children:	Yes	4,9%	7,1%	35,9%	46,2%	5,9%	5,1%	5,9%	36,3%	44,5%	8,1%
	No	7,1%	6,9%	31,0%	44,3%	10,7%	7,6%	8,2%	32,0%	42,1%	10,1%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	7,9%	6,0%	34,5%	39,6%	12,0%	8,1%	7,3%	34,3%	36,9%	13,4%
	Average level	7,9%	6,1%	33,2%	47,2%	5,6%	8,0%	5,8%	35,7%	44,4%	6,2%
	High level	2,7%	8,7%	31,7%	48,6%	8,3%	3,6%	8,6%	31,7%	47,9%	8,3%
Place of residence:	Urban	3,9%	9,0%	33,1%	46,0%	8,1%	4,7%	11,0%	34,1%	43,3%	6,9%
	Rural	7,8%	5,5%	33,1%	44,5%	9,1%	7,9%	4,4%	33,7%	42,9%	11,0%

Table 29. In your opinion, how much can the following behaviors negatively affect when directed against women in the online environment?

		Someone spreads false information about a woman and/or de-fames her online					Someone creates a large-scale online campaign to denigrate a woman				
		Not at all	Very little	Quite a lot	Very much	Do not know/ no answer	Not at all	Very little	Quite a lot	Very much	Do not know/ no answer
Total		6,2%	6,2%	34,9%	43,7%	9,0%	6,6%	7,5%	32,5%	40,6%	12,8%
Respondent's gender:	Male	7,8%	8,1%	34,1%	38,1%	11,9%	8,3%	10,2%	30,2%	34,9%	16,4%
	Female	4,9%	4,7%	35,6%	48,2%	6,5%	5,2%	5,3%	34,4%	45,3%	9,8%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	3,1%	10,2%	36,3%	47,2%	3,2%	3,8%	12,9%	33,0%	43,6%	6,7%
	30-44 years old	3,7%	3,4%	39,2%	48,0%	5,7%	4,5%	5,3%	36,2%	45,5%	8,5%
	45-59 years old	7,7%	8,0%	34,5%	39,7%	10,0%	8,8%	6,6%	30,7%	37,7%	16,2%
	60+ years	8,9%	5,2%	30,6%	41,3%	14,0%	8,1%	7,6%	30,4%	37,2%	16,7%
Victim / Witness of online aggression:	Victim	4,0%	5,2%	30,7%	54,0%	6,1%	3,6%	14,0%	26,7%	49,3%	6,3%
	Witness	3,0%	6,5%	31,4%	55,3%	3,8%	4,7%	9,2%	27,7%	52,4%	6,0%
	No	7,0%	6,2%	36,0%	40,5%	10,4%	7,1%	6,7%	33,8%	37,5%	14,9%
Language of communication:	Romanian	7,3%	6,4%	34,8%	43,8%	7,7%	7,9%	7,8%	33,3%	39,8%	11,2%
	Russian or other	2,9%	5,6%	35,1%	43,2%	13,1%	2,7%	6,6%	29,8%	43,2%	17,7%
Level of education:	Low level	5,7%	4,1%	34,8%	46,6%	8,8%	6,1%	7,1%	32,9%	41,3%	12,6%
	Average level	5,7%	7,7%	37,9%	40,8%	7,8%	5,2%	8,2%	34,2%	38,9%	13,4%
	High level	7,5%	7,5%	32,2%	42,7%	10,1%	8,9%	7,4%	30,3%	41,3%	12,1%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	5,5%	6,2%	38,8%	41,7%	7,8%	5,9%	8,5%	36,5%	37,8%	11,3%
	Student	1,9%	8,9%	30,4%	58,8%	0,0%	1,9%	15,4%	25,9%	52,3%	4,7%
	Unemployed	6,0%	6,8%	31,9%	44,9%	10,5%	7,5%	6,1%	27,8%	44,4%	14,1%
	Pensioner / Disability	8,7%	5,5%	29,6%	44,4%	11,8%	8,4%	5,4%	28,5%	41,5%	16,2%
Marital status:	Not-married	3,4%	8,5%	31,6%	46,7%	9,7%	4,1%	11,1%	28,1%	44,2%	12,5%
	Married	7,6%	5,5%	35,6%	42,1%	9,2%	8,1%	6,7%	32,3%	40,0%	12,9%
	Widowed/divorced	4,1%	6,8%	35,8%	45,9%	7,5%	3,9%	7,2%	37,4%	39,2%	12,4%
Presence of children:	Yes	5,1%	5,0%	36,9%	44,7%	8,3%	5,6%	7,2%	32,7%	42,9%	11,6%
	No	7,1%	7,2%	33,4%	42,9%	9,4%	7,4%	7,8%	32,3%	38,9%	13,6%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	8,1%	5,0%	35,5%	38,6%	12,7%	8,6%	6,0%	34,9%	35,1%	15,5%
	Average level	7,4%	5,4%	36,8%	44,2%	6,1%	7,2%	6,8%	35,0%	40,1%	10,9%
	High level	3,2%	8,2%	32,4%	48,0%	8,1%	4,2%	9,8%	27,7%	46,5%	11,9%
Place of residence:	Urban	4,2%	8,7%	35,8%	45,3%	6,0%	4,6%	10,1%	33,2%	42,1%	10,0%
	Rural	7,7%	4,4%	34,2%	42,5%	11,1%	8,1%	5,7%	32,0%	39,5%	14,7%

Table 30. In your opinion, how much can the following behaviors negatively affect when directed against women in the online environment?

		Someone has produced or manipulated through technology (including artificial intelligence) an intimate image or video recording of a woman					Someone follows or stalks the person online with the aim of harassing them, including by installing various geolocation applications				
		Not at all	Very little	Quite a lot	Very much	Do not know/no answer	Not at all	Very little	Quite a lot	Very much	Do not know/no answer
Total		6,1%	6,7%	30,8%	44,5%	11,9%	5,9%	6,5%	32,7%	43,5%	11,4%
Respondent's gender:	Male	7,4%	9,0%	29,9%	38,4%	15,3%	6,5%	8,0%	33,8%	37,4%	14,3%
	Female	5,1%	4,8%	31,5%	49,5%	9,1%	5,4%	5,3%	31,8%	48,6%	8,9%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	3,1%	9,1%	34,3%	49,7%	3,8%	1,7%	8,7%	34,7%	52,3%	2,7%
	30-44 years old	4,3%	4,7%	35,3%	48,9%	6,8%	3,0%	7,1%	33,8%	47,0%	9,1%
	45-59 years old	7,2%	9,6%	31,6%	38,3%	13,3%	7,6%	6,8%	29,3%	44,0%	12,3%
	60+ years	8,4%	4,8%	24,0%	43,3%	19,6%	9,3%	4,7%	33,7%	35,2%	17,1%
Victim / Witness of online aggression:	Victim	7,6%	7,6%	28,5%	49,8%	6,5%	4,0%	7,0%	31,5%	53,1%	4,4%
	Witness	4,0%	8,6%	27,0%	56,2%	4,2%	4,1%	11,5%	25,4%	55,4%	3,7%
	No	6,4%	6,1%	31,9%	41,6%	14,0%	6,3%	5,1%	34,7%	40,2%	13,7%
Language of communication:	Romanian	7,7%	7,1%	32,2%	42,3%	10,7%	7,4%	7,0%	32,8%	42,0%	10,8%
	Russian or other	1,2%	5,6%	26,2%	51,4%	15,7%	1,2%	5,0%	32,3%	48,4%	13,1%
Level of education:	Low level	6,3%	5,7%	31,6%	44,5%	12,0%	6,1%	5,7%	32,8%	44,4%	10,9%
	Average level	4,6%	8,0%	32,4%	43,3%	11,7%	4,7%	6,0%	34,6%	42,4%	12,3%
	High level	7,5%	6,8%	28,3%	45,6%	11,8%	7,1%	8,1%	30,8%	43,4%	10,7%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	5,7%	7,4%	35,4%	42,2%	9,4%	4,9%	7,1%	35,7%	43,1%	9,2%
	Student	3,7%	6,0%	27,9%	60,8%	1,6%	1,9%	8,8%	28,4%	60,9%	0,0%
	Unemployed	5,2%	7,4%	30,4%	44,7%	12,3%	5,3%	7,2%	28,6%	45,7%	13,2%
	Pensioner / Disability	8,3%	5,0%	21,5%	46,5%	18,7%	9,3%	4,5%	30,2%	39,7%	16,3%
Marital status:	Not-married	3,3%	8,8%	25,9%	51,3%	10,7%	2,3%	8,7%	28,2%	51,1%	9,6%
	Married	7,4%	6,2%	31,7%	43,1%	11,7%	7,3%	5,7%	33,2%	42,3%	11,6%
	Widowed/divorced	4,3%	6,9%	32,4%	42,4%	14,1%	4,6%	7,6%	35,5%	40,0%	12,3%
Presence of children:	Yes	5,1%	5,3%	34,2%	45,5%	10,0%	4,8%	6,6%	32,0%	46,0%	10,5%
	No	6,9%	7,8%	28,2%	43,7%	13,4%	6,7%	6,5%	33,2%	41,6%	12,0%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	9,4%	4,8%	31,8%	38,0%	16,0%	8,7%	4,0%	34,3%	36,7%	16,4%
	Average level	6,5%	6,1%	32,3%	46,4%	8,7%	5,9%	7,7%	34,5%	44,7%	7,2%
	High level	2,5%	9,2%	28,2%	48,9%	11,1%	3,2%	7,9%	29,3%	49,1%	10,5%
Place of residence:	Urban	4,1%	9,3%	31,7%	46,4%	8,6%	3,3%	9,2%	34,7%	45,2%	7,6%
	Rural	7,6%	4,9%	30,1%	43,0%	14,4%	7,9%	4,6%	31,2%	42,2%	14,1%

Table 31. Please tell me if in the last 12 months, you have personally been a victim or witnessed the following online behaviors against a woman?

		Someone shared or threatened to share private information about me or someone else online					Someone shared or threatened to share offensive or sexually explicit images/videos online about me or another person				
		Personally, I was a victim	I know someone who has been a victim	I witnessed when someone else became a victim	I have not experienced or witnessed	Do not know/ no answer	Personally, I was a victim	I know someone who has been a victim	I witnessed when someone else became a victim	I have not experienced or witnessed	Do not know/ no answer
Total		1,7%	4,5%	3,4%	85,3%	5,2%	1,5%	3,8%	2,7%	87,2%	4,8%
Respondent's gender:	Male	1,3%	3,1%	3,0%	86,8%	5,8%	1,3%	2,8%	2,7%	88,6%	4,7%
	Female	1,9%	5,7%	3,8%	83,9%	4,7%	1,6%	4,6%	2,8%	86,0%	4,9%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	3,7%	7,4%	4,2%	83,9%	0,8%	3,3%	7,5%	4,5%	83,0%	1,7%
	30-44 years old	2,3%	7,4%	6,6%	79,1%	4,6%	2,7%	5,4%	4,9%	82,3%	4,6%
	45-59 years old	1,1%	4,4%	1,6%	86,9%	6,1%	0,8%	3,5%	1,2%	88,9%	5,5%
	60+ years	0,5%	0,5%	1,7%	90,2%	7,2%	0,0%	0,5%	1,3%	92,2%	6,1%
Victim / Witness of online aggression:	Victim	21,1%	22,2%	6,6%	46,5%	3,6%	18,9%	14,1%	5,3%	57,5%	4,3%
	Witness	1,7%	22,3%	16,9%	54,8%	4,4%	2,8%	18,6%	13,5%	60,3%	4,7%
	No	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	94,4%	5,6%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	94,9%	5,1%
Language of communication:	Romanian	1,9%	4,7%	3,6%	85,0%	4,9%	1,5%	4,3%	2,9%	86,2%	5,1%
	Russian or other	1,0%	4,0%	2,7%	86,2%	6,1%	1,3%	2,0%	2,3%	90,4%	4,1%
Level of education:	Low level	1,9%	3,6%	2,3%	86,6%	5,6%	1,8%	2,7%	2,4%	87,3%	5,9%
	Average level	2,3%	3,1%	2,6%	88,1%	3,9%	1,5%	4,0%	1,4%	89,7%	3,4%
	High level	0,8%	7,1%	5,3%	80,8%	6,0%	1,1%	5,0%	4,1%	84,8%	5,1%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	2,2%	5,5%	3,6%	83,9%	4,8%	2,1%	4,5%	2,8%	86,3%	4,3%
	Student	3,7%	11,2%	4,7%	80,5%	0,0%	1,0%	14,2%	6,9%	77,9%	0,0%
	Unemployed	1,1%	5,6%	3,6%	83,6%	6,0%	1,7%	3,7%	2,7%	86,9%	5,0%
	Pensioner / Disability	0,6%	0,6%	2,1%	90,6%	6,1%	0,0%	0,6%	1,6%	91,2%	6,7%
Marital status:	Not-married	2,0%	8,0%	4,4%	79,4%	6,2%	2,8%	6,3%	4,4%	82,7%	3,8%
	Married	1,2%	3,7%	2,7%	87,5%	4,8%	1,2%	3,1%	1,7%	89,3%	4,7%
	Widowed/divorced	3,0%	3,8%	5,0%	82,8%	5,5%	1,3%	3,4%	5,0%	84,0%	6,3%
Presence of children:	Yes	2,2%	5,1%	3,4%	84,6%	4,7%	1,8%	4,6%	2,2%	86,6%	4,9%
	No	1,2%	4,1%	3,4%	85,7%	5,5%	1,3%	3,2%	3,2%	87,6%	4,8%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	1,3%	2,9%	2,6%	83,4%	9,8%	1,7%	2,1%	2,1%	85,4%	8,7%
	Average level	1,7%	5,3%	2,9%	87,8%	2,4%	1,3%	5,1%	3,0%	88,8%	1,8%
	High level	2,0%	5,3%	4,7%	84,6%	3,4%	1,4%	4,1%	3,1%	87,4%	4,0%
Place of residence:	Urban	2,6%	7,9%	5,4%	78,4%	5,7%	2,1%	7,0%	4,1%	82,0%	4,8%
	Rural	0,9%	2,0%	1,9%	90,3%	4,8%	1,0%	1,4%	1,7%	91,0%	4,8%

Table 32. Please tell me if in the last 12 months, you have personally been a victim or witnessed the following online behaviors against a woman?

		Someone threatened me or another person or their relatives with physical violence online					Someone sent or posted messages to diminish my or someone else's self-esteem or reputation				
		Personally, I was a victim	I know someone who has been a victim	I witnessed when someone else became a victim	I have not experienced or witnessed	Do not know/ no answer	Personally, I was a victim	I know someone who has been a victim	I witnessed when someone else became a victim	I have not experienced or witnessed	Do not know/ no answer
Total		2,1%	4,4%	3,2%	85,7%	4,6%	2,6%	4,3%	3,5%	84,6%	4,9%
Respondent's gender:	Male	1,2%	2,6%	2,2%	88,8%	5,2%	2,0%	2,5%	2,5%	87,5%	5,5%
	Female	2,7%	5,8%	4,1%	83,2%	4,1%	3,2%	5,8%	4,4%	82,2%	4,5%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	5,3%	10,1%	5,3%	78,7%	0,5%	5,4%	8,2%	6,8%	78,9%	0,8%
	30-44 years old	2,7%	6,6%	5,2%	80,6%	4,9%	4,6%	7,5%	4,7%	77,9%	5,2%
	45-59 years old	1,3%	3,5%	0,9%	89,4%	4,9%	1,4%	3,7%	1,2%	88,2%	5,5%
	60+ years	0,5%	0,0%	2,4%	90,9%	6,2%	0,5%	0,0%	2,8%	90,5%	6,2%
Victim / Witness of online aggression:	Victim	26,2%	18,1%	4,2%	49,8%	1,7%	33,7%	15,8%	5,9%	41,0%	3,6%
	Witness	5,9%	21,5%	15,9%	53,4%	3,2%	5,1%	21,4%	17,4%	52,3%	3,8%
	No	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	94,8%	5,2%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	94,6%	5,4%
Language of communication:	Romanian	2,4%	4,9%	3,3%	84,7%	4,8%	3,1%	4,9%	3,3%	83,7%	5,0%
	Russian or other	0,9%	2,8%	3,1%	89,1%	4,1%	1,3%	2,5%	4,2%	87,4%	4,6%
Level of education:	Low level	2,7%	5,2%	3,5%	83,7%	4,9%	3,6%	4,3%	3,0%	84,2%	5,0%
	Average level	1,9%	3,9%	1,8%	89,0%	3,4%	2,1%	3,4%	2,0%	89,1%	3,4%
	High level	1,4%	3,8%	3,9%	85,3%	5,6%	2,1%	5,4%	5,4%	80,7%	6,5%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	2,4%	4,6%	2,8%	85,9%	4,3%	3,2%	5,4%	3,9%	82,7%	4,8%
	Student	3,7%	14,7%	8,5%	73,1%	0,0%	3,7%	12,6%	7,0%	76,7%	0,0%
	Unemployed	2,6%	7,2%	3,1%	82,4%	4,7%	3,5%	5,3%	2,9%	83,5%	4,7%
	Pensioner / Disability	0,6%	0,0%	2,9%	90,4%	6,1%	0,6%	0,0%	2,2%	91,1%	6,1%
Marital status:	Not-married	4,6%	7,1%	5,1%	79,7%	3,4%	4,0%	7,8%	6,6%	76,6%	5,0%
	Married	1,7%	3,6%	2,2%	87,9%	4,5%	2,5%	3,5%	2,6%	87,0%	4,5%
	Widowed/divorced	0,8%	3,9%	5,2%	83,8%	6,3%	2,0%	3,8%	4,1%	83,7%	6,3%
Presence of children:	Yes	2,2%	5,4%	3,6%	85,2%	3,5%	3,6%	6,1%	3,8%	82,9%	3,6%
	No	1,9%	3,5%	3,0%	86,1%	5,4%	1,9%	3,0%	3,3%	85,8%	5,9%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	2,0%	1,6%	3,4%	85,8%	7,2%	3,0%	2,3%	3,4%	83,2%	8,1%
	Average level	2,0%	5,0%	1,5%	88,5%	3,0%	2,4%	5,1%	3,0%	86,7%	2,9%
	High level	2,2%	6,4%	4,7%	83,0%	3,7%	2,5%	5,6%	4,1%	83,9%	3,8%
Place of residence:	Urban	3,0%	6,8%	4,0%	81,3%	4,9%	3,2%	7,5%	5,7%	78,4%	5,2%
	Rural	1,4%	2,5%	2,7%	89,0%	4,4%	2,2%	2,0%	1,9%	89,1%	4,7%

Table 33. Please tell me if in the last 12 months, you have personally been a victim or witnessed the following online behaviors against a woman?

		Someone sends images or videos with sexual content or genitals for the purpose of intimidating, embarrassing or harassing					Someone stole my password and/or accessed my or someone else's online accounts, internet-connected devices, etc.				
		Personally, I was a victim	I know someone who has been a victim	I witnessed when someone else became a victim	I have not experienced or witnessed	Do not know/no answer	Personally, I was a victim	I know someone who has been a victim	I witnessed when someone else became a victim	I have not experienced or witnessed	Do not know/no answer
Total		1,7%	3,3%	2,5%	86,6%	5,8%	3,5%	6,4%	3,8%	80,8%	5,6%
Respondent's gender:	Male	0,6%	2,8%	2,1%	87,8%	6,7%	2,8%	5,0%	2,1%	83,2%	6,9%
	Female	2,6%	3,8%	2,9%	85,7%	5,0%	4,2%	7,5%	5,1%	78,7%	4,5%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	4,7%	8,5%	3,7%	79,9%	3,1%	6,9%	16,6%	6,5%	68,8%	1,2%
	30-44 years old	2,5%	3,4%	4,7%	83,2%	6,3%	5,5%	6,3%	5,2%	76,3%	6,6%
	45-59 years old	1,1%	3,9%	0,5%	88,1%	6,3%	2,1%	6,3%	2,8%	82,4%	6,3%
	60+ years	0,0%	0,0%	1,8%	92,0%	6,2%	1,2%	1,1%	1,9%	89,6%	6,2%
Victim / Witness of online aggression:	Victim	21,8%	8,9%	4,4%	57,4%	7,4%	45,1%	10,3%	8,4%	31,1%	5,0%
	Witness	4,4%	16,3%	12,6%	60,1%	6,7%	8,6%	31,4%	18,6%	36,0%	5,4%
	No	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	94,3%	5,7%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	94,2%	5,8%
Language of communication:	Romanian	1,6%	3,3%	2,6%	86,6%	6,0%	3,1%	7,5%	3,9%	80,0%	5,5%
	Russian or other	2,1%	3,3%	2,4%	86,9%	5,3%	4,9%	2,9%	3,2%	83,2%	5,7%
Level of education:	Low level	1,4%	3,1%	1,3%	87,9%	6,4%	3,8%	7,1%	3,0%	80,3%	5,8%
	Average level	1,7%	2,5%	1,9%	89,4%	4,4%	3,8%	6,0%	2,8%	83,8%	3,7%
	High level	2,1%	4,4%	4,4%	82,5%	6,5%	2,9%	5,9%	5,3%	78,4%	7,4%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	2,1%	4,6%	2,3%	85,3%	5,7%	4,3%	7,8%	3,6%	78,5%	5,8%
	Student	4,7%	9,4%	6,0%	77,8%	2,1%	4,0%	18,3%	7,0%	69,7%	1,0%
	Unemployed	2,2%	2,9%	2,3%	86,2%	6,4%	4,2%	6,6%	4,6%	79,1%	5,5%
	Pensioner / Disability	0,0%	0,0%	2,2%	91,7%	6,1%	1,4%	1,0%	2,3%	89,2%	6,1%
Marital status:	Not-married	2,0%	6,1%	4,4%	81,4%	6,2%	5,0%	7,1%	4,8%	77,3%	5,9%
	Married	1,4%	2,7%	2,1%	88,3%	5,5%	3,2%	6,6%	3,1%	81,9%	5,2%
	Widowed/divorced	2,5%	2,6%	2,4%	85,9%	6,7%	3,4%	4,5%	5,2%	80,3%	6,7%
Presence of children:	Yes	2,5%	2,8%	2,4%	87,3%	4,9%	4,3%	9,3%	4,1%	78,3%	4,0%
	No	1,1%	3,7%	2,6%	86,1%	6,4%	2,9%	4,2%	3,5%	82,6%	6,8%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	1,4%	1,9%	2,1%	84,6%	10,0%	3,3%	4,3%	3,3%	80,0%	9,2%
	Average level	1,7%	4,2%	2,4%	87,9%	3,8%	3,8%	6,4%	3,1%	83,7%	2,9%
	High level	2,0%	3,8%	3,1%	87,4%	3,7%	3,5%	8,3%	4,9%	78,6%	4,7%
Place of residence:	Urban	2,9%	6,6%	4,1%	80,2%	6,1%	5,2%	9,7%	5,3%	73,7%	6,1%
	Rural	0,8%	0,9%	1,4%	91,4%	5,6%	2,3%	3,9%	2,6%	85,9%	5,2%

Table 34. Please tell me if in the last 12 months, you have personally been a victim or witnessed the following online behaviors against a woman?

		Someone used online accounts or created a fake account using my or someone else's identity					Someone used sexist or hateful language against me or someone else online				
		Personally, I was a victim	I know someone who has been a victim	I witnessed when someone else became a victim	I have not experienced or witnessed	Do not know/no answer	Personally, I was a victim	I know someone who has been a victim	I witnessed when someone else became a victim	I have not experienced or witnessed	Do not know/no answer
Total		3,3%	6,8%	4,5%	80,5%	4,9%	2,8%	5,2%	3,0%	84,3%	4,7%
Respondent's gender:	Male	2,5%	5,7%	2,9%	83,5%	5,5%	1,2%	3,9%	2,1%	87,8%	5,0%
	Female	4,0%	7,8%	5,9%	77,9%	4,4%	4,2%	6,2%	3,8%	81,4%	4,4%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	6,4%	15,6%	6,7%	70,1%	1,2%	8,1%	12,1%	4,7%	74,2%	0,9%
	30-44 years old	5,3%	8,3%	7,4%	74,3%	4,8%	2,8%	7,3%	5,3%	80,7%	3,9%
	45-59 years old	2,2%	5,3%	2,6%	83,4%	6,5%	2,5%	4,2%	0,5%	86,9%	5,9%
	60+ years	0,8%	2,3%	2,4%	88,9%	5,6%	0,4%	0,5%	2,4%	90,5%	6,2%
Victim / Witness of online aggression:	Victim	41,9%	12,6%	10,0%	32,3%	3,1%	35,8%	14,1%	4,5%	45,6%	0,0%
	Witness	7,6%	33,7%	22,3%	33,0%	3,4%	8,3%	25,5%	15,1%	49,2%	1,9%
	No	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	94,5%	5,5%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	94,4%	5,6%
Language of communication:	Romanian	3,1%	7,9%	5,0%	79,0%	5,1%	3,4%	5,7%	3,0%	83,2%	4,7%
	Russian or other	3,9%	3,5%	3,1%	85,0%	4,5%	0,8%	3,4%	3,4%	87,8%	4,6%
Level of education:	Low level	3,8%	6,9%	2,8%	81,2%	5,3%	3,1%	4,7%	2,9%	84,4%	4,8%
	Average level	3,8%	4,8%	3,1%	84,2%	4,1%	2,5%	2,9%	1,5%	89,0%	4,1%
	High level	2,1%	8,9%	7,8%	75,9%	5,3%	2,7%	8,1%	4,4%	79,6%	5,2%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	3,9%	8,4%	4,5%	78,7%	4,5%	3,3%	6,7%	2,5%	83,5%	4,0%
	Student	6,2%	12,2%	10,4%	70,1%	1,0%	9,9%	13,4%	11,1%	65,6%	0,0%
	Unemployed	3,5%	6,7%	4,6%	79,7%	5,5%	3,0%	5,2%	2,6%	83,4%	5,8%
	Pensioner / Disability	1,5%	2,5%	3,0%	87,0%	6,1%	0,4%	0,6%	3,0%	89,9%	6,1%
Marital status:	Not-married	5,3%	8,3%	7,8%	74,4%	4,2%	6,0%	7,3%	6,0%	77,1%	3,6%
	Married	2,6%	6,7%	3,6%	82,4%	4,6%	2,0%	4,7%	1,9%	86,7%	4,7%
	Widowed/divorced	3,8%	5,7%	4,6%	79,2%	6,7%	2,8%	4,2%	4,3%	82,8%	5,9%
Presence of children:	Yes	4,0%	7,7%	4,9%	79,7%	3,8%	3,2%	5,6%	2,3%	85,2%	3,6%
	No	2,8%	6,2%	4,2%	81,0%	5,8%	2,5%	4,8%	3,6%	83,6%	5,5%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	3,5%	5,0%	3,9%	79,0%	8,6%	3,3%	2,3%	2,2%	84,2%	8,0%
	Average level	2,9%	7,7%	4,1%	82,8%	2,5%	2,2%	6,7%	2,7%	85,6%	2,8%
	High level	3,5%	7,7%	5,5%	79,6%	3,6%	2,9%	6,4%	4,2%	83,2%	3,3%
Place of residence:	Urban	4,2%	10,6%	6,9%	72,8%	5,5%	4,7%	9,2%	4,6%	76,9%	4,5%
	Rural	2,6%	4,0%	2,8%	86,1%	4,5%	1,4%	2,1%	1,9%	89,8%	4,8%

Table 35. Please tell me if in the last 12 months, you have personally been a victim or witnessed the following online behaviors against a woman?

		Someone spread false information about me or someone else and/or defamed me online					Someone created a large online campaign to denigrate me or someone else online				
		Personally, I was a victim	I know someone who has been a victim	I witnessed when someone else became a victim	I have not experienced or witnessed	Do not know/no answer	Personally, I was a victim	I know someone who has been a victim	I witnessed when someone else became a victim	I have not experienced or witnessed	Do not know/no answer
Total		3,3%	4,1%	2,8%	84,1%	5,6%	1,7%	2,9%	2,2%	87,3%	5,9%
Respondent's gender:	Male	2,4%	2,9%	2,1%	86,0%	6,6%	1,8%	2,9%	1,3%	88,0%	6,0%
	Female	4,0%	5,2%	3,5%	82,6%	4,8%	1,6%	2,9%	2,8%	86,8%	5,9%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	10,4%	9,4%	4,4%	74,7%	1,2%	3,1%	7,2%	2,4%	84,5%	2,8%
	30-44 years old	3,2%	4,6%	4,6%	81,9%	5,6%	2,9%	4,2%	3,3%	84,0%	5,6%
	45-59 years old	2,4%	5,2%	1,2%	84,3%	6,9%	0,9%	2,3%	0,6%	88,9%	7,2%
	60+ years	0,5%	0,0%	1,9%	90,9%	6,7%	0,5%	0,0%	2,4%	90,4%	6,7%
Victim / Witness of online aggression:	Victim	41,9%	7,0%	2,9%	44,0%	4,4%	21,4%	6,4%	1,6%	64,7%	5,9%
	Witness	9,6%	20,5%	14,0%	51,8%	4,1%	3,6%	14,3%	10,6%	64,5%	6,9%
	No	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	93,7%	6,3%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	94,1%	5,9%
Language of communication:	Romanian	3,7%	4,3%	3,0%	83,1%	5,8%	1,8%	3,6%	2,2%	86,5%	5,9%
	Russian or other	1,9%	3,5%	2,3%	87,5%	4,9%	1,3%	0,7%	2,1%	89,8%	6,1%
Level of education:	Low level	3,5%	3,5%	2,7%	85,0%	5,3%	2,3%	3,6%	1,6%	87,0%	5,5%
	Average level	3,2%	4,0%	1,6%	86,2%	4,9%	1,5%	1,7%	1,5%	90,0%	5,3%
	High level	3,1%	5,1%	3,9%	81,1%	6,7%	1,1%	3,3%	3,2%	85,3%	7,2%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	3,5%	5,8%	2,6%	82,7%	5,5%	2,0%	4,5%	1,7%	86,6%	5,3%
	Student	12,8%	6,8%	4,1%	76,3%	0,0%	3,8%	3,9%	5,4%	84,8%	2,1%
	Unemployed	3,8%	4,5%	3,3%	82,7%	5,9%	1,8%	2,1%	1,2%	87,2%	7,7%
	Pensioner / Disability	1,1%	0,0%	2,3%	89,9%	6,7%	0,6%	0,0%	3,0%	89,7%	6,7%
Marital status:	Not-married	8,2%	5,8%	3,8%	75,1%	7,1%	2,6%	3,3%	2,6%	85,1%	6,5%
	Married	2,3%	4,0%	2,2%	86,6%	5,0%	1,3%	2,6%	1,4%	88,7%	5,9%
	Widowed/divorced	2,2%	2,8%	4,4%	84,2%	6,3%	2,1%	3,2%	4,4%	84,8%	5,5%
Presence of children:	Yes	4,0%	5,2%	2,4%	84,7%	3,7%	1,9%	3,8%	1,5%	88,4%	4,4%
	No	2,7%	3,3%	3,2%	83,7%	7,1%	1,5%	2,2%	2,7%	86,5%	7,1%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	2,0%	2,8%	2,4%	82,8%	10,0%	2,5%	2,8%	1,8%	83,8%	9,1%
	Average level	3,2%	4,3%	2,7%	86,5%	3,3%	1,1%	3,3%	1,6%	89,4%	4,6%
	High level	4,6%	5,3%	3,5%	83,1%	3,6%	1,4%	2,6%	3,0%	88,8%	4,2%
Place of residence:	Urban	5,1%	6,6%	4,0%	78,3%	6,0%	2,4%	4,7%	3,4%	83,3%	6,3%
	Rural	1,9%	2,3%	2,0%	88,5%	5,4%	1,2%	1,6%	1,3%	90,3%	5,7%

Table 36. Please tell me if in the last 12 months, you have personally been a victim or witnessed the following online behaviors against a woman?

		Someone has produced or manipulated through technology (including artificial intelligence) an intimate image or video recording of women					Someone follows or stalks the person online with the aim of harassing them, including by installing various geolocation applications				
		Personally, I was a victim	I know someone who has been a victim	I witnessed when someone else became a victim	I have not experienced or witnessed	Do not know/ no answer	Personally, I was a victim	I know someone who has been a victim	I witnessed when someone else became a victim	I have not experienced or witnessed	Do not know/ no answer
Total		1,2%	2,4%	2,3%	87,8%	6,2%	1,2%	2,7%	2,2%	87,9%	6,0%
Respondent's gender:	Male	1,0%	2,1%	1,7%	88,1%	7,2%	0,7%	2,2%	1,2%	89,8%	6,1%
	Female	1,5%	2,7%	2,9%	87,5%	5,4%	1,7%	3,1%	3,0%	86,2%	6,0%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	3,8%	4,3%	2,6%	86,4%	2,9%	2,1%	5,6%	3,3%	87,1%	1,8%
	30-44 years old	1,8%	4,4%	3,5%	83,3%	7,0%	2,4%	3,7%	3,8%	83,5%	6,6%
	45-59 years old	0,6%	1,9%	1,1%	89,6%	6,7%	0,9%	3,0%	0,4%	88,0%	7,6%
	60+ years	0,0%	0,0%	2,2%	91,0%	6,8%	0,0%	0,0%	1,7%	92,1%	6,2%
Victim / Witness of online aggression:	Victim	15,8%	7,8%	3,1%	64,0%	9,2%	15,7%	9,9%	6,3%	59,3%	8,8%
	Witness	2,8%	11,9%	11,5%	66,8%	7,0%	2,7%	13,4%	10,7%	67,4%	5,9%
	No	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	94,1%	5,9%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	93,8%	6,2%
Language of communication:	Romanian	1,4%	2,8%	2,4%	87,1%	6,3%	1,2%	3,4%	2,0%	87,3%	6,1%
	Russian or other	0,7%	1,3%	2,1%	89,9%	5,9%	1,3%	0,7%	2,7%	89,6%	5,8%
Level of education:	Low level	1,0%	2,3%	0,9%	89,8%	6,0%	1,4%	2,3%	1,3%	89,2%	5,8%
	Average level	2,3%	2,6%	1,9%	88,4%	4,8%	1,5%	2,7%	1,5%	89,6%	4,8%
	High level	0,4%	2,4%	4,1%	84,9%	8,1%	0,8%	3,3%	3,5%	84,7%	7,7%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	1,3%	3,5%	2,2%	86,9%	6,0%	1,4%	3,7%	2,1%	86,9%	5,9%
	Student	3,8%	5,5%	6,1%	84,6%	0,0%	1,7%	11,1%	6,2%	80,0%	1,0%
	Unemployed	2,1%	1,8%	0,9%	87,8%	7,4%	2,3%	1,9%	0,9%	87,5%	7,4%
	Pensioner / Disability	0,0%	0,0%	2,7%	90,5%	6,7%	0,0%	0,0%	2,1%	91,8%	6,1%
Marital status:	Not-married	1,5%	4,8%	3,7%	83,5%	6,6%	1,3%	4,5%	4,9%	82,2%	7,1%
	Married	1,2%	1,5%	1,7%	89,7%	6,0%	1,2%	2,3%	1,2%	89,8%	5,5%
	Widowed/divorced	1,3%	3,2%	3,3%	85,4%	6,8%	1,3%	2,2%	2,9%	86,6%	6,9%
Presence of children:	Yes	1,9%	2,5%	1,9%	89,0%	4,7%	1,5%	3,7%	1,5%	88,7%	4,7%
	No	0,7%	2,4%	2,7%	86,9%	7,3%	1,0%	2,0%	2,7%	87,2%	7,1%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	1,6%	2,1%	1,9%	84,8%	9,6%	1,1%	1,4%	2,1%	84,9%	10,4%
	Average level	0,5%	2,9%	2,5%	89,1%	5,0%	1,2%	3,1%	1,8%	90,5%	3,4%
	High level	1,6%	2,2%	2,6%	89,5%	4,1%	1,4%	3,6%	2,5%	88,1%	4,3%
Place of residence:	Urban	1,8%	4,1%	4,2%	82,6%	7,2%	1,8%	5,0%	3,6%	82,8%	6,8%
	Rural	0,8%	1,2%	0,9%	91,7%	5,5%	0,8%	1,0%	1,1%	91,6%	5,5%

Table 37. In the last 12 months, on which online platforms have you most often been a victim or witness of such behaviour directed against women?

		Num- ber	Social networks (Facebook, Instagram, Odnoklassniki, VKon- takle, TikTok, Snapchat, etc.)	Photo/video sharing apps (Pinterest, You- Tube, etc.)	Blogging/ Communities (Tumblr, Red- dit, etc.)	Messaging services (instant/text messaging apps, WhatsApp, Viber, Telegram, etc.)	Dating apps (Tin- der, Match, Badoo, Bumble, Mamba, etc.)	Email	Other	Do not know/no answer
Total		305	70,2%	6,1%	0,6%	26,8%	2,7%	4,3%	0,0%	8,1%
Respondent's gender:	Male	71	61,0%	11,5%	0,0%	29,8%	3,2%	7,3%	0,0%	9,3%
	Female	234	75,8%	2,8%	1,0%	25,0%	2,4%	2,5%	0,0%	7,4%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	120	82,7%	2,1%	1,1%	30,7%	2,4%	3,5%	0,0%	2,7%
	30-44 years old	110	62,1%	5,0%	0,0%	27,0%	2,2%	4,5%	0,0%	12,0%
	45-59 years old	55	75,8%	10,4%	1,7%	14,4%	5,9%	3,3%	0,0%	5,7%
	60+ years	20	57,5%	12,8%	0,0%	35,5%	0,0%	7,4%	0,0%	12,6%
Victim / Witness of online aggression:	Victim	122	72,0%	2,3%	0,5%	31,0%	1,7%	2,7%	0,0%	9,9%
	Witness	258	70,3%	7,1%	0,7%	27,6%	3,1%	4,6%	0,0%	7,8%
	No	0	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
Language of com- munication:	Romanian	250	73,0%	6,5%	0,8%	25,3%	2,2%	4,6%	0,0%	7,0%
	Russian or other	55	57,8%	4,0%	0,0%	33,6%	5,1%	3,1%	0,0%	13,4%
Level of education:	Low level	119	69,3%	3,5%	0,4%	27,8%	1,2%	1,9%	0,0%	10,9%
	Average level	82	76,4%	9,2%	1,3%	15,7%	1,2%	3,8%	0,0%	6,3%
	High level	103	68,1%	6,9%	0,5%	34,0%	3,8%	7,6%	0,0%	6,5%
Respondent's oc- cupation:	Employed	174	73,8%	5,1%	0,8%	22,3%	2,8%	4,6%	0,0%	7,9%
	Student	39	87,2%	4,4%	2,3%	39,6%	4,5%	1,8%	0,0%	0,0%
	Unemployed	73	63,3%	5,4%	0,0%	27,5%	0,7%	2,5%	0,0%	12,6%
	Pensioner / Disability	17	59,0%	15,1%	0,0%	41,8%	0,0%	8,7%	0,0%	5,9%
Marital status:	Not-married	98	74,0%	6,3%	0,7%	35,0%	4,8%	4,3%	0,0%	4,6%
	Married	162	69,6%	6,3%	0,3%	22,8%	2,6%	3,6%	0,0%	9,5%
	Widowed/divorced	44	66,8%	5,1%	1,8%	29,3%	0,0%	7,0%	0,0%	8,7%
Presence of chil- dren:	Yes	165	72,4%	2,7%	0,9%	27,1%	1,2%	2,5%	0,0%	9,3%
	No	140	67,9%	9,7%	0,3%	26,5%	4,3%	6,3%	0,0%	6,8%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	78	58,2%	3,0%	0,0%	33,1%	1,0%	0,0%	0,0%	13,6%
	Average level	111	80,7%	8,3%	1,4%	23,5%	1,7%	8,9%	0,0%	3,2%
	High level	116	70,2%	6,5%	0,4%	25,0%	4,8%	3,6%	0,0%	8,3%
Place of residence:	Urban	194	74,0%	7,8%	1,0%	28,2%	4,3%	6,9%	0,0%	6,2%
	Rural	111	64,0%	3,2%	0,0%	24,6%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	11,3%

Table 38. Considering the last 12 months, how often have you been a victim/witness of these types of behaviors?

		Number	Once every 6 months or less	Monthly	Weekly	Daily	Once an hour or more often	Do not know/no answer
Total		305	61,5%	16,0%	9,1%	3,0%	2,6%	7,8%
Respondent's gender:	Male	71	56,5%	19,1%	9,3%	4,8%	0,0%	10,2%
	Female	234	64,6%	14,1%	8,9%	1,9%	4,2%	6,4%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	120	62,6%	9,4%	12,1%	3,9%	5,4%	6,6%
	30-44 years old	110	66,8%	15,3%	10,7%	1,4%	1,6%	4,2%
	45-59 years old	55	58,5%	20,0%	1,6%	6,6%	0,0%	13,3%
	60+ years	20	46,7%	28,2%	7,7%	0,0%	3,2%	14,2%
Victim / Witness of online aggression:	Victim	122	67,9%	13,7%	4,9%	3,4%	0,0%	10,0%
	Witness	258	61,4%	16,8%	10,2%	2,5%	3,0%	6,1%
	No	0	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
Language of communication:	Romanian	250	61,1%	17,6%	9,6%	2,1%	3,2%	6,4%
	Russian or other	55	63,5%	8,7%	6,6%	6,8%	0,0%	14,4%
Level of education:	Low level	119	59,9%	10,2%	14,9%	3,8%	5,0%	6,1%
	Average level	82	71,3%	20,8%	2,3%	1,8%	0,0%	3,8%
	High level	103	55,8%	19,4%	7,4%	2,9%	1,7%	12,7%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	174	59,2%	15,9%	9,4%	4,3%	1,0%	10,1%
	Student	39	73,5%	21,9%	2,3%	0,0%	0,0%	2,3%
	Unemployed	73	67,7%	8,6%	10,7%	1,8%	7,2%	3,9%
	Pensioner / Disability	17	50,0%	29,4%	9,1%	0,0%	3,8%	7,8%
Marital status:	Not-married	98	78,1%	9,4%	4,1%	3,2%	0,0%	5,2%
	Married	162	57,4%	17,7%	10,9%	1,6%	3,8%	8,6%
	Widowed/divorced	44	53,6%	17,7%	10,2%	7,2%	2,2%	9,1%
Presence of children:	Yes	165	60,6%	12,2%	12,2%	1,6%	5,0%	8,4%
	No	140	62,6%	20,1%	5,7%	4,4%	0,0%	7,2%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	78	58,6%	12,6%	15,6%	2,0%	0,0%	11,3%
	Average level	111	63,7%	20,7%	4,7%	3,2%	0,9%	6,8%
	High level	116	61,9%	14,4%	8,0%	3,5%	6,0%	6,2%
Place of residence:	Urban	194	66,2%	15,0%	4,7%	4,8%	0,5%	8,9%
	Rural	111	53,9%	17,6%	16,3%	0,0%	6,1%	6,1%

Table 39. Who were the people who committed acts of online violence?

		Number	Person(s) I know personally from offline	Person or people I know online	Person or people I didn't know previously	Anonymous user(s)	Other	Do not know/ no answer
Total		305	22,4%	18,6%	34,0%	35,9%	0,0%	8,4%
Respondent's gender:	Male	71	16,3%	27,0%	37,2%	31,8%	0,0%	10,9%
	Female	234	26,1%	13,5%	32,1%	38,4%	0,0%	6,9%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	120	27,4%	23,7%	33,8%	30,1%	0,0%	6,7%
	30-44 years old	110	19,3%	20,4%	34,4%	41,0%	0,0%	5,0%
	45-59 years old	55	16,2%	13,9%	35,6%	39,5%	0,0%	12,8%
	60+ years	20	29,4%	7,6%	30,6%	28,4%	0,0%	17,0%
Victim / Witness of online aggression:	Victim	122	24,9%	18,6%	30,5%	33,4%	0,0%	13,5%
	Witness	258	23,0%	19,8%	35,7%	37,0%	0,0%	5,3%
	No	0	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
Language of communication:	Romanian	250	21,1%	17,7%	34,1%	34,9%	0,0%	8,1%
	Russian or other	55	28,2%	22,9%	33,6%	40,5%	0,0%	9,9%
Level of education:	Low level	119	22,8%	21,7%	34,7%	32,7%	0,0%	6,8%
	Average level	82	23,5%	15,9%	34,8%	29,3%	0,0%	9,5%
	High level	103	21,4%	17,4%	31,6%	44,8%	0,0%	9,7%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	174	20,9%	23,1%	36,8%	36,3%	0,0%	6,2%
	Student	39	27,7%	31,5%	35,4%	30,4%	0,0%	0,0%
	Unemployed	73	19,8%	12,0%	27,5%	40,3%	0,0%	10,0%
	Pensioner / Disability	17	34,6%	0,0%	28,3%	27,8%	0,0%	24,7%
Marital status:	Not-married	98	28,7%	18,7%	40,1%	33,2%	0,0%	3,2%
	Married	162	18,0%	17,7%	33,5%	35,5%	0,0%	9,9%
	Widowed/divorced	44	28,6%	20,2%	26,0%	39,9%	0,0%	10,7%
Presence of children:	Yes	165	21,6%	21,3%	30,5%	35,2%	0,0%	9,3%
	No	140	23,2%	15,7%	37,8%	36,6%	0,0%	7,6%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	78	21,1%	25,6%	34,2%	23,0%	0,0%	7,0%
	Average level	111	26,6%	21,0%	38,1%	36,7%	0,0%	6,6%
	High level	116	19,6%	11,3%	30,4%	44,9%	0,0%	11,1%
Place of residence:	Urban	194	22,6%	21,1%	37,8%	38,5%	0,0%	9,1%
	Rural	111	21,9%	14,5%	27,8%	31,6%	0,0%	7,4%

Table 40. Who was usually the initiator of these behaviors against you?

		Number	Male person(s)	Female person(s)	Both female and male	Do not know/no answer
Total		305	36,4%	12,6%	26,8%	24,1%
Respondent's gender:	Male	71	29,9%	8,3%	35,8%	26,0%
	Female	234	40,4%	15,3%	21,3%	23,0%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	120	40,0%	14,4%	30,7%	15,0%
	30-44 years old	110	37,4%	13,7%	24,1%	24,8%
	45-59 years old	55	31,6%	9,8%	23,6%	35,1%
	60+ years	20	32,1%	9,6%	30,6%	27,7%
Victim / Witness of online aggression:	Victim	122	41,0%	12,7%	14,9%	31,3%
	Witness	258	34,8%	13,3%	30,5%	21,4%
	No	0	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
Language of communication:	Romanian	250	39,6%	13,8%	24,5%	22,1%
	Russian or other	55	22,4%	7,6%	36,9%	33,1%
Level of education:	Low level	119	28,0%	20,5%	34,6%	16,8%
	Average level	82	42,9%	15,4%	12,8%	28,9%
	High level	103	42,0%	2,0%	26,7%	29,3%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	174	38,7%	8,3%	27,1%	25,9%
	Student	39	51,2%	4,1%	30,7%	14,0%
	Unemployed	73	28,4%	28,1%	23,1%	20,4%
	Pensioner / Disability	17	33,7%	11,3%	27,1%	27,9%
Marital status:	Not-married	98	42,5%	5,9%	29,3%	22,3%
	Married	162	32,2%	16,4%	28,7%	22,7%
	Widowed/divorced	44	42,8%	9,7%	15,8%	31,7%
Presence of children:	Yes	165	39,4%	16,1%	23,9%	20,6%
	No	140	33,3%	8,9%	29,9%	27,9%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	78	34,2%	19,1%	25,5%	21,2%
	Average level	111	39,1%	9,7%	26,8%	24,4%
	High level	116	35,8%	10,4%	27,8%	26,0%
Place of residence:	Urban	194	40,5%	8,6%	27,0%	23,9%
	Rural	111	29,7%	19,4%	26,4%	24,5%

Table 41. How do you think these behaviors have influenced you?

		Number	I thought twice before posting	I've reduced my online presence	I've blocked contacts	I have created a new/private profile	I stopped using that online platform	I changed my phone number	I reported the behavior of the online platform	I reported the behavior to an authority	I felt insecure
Total		305	21,6%	17,9%	41,1%	16,8%	6,0%	9,5%	13,3%	6,1%	22,7%
Respondent's gender:	Male	71	14,8%	8,5%	34,5%	9,5%	7,1%	6,6%	12,0%	0,9%	8,0%
	Female	234	25,8%	23,7%	45,1%	21,3%	5,3%	11,2%	14,1%	9,3%	31,7%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	120	21,2%	18,6%	43,1%	16,7%	3,8%	7,2%	12,4%	2,5%	20,4%
	30-44 years old	110	22,2%	15,9%	36,3%	14,1%	8,1%	9,2%	16,4%	6,9%	24,6%
	45-59 years old	55	35,2%	27,9%	48,0%	23,1%	3,4%	13,2%	11,6%	4,2%	28,3%
	60+ years	20	0,0%	7,7%	41,1%	16,3%	8,4%	10,0%	8,4%	15,1%	13,8%
Victim / Witness of online aggression:	Victim	122	15,1%	20,8%	48,1%	24,2%	5,4%	12,6%	22,2%	7,3%	31,0%
	Witness	258	23,8%	17,5%	39,5%	14,6%	5,8%	8,7%	12,9%	5,9%	22,0%
	No	0	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
Language of communication:	Romanian	250	17,7%	14,5%	37,3%	17,0%	3,6%	9,7%	9,8%	6,6%	19,2%
	Russian or other	55	39,3%	33,2%	58,1%	16,1%	16,5%	8,3%	29,2%	3,9%	38,7%
Level of education:	Low level	119	15,4%	12,6%	35,0%	16,9%	3,9%	10,8%	10,2%	4,5%	14,7%
	Average level	82	24,4%	21,7%	53,9%	22,0%	5,5%	17,1%	9,2%	9,7%	18,7%
	High level	103	27,0%	21,6%	39,6%	13,3%	8,8%	2,7%	20,1%	5,4%	35,1%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	174	26,1%	17,6%	42,6%	14,3%	6,1%	9,7%	13,0%	4,1%	24,0%
	Student	39	35,4%	35,2%	45,7%	26,7%	8,8%	4,0%	14,3%	4,6%	27,9%
	Unemployed	73	14,8%	14,4%	39,4%	18,8%	3,0%	10,0%	16,2%	6,7%	19,5%
	Pensioner / Disability	17	0,0%	13,7%	33,8%	18,3%	9,8%	11,8%	9,8%	17,8%	20,9%
Marital status:	Not-married	98	24,2%	25,8%	38,9%	21,9%	4,2%	8,5%	17,0%	6,2%	26,1%
	Married	162	23,0%	15,3%	43,4%	15,5%	6,8%	9,9%	13,7%	5,5%	21,7%
	Widowed/divorced	44	14,0%	16,2%	35,4%	14,6%	5,6%	9,6%	7,2%	7,9%	20,1%
Presence of children:	Yes	165	23,4%	15,3%	42,8%	14,3%	3,8%	7,5%	11,7%	5,3%	22,8%
	No	140	19,7%	20,8%	39,2%	19,5%	8,3%	11,7%	15,1%	6,9%	22,7%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	78	22,1%	14,7%	34,2%	20,8%	4,4%	18,0%	12,8%	11,1%	21,3%
	Average level	111	23,5%	12,6%	42,8%	11,5%	5,8%	5,5%	8,7%	3,0%	21,6%
	High level	116	19,7%	25,1%	44,9%	18,4%	7,3%	6,6%	17,8%	5,0%	24,8%
Place of residence:	Urban	194	27,0%	21,4%	39,8%	14,7%	7,1%	6,1%	15,6%	3,2%	24,9%
	Rural	111	12,7%	12,3%	43,2%	20,2%	4,0%	15,0%	9,6%	10,8%	19,1%

Table 42. How do you think these behaviors have influenced you?

		My family felt affected	I suffered mentally or emotionally	I suffered on a physical level	I felt embarrassed	I lost or had to change my job	It affected my personal relationship	Other	It had no influence	Do not know/no answer
Total		8,4%	22,3%	2,7%	26,0%	1,6%	6,7%	0,0%	18,6%	2,1%
Respondent's gender:	Male	3,2%	7,4%	0,0%	13,6%	0,0%	3,6%	0,0%	32,1%	3,2%
	Female	11,6%	31,3%	4,3%	33,6%	2,5%	8,7%	0,0%	10,3%	1,4%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	5,4%	13,4%	0,9%	17,9%	1,4%	4,3%	0,0%	22,1%	0,9%
	30-44 years old	8,1%	22,1%	4,5%	30,7%	1,4%	10,3%	0,0%	22,1%	2,9%
	45-59 years old	11,0%	31,1%	3,5%	32,2%	3,3%	5,9%	0,0%	7,0%	0,0%
	60+ years	13,1%	31,2%	0,0%	21,4%	0,0%	2,8%	0,0%	15,9%	5,5%
Victim / Witness of online aggression:	Victim	18,1%	34,2%	6,6%	35,4%	2,6%	9,9%	0,0%	10,6%	1,7%
	Witness	5,4%	20,0%	1,8%	25,4%	1,5%	6,8%	0,0%	20,7%	1,8%
	No	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
Language of communication:	Romanian	8,7%	19,5%	2,7%	26,1%	1,7%	4,5%	0,0%	20,2%	2,2%
	Russian or other	7,0%	34,7%	2,5%	25,6%	0,9%	17,0%	0,0%	10,9%	1,6%
Level of education:	Low level	8,6%	18,3%	1,6%	26,0%	3,0%	5,3%	0,0%	26,2%	1,4%
	Average level	11,9%	20,5%	3,1%	20,1%	0,0%	7,1%	0,0%	11,1%	1,2%
	High level	5,8%	28,5%	3,7%	30,7%	1,2%	8,3%	0,0%	13,8%	3,5%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	6,6%	21,6%	2,3%	30,3%	1,6%	5,9%	0,0%	15,9%	2,4%
	Student	9,1%	13,4%	0,0%	24,4%	0,0%	4,5%	0,0%	9,3%	0,0%
	Unemployed	12,6%	21,5%	6,0%	18,4%	2,7%	11,5%	0,0%	28,4%	0,0%
	Pensioner / Disability	9,8%	35,8%	0,0%	21,2%	0,0%	3,3%	0,0%	15,0%	6,4%
Marital status:	Not-married	5,3%	20,1%	3,6%	23,9%	2,3%	7,3%	0,0%	21,2%	2,3%
	Married	8,0%	22,5%	2,6%	28,4%	1,3%	6,7%	0,0%	16,9%	1,7%
	Widowed/divorced	14,1%	23,4%	1,5%	19,8%	1,7%	6,4%	0,0%	20,7%	3,2%
Presence of children:	Yes	8,0%	18,6%	2,5%	27,2%	0,8%	4,6%	0,0%	14,8%	1,6%
	No	8,8%	26,2%	2,8%	24,8%	2,4%	9,1%	0,0%	22,7%	2,5%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	9,8%	14,5%	3,9%	20,7%	3,0%	5,5%	0,0%	18,7%	3,0%
	Average level	6,1%	26,4%	1,8%	28,8%	1,7%	8,5%	0,0%	22,7%	2,8%
	High level	9,4%	24,5%	2,6%	27,6%	0,4%	6,1%	0,0%	14,8%	0,8%
Place of residence:	Urban	5,7%	22,3%	2,1%	28,2%	2,1%	8,1%	0,0%	16,5%	2,9%
	Rural	12,9%	22,3%	3,6%	22,5%	0,7%	4,5%	0,0%	21,9%	0,8%

Table 43. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

		I am more cautious about what I post online for fear of being targeted					Internet is a safe place for me to share my opinions and ideas				
		I don't agree at all	I rather disagree	I rather agree	Totally agree	Do not know/no answer	I don't agree at all	I rather disagree	I rather agree	Totally agree	Do not know/no answer
Total		11,1%	7,5%	27,6%	47,0%	6,8%	29,7%	28,1%	22,6%	14,5%	5,2%
Respondent's gender:	Male	16,4%	9,2%	29,4%	36,3%	8,7%	28,5%	27,2%	24,4%	14,5%	5,3%
	Female	6,8%	6,0%	26,1%	55,9%	5,3%	30,7%	28,7%	21,1%	14,4%	5,1%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	11,7%	7,2%	23,9%	55,3%	2,0%	28,6%	29,8%	24,6%	15,1%	2,0%
	30-44 years old	11,7%	5,3%	21,8%	55,4%	5,7%	38,5%	29,1%	15,7%	14,1%	2,6%
	45-59 years old	10,6%	9,2%	26,5%	44,1%	9,6%	31,2%	30,2%	21,8%	11,7%	5,0%
	60+ years	10,7%	8,0%	35,7%	37,6%	7,9%	20,7%	24,2%	28,6%	17,0%	9,3%
Victim / Witness of online aggression:	Victim	12,9%	4,4%	20,4%	57,1%	5,2%	37,5%	26,9%	17,2%	17,4%	1,0%
	Witness	13,1%	6,8%	19,1%	53,8%	7,2%	33,8%	32,4%	18,9%	12,5%	2,5%
	No	10,7%	7,9%	30,0%	44,5%	6,9%	28,2%	26,9%	24,1%	14,8%	6,1%
Language of communication:	Romanian	10,8%	6,3%	24,6%	51,0%	7,4%	29,7%	28,1%	21,9%	15,2%	5,0%
	Russian or other	12,2%	11,2%	37,1%	34,2%	5,2%	29,6%	27,9%	24,6%	12,1%	5,8%
Level of education:	Low level	10,7%	7,4%	29,1%	46,0%	6,9%	26,5%	26,1%	26,9%	15,9%	4,5%
	Average level	9,5%	5,4%	31,0%	45,8%	8,3%	30,2%	27,8%	20,4%	14,1%	7,6%
	High level	13,4%	9,8%	21,7%	50,0%	5,0%	33,5%	30,7%	19,1%	13,1%	3,6%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	12,2%	7,9%	22,8%	50,7%	6,3%	36,8%	28,1%	20,6%	11,9%	2,7%
	Student	9,8%	4,3%	23,6%	58,4%	3,9%	30,2%	25,1%	24,0%	19,1%	1,6%
	Unemployed	8,7%	8,1%	32,8%	43,8%	6,6%	25,8%	31,3%	24,7%	14,9%	3,4%
	Pensioner / Disability	11,1%	6,6%	34,0%	39,7%	8,7%	17,0%	26,3%	24,8%	19,2%	12,8%
Marital status:	Not-married	12,1%	7,5%	33,2%	44,2%	3,0%	20,9%	24,8%	33,0%	18,0%	3,4%
	Married	10,9%	7,5%	25,0%	50,1%	6,5%	33,2%	27,7%	21,5%	13,4%	4,2%
	Widowed/divorced	11,1%	7,3%	31,8%	37,9%	12,0%	25,1%	32,7%	16,7%	14,7%	10,7%
Presence of children:	Yes	11,8%	6,7%	22,4%	51,8%	7,3%	36,5%	31,8%	19,0%	10,4%	2,3%
	No	10,6%	8,0%	31,5%	43,4%	6,5%	24,5%	25,2%	25,3%	17,6%	7,4%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	11,7%	4,9%	30,9%	42,4%	10,1%	34,0%	21,8%	24,3%	14,5%	5,4%
	Average level	11,7%	6,4%	28,4%	49,2%	4,3%	22,3%	27,1%	27,5%	16,5%	6,6%
	High level	10,0%	11,0%	23,4%	49,4%	6,1%	32,6%	35,2%	16,1%	12,5%	3,6%
Place of residence:	Urban	10,7%	8,5%	25,5%	46,5%	8,9%	32,0%	28,4%	21,1%	12,0%	6,6%
	Rural	11,5%	6,7%	29,1%	47,4%	5,3%	28,0%	27,8%	23,7%	16,3%	4,2%

Table 44. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

		Social media platforms should do more to address the situation where women are negatively targeted online					Women are more often targets of digital harassment than men				
		I don't agree at all	I rather disagree	I rather agree	Totally agree	Do not know/ no answer	I don't agree at all	I rather disagree	I rather agree	Totally agree	Do not know/ no answer
Total		5,6%	6,6%	33,9%	44,1%	9,8%	5,0%	4,8%	37,2%	44,1%	8,9%
Respondent's gender:	Male	7,8%	7,4%	35,5%	36,9%	12,5%	7,9%	4,1%	41,3%	35,6%	11,1%
	Female	3,9%	5,9%	32,6%	50,0%	7,5%	2,5%	5,4%	33,8%	51,1%	7,1%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	7,0%	6,0%	32,0%	47,1%	7,8%	3,1%	6,6%	27,5%	59,0%	3,8%
	30-44 years old	9,8%	7,7%	32,1%	43,3%	7,1%	7,1%	3,6%	32,0%	48,9%	8,5%
	45-59 years old	5,0%	5,1%	39,0%	38,7%	12,2%	5,3%	7,9%	40,0%	34,5%	12,2%
	60+ years	1,7%	7,2%	31,9%	48,2%	11,0%	3,7%	2,2%	44,5%	40,6%	9,0%
Victim / Witness of online aggression:	Victim	4,1%	2,9%	19,0%	65,9%	8,1%	4,0%	4,9%	27,0%	60,2%	3,9%
	Witness	6,6%	4,1%	30,6%	52,3%	6,3%	4,8%	4,0%	27,3%	60,9%	2,9%
	No	5,5%	7,5%	34,9%	41,6%	10,6%	5,0%	5,2%	39,5%	39,8%	10,5%
Language of communication:	Romanian	5,4%	7,7%	30,2%	46,5%	10,2%	5,1%	4,8%	32,5%	48,2%	9,4%
	Russian or other	6,5%	3,1%	45,4%	36,5%	8,5%	4,5%	4,8%	52,3%	31,0%	7,4%
Level of education:	Low level	6,5%	7,7%	34,9%	40,4%	10,4%	5,0%	3,9%	35,6%	46,0%	9,4%
	Average level	6,5%	5,4%	32,0%	44,8%	11,3%	5,6%	4,8%	39,2%	40,7%	9,7%
	High level	3,7%	6,4%	34,4%	48,4%	7,1%	4,3%	6,0%	37,0%	45,5%	7,1%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	6,9%	6,4%	32,3%	45,5%	8,9%	5,8%	6,8%	34,4%	44,4%	8,6%
	Student	6,6%	2,2%	31,1%	42,6%	17,5%	1,8%	7,1%	18,3%	70,2%	2,5%
	Unemployed	6,2%	10,2%	38,8%	36,8%	8,0%	4,5%	2,9%	43,0%	43,4%	6,2%
	Pensioner / Disability	2,4%	4,7%	33,2%	47,5%	12,2%	3,9%	1,8%	40,8%	40,7%	12,7%
Marital status:	Not-married	7,7%	5,8%	31,5%	47,0%	8,0%	6,3%	5,0%	34,4%	51,3%	2,9%
	Married	5,1%	7,0%	34,2%	44,2%	9,5%	4,2%	5,4%	37,2%	44,4%	8,8%
	Widowed/divorced	5,6%	5,9%	35,2%	40,6%	12,7%	6,7%	2,3%	40,2%	35,7%	15,1%
Presence of children:	Yes	6,4%	7,9%	35,3%	40,9%	9,5%	4,4%	5,3%	35,9%	45,5%	8,9%
	No	5,1%	5,6%	32,8%	46,5%	10,0%	5,4%	4,4%	38,2%	43,1%	9,0%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	9,1%	6,4%	29,0%	44,0%	11,4%	7,5%	6,4%	37,9%	39,3%	8,9%
	Average level	5,8%	4,7%	31,9%	49,8%	7,8%	2,2%	2,7%	38,3%	49,0%	7,8%
	High level	2,1%	8,5%	40,7%	38,7%	10,0%	5,2%	5,3%	35,5%	44,1%	10,0%
Place of residence:	Urban	4,8%	4,1%	33,8%	47,2%	10,1%	5,5%	4,0%	35,9%	44,9%	9,7%
	Rural	6,3%	8,4%	34,0%	41,8%	9,6%	4,6%	5,4%	38,2%	43,5%	8,3%

Table 45. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

		More needs to be done to protect women from being negatively targeted online					Women have few options once they are targeted online to get help or put an end to the situation				
		I don't agree at all	I rather disagree	I rather agree	Totally agree	Do not know/no answer	I don't agree at all	I rather disagree	I rather agree	Totally agree	Do not know/no answer
Total		2,7%	2,1%	34,7%	54,6%	6,0%	6,6%	7,6%	36,4%	38,3%	11,1%
Respondent's gender:	Male	4,5%	3,0%	38,6%	46,0%	7,9%	10,1%	9,4%	36,5%	31,8%	12,2%
	Female	1,2%	1,3%	31,4%	61,7%	4,4%	3,7%	6,1%	36,3%	43,6%	10,3%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	4,3%	1,6%	25,5%	65,1%	3,4%	8,9%	7,9%	34,2%	43,0%	5,9%
	30-44 years old	2,5%	2,2%	29,9%	61,6%	3,8%	8,7%	9,8%	29,2%	43,5%	8,7%
	45-59 years old	3,5%	2,8%	40,4%	44,6%	8,6%	7,1%	10,5%	38,8%	27,1%	16,5%
	60+ years	1,2%	1,5%	38,6%	51,6%	7,1%	2,9%	2,8%	41,9%	41,1%	11,2%
Victim / Witness of online aggression:	Victim	2,9%	0,0%	23,4%	70,7%	3,0%	4,3%	6,4%	27,9%	52,8%	8,6%
	Witness	5,2%	1,2%	22,9%	67,3%	3,4%	8,2%	7,4%	27,3%	45,2%	11,8%
	No	2,0%	2,4%	37,8%	51,0%	6,8%	6,4%	7,7%	38,8%	36,2%	10,9%
Language of communication:	Romanian	1,8%	2,0%	30,7%	59,4%	6,2%	6,0%	7,8%	32,5%	41,3%	12,4%
	Russian or other	5,3%	2,4%	47,3%	39,4%	5,5%	8,4%	6,9%	48,8%	28,7%	7,2%
Level of education:	Low level	2,8%	2,7%	34,6%	52,8%	7,1%	5,3%	7,4%	33,8%	41,1%	12,5%
	Average level	2,2%	2,1%	38,2%	51,2%	6,2%	6,4%	4,4%	40,2%	37,5%	11,4%
	High level	3,0%	1,2%	31,3%	60,4%	4,2%	8,4%	11,3%	36,1%	35,3%	8,9%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	3,9%	2,6%	32,7%	55,5%	5,3%	9,0%	7,6%	37,4%	36,2%	9,8%
	Student	0,8%	0,0%	18,9%	80,3%	0,0%	3,7%	16,2%	28,4%	47,1%	4,6%
	Unemployed	1,4%	1,4%	40,5%	51,9%	4,8%	5,9%	10,6%	34,1%	35,5%	13,8%
	Pensioner / Disability	1,2%	1,9%	36,5%	50,9%	9,5%	2,2%	4,0%	37,2%	43,6%	13,1%
Marital status:	Not-married	5,9%	2,2%	29,5%	59,5%	3,0%	9,3%	8,0%	35,9%	39,1%	7,7%
	Married	1,6%	2,2%	35,4%	55,0%	5,8%	5,7%	8,7%	35,7%	39,1%	10,8%
	Widowed/divorced	3,5%	1,4%	37,3%	48,1%	9,8%	7,3%	3,3%	39,2%	34,3%	15,9%
Presence of children:	Yes	2,2%	2,6%	33,7%	56,7%	4,8%	5,4%	10,3%	33,7%	39,9%	10,8%
	No	3,0%	1,7%	35,4%	53,0%	7,0%	7,5%	5,6%	38,4%	37,1%	11,4%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	3,3%	3,3%	37,9%	47,7%	7,9%	7,0%	5,7%	38,1%	34,4%	14,8%
	Average level	2,8%	1,9%	30,2%	59,3%	5,8%	4,9%	4,5%	34,3%	46,6%	9,7%
	High level	1,9%	1,0%	35,9%	56,8%	4,5%	7,7%	12,5%	36,9%	33,9%	8,9%
Place of residence:	Urban	4,3%	1,8%	29,4%	58,1%	6,5%	8,4%	8,3%	33,5%	36,7%	13,1%
	Rural	1,4%	2,3%	38,6%	52,0%	5,7%	5,2%	7,1%	38,6%	39,5%	9,7%

Table 46. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

		I worry that the negative online behaviors of others may affect my real life					Women often don't know that these negative behaviors online can be reported				
		I don't agree at all	I rather disagree	I rather agree	Totally agree	Do not know/ no answer	I don't agree at all	I rather disagree	I rather agree	Totally agree	Do not know/ no answer
Total		18,5%	7,0%	33,9%	36,1%	4,5%	6,4%	9,5%	36,3%	38,2%	9,5%
Respondent's gender:	Male	24,7%	7,0%	36,8%	27,2%	4,2%	7,1%	11,9%	34,2%	34,9%	11,8%
	Female	13,3%	7,0%	31,5%	43,4%	4,8%	5,9%	7,4%	38,1%	41,0%	7,6%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	22,0%	11,8%	21,8%	41,8%	2,6%	7,2%	12,5%	32,2%	43,5%	4,7%
	30-44 years old	20,3%	5,4%	31,1%	39,6%	3,7%	5,5%	6,7%	27,3%	49,0%	11,5%
	45-59 years old	16,6%	8,1%	38,5%	30,9%	5,8%	8,3%	12,4%	38,1%	28,9%	12,3%
	60+ years	16,5%	5,1%	38,7%	34,5%	5,2%	5,2%	7,8%	45,3%	34,0%	7,7%
Victim / Witness of online aggression:	Victim	17,2%	8,4%	29,1%	42,6%	2,6%	7,5%	11,1%	25,7%	49,3%	6,5%
	Witness	20,7%	8,6%	25,4%	42,9%	2,5%	9,4%	8,4%	30,0%	45,7%	6,5%
	No	17,9%	6,7%	36,3%	34,1%	5,1%	5,8%	9,9%	38,2%	35,9%	10,2%
Language of communication:	Romanian	17,1%	5,5%	31,2%	41,6%	4,5%	5,9%	9,0%	32,9%	41,7%	10,4%
	Russian or other	22,8%	11,7%	42,5%	18,3%	4,6%	8,1%	10,9%	47,2%	27,1%	6,7%
Level of education:	Low level	19,2%	6,9%	35,6%	33,8%	4,6%	7,4%	9,3%	34,5%	36,5%	12,3%
	Average level	16,4%	7,9%	35,3%	36,4%	4,0%	5,5%	11,8%	36,3%	37,2%	9,1%
	High level	19,8%	6,2%	30,7%	38,9%	4,3%	6,3%	7,3%	38,6%	41,7%	6,2%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	20,0%	6,7%	33,7%	35,6%	4,0%	6,3%	8,3%	35,2%	40,4%	9,8%
	Student	15,1%	12,9%	20,9%	51,1%	0,0%	4,1%	16,2%	31,2%	47,5%	1,0%
	Unemployed	18,2%	7,3%	34,6%	35,9%	4,0%	6,9%	10,9%	33,7%	39,4%	9,1%
	Pensioner / Disability	15,8%	6,6%	36,4%	34,8%	6,3%	6,5%	9,4%	41,7%	31,8%	10,7%
Marital status:	Not-married	19,7%	9,6%	28,4%	39,5%	2,8%	8,7%	14,4%	33,9%	39,0%	4,0%
	Married	17,5%	7,2%	34,9%	36,6%	3,9%	5,4%	8,4%	36,0%	40,7%	9,5%
	Widowed/divorced	20,9%	4,0%	36,1%	30,3%	8,8%	8,1%	8,9%	39,8%	28,7%	14,5%
Presence of children:	Yes	17,0%	8,7%	32,4%	37,7%	4,1%	4,7%	7,7%	34,1%	42,5%	11,0%
	No	19,5%	5,8%	35,1%	34,8%	4,8%	7,8%	10,8%	38,0%	35,0%	8,4%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	21,0%	6,7%	37,5%	31,0%	3,7%	7,4%	10,1%	39,9%	34,8%	7,9%
	Average level	17,4%	6,4%	29,2%	41,8%	5,2%	6,1%	7,6%	30,1%	44,3%	11,8%
	High level	16,9%	7,9%	35,1%	35,3%	4,7%	5,9%	10,7%	38,9%	35,6%	8,9%
Place of residence:	Urban	21,0%	10,1%	28,3%	35,5%	5,0%	7,8%	12,0%	34,4%	35,7%	10,1%
	Rural	16,6%	4,7%	38,1%	36,4%	4,2%	5,5%	7,6%	37,8%	40,1%	9,1%

Table 47. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

		Women have become accustomed to being negatively targeted on-line because nothing is being done to stop it					I know where I can safely report negative online behaviors that target women when I experience or observe them				
		I don't agree at all	I rather disagree	I rather agree	Totally agree	Do not know/no answer	I don't agree at all	I rather disagree	I rather agree	Totally agree	Do not know/no answer
Total		6,8%	8,9%	37,5%	35,2%	11,6%	23,6%	10,3%	23,5%	30,7%	11,9%
Respondent's gender:	Male	9,4%	11,7%	37,3%	30,4%	11,1%	24,7%	9,0%	24,9%	30,2%	11,2%
	Female	4,6%	6,5%	37,7%	39,2%	12,0%	22,6%	11,5%	22,4%	31,1%	12,5%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	9,5%	11,2%	33,5%	38,0%	7,8%	21,1%	13,1%	18,9%	35,3%	11,6%
	30-44 years old	6,5%	8,6%	32,0%	45,2%	7,7%	24,1%	6,8%	22,3%	37,7%	9,0%
	45-59 years old	6,9%	11,0%	40,8%	27,1%	14,2%	19,9%	10,9%	24,6%	28,8%	15,9%
	60+ years	5,4%	6,1%	41,7%	31,9%	14,9%	27,7%	11,7%	26,0%	23,5%	11,2%
Victim / Witness of online aggression:	Victim	3,7%	9,4%	36,7%	43,6%	6,6%	19,5%	12,3%	12,9%	46,4%	9,0%
	Witness	6,0%	10,2%	35,2%	42,5%	6,0%	16,9%	12,7%	21,0%	40,3%	9,1%
	No	7,0%	8,7%	37,5%	33,5%	13,3%	25,1%	9,5%	24,8%	27,6%	13,0%
Language of communication:	Romanian	6,5%	8,8%	33,4%	39,2%	12,1%	21,2%	10,5%	22,4%	33,8%	12,0%
	Russian or other	7,5%	9,2%	50,5%	22,6%	10,2%	31,1%	9,7%	27,0%	20,7%	11,5%
Level of education:	Low level	5,3%	7,3%	38,6%	36,7%	12,1%	28,6%	9,3%	23,1%	28,1%	10,9%
	Average level	6,0%	10,1%	37,8%	33,9%	12,3%	23,9%	9,7%	22,3%	30,1%	14,0%
	High level	9,5%	9,8%	35,6%	34,9%	10,2%	17,0%	12,4%	25,4%	34,4%	10,8%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	7,8%	10,1%	36,9%	36,0%	9,2%	22,1%	9,5%	22,9%	33,5%	12,0%
	Student	5,1%	12,7%	32,9%	43,8%	5,5%	14,4%	11,2%	19,8%	42,4%	12,2%
	Unemployed	6,4%	7,7%	38,3%	35,0%	12,6%	24,9%	9,2%	25,9%	27,8%	12,2%
	Pensioner / Disability	5,2%	6,4%	38,8%	32,9%	16,7%	27,4%	13,2%	23,3%	24,6%	11,6%
Marital status:	Not-married	9,7%	11,6%	35,2%	36,5%	7,1%	20,0%	8,1%	24,2%	35,4%	12,3%
	Married	5,6%	8,8%	37,7%	37,2%	10,7%	24,9%	11,3%	24,0%	29,0%	10,8%
	Widowed/divorced	8,3%	6,6%	38,8%	26,9%	19,4%	22,3%	9,2%	21,1%	32,0%	15,3%
Presence of children:	Yes	6,7%	9,7%	35,6%	39,4%	8,6%	20,2%	11,8%	23,5%	33,8%	10,6%
	No	6,9%	8,3%	39,0%	32,0%	13,9%	26,1%	9,2%	23,5%	28,3%	12,9%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	5,8%	8,2%	40,2%	33,2%	12,5%	21,5%	12,3%	21,5%	28,4%	16,3%
	Average level	8,2%	9,7%	34,8%	37,8%	9,5%	26,7%	10,4%	20,7%	33,2%	9,0%
	High level	6,3%	8,7%	37,5%	34,7%	12,9%	22,5%	8,4%	28,2%	30,5%	10,5%
Place of residence:	Urban	11,4%	10,4%	33,1%	33,8%	11,3%	26,9%	7,5%	20,5%	30,3%	14,8%
	Rural	3,3%	7,8%	40,7%	36,3%	11,9%	21,1%	12,4%	25,8%	30,9%	9,8%

Table 48. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

		Internet can be a useful source of information and support for women who are facing this type of negative behavior online				
		I don't agree at all	I rather disagree	I rather agree	Totally agree	Do not know/no answer
Total		6,0%	8,8%	36,2%	37,4%	11,7%
Respondent's gender:	Male	7,5%	8,5%	38,0%	35,2%	10,8%
	Female	4,8%	8,9%	34,7%	39,2%	12,4%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	6,8%	9,1%	34,3%	42,1%	7,8%
	30-44 years old	9,1%	7,9%	31,3%	44,8%	6,9%
	45-59 years old	6,4%	10,6%	37,7%	31,3%	14,0%
	60+ years	2,5%	7,7%	40,3%	33,5%	16,0%
Victim / Witness of online aggression:	Victim	8,9%	10,4%	28,5%	44,0%	8,3%
	Witness	7,6%	9,5%	32,3%	42,7%	8,0%
	No	5,6%	8,3%	37,4%	36,1%	12,6%
Language of communication:	Romanian	6,4%	8,5%	32,3%	39,9%	12,9%
	Russian or other	4,8%	9,6%	48,6%	29,4%	7,7%
Level of education:	Low level	8,6%	8,7%	36,3%	31,7%	14,7%
	Average level	4,8%	8,8%	37,0%	35,0%	14,5%
	High level	4,1%	8,8%	35,5%	47,0%	4,6%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	5,2%	9,8%	36,9%	40,8%	7,2%
	Student	3,9%	23,0%	33,5%	34,7%	4,9%
	Unemployed	13,4%	5,9%	35,7%	32,0%	13,2%
	Pensioner / Disability	2,2%	6,8%	35,9%	34,5%	20,7%
Marital status:	Not-married	6,4%	7,6%	38,2%	41,0%	6,8%
	Married	5,6%	9,6%	35,6%	38,2%	11,0%
	Widowed/divorced	7,3%	6,7%	36,6%	30,6%	18,8%
Presence of children:	Yes	7,0%	11,0%	35,2%	37,8%	9,0%
	No	5,3%	7,0%	36,9%	37,1%	13,7%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	7,0%	7,6%	37,6%	32,6%	15,2%
	Average level	5,5%	6,2%	32,2%	43,8%	12,3%
	High level	5,6%	12,3%	38,7%	35,8%	7,6%
Place of residence:	Urban	7,2%	7,0%	32,5%	41,6%	11,7%
	Rural	5,2%	10,0%	38,9%	34,2%	11,7%

Table 49. What advice would you give to other Women/Men like you? about how to protect themselves against negative experiences online?

		Keep profile/ social media information private	To not post information that would allow some- one to locate him/her	Not to provide one's phone number or email address	Immedi- ately report someone who makes him/ her feel un- comfortable	Inform other people online about the person who is neg- atively influencing and their behavior	Tell someone in real life, family members/rel- atives/friends about the experience	Seek help from an authority, law en- forcement institution if necessary	Keep ev- idence of targeting, such as messages, images, etc.	Some- thing else	Do not know/ no an- swer
Total		61,9%	71,7%	70,2%	53,7%	51,4%	52,3%	61,3%	60,9%	0,3%	2,7%
Respondent's gender:	Male	60,5%	67,9%	67,0%	49,3%	50,8%	50,9%	61,2%	61,9%	0,3%	2,8%
	Female	63,1%	74,8%	72,9%	57,4%	51,9%	53,4%	61,3%	60,1%	0,3%	2,6%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	64,7%	73,7%	64,8%	59,0%	54,6%	61,9%	61,1%	65,2%	0,4%	1,0%
	30-44 years old	66,0%	72,1%	70,4%	55,8%	54,4%	60,4%	68,8%	65,8%	0,0%	2,9%
	45-59 years old	60,3%	73,9%	72,6%	54,9%	52,3%	47,4%	59,7%	63,1%	0,3%	2,7%
	60+ years	58,2%	68,4%	70,7%	48,1%	46,1%	44,3%	55,8%	52,3%	0,5%	3,3%
Victim / Witness of online aggres- sion:	Victim	66,5%	67,4%	72,2%	61,5%	63,8%	60,3%	63,8%	68,9%	0,3%	5,4%
	Witness	61,1%	69,9%	64,6%	54,3%	51,0%	56,0%	64,0%	63,6%	0,2%	2,5%
	No	62,5%	72,8%	71,6%	53,4%	51,3%	51,3%	60,9%	60,1%	0,3%	2,4%
Language of com- munication:	Romanian	60,6%	71,7%	69,7%	51,6%	49,3%	51,4%	58,8%	58,6%	0,4%	3,1%
	Russian or other	66,1%	71,8%	71,9%	60,4%	57,9%	55,2%	69,2%	68,1%	0,1%	1,4%
Level of education:	Low level	59,2%	70,0%	65,1%	49,3%	45,0%	48,1%	54,5%	51,1%	0,7%	3,3%
	Average level	59,3%	68,5%	74,8%	53,3%	53,8%	52,5%	67,0%	67,4%	0,1%	3,3%
	High level	68,2%	77,5%	72,1%	60,3%	57,4%	57,9%	63,9%	67,1%	0,0%	1,2%
Respondent's oc- cupation:	Employed	66,8%	75,0%	74,7%	59,3%	58,0%	62,7%	69,5%	69,9%	0,3%	1,9%
	Student	63,5%	82,0%	61,8%	53,2%	47,9%	54,7%	57,6%	60,9%	0,0%	1,7%
	Unemployed	56,5%	65,8%	63,0%	47,3%	45,6%	40,1%	54,3%	54,3%	0,0%	2,4%
	Pensioner / Disability	55,5%	68,0%	67,8%	47,7%	42,2%	39,9%	49,3%	47,5%	0,6%	4,7%
Marital status:	Not-married	71,0%	71,7%	66,3%	56,9%	53,1%	57,4%	61,1%	63,6%	0,4%	1,9%
	Married	62,5%	73,0%	72,1%	53,7%	52,9%	53,7%	62,2%	62,7%	0,3%	1,8%
	Widowed/divorced	51,0%	66,7%	66,9%	50,3%	43,7%	41,9%	57,9%	51,2%	0,0%	6,5%
Presence of chil- dren:	Yes	62,1%	75,0%	68,1%	56,7%	52,8%	57,3%	66,2%	63,7%	0,6%	1,7%
	No	61,8%	69,2%	71,8%	51,5%	50,3%	48,5%	57,5%	58,8%	0,0%	3,4%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	58,3%	71,6%	71,3%	52,4%	51,9%	50,6%	60,2%	60,1%	0,0%	2,5%
	Average level	68,6%	72,0%	72,8%	56,3%	53,5%	57,1%	65,4%	63,1%	0,5%	3,6%
	High level	58,9%	71,5%	66,7%	52,6%	48,8%	49,3%	58,3%	59,6%	0,4%	1,9%
Place of residence:	Urban	66,6%	68,2%	71,7%	57,9%	56,4%	57,0%	65,6%	67,6%	0,0%	3,5%
	Rural	58,4%	74,3%	69,1%	50,7%	47,7%	48,9%	58,1%	56,0%	0,5%	2,1%

Table 50. Please let me know if you use any of the following online services:

		Subscriber to streaming services (Netflix, Amazon Prime, Hulu, NowTV, iFlix, Tribe, ViKi, HOOQ)		Mobile payment app user (Apple Pay, Google Wallet, Venmo, Zelle, PayPal, Alipay, WeChat Pay)		Uses Taxi apps (Teleport, Letz, Yandex, Bolt)	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Total		9,1%	90,9%	30,8%	69,2%	24,9%	75,1%
Respondent's gender:	Male	11,6%	88,4%	33,8%	66,2%	26,6%	73,4%
	Female	7,0%	93,0%	28,3%	71,7%	23,4%	76,6%
Respondent's age:	18-29 years old	18,5%	81,5%	67,9%	32,1%	55,8%	44,2%
	30-44 years old	16,9%	83,1%	43,5%	56,5%	35,3%	64,7%
	45-59 years old	3,8%	96,2%	21,9%	78,1%	13,2%	86,8%
	60+ years	1,8%	98,2%	7,8%	92,2%	9,8%	90,2%
Victim / Witness of online aggression:	Victim	20,9%	79,1%	50,1%	49,9%	42,7%	57,3%
	Witness	17,6%	82,4%	54,8%	45,2%	42,0%	58,0%
	No	6,6%	93,4%	24,4%	75,6%	20,3%	79,7%
Language of communication:	Romanian	10,3%	89,7%	32,4%	67,6%	26,2%	73,8%
	Russian or other	5,3%	94,7%	25,7%	74,3%	20,5%	79,5%
Level of education:	Low level	8,0%	92,0%	29,1%	70,9%	21,4%	78,6%
	Average level	4,3%	95,7%	20,4%	79,6%	19,2%	80,8%
	High level	15,2%	84,8%	43,7%	56,3%	35,1%	64,9%
Respondent's occupation:	Employed	10,2%	89,8%	37,5%	62,5%	31,4%	68,6%
	Student	34,1%	65,9%	77,7%	22,3%	55,6%	44,4%
	Unemployed	9,4%	90,6%	34,1%	65,9%	20,3%	79,7%
	Pensioner / Disability	2,2%	97,8%	6,6%	93,4%	9,6%	90,4%
Marital status:	Not-married	18,9%	81,1%	50,2%	49,8%	46,2%	53,8%
	Married	8,3%	91,7%	29,0%	71,0%	21,6%	78,4%
	Widowed/divorced	2,7%	97,3%	18,6%	81,4%	16,1%	83,9%
Presence of children:	Yes	11,9%	88,1%	42,9%	57,1%	27,9%	72,1%
	No	7,0%	93,0%	21,7%	78,3%	22,6%	77,4%
Socio-economic level:	Low level	5,2%	94,8%	17,6%	82,4%	14,1%	85,9%
	Average level	7,9%	92,1%	31,5%	68,5%	31,6%	68,4%
	High level	14,0%	86,0%	43,1%	56,9%	28,9%	71,1%
Place of residence:	Urban	13,6%	86,4%	41,4%	58,6%	37,9%	62,1%
	Rural	5,7%	94,3%	23,0%	77,0%	15,2%	84,8%

