

IGF 2016 Workshop Report

Solutions for Countering Online Abuse Against Women

Session Title	Solutions for countering online abuse against women
Date	8th Dec, 2016
Time	12 PM
Session Organizer	Media Matters for Democracy and Bytes for All
Chair/Moderator	Asad Baig (MMfD)
Rapporteur/ Notetaker	The workshop was conducted as a design thinking exercise and the participants developed ideas for a prototype in working-groups. No rapporteur was required per-se. The ideas developed were submitted to the moderator on paper-charts for further deliberations by the host organisations.
List of Speakers and their institutional affiliations	Erica Smith (Association for Progressive Communications) and Serene Lim (Empower Malaysia/APC partner)
Key Issues raised (1 sentence per issue):	Online abuse, harassment and cyber bullying specifically targeted at women and LGBTQ groups Online spaces for women and ensuring their safety Providing effective tools to assist these groups to rally support when required
If there were presentations during the session, please provide a 1-paragraph summary for each Presentation	The workshop was conducted as a 'design thinking exercise' modelled at the design thinking process developed at Stanford. Conductor Asad Baig used a presentation to describe the flow of the activity and highlight points of importance during the length of the workshop. The presentation gave participants a sample of questions for interviews within working-groups, and a sample of point of view statements required to move towards a potential solution. The purpose of the presentation was only to support participants in working-groups during the course of the workshop.

Please describe the Discussions that took place during the workshop session: (3 paragraphs)

The design thinking workshop was designed to allow participants to work towards a potential digital solution to counter online abuse targeted at women and LGBTQ communities. Workshop participants were divided into 7 groups based on their affiliations with a particular stakeholder group and interests. Each group had a opportunity to discuss following main questions and ask each member for a response and to understand each other perspective on the challenge at hand:

1. What role does the internet play in your journalism / activism / personal or professional life?
2. What kind of speech usually results in abuse and harassment?
3. What kind of abuse do you and your allies face?
4. How does hate speech and abuse affect your usage of the digital space?
5. How do you currently respond to such speech?
6. What would make you feel safer and more empowered to use digital spaces?

The questions were specially designed to make sure their responses let participants share perspective and their own experiences relating to the problem, helping them create 'point of view statements' for each group.

The POV statement are seen as a problem statement in design thinking process, helping the participants to focus on a very specific set of challenge and come up with a focused solution. Each group had an opportunity to present their POV statement, followed by a 15 minutes period to brainstorm for solutions.

<p>Please describe any Participant suggestions regarding the way forward/ potential next steps / key takeaways: (3 paragraphs)</p>	<p>Each of the seven groups came up with their own potential solution to their problem statements:</p> <p>Group 1: Apart from laws for cyber bullying and mechanisms for platforms like FB, there needs to be community solidarity among women in general (especially activists). Having a list of collectives, organisations should help. Another potential option could be naming and shaming of repeat offenders. The longer term solution is educating and raising awareness for decision makers and developers of technology.</p> <p>Group 2: Discussed revenge porn and to make social media safer for everyone suggested that platform should raise the cost of posting and sharing personal images without consent. A potential solution was facial recognition for social media platforms and automatic tagging of individuals.</p> <p>Group 3: Discussed the importance of a caring online community to support women rights activists. A potential solution was to devise a way to tag the community for counter speech whenever these groups are being attacked.</p> <p>Group 4: Discussed the importance of legal training of lawyers and judiciary, specifically on prosecuting the perpetrators and a way to effectively seek justice for such crimes.</p> <p>Group 5: Discussed the awareness raising in schools and other educational institutes to identify the problem of cyber bullying and suggested the use of social media platforms and conventional media for</p>
--	--