ENDING GENDER VIOLENCE

ONLINE VIOLENCE

CAPSULE FOUR | **SECTION THREE** | **OCTOBER 26TH - NOVEMBER 8TH 2026**

OVERVIEW

The third area of focus for our fourth capsule, Ending Gender Violence, is online violence. Online violence has had a recent rise following the age of Artificial Intelligence and social media. NOW, specifically in this current political climate, condemns online violence.

Online violence has increasingly become more prevalent in daily life. There is a serious theft of bodily autonomy through deepfakes, and more women are experiencing sexual harassment through the internet.

FOUNDATIONS

NOW highlights the urgent need for legal protections and ethical standards online to protect women and girls everywhere. Since the dawn of the internet, NOW has expressed their views on the long-term harm of online violence. Today, Artificial Intelligence is being used in daily life but also by politicians. In this realm is a "deepfake" which is an AI-generated image, video, or audio that is used to circumvent one's identity. Examples of this would be revenge porn and doxxing. Deepfakes are a form of violence against women as it often targets women who do not consent.

Deepfakes have exploited and harassed women and robbed them of their autonomy. In 2025 *Incogni* and NOW released data that showed ¼ women have experienced online abuse. 9% experienced sexual abuse and 2% experienced deepfakes. Due to this, there is a demand for regulations in AI and to safeguard online guardrails. We are only at the beginning when it comes to protecting women and girls from online abuse.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- NOW continues to advocate for and support women who experience online harassment, threats, image-based abuse, and other forms of technology-facilitated violence. We stand with survivors in demanding accountability, access to justice, and meaningful protections against abuse that can threaten their safety, privacy, reputations, and livelihoods by:
- Advancing legal protections for survivors.
- Supporting government initiatives and legislation, including the federal Take It Down Act in May 2025.
- Promoting research to inform public policy.
- Advocating for safer online spaces.
- Elevating online violence as a women's rights issue.

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LEGISLATION

There is no comprehensive AI legislation yet, but NOW supports legislation that aims to protect and amplify survivor's voices. By ensuring accountability from tech firms and the government, the internet can maintain its accessibility and promote safety. Today, NOW has continued support for legislation like the following:

- S.146: "TAKE IT DOWN Act" → requires platforms to offer a "request-and-removal" where victims can report abuse and have their pictures taken down within 48 hours.
- H.R.1941: "Preventing Deepfakes of Intimate Images Act" → sharing deepfakes of intimate images a criminal offense and creates a right of private action that allows victims to take their abusers to court.
- S.1837: "DEFIANCE Act of 2025" → a new provision of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), civil right of action for victims to sue individuals who had malicious intent when posting non-consensual deepfakes.
- H.R.6216: "National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act of 2020" → responsible for overseeing and researching US national AI strategy.
- S.1367: "NO FAKES Act of 2025" → protects voice and visual likeness of individuals from unauthorized recreations by generative AI.

TODAY

We must build a safer tomorrow for generations to come. NOW understands the importance of protecting survivors and continues to amplify their voices in the fight against online violence. When we fight for bodily autonomy, we fight for a safer internet.



NOW'S COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT ON AI

UK'S SAFER INTERNET CENTER RESOURCES