

The  
G7 Research Group  
at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at Trinity College  
in the University of Toronto presents the

## 2018 Charlevoix G7 Final Compliance Report

10 June 2018 — 25 July 2019

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*“We have meanwhile set up a process and there are also independent institutions monitoring which objectives of our G7 meetings we actually achieve. When it comes to these goals we have a compliance rate of about 80%, according to the University of Toronto. Germany, with its 87%, comes off pretty well. That means that next year too, under the Japanese G7 presidency, we are going to check where we stand in comparison to what we have discussed with each other now. So a lot of what we have resolved to do here together is something that we are going to have to work very hard at over the next few months. But I think that it has become apparent that we, as the G7, want to assume responsibility far beyond the prosperity in our own countries. That’s why today’s outreach meetings, that is the meetings with our guests, were also of great importance.”*

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015

*G7 summits are a moment for people to judge whether aspirational intent is met by concrete commitments. The G7 Research Group provides a report card on the implementation of G7 and G20 commitments. It is a good moment for the public to interact with leaders and say, you took a leadership position on these issues — a year later, or three years later, what have you accomplished?*

Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme,  
in *G7 Canada: The 2018 Charlevoix Summit*

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## 20. Gender: Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Digital Contexts

“Mobilize the international community, including through working with] civil society [to develop strategies to improve prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based abuse, harassment and the threat of violence in digital contexts and learn lessons from current models of industry-government collaboration on emerging digital challenges.”

*Charlevoix Commitment to End Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Abuse and Harassment in Digital Contexts*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany	-1		
Italy		0	
Japan			+1
United Kingdom	-1		
United States	-1		
European Union		0	
Average		0	

### Background

Looking at the inception of sexual and gender-based violence commitments, the G7 presidency in Japan began to highlight this issue. At the 2016 Ise Shima Summit, women’s economic empowerment was a priority, emphasizing the following three areas: empowering women and girls, including through capacity-building; promoting the active role of women in fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); and making concrete progress in the women, peace, and security agenda.<sup>4900</sup>

Occurring as part of Japan’s G7 summit cycle agenda, the G7 Forum for Dialogue with Women and the World Assembly for Women (WAW!), informed the leaders’ commitments to women’s equal rights, full and effective participation, equal pay for equal work, and equal opportunities for leadership, while calling for active engagement of the private sector, including through our efforts to promote the Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPS) of UN Women.<sup>4901</sup> This summit also acknowledged the Sustainable Development Goals<sup>4902</sup> and called all states to support full implementation of the United Nations secretary general’s zero tolerance policy towards sexual exploitation and of the UN Security Council resolution 2272.<sup>4903</sup>

At the 2007 Heiligendamm Summit, the G7 members pledged in the *Growth and Responsibility in the World Economy* document to “work to support additional concerted efforts to stop sexual exploitation

<sup>4900</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Leaders' Declaration, G8 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 3 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html#gender>.

<sup>4901</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Leaders' Declaration, G8 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 3 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html#gender>.

<sup>4902</sup> About the Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations (New York) 1 January 2016. Access date: 3 September 2018. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/?auto=format>.

<sup>4903</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Leaders' Declaration, G8 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 3 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html#gender>.

and gender-based violence.”<sup>4904</sup> This was the first mention in the G7 of sexual and gender-based violence specifically.

At the 2008 Hokkaido Toyako Summit, the G7 members in the *Leaders Declaration* agreed they “will promote gender equality and women’s empowerment as a principle in our development cooperation through mainstreaming and specific actions.”<sup>4905</sup> This is a continuation of 2007 and notes how this cooperation is key for the industry.

At the 2009 L’Aquila Summit, the G7 members agreed in the *Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future* to “promote gender equality as a key issue for aid effectiveness and to reduce poverty.”<sup>4906</sup> This again reaffirms the necessity for greater gender equality but is lacking the specificity of sexual and gender-based violence and its link to emerging economic challenges.

At the 2014 Brussels Summit, gender inequality was addressed at the end of the Leaders communique and still phrasing women’s issues as human rights, committing to the protection and promotion of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including religious freedom, for all persons.<sup>4907</sup> While gender equality, the end to discrimination and violence against women and girls, forced marriage and their economic empowerment was mentioned, was promoted in the communique, no commitment was made by the Leaders to take action.<sup>4908</sup>

The 2015 Elmau Summit is where G7 members first linked gender-inequality to economic impact in their commitments to address women’s economic empowerment and the specific needs of female entrepreneurs.<sup>4909</sup> At a time when technology affects every aspect of the economy, improving the prevention and response to sexual and gender-based abuse, harassment and the threat of violence has the potential to lower fear and allow more women and girls to feel comfortable enough to meaningfully participate in the global economy.

At the 2017 Taormina Summit, leaders adopted the *G7 Roadmap for a Gender-responsive Economic Environment*, committed to advancing gender equality under three main pillars: 1) Increasing women’s participation and leadership at all levels of decision-making; 2) Increasing women’s access to good quality jobs, and 3) Eliminating violence against women and girls.<sup>4910</sup> G7 members also produced the *Charlevoix Commitment to End Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Abuse and Harassment in Digital Contexts*. Here G7 members reaffirmed their commitment to eliminating sexual and gender-based violence in all its forms with the intention of providing an environment that allows active participation in the economy and society.<sup>4911</sup>

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<sup>4904</sup> Heiligendamm Summit, G7 Information center 8 June 2007. Access Date: 2 October 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2007heiligendamm/index.html/>.

<sup>4905</sup> Hokkaido Toyako Summit, G7 Information center 9 June 2008. Access Date: 2 October 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/index.html>.

<sup>4906</sup> L’Aquila Summit, G7 Information center 10 July 2009. Access Date: 2 October 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2009laquila/>.

<sup>4907</sup> G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G8 Research Group (Toronto) 5 June 2014. Access Date: 3 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

<sup>4908</sup> G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G8 Research Group (Toronto) 5 June 2014. Access Date: 3 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

<sup>4909</sup> Leaders' Declaration: G7 Summit, G8 Research Group (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 3 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>.

<sup>4910</sup> G7 Roadmap for a Gender-Responsive Economic Environment, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2018. Access Date: 3 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/gender.html>.

<sup>4911</sup> Charlevoix Commitment to End Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Abuse and Harassment in Digital Contexts, G7 2018 Summit (Charlevoix) 13 June 2018. Access Date: 3 September 2018. <https://g7.gc.ca/en/official-documents/charlevoix-commitment-end-sexual-gender-based-violence-abuse-harassment-digital-contexts/>.

The *Charlevoix Commitment to End Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Abuse and Harassment in Digital Contexts* is the first G7 document to address online gender-based violence. The document acknowledges the potential that technology has to eradicate gender inequality but is a response to the sexual and gender-based violence, abuse, cyber-bullying and harassment girls and women experience using it.<sup>4912</sup>

### **Commitment Features**

The G7 members committed to “mobilize the international community, including through working with] civil society [to develop strategies to improve prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based abuse, harassment and the threat of violence in digital contexts and learn lessons from current models of industry-government collaboration on emerging digital challenges.”

This commitment has one instrument and two welfare targets, which can be broken down further. The instrument is “to mobilize the international community, including through working with civil society to develop strategies” in order to achieve the welfare targets of 1) improving prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based abuse, harassment and the threat of violence in digital contexts; and 2) learning lessons from current models of industry-government collaboration on emerging digital challenges.

“Mobilize the international community” refers to actors outside of the G7 and specifically civil society. To mobilize means “to assemble or make ready.” Civil society includes nongovernmental organizations, academia, and religious communities but excludes the private sector.<sup>4913</sup> The international community is defined as “countries of the world considered or acting together as a group.

“To develop strategies” means to engage in a concerted effort through policy, summits, dialogues, bilateral meeting etc., for the G7 members to develop methods to improve prevention of and response to acts of sexual and gender-based abuse. These actions should not be solely limited to women and should be an act of equality that includes all gender-based violence.

In order to be found in full compliance, the welfare target must be fulfilled. The first welfare target states that the strategies should be developed “to improve the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based abuse, harassment and the threat of violence in digital contexts.” To improve is defined as “to make or become better” or “produce something better than” (as improve upon).<sup>4914</sup> Prevention is defined as “the act of stopping something from happening or arising.” Response is “something constituting a reply or a reaction,” such as a reaction to sexual and gender violence through policy, programs, special action etc.

The actions of sexual and gender-based abuse, harassment and the threat of violence in digital contexts can be understood collectively, in the context of this commitment, through the definition of gender-based violence. Gender-based violence is defined as “violence perpetrated against someone based on their gender expression, gender identity or perceived gender.”<sup>4915</sup> This type of violence

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<sup>4912</sup> Charlevoix Commitment to End Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Abuse and Harassment in Digital Contexts, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 3 September 2018.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/violence-commitment.html>.

<sup>4913</sup> Compliance Coding Manual, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 September 2017. Access Date: 3 September 2018. [https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1wVDddUQmOQ9EwQ8STOn8xG20yj\\_X4RI2](https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1wVDddUQmOQ9EwQ8STOn8xG20yj_X4RI2).

<sup>4914</sup> Compliance Coding Manual, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 September 2017. Access Date: 3 September 2018. [https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1wVDddUQmOQ9EwQ8STOn8xG20yj\\_X4RI2](https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1wVDddUQmOQ9EwQ8STOn8xG20yj_X4RI2).

<sup>4915</sup> Setting the Stage for a Federal Strategy Against Gender-Based Violence, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 4 November 2016. Access Date: 3 September 2018. <https://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/violence/strategy-strategie/principe-principe-en.html?wbdisable=true>.

affects women and girls while most often impacting members of the LGBTQQI2S+ community.<sup>4916</sup> However, it is noted that the G7 refers to gender as a binary, male-female, concept, and has not acknowledged the LGBTQQI2S+ community.

In a digital context, technology-facilitated violence includes, but is not limited to: cyberstalking, non-consensual sharing or distribution of intimate photos and videos (“revenge porn”), harassment, hacking, denial-of-service attacks, the use of gender-based slurs, the publication of private and identifiable personal information (“doxing”), impersonation, extortion, rape and death threats, electronically enabled trafficking, and sexual exploitation or luring of minors.<sup>4917</sup>

The second welfare target on “learn[ing] lessons from current models of industry-government collaboration on emerging digital challenges” can include meeting with the private sector, including those that own and operate the technologies facilitating violence against women and girls to determine solutions in the prevention and response to sexual and gender-based abuse and greater cyber-security.

Full compliance is achieved when a G7 member fully mobilized the international community, including civil society [so should mobilize civil society specifically for full compliance as its highlighted in the commitment] to develop strategies regarding gender-based violence online. The G7 member addressed all of one welfare target or most of both welfare targets.

Partial compliance is earned when the G7 members fulfill either fully mobilizing the international community, including the civil society to develop strategies OR the member addressed ALL of one welfare target OR most of both. Non-compliance occurs when the member did not mobilize the international community to develop strategies to improve prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based abuse, harassment and the threat of violence in digital contexts and learn lessons from current models of industry-government collaboration on emerging digital challenges.

**Scoring Guidelines**

Score	Description
-1	G7 member DID NOT fully mobilize the international community, including civil society to develop strategies regarding gender-based violence online NOR did the member address all of one welfare target or most of both welfare targets.
0	G7 member EITHER 1) fully mobilize the international community, including civil society to develop strategies regarding gender-based violence online OR 2) did the member address all of one welfare target OR 3) most of both welfare targets.
+1	G7 member fully mobilize the international community, including civil society to develop strategies regarding gender-based violence online AND address all of one welfare target or most of both welfare targets.

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<sup>4916</sup> Setting the Stage for a Federal Strategy Against Gender-Based Violence, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 4 November 2016. Access Date: 3 September 2018. <https://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/violence/strategy-strategie/principe-principe-en.html?wbdisable=true>.

<sup>4917</sup> Submission of the Citizen Lab (Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto) to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Ms. Dubravka Šimonović (Toronto) 2 November 2017. Access Date: 3 September 2018. <https://citizenlab.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Final-UNSRVAG-CitizenLab.pdf>.

**Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to mobilize the international community including through working with civil society to develop strategies to improve prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based abuse, harassment and the threat of violence in digital contexts and learn lessons from current models of industry-government collaboration on emerging digital challenges.

On 2 July 2018, Canada led the Human Rights Council into adopting the “Preventing and Responding to Violence Against Women and Girls in Digital Contexts” Resolution.<sup>4918</sup> The Canadian-led Resolution also condemned “the dissemination of content that promotes and reinforces violence against women and girls, which can result in the perpetual revictimization and re-traumatization of women and girls, given that a permanent digital record is created by content shared in digital contexts.”<sup>4919</sup> The resolution called on states to encourage digital technology companies to adopt policies “with a view to eliminating violence against women and girls, and to refrain from presenting women and girls as inferior beings and exploiting them as sexual objects and commodities, thereby empowering women and girls as key actors and contributors to and beneficiaries of sustainable development.”<sup>4920</sup>

On 3 July 2018, Canada introduced the Playbook for Gender Equality in the Digital Age. The playbook introduces a framework to counteract gender-based violence in a digital context through improving access and digital education. It also states the Canadian government’s objective of overcoming “sexist, patriarchal and discriminatory practices and deconstruct social and institutional barriers.”<sup>4921</sup> The playbook reflects discussions held at an online hate workshop in Ottawa, Canada and the Internet Governance Forum in Geneva.<sup>4922</sup>

On 25 November 2018, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau issued a statement on International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.<sup>4923</sup> In it, Trudeau addressed the “need to change the culture that allows discrimination, harassment, and violence against women to continue in our communities,” referencing Canada’s actions at the United Nations and G7 summit to combat sexual and gender-based violence in digital contexts.<sup>4924</sup>

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<sup>4918</sup> Human Rights Council Resolution 38, “Accelerating efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls: preventing and responding to violence against women and girls in digital contexts,” (Geneva) 2 July 2018. Access Date: 5 October 2018. [ap.ohchr.org/documents/E/HRC/d\\_res\\_dec/A\\_HRC\\_38\\_L6.docx](http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/E/HRC/d_res_dec/A_HRC_38_L6.docx).

<sup>4919</sup> Human Rights Council Resolution 38, “Accelerating efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls: preventing and responding to violence against women and girls in digital contexts,” (Geneva) 2 July 2018. Access Date: 5 October 2018. [ap.ohchr.org/documents/E/HRC/d\\_res\\_dec/A\\_HRC\\_38\\_L6.docx](http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/E/HRC/d_res_dec/A_HRC_38_L6.docx).

<sup>4920</sup> Human Rights Council Resolution 38, “Accelerating efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls: preventing and responding to violence against women and girls in digital contexts,” (Geneva) 2 July 2018. Access Date: 5 October 2018. [ap.ohchr.org/documents/E/HRC/d\\_res\\_dec/A\\_HRC\\_38\\_L6.docx](http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/E/HRC/d_res_dec/A_HRC_38_L6.docx).

<sup>4921</sup> Playbook for Gender Equality in the Digital Age (Ottawa) 11 July 2018. Access Date: 14 October 2018. [http://international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues\\_development-enjeux\\_developpement/human\\_rights-droits\\_homme/playbook-manuel\\_instructions.aspx?lang=eng](http://international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/human_rights-droits_homme/playbook-manuel_instructions.aspx?lang=eng).

<sup>4922</sup> Playbook for Gender Equality in the Digital Age (Ottawa) 11 July 2018. Access Date: 14 October 2018. [http://international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues\\_development-enjeux\\_developpement/human\\_rights-droits\\_homme/playbook-manuel\\_instructions.aspx?lang=eng](http://international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/human_rights-droits_homme/playbook-manuel_instructions.aspx?lang=eng).

<sup>4923</sup> Statement by the Prime Minister on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (Ottawa) 25 November 2018. Access date: 23 December 2018. <https://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2018/11/25/statement-prime-minister-international-day-elimination-violence-against-women>.

<sup>4924</sup> Statement by the Prime Minister on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (Ottawa) 25 November 2018. Access date: 23 December 2018. <https://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2018/11/25/statement-prime-minister-international-day-elimination-violence-against-women>.

On 3 December 2018, Canada announced up to CAD50 million in funding for programs to support survivors of gender-based violence, including those addressing violence in the digital context.<sup>4925</sup>

On 10 December 2018, the Ministry of Status of Women unveiled the Gender-Based Violence Knowledge Centre at an event held at Western University's Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women and Children.<sup>4926</sup> The centre will coordinate federal actions under the three pillars of Canada's first-ever federal Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence: prevention, support for survivors and their families, and the promotion of responsive legal and justice systems.<sup>4927</sup>

Canada has fully mobilized the international community, including civil society to develop strategies regarding gender-based violence online in the creation of the Playbook, addressing most of both welfare targets.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

*Analysts: Justin Douglas and Sarah Mariani*

**France: +1**

France has fully complied with its commitment to mobilize the international community including through working with civil society to develop strategies to improve prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based abuse, harassment and the threat of violence in digital contexts and learn lessons from current models of industry-government collaboration on emerging digital challenges.

On 5 July 2018, France voted for the Canada-led resolution on the “promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development.”<sup>4928</sup> The resolution recognizes that violence against women and girls includes those which happen “in digital contexts.”<sup>4929</sup> It also recognizes “the multi-jurisdictional and transnational nature of violence against women and girls in digital contexts”<sup>4930</sup> and calls for “active cooperation among different actors, including States and their law enforcement and judicial authorities, and private actors with regards to detecting crimes, reporting them to competent authorities for

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<sup>4925</sup> Feds announce \$50M for programs across Canada to support survivors of gender-based violence (Halifax) 3 December 2018. Access date: 23 December 2018. <https://globalnews.ca/news/4723257/gender-based-violence-funding/>.

<sup>4926</sup> Government of Canada launches Gender-Based Violence Knowledge Centre and announces critical research funding (Ottawa) 10 December 2018. Access date: 23 December 2018. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-launches-gender-based-violence-knowledge-centre-and-announces-critical-research-funding-702350801.html>.

<sup>4927</sup> Government of Canada launches Gender-Based Violence Knowledge Centre and announces critical research funding (Ottawa) 10 December 2018. Access date: 23 December 2018. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-launches-gender-based-violence-knowledge-centre-and-announces-critical-research-funding-702350801.html>.

<sup>4928</sup> General Assembly resolution 38/5: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development, UN Human Rights Council (Geneva) 5 July 2018. Access Date: 21 October 2018. [http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage\\_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/38/L.6](http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/38/L.6).

<sup>4929</sup> General Assembly resolution 38/5: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development, UN Human Rights Council (Geneva) 5 July 2018. Access Date: 21 October 2018. [http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage\\_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/38/L.6](http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/38/L.6).

<sup>4930</sup> General Assembly resolution 38/5: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development, UN Human Rights Council (Geneva) 5 July 2018. Access Date: 21 October 2018. [http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage\\_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/38/L.6](http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/38/L.6).



investigation, safeguarding electronic evidence of crimes and handing the evidence over to those authorities in a timely manner.”<sup>4931</sup>

On 1 August 2018, France adopted new legislation regarding sexual violence, which “expands the criminal definition of child rape and outlaws sex harassment.”<sup>4932</sup> It classifies any sexual act by an adult with a child younger than 15 years of age as a sexual offence under the reason of “abuse of vulnerability.”<sup>4933</sup> The bill newly outlaws cyberstalking and taking pictures or videos under someone’s clothes without consent, making it “punishable by up to one year in prison with a fine of EUR15,000 or USD17,533.”<sup>4934</sup>

On 13 September 2018, France launched the “Group of Friends” alongside Kenya and Israel to eliminate sexual harassment.<sup>4935</sup> It is to serve as a platform for exchanges of ideas, initiatives, and best practices; these include “national frameworks, UN initiatives, and processes, but also about civil society initiatives and mechanisms created by private companies in particular who are also working as we speak on these issues.”<sup>4936</sup>

From 12 to 14 November 2018, France hosted “the Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Internet Governance Forum”<sup>4937</sup> alongside the Paris Peace Forum, which brought together “representatives from governments, the technical community, business, and civil society to discuss amplifying digital cooperation.”<sup>4938</sup> The forum took the title “Internet of Trust.”<sup>4939</sup> The forum called for a structured “public-private sector models”<sup>4940</sup> and “multi-stakeholder cooperation”<sup>4941</sup> to address the issue of

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<sup>4931</sup> General Assembly resolution 38/5: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development, UN Human Rights Council (Geneva) 5 July 2018. Access Date: 21 October 2018. [http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage\\_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/38/L.6](http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/38/L.6).

<sup>4932</sup> French lawmakers approve fines for sex harassment on streets, ban on "upskirting," CBS News (New York) 1 August 2018. Access Date: 21 October 2018. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/french-lawmakers-approve-fines-for-sex-harassment-on-streets-and-outlaw-upskirting-2018-08-01/>.

<sup>4933</sup> French lawmakers approve fines for sex harassment on streets, ban on "upskirting," CBS News (New York) 1 August 2018. Access Date: 21 October 2018. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/french-lawmakers-approve-fines-for-sex-harassment-on-streets-and-outlaw-upskirting-2018-08-01/>.

<sup>4934</sup> French lawmakers approve fines for sex harassment on streets, ban on "upskirting," CBS News (New York) 1 August 2018. Access Date: 21 October 2018. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/french-lawmakers-approve-fines-for-sex-harassment-on-streets-and-outlaw-upskirting-2018-08-01/>.

<sup>4935</sup> Launch of the Group of Friends to Eliminate Sexual Harassment Introductory remarks by Mr. François Delattre, Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations, Permanent mission of France to the United Nations in New York (New York) 13 September 2018. Access Date: 11 December 2018. <https://onu.delegfrance.org/Group-of-Friends-to-Eliminate-Sexual-Harassment>.

<sup>4936</sup> Launch of the Group of Friends to Eliminate Sexual Harassment Introductory remarks by Mr. François Delattre, Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations, Permanent mission of France to the United Nations in New York (New York) 13 September 2018. Access Date: 11 December 2018. <https://onu.delegfrance.org/Group-of-Friends-to-Eliminate-Sexual-Harassment>.

<sup>4937</sup> IGF 2018, United Nations (Geneva). Access Date: 11 December 2018. <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/>.

<sup>4938</sup> IGF 2018 Chair’s Summary, Thirteenth Meeting of Internet Governance Forum (Paris) 12-14 November 2018. Access Date: 11 December 2018.

[https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot\\_download/6212/1417](https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/6212/1417).

<sup>4939</sup> IGF 2018, United Nations (Geneva). Access Date: 11 December 2018. <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/>.

<sup>4940</sup> IGF 2018 Messages — Human Rights, Gender, and Youth, Internet Governance Forum (Paris) 12-14 November 2018. Access Date: 11 December 2018.

[https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot\\_download/6037/1414](https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/6037/1414).

<sup>4941</sup> IGF 2018 Messages — Human Rights, Gender, and Youth, Internet Governance Forum (Paris) 12-14 November 2018. Access Date: 11 December 2018.

[https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot\\_download/6037/1414](https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/6037/1414).

“gender inequality”<sup>4942</sup> and “online risks.”<sup>4943</sup> It also highlighted the need “to deepen understanding of emerging issues such as dataveillance, and algorithmic decision-making, and their influence in cyberspace through a gender and sexuality lens.”<sup>4944</sup>

On 20 November 2018, France and the Netherlands, mobilized the international community to produce “the first UN General Assembly resolution aimed at eliminating sexual harassment worldwide.”<sup>4945</sup> The resolution “urges states to condemn violence against women and girls, and address structural and underlying causes of sexual harassment, notably by modifying social and cultural patterns.”<sup>4946</sup>

On 27 November 2018, French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe announced the launching of an online platform for reporting gender-based and sexual violence that allows “victims or witnesses of sexist violence to share information with authorities via their computers or mobile devices.”<sup>4947</sup> This move allows better response and prevention of gender-based violence, including those within the digital context.

On 15 May 2019, France, alongside New Zealand, led a summit aimed at calling for countries and companies to pledge to clamp down on hateful content online.<sup>4948</sup> The French President and New Zealand Prime Minister both advocated the need for tech companies to play a role in tackling the problem.<sup>4949</sup> The attendees of the summit included Jack Dorsey, Brad Smith, representatives from Facebook, as well as Theresa May and Justin Trudeau. Although Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg was not present, it is worth noting he met with French President the previous week.<sup>4950</sup>

France has mobilized the international community, including through working with civil society to develop strategies to improve the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based abuse, harassment and the threat of violence in digital contexts. It has learned lessons from current models

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<sup>4942</sup> IGF 2018 Messages — Human Rights, Gender, and Youth, Internet Governance Forum (Paris) 12-14 November 2018. Access Date: 11 December 2018.

[https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot\\_download/6037/1414](https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/6037/1414).

<sup>4943</sup> IGF 2018 Messages — Human Rights, Gender, and Youth, Internet Governance Forum (Paris) 12-14 November 2018. Access Date: 11 December 2018.

[https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot\\_download/6037/1414](https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/6037/1414).

<sup>4944</sup> IGF 2018 Messages — Human Rights, Gender, and Youth, Internet Governance Forum (Paris) 12-14 November 2018. Access Date: 11 December 2018.

[https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot\\_download/6037/1414](https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/6037/1414).

<sup>4945</sup> United Nations — International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25 November 2018), France Diplomatie (Paris) 25 November 2018. Access Date: 11 December 2018. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/events/events-2018/article/united-nations-international-day-for-the-elimination-of-violence-against-women>.

<sup>4946</sup> Approving 9 Drafts, Third Committee Intensifies Fight against Fistula, Genital Mutilation, Sexual Harassment amid Debate over Peasants’ Rights, United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases (New York). Access Date: 11 December 2018. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/gashc4255.doc.htm>.

<sup>4947</sup> France Steps Up Fight Against Sexual Violence With Online Platform To Report Attacks, Le Huffington Post France (Paris) 29 November 2018. Access Date: 11 December 2018. [https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/france-violence-against-women\\_us\\_5c0003f6e4b0864f4f6b17de](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/france-violence-against-women_us_5c0003f6e4b0864f4f6b17de).

<sup>4948</sup> New Zealand and France unveil plans to tackle online extremism without the US on board, CNBC (Paris) 15 May 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. <https://www.cnbcc.com/2019/05/15/new-zealand-france-unveil-plans-to-tackle-online-extremism-without-us.html>.

<sup>4949</sup> New Zealand and France unveil plans to tackle online extremism without the US on board, CNBC (Paris) 15 May 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. <https://www.cnbcc.com/2019/05/15/new-zealand-france-unveil-plans-to-tackle-online-extremism-without-us.html>.

<sup>4950</sup> New Zealand and France unveil plans to tackle online extremism without the US on board, CNBC (Paris) 15 May 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. <https://www.cnbcc.com/2019/05/15/new-zealand-france-unveil-plans-to-tackle-online-extremism-without-us.html>.

of industry-government collaboration on emerging digital challenges and supported internationally-led resolutions on the issue.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Priscilla Layarda*

**Germany: -1**

Germany has failed to comply with its commitment to mobilize the international community including through working with civil society to develop strategies to improve prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based abuse, harassment and the threat of violence in digital contexts and learn lessons from current models of industry-government collaboration on emerging digital challenges.

On 5 July 2018, Germany voted for the Canada-led resolution on the “promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development.” The resolution recognizes that violence against women and girls includes those which happen “in digital contexts.”<sup>4951</sup> It also recognizes the multi-jurisdictional and transnational nature of violence against women and girls in digital contexts and calls for active cooperation among different actors.<sup>4952</sup> This includes states and their law enforcement or judicial authorities, private actors with regards to detecting crimes and reporting them to competent authorities for investigation, safeguarding electronic evidence of crimes and handing the evidence over to those authorities in a timely manner.<sup>4953</sup>

On 22 August 2018, the Digital Council, created by Chancellor Angela Merkel convened for the first time to “advise the German government on the important matter of digitalization.”<sup>4954</sup> Members join together from the public sector, private sector, and academia as experts in a range of relevant disciplines physics, artificial intelligence, law, digital technologies, political sciences, public policy, and social data revolution.

On 6 June 2019, the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA) in Germany launched multiple raids nationwide “as part of a crackdown on incitement crimes being spread on the internet.”<sup>4955</sup> Most of the suspects are believed to have right-wing extremist agendas, while a handful are believed to have left-wing extremist and foreign religious agendas.<sup>4956</sup>

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<sup>4951</sup> General Assembly resolution 38/5: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development, UN Human Rights Council (Geneva) 5 July 2018. Access Date: 21 October 2018. [http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage\\_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/38/L.6](http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/38/L.6).

<sup>4952</sup> General Assembly resolution 38/5: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development, UN Human Rights Council (Geneva) 5 July 2018. Access Date: 21 October 2018. [http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage\\_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/38/L.6](http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/38/L.6).

<sup>4953</sup> General Assembly resolution 38/5: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development, UN Human Rights Council (Geneva) 5 July 2018. Access Date: 21 October 2018. [http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage\\_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/38/L.6](http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/38/L.6).

<sup>4954</sup> The Faces Behind the Digital Council, The Press and Information Office of the Federal Government (Berlin) 22 August 2018. Access Date: 21 October 2018. <https://www.bundeskanzlerin.de/bkin-en/news/the-faces-behind-the-digital-council-1504894#Start>.

<sup>4955</sup> Germany: Dozens of raids over online hate speech, DW (Berlin) 6 June 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-dozens-of-raids-over-online-hate-speech/a-49080109>.

<sup>4956</sup> Germany: Dozens of raids over online hate speech, DW (Berlin) 6 June 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-dozens-of-raids-over-online-hate-speech/a-49080109>.

Germany has taken some actions relevant to addressing the challenges of digitalization but has failed to improve the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based abuse, harassment and threat of violence in the digital context.

Thus, Germany receives a score of -1.

*Analyst: Priscilla Layarda*

### **Italy: 0**

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to mobilize the international community including through working with civil society to develop strategies to improve prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based abuse, harassment and the threat of violence in digital contexts and learn lessons from current models of industry-government collaboration on emerging digital challenges.

On 25 July 2018, Italy took part in a project funded by the European Union titled “enhancing the quality and effectiveness of the Vocational Education and Training (VET) system” for the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Moldova.<sup>4957</sup> The project sought to “contribute to the upgrade of the education system in Moldova in line with EU and Bologna process best practices and quality education principles.”<sup>4958</sup> As such, the project’s intent to “advance gender equality,” as well as, “reduce discrimination and inequalities based on sex” were evaluated to maintain EU standards and the national legislation on Equal Opportunities between Women and Men.<sup>4959</sup>

On 26 September 2018, the Italian Development Cooperation Agency made a contribution of EUR1 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.<sup>4960</sup> The contribution is intended to ensure Palestinian minors sheltered in Syria access to education through the provision of psycho-social support and the training of teachers and parents on issues of gender violence.<sup>4961</sup>

On 25 November 2018, Italy, alongside other international actors including the United Nation and EU took on an active role in ending gender-based violence in Uganda by releasing a statement on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.<sup>4962</sup> Domenico Fornaro, the Ambassador of Italy to Uganda, was amongst speakers that recognized the need of a collective effort by “governments, civil society organizations, the private sector and the media”<sup>4963</sup> in responding to

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<sup>4957</sup> Enhancing the quality and effectiveness of the Vocational Education and Training (VET) system, 25 July 2018. Access Date: 22 October 2018. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/resource/.../2018/07/twinning\\_fiche.docx](https://www.esteri.it/mae/resource/.../2018/07/twinning_fiche.docx).

<sup>4958</sup> Enhancing the quality and effectiveness of the Vocational Education and Training (VET) system, 25 July 2018. Access Date: 22 October 2018. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/resource/.../2018/07/twinning\\_fiche.docx](https://www.esteri.it/mae/resource/.../2018/07/twinning_fiche.docx).

<sup>4959</sup> Enhancing the quality and effectiveness of the Vocational Education and Training (VET) system, 25 July 2018. Access Date: 22 October 2018. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/resource/.../2018/07/twinning\\_fiche.docx](https://www.esteri.it/mae/resource/.../2018/07/twinning_fiche.docx).

<sup>4960</sup> Italy makes a contribution to support Palestinian refugees in Syria, (Rome) 26 September 2018. Access Date: 22 October 2018. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2018/09/contributo-italiano-per-il-sostegno-ai-rifugiati-palestinesi-in-siria.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2018/09/contributo-italiano-per-il-sostegno-ai-rifugiati-palestinesi-in-siria.html).

<sup>4961</sup> Italy makes a contribution to support Palestinian refugees in Syria, (Rome) 26 September 2018. Access Date: 22 October 2018. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2018/09/contributo-italiano-per-il-sostegno-ai-rifugiati-palestinesi-in-siria.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2018/09/contributo-italiano-per-il-sostegno-ai-rifugiati-palestinesi-in-siria.html).

<sup>4962</sup> International Day for the elimination of violence against women, 25 November 2018. Access date: 12 December 2018. [https://www.newvision.co.ug/new\\_vision/news/1490154/international-day-elimination-violence-women](https://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1490154/international-day-elimination-violence-women).

<sup>4963</sup> International Day for the elimination of violence against women, 25 November 2018. Access date: 12 December 2018. [https://www.newvision.co.ug/new\\_vision/news/1490154/international-day-elimination-violence-women](https://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1490154/international-day-elimination-violence-women).

gender-based violence. As such, Italy has implemented its commitment by “supporting programmes and campaigns to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls across Uganda.”<sup>4964</sup>

Italy has engaged with the international community to improve the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based abuse, harassment and threat of violence through increased education. However, Italy has failed to seek out and learn lessons from current models of industry-government collaboration, including civil-society on emerging digital challenges.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Sakithyan Logabalandran*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to mobilize the international community including through working with civil society to develop strategies to improve prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based abuse, harassment and the threat of violence in digital contexts and learn lessons from current models of industry-government collaboration on emerging digital challenges.

On 19 June 2018, Japan, the European Union, and the United Nations Information Centre, organized a seminar on “eliminating violence against women and girls at home and abroad” in Minami-Azabu, Tokyo.<sup>4965</sup> “Eliminating violence against women and girls, at home and abroad” was organized during the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.<sup>4966</sup> Japanese government officials, including Minister of Justice for the Government of Japan Yoko Kamikawa, and Director of the Gender Mainstreaming Division, Foreign Policy Bureau within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Kyoko Hokugo, attended this seminar. The seminar took place on the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict and covered both international and domestic aspects of violence against women and girls from global, Japanese and European perspectives.<sup>4967</sup>

From 18 June 2018 to 6 July 2018, Japan attended the Human Rights Council’s 38th United Nations General Assembly as a member-state.<sup>4968</sup> Japan commented in the panel discussion on violence against women and girls held during the full-day discussion on women’s human rights.<sup>4969</sup> Japan confirmed the importance of a human rights perspective on the issue of digitally-mediated gender-

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<sup>4964</sup> International Day for the elimination of violence against women, 25 November 2018. Access date: 12 December 2018. [https://www.newvision.co.ug/new\\_vision/news/1490154/international-day-elimination-violence-women](https://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1490154/international-day-elimination-violence-women).

<sup>4965</sup> Seminar on "Eliminating violence against women and girls at home and abroad," Delegation of the European Union to Japan (Tokyo) 19 June 2018. Access Date: 18 October 2018. [https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/japan/45471/seminar-eliminating-violence-against-women-and-girls-home-and-abroad\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/japan/45471/seminar-eliminating-violence-against-women-and-girls-home-and-abroad_en).

<sup>4966</sup> Seminar on "Eliminating violence against women and girls at home and abroad," Delegation of the European Union to Japan (Tokyo) 19 June 2018. Access Date: 18 October 2018. [https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/japan/45471/seminar-eliminating-violence-against-women-and-girls-home-and-abroad\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/japan/45471/seminar-eliminating-violence-against-women-and-girls-home-and-abroad_en).

<sup>4967</sup> Seminar on "Eliminating violence against women and girls at home and abroad," Delegation of the European Union to Japan (Tokyo) 19 June 2018. Access Date: 18 October 2018. [https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/japan/45471/seminar-eliminating-violence-against-women-and-girls-home-and-abroad\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/japan/45471/seminar-eliminating-violence-against-women-and-girls-home-and-abroad_en).

<sup>4968</sup> 38 Accelerating efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls: preventing and responding to violence against women and girls in digital contexts, United Nations General Assembly (Geneva) 2 July 2018. Access Date: 6 December 2018. <http://undocs.org/A/HRC/38/L.6>.

<sup>4969</sup> Human Rights Council adopts 10 texts, requests a meeting on female genital mutilation and decides to hold a panel discussion on women and climate change, United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (Geneva) 5 July 2018. Access Date: 6 December 2018.

<https://www.ohchr.org/SP/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23338&LangID=E>.

based violence noted in the draft resolution by the Human Rights Council.<sup>4970</sup> During this panel discussion, Japan acknowledged the potential for digital technologies to empower women and girls to exercise their human rights, but also the risk of digital technologies serving as a platform for women and girls to experience violence and abuse.<sup>4971</sup>

On 5 July 2018, Japan commented on the Accelerating Efforts to Eliminate Violence against Women and Girls: Preventing and Responding to Violence against Women and Girls in Digital Contexts resolution.<sup>4972</sup> Japan reaffirmed its strong commitment to eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls, including digitally-mediated forms of gender-based violence.<sup>4973</sup> At this panel discussion, Japan also called on businesses to utilize the power of digital platforms to advance human rights, including preventing gender-based violence through digital technologies.<sup>4974</sup> Japan also mobilized the international community to take action on the prevention of digitally-mediated gender-based violence by inviting all countries to support this draft resolution.<sup>4975</sup>

On 12 July 2018, Senior Advisor and Director of Center for Science Information Analysis, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Yuichiro Anzai attended the High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation, established by United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.<sup>4976</sup> The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science is an administrative institution subsidized by the Government of Japan. The purpose of this panel is to advance proposals that account for relevant human rights norms and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals by ensuring a safe and inclusive digital future for all individuals, especially the most vulnerable members of society, including women and girls. A report on digital cooperation was generated by the end of the panel.<sup>4977</sup>

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<sup>4970</sup> Human Rights Council adopts 10 texts, requests a meeting on female genital mutilation and decides to hold a panel discussion on women and climate change, United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (Geneva) 5 July 2018. Access Date: 6 December 2018.

<https://www.ohchr.org/SP/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23338&LangID=E>.

<sup>4971</sup> Human Rights Council adopts 10 texts, requests a meeting on female genital mutilation and decides to hold a panel discussion on women and climate change, United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (Geneva) 5 July 2018. Access Date: 6 December 2018.

<https://www.ohchr.org/SP/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23338&LangID=E>.

<sup>4972</sup> Human Rights Council adopts 10 texts, requests a meeting on female genital mutilation and decides to hold a panel discussion on women and climate change, United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (Geneva) 5 July 2018. Access Date: 6 December 2018.

<https://www.ohchr.org/SP/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23338&LangID=E>.

<sup>4973</sup> Human Rights Council adopts 10 texts, requests a meeting on female genital mutilation and decides to hold a panel discussion on women and climate change, United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (Geneva) 5 July 2018. Access Date: 6 December 2018.

<https://www.ohchr.org/SP/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23338&LangID=E>.

<sup>4974</sup> Human Rights Council adopts 10 texts, requests a meeting on female genital mutilation and decides to hold a panel discussion on women and climate change, United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (Geneva) 5 July 2018. Access Date: 6 December 2018.

<https://www.ohchr.org/SP/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23338&LangID=E>.

<sup>4975</sup> Human Rights Council adopts 10 texts, requests a meeting on female genital mutilation and decides to hold a panel discussion on women and climate change, United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (Geneva) 5 July 2018. Access Date: 6 December 2018.

<https://www.ohchr.org/SP/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23338&LangID=E>.

<sup>4976</sup> Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation, United Nations. Access Date: 7 December 2018.

<http://www.un.org/en/digital-cooperation-panel/>.

<sup>4977</sup> Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation, United Nations. Access Date: 7 December 2018.

<http://www.un.org/en/digital-cooperation-panel/>.

On 17 July 2018, Japanese government lawmakers revised the Anti-Stalking Act, 2000.<sup>4978</sup> This revision focused on the prevention of online stalking through social media networks, increasingly affecting teenagers, especially girls.<sup>4979</sup> This act now prohibits repeatedly sending unwanted messages on social media or relentlessly posting comments on another user's blog.<sup>4980</sup> This amendment allows public prosecutors to charge a suspect even if the victim does not proceed with the filing of a complaint.<sup>4981</sup> The amended Anti-Stalking Act increased the maximum term of imprisonment for online stalking from six months to one year.<sup>4982</sup>

On 1 September 2018, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his government published an update on "Abenomics," a comprehensive policy package to improve and benefit all aspects of the Japanese economy, including people, companies, investors, and the country as a whole.<sup>4983</sup> The first key solution stated in the Abenomics policy is "Productive Individuals and Society."<sup>4984</sup> As part of this solution, the Abenomics policy stated that the elimination of all forms of violence against women, including cyberstalking, sexual harassment and electronically enabled human trafficking, as well as spousal violence, sex crimes, and prostitution, were made key priorities for the Japanese government.<sup>4985</sup>

On 18 September 2018, Japan participated in the general debate on human rights situations that required the Human Rights Council's attention.<sup>4986</sup> During this debate, concerns about the abuse of social media, including its' potential to fuel violence against women were discussed.<sup>4987</sup>

On 18 September 2018, the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development-Forum Asia, an organization that Japan is an active member of, also attended and actively spoke during the debate on

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<sup>4978</sup> Online stalking on social media becomes illegal in Japan, South China Morning Post (Causeway Bay) 20 July 2018. Access Date: 27 February 2018. <https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/east-asia/article/2058852/online-stalking-social-media-becomes-illegal-japan>.

<sup>4979</sup> Online stalking on social media becomes illegal in Japan, South China Morning Post 20 July 2018. Access Date: 27 February 2018. <https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/east-asia/article/2058852/online-stalking-social-media-becomes-illegal-japan>.

<sup>4980</sup> Online stalking on social media becomes illegal in Japan, South China Morning Post 20 July 2018. Access Date: 27 February 2018. <https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/east-asia/article/2058852/online-stalking-social-media-becomes-illegal-japan>.

<sup>4981</sup> Online stalking on social media becomes illegal in Japan, South China Morning Post 20 July 2018. Access Date: 27 February 2018. <https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/east-asia/article/2058852/online-stalking-social-media-becomes-illegal-japan>.

<sup>4982</sup> Online stalking on social media becomes illegal in Japan, South China Morning Post 20 July 2018. Access Date: 27 February 2018. <https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/east-asia/article/2058852/online-stalking-social-media-becomes-illegal-japan>.

<sup>4983</sup> Abenomics, The Government of Japan (Tokyo) 1 September 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. [https://www.japan.go.jp/abenomics/\\_userdata/abenomics/pdf/1809\\_abenomics.pdf](https://www.japan.go.jp/abenomics/_userdata/abenomics/pdf/1809_abenomics.pdf).

<sup>4984</sup> Abenomics, The Government of Japan (Tokyo) 1 September 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. [https://www.japan.go.jp/abenomics/\\_userdata/abenomics/pdf/1809\\_abenomics.pdf](https://www.japan.go.jp/abenomics/_userdata/abenomics/pdf/1809_abenomics.pdf).

<sup>4985</sup> Abenomics, The Government of Japan (Tokyo) 1 September 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. [https://www.japan.go.jp/abenomics/\\_userdata/abenomics/pdf/1809\\_abenomics.pdf](https://www.japan.go.jp/abenomics/_userdata/abenomics/pdf/1809_abenomics.pdf).

<sup>4986</sup> Human Rights Council holds a general debate on human rights situations that require the Council's attention (18 September 2018), United Nations Human Rights Council (Geneva) 18 September 2018. Access Date: 5 December 2018. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/human-rights-council-holds-general-debate-human-rights-situations-require-councils-0>.

<sup>4987</sup> Human Rights Council holds a general debate on human rights situations that require the Council's attention (18 September 2018), United Nations Human Rights Council (Geneva) 18 September 2018. Access Date: 5 December 2018. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/human-rights-council-holds-general-debate-human-rights-situations-require-councils-0>.

human rights situations that required the Human Rights Council's attention.<sup>4988</sup> The Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development-Forum Asia holds the East-Asia and programme for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which actively supports member organizations' national governments by regularly holding national and regional consultations between civil society organizations and its representatives on promoting and protecting women's rights.<sup>4989</sup>

On 8 November 2018, Japan's branch of the Messaging, Malware and Mobile Anti-Abuse Working Group (M<sup>3</sup>AAWG) hosted the First General Meeting of the Japan Anti-Abuse Working Group (JPAAWG) in Tokyo, Japan.<sup>4990</sup> The M<sup>3</sup>AAWG works to tackle online abuse on existing and emerging networks, while providing technical and operational expertise on eliminating online abuse to the Japanese government.<sup>4991</sup> This meeting brought together the perspectives of local security and operational professionals in cyber technology, including messaging service providers, cloud hosting services, and other infrastructure organizations.<sup>4992</sup> JPAAWG Secretariat Shuji Sakuraba and application service department general manager of Internet Initiative Japan (IIJ) mobilized the international community by encouraging other Asian countries to engage with the global anti-abuse community through the JPAAWG.<sup>4993</sup>

On 12 December 2018, Japan's Parliament passed a bill to amend the 2014 Basic Act on Cybersecurity.<sup>4994</sup> This amendment will allow the Cybersecurity Strategic Headquarters to delegate the coordination with relevant persons and corporations to Cabinet when cyber security threats or breaches, including cyber-harassment of women and girls arise.<sup>4995</sup> This amendment also specifies that the Japanese government will arrange a council to discuss the promotion of cyber security measures, including the prevention of violence against women in cyber contexts.<sup>4996</sup> This council fosters collaboration between the Japanese government and the technological industry by including

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<sup>4988</sup> Human Rights Council holds a general debate on human rights situations that require the Council's attention (18 September 2018), United Nations Human Rights Council (Geneva) 18 September 2018. Access Date: 5 December 2018. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/human-rights-council-holds-general-debate-human-rights-situations-require-councils-0>.

<sup>4989</sup> East Asia and ASEAN Programme, Asia Forum for Human Rights and Development. Access Date: 19 October 2018. [https://www.forum-asia.org/?page\\_id=21484](https://www.forum-asia.org/?page_id=21484).

<sup>4990</sup> First Japan Anti-Abuse Working Group General Meeting Shares M<sup>3</sup>AAWG Work with Emphasis on Regional Issues, Messaging Malware Mobile Anti-Abuse Working Group (San Francisco) 01 November 2018. Access Date: 28 February 2019. <https://globenewswire.com/news-release/2018/11/01/1641318/0/en/First-Japan-Anti-Abuse-Working-Group-General-Meeting-Shares-M3AAWG-Work-with-Emphasis-on-Regional-Issues.html>.

<sup>4991</sup> Because Effective Anti-Abuse Collaboration Requires a Trusted Global Forum, Messaging Malware Mobile Anti-Abuse Working Group (San Francisco). Access Date: 01 March 2019. <https://www.m3aawg.org/about-m3aawg>.

<sup>4992</sup> First Japan Anti-Abuse Working Group General Meeting Shares M<sup>3</sup>AAWG Work with Emphasis on Regional Issues, Messaging Malware Mobile Anti-Abuse Working Group (San Francisco) 01 November 2018. Access Date: 01 March 2019. <https://globenewswire.com/news-release/2018/11/01/1641318/0/en/First-Japan-Anti-Abuse-Working-Group-General-Meeting-Shares-M3AAWG-Work-with-Emphasis-on-Regional-Issues.html>.

<sup>4993</sup> First Japan Anti-Abuse Working Group General Meeting Shares M<sup>3</sup>AAWG Work with Emphasis on Regional Issues, Messaging Malware Mobile Anti-Abuse Working Group (San Francisco) 01 November 2018. Access Date: 01 March 2019. <https://globenewswire.com/news-release/2018/11/01/1641318/0/en/First-Japan-Anti-Abuse-Working-Group-General-Meeting-Shares-M3AAWG-Work-with-Emphasis-on-Regional-Issues.html>.

<sup>4994</sup> Japan: Basic Act on Cybersecurity Amended, The Law Library of Congress (Washington) 26 December 2018. Access Date: 01 March 2019. <http://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/japan-basic-act-on-cybersecurity-amended/>.

<sup>4995</sup> Japan: Basic Act on Cybersecurity Amended, The Law Library of Congress (Washington) 26 December 2018. Access Date: 01 March 2019. <http://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/japan-basic-act-on-cybersecurity-amended/>.

<sup>4996</sup> Japan: Basic Act on Cybersecurity Amended, The Law Library of Congress (Washington) 26 December 2018. Access Date: 01 March 2019. <http://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/japan-basic-act-on-cybersecurity-amended/>.



council members from national and local government agencies, critical information infrastructure operators, cyberspace-related corporations, academic and research institutions.<sup>4997</sup>

On 23 and 24 March 2019, the Japanese government jointly hosted the fifth annual World Assembly for Women (WAW!) and Women 20 (W20) in Tokyo.<sup>4998</sup> The WAW!/W20 Summit is part of Abe's policy to advance women's active participation in society by eliminating barriers to women's participation, including violence against women in digital contexts, one of the priorities of the Abe administration.<sup>4999</sup> One of the four pillars focused on during the 2019 WAW!/W20 Summit was digital equity.<sup>5000</sup>

Japan has made significant progress in mobilizing the international community, including civil society, by developing policies, organizing and attending seminars on eliminating gender-based violence, as well as learning from industry-government collaborations with anti-abuse working groups and the technological sector for technical and operational guidance on public policy solutions to violence against women in digital contexts.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Vicky Vuong*

### **United Kingdom: -1**

The United Kingdom has failed to comply with its commitment to mobilize the international community including through working with civil society to develop strategies to improve prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based abuse, harassment and the threat of violence in digital contexts and learn lessons from current models of industry-government collaboration on emerging digital challenges.

On 5 July 2018, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland voted for Canadian-led Resolution 38/5 on violence against women and girls in digital contexts at the United Nations Human Rights Council 38th session.<sup>5001</sup>

On 21 June 2018, the Equality and Human Rights Commission of Great Britain participated in the United Nations Human Rights Council Panel Discussion on online violence against women.<sup>5002</sup> The commission called on the Government of the United Kingdom to conduct a full-scale review of hate

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<sup>4997</sup> Japan: Basic Act on Cybersecurity Amended, The Law Library of Congress (Washington) 26 December 2018. Access Date: 01 March 2019. <http://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/japan-basic-act-on-cybersecurity-amended/>.

<sup>4998</sup> Meetings aim to close gender gaps, promote diversity, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 22 March 2019. Access Date: 07 June 2019. [https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/03/22/national/meetings-aim-close-gender-gaps-promote-diversity/#.XP2uQ\\_IKjcd](https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/03/22/national/meetings-aim-close-gender-gaps-promote-diversity/#.XP2uQ_IKjcd).

<sup>4999</sup> Meetings aim to close gender gaps, promote diversity, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 22 March 2019. Access Date: 07 June 2019. [https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/03/22/national/meetings-aim-close-gender-gaps-promote-diversity/#.XP2uQ\\_IKjcd](https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/03/22/national/meetings-aim-close-gender-gaps-promote-diversity/#.XP2uQ_IKjcd).

<sup>5000</sup> Meetings aim to close gender gaps, promote diversity, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 22 March 2019. Access Date: 07 June 2019. [https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/03/22/national/meetings-aim-close-gender-gaps-promote-diversity/#.XP2uQ\\_IKjcd](https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/03/22/national/meetings-aim-close-gender-gaps-promote-diversity/#.XP2uQ_IKjcd).

<sup>5001</sup> Accelerating efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls: preventing and responding to violence against women and girls in digital contexts, United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (Geneva, Switzerland) 02 July 2018. Access Date: 16 October 2018. [http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage\\_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/38/L.6](http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/38/L.6).

<sup>5002</sup> Accelerating efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls: preventing and responding to violence against women and girls in digital contexts, United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (Geneva, Switzerland) 02 July 2018. Access Date: 16 October 2018. [http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage\\_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/38/L.6](http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/38/L.6).

crime offenses and to criminalize digital abuse and harassment, which often targets women.<sup>5003</sup> The commission, along with other civil society organizations, called for gender-responsive digital literacy to be incorporated into the UK's education curriculum.<sup>5004</sup>

On 16 July 2018, the Gender Action for Peace and Security (GAPS) civil society network, composed of 17 non-governmental organizations and experts in the fields of development, human rights and peacebuilding, undertook a six-month check-in review of the UK Government's fourth National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, 2018-2022 — released in January 2018.<sup>5005</sup> GAPS noted the encouraging cross-government and consultative approach of the National Action Plan.<sup>5006</sup> They also noted that they will continue to work with the UK Government to strengthen its focus on the prevention of gender-based violence by adopting more comprehensive approaches to violence prevention.<sup>5007</sup>

On 26 July 2018, the Government of the United Kingdom established a UK Council for Internet Safety (UKCIS), to improve the online safety of UK citizens, particularly in reference to groups who are often targets of online harassment and violence.<sup>5008</sup> The UKCIS is an expansion of the current UK Council for Child Internet Safety. The government opened the application for UKCIS Executive Board Appointment on this date, noting that they hope to bring in the experienced and committed industry and non-profit organizations and/or individuals to help with digital safety; the closing date for Executive Board Appointments was 3 September 2018.<sup>5009</sup> The government noted that UKCIS will bring together a partnership of more than 2000 organisations representing government, regulators, industry, law enforcement, academia, and charities.<sup>5010</sup> Priority areas of focus include cyberbullying and sexual exploitation; violence against women and girls; hate crime and hate speech; forms of discrimination against groups protected under the Equality Act.<sup>5011</sup>

On 9 August 2018, the UK released its Civil Society Strategy, which outlines how the government can collaborate with civil society partners in order to build a sustainable society — socially, economically and environmentally.<sup>5012</sup> The government called on organizational and business

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<sup>5003</sup> Accelerating efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls: preventing and responding to violence against women and girls in digital contexts, United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (Geneva, Switzerland) 02 July 2018. Access Date: 16 October 2018. [http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage\\_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/38/L.6](http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/38/L.6).

<sup>5004</sup> Accelerating efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls: preventing and responding to violence against women and girls in digital contexts, United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (Geneva, Switzerland) 02 July 2018. Access Date: 16 October 2018. [http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage\\_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/38/L.6](http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/38/L.6).

<sup>5005</sup> UK National Action Plan: GAPS Six Month Check-In, Gender Action for Peace and Security (London, England) 16 July 2018. Access Date: 16 October 2018. <http://gaps-uk.org/uk-national-action-plan-gaps-six-month-check-in/>.

<sup>5006</sup> UK National Action Plan: GAPS Six Month Check-In, Gender Action for Peace and Security (London, England) 16 July 2018. Access Date: 16 October 2018. <http://gaps-uk.org/uk-national-action-plan-gaps-six-month-check-in/>.

<sup>5007</sup> UK National Action Plan: GAPS Six Month Check-In, Gender Action for Peace and Security (London, England) 16 July 2018. Access Date: 16 October 2018. <http://gaps-uk.org/uk-national-action-plan-gaps-six-month-check-in/>.

<sup>5008</sup> New Council for Internet Safety in UK, Government of UK (London, England) 26 July 2018. Access Date: 16 October 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-council-for-internet-safety-in-the-uk>.

<sup>5009</sup> New Council for Internet Safety in UK, Government of UK (London, England) 26 July 2018. Access Date: 16 October 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-council-for-internet-safety-in-the-uk>.

<sup>5010</sup> New Council for Internet Safety in UK, Government of UK (London, England) 26 July 2018. Access Date: 16 October 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-council-for-internet-safety-in-the-uk>.

<sup>5011</sup> New Council for Internet Safety in UK, Government of UK (London, England) 26 July 2018. Access Date: 16 October 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-council-for-internet-safety-in-the-uk>.

<sup>5012</sup> Civil Society Strategy: Building a Future that Works for Everyone, Government of UK (London, England) 9 August 2018. Access Date: 16 October 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/civil-society-strategy-building-a-future-that-works-for-everyone>.

partners to develop innovative approaches to ensuring online safety and digital inclusion of its citizens.<sup>5013</sup>

On 29 August 2018, the UK government's Home Secretary, Sajid Javid, attended the two-day Five Country Ministerial meeting with counterparts from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United States. At this meeting, the five nations jointly released a statement outlining the expectations of the digital industry in identifying, countering and removing illicit and illegal content related to child abuse and terrorism.<sup>5014</sup>

On 30 August 2018, the UK government announced a new UK-Kenya Security Compact to reduce online child exploitation. The UK government has committed funding to build a new cyber centre in Nairobi to enable Kenyan authorities to access data on abuse provided by U.S. tech companies. The centre will allow Kenyan police to identify victims, investigate abuse and prosecute perpetrators.<sup>5015</sup>

On 17 September 2018, UK Home Secretary, Sajid Javid, announced the Government's commitment to ensuring the safety of children online. Javid called on a collaborative approach with tech companies to address child exploitation online. He noted that the Government plans to establish a working group with tech businesses and the advertising industry as the first step to responding and preventing further online child exploitation. He stated that the Government has already established a partnership with Microsoft and that they will jointly be holding a forum with U.S. industry experts in November to develop tools to address online child grooming. These tools will then be offered to other companies for free. Home Secretary Javid also announced that the Government will be investing an extra GBP21 million over the next 18 months towards law enforcement agencies to address child exploitation and violence online.<sup>5016</sup> He also announced the Government's commitment to providing a further GBP2.6 million to collaborate with child protection organizations in order to better understand offender behaviour as a means of prevention.<sup>5017</sup>

On 11 October 2018, the Women and Equalities Committee in the House of Commons released the report "Sexual Harassment of Women and Girls in Public Places."<sup>5018</sup> The report called on the UK government to acknowledge online spaces as being public places where women and girls experience sexual harassment.<sup>5019</sup> The report stated that the UK government should include actionable

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<sup>5013</sup> Civil Society Strategy: Building a Future that Works for Everyone, Government of UK (London, England) 9 August 2018. Access Date: 16 October 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/civil-society-strategy-building-a-future-that-works-for-everyone>.

<sup>5014</sup> Home Secretary attends Five Country Ministerial, Government of UK (London, England), 29 August 2018. Access Date: 16 October 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-attends-five-country-ministerial>.

<sup>5015</sup> New cyber unit to tackle child sex abuse in Kenya, Government of UK (London, England), 20 August 2018. Access Date: 16 October 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-cyber-unit-to-tackle-child-sex-abuse-in-kenya>.

<sup>5016</sup> Keeping our children safe, Government of UK (London, England) 3 September 2018. Access Date: 16 October 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-cyber-unit-to-tackle-child-sex-abuse-in-kenya>.

<sup>5017</sup> Keeping our children safe, Government of UK (London, England) 3 September 2018. Access Date: 16 October 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-cyber-unit-to-tackle-child-sex-abuse-in-kenya>.

<sup>5018</sup> Sexual Harassment of Women and Girls in Public Places, Women and Equalities Committee-House of Commons (London, England) 23 October 2018. Access Date: 6 December 2018.

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmwomeq/701/701.pdf>.

<sup>5019</sup> Sexual Harassment of Women and Girls in Public Places, Women and Equalities Committee-House of Commons (London, England) 23 October 2018. Access Date: 6 December 2018.

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmwomeq/701/701.pdf>.

approaches to mitigate online sexual harassment of women and girls in its forthcoming Internet Safety Strategy, which is set to be finalized by the end of 2018.<sup>5020</sup>

On 6 March 2019, the Home Office of the UK Government published its refreshed strategy on “Ending Violence Against Women and Girls, 2016-20.” The report outlines three measures to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based abuse, harassment and the threat of violence in digital contexts. First, the Home Office, in partnership with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) will develop a White Paper that provides recommendations for implementing legislation to mitigate online violence against women and girls (VAWG) to potentially generate a social-media specific code of conduct. Secondly, the UK Council for Internet Safety will work with online dating websites to raise awareness of violence against women and girls and to mitigate issues of ‘online flashing,’ as identified by the Women and Equalities Select Committee report on sexual harassment. Finally, the Home Office will undertake research to better understand the relationship between consuming pornography and attitudes to women and girls more broadly – both online and offline.

The United Kingdom has demonstrated a commitment to fostering awareness of violence in digital contexts, particularly in relation to children and youth. The government also appears eager to work with both domestic and international civil society organizations to address and prevent online violence. The UK has not, however, mobilized the international community to develop strategies to improve the prevention of and response to gender-based abuse, harassment and the threat of violence in digital contexts. It has yet to apply lessons learned from engaging with industry-government partnerships on emerging digital challenges.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of –1.

*Analyst: Nicole Winger*

### **United States: –1**

The United States has failed to comply with its commitment to mobilize the international community including through working with civil society to develop strategies to improve prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based abuse, harassment and the threat of violence in digital contexts and learn lessons from current models of industry-government collaboration on emerging digital challenges.

On 19 June 2018, United States Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley announced that the United States is pulling out of the Human Rights Council due to anti-Israeli bias and lack of punishment for human rights abusers.<sup>5021</sup> The global body addresses numerous human rights violations including violence against women.<sup>5022</sup>

On 26 July 2018, Bill H.R. 6545, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 1994 was introduced to Congress.<sup>5023</sup> The proposed bill revises previous iterations of the 1994 bill to include definitions of technological abuse and digital services, to expand the definition of domestic violence to consider technological abuse, and to generally incorporate the concept of sexual violence in digital

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<sup>5020</sup> Sexual Harassment of Women and Girls in Public Places, Women and Equalities Committee-House of Commons (London, England) 23 October 2018. Access Date: 6 December 2018.

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmwomeq/701/701.pdf>.

<sup>5021</sup> US leaving UN Human Rights Council -- ‘a cesspool of political bias’, CNN 20 June 2018. Access date: 18 October 2018. <https://www.cnn.com/2018/06/19/politics/haley-pompeo-human-rights-bias/index.html>.

<sup>5022</sup> US leaving UN Human Rights Council -- ‘a cesspool of political bias’, CNN 20 June 2018. Access date: 18 October 2018. <https://www.cnn.com/2018/06/19/politics/haley-pompeo-human-rights-bias/index.html>.

<sup>5023</sup> S.1 — Violence Against Women Act of 1993, Congress.gov (Washington, DC) 10 September 1993. Access date: 18 October 2018. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/103rd-congress/senate-bill/11/text/rs>

contexts.<sup>5024</sup> Additionally, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 1994 Amends Section 304 of the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 to extend the use of grant funds to combat violent crimes on campuses to include prevention and education programming regarding technological abuse. The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2018 is currently under review by Congress.<sup>5025</sup> The new bill would increase the Violence Against Women Act appropriations by approximately 50 percent.<sup>5026</sup> President Trump has extended the reauthorization deadline of the Violence Against Women Act under the stopgap spending bill to 7 December 2018.<sup>5027</sup>

The United States did not mobilize the international community or develop strategies to improve prevention of and response to gender-based abuse, harassment and the threat of violence in digital contexts and learn lessons from current models of industry-government collaboration on emerging digital challenges.

Thus, the United States receives a score of -1.

*Analyst: Alexandra Harvey*

### **European Union: 0**

The European Union has partially complied with its commitment to mobilize the international community including through working with civil society to develop strategies to improve prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based abuse, harassment and the threat of violence in digital contexts and learn lessons from current models of industry-government collaboration on emerging digital challenges.

On 19 June 2018, the European Commission organized the Digital4Her conference, where measures were launched to make the digital sector more accessible to women.<sup>5028</sup> One of such measures was the strategy for “Women in Digital.” This strategy includes a declaration that encourages companies to adopt a hands-on approach in closing the digital gender divide in skills, inception of technologies and access to career opportunities. Twenty information technology companies co-signed the declaration, committing to provide an inclusive and gender-balanced work culture and environment. The declaration is open to CEOs of interested companies for online signature at any time.<sup>5029</sup>

On 16 August 2018, the European Parliament published a study on cyber violence and online hate speech against women. This study assesses the root causes and impact of online violence on women

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<sup>5024</sup>S .1 — Violence Against Women Act of 1993, Congress.gov (Washington, DC) 10 September 1993. Access date: 18 October 2018. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/103rd-congress/senate-bill/11/text/rs>

<sup>5025</sup>S .1 — Violence Against Women Act of 1993, Congress.gov (Washington, DC) 10 September 1993. Access date: 18 October 2018. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/103rd-congress/senate-bill/11/text/rs>

<sup>5026</sup>S .1 — Violence Against Women Act of 1993, Congress.gov (Washington, DC) 10 September 1993. Access date: 18 October 2018. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/103rd-congress/senate-bill/11/text/rs>

<sup>5027</sup> [Correction] Violence Against Women Act Extension Included in Latest Spending Proposal, Roll Call (Washington, DC) 3 December 2018. Access Date 3 December 2018. <https://www.rollcall.com/news/politics/violence-women-act-lapse-latest-spending-proposal>.

<sup>5028</sup> Digital4Her, European Commission (Brussels) 19 June 2018. Access Date: 9 February 2018. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/digital4her>.

<sup>5029</sup> Digital4Her, European Commission (Brussels) 19 June 2018. Access Date: 9 February 2018. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/digital4her>.

by analysing and mapping the prevalence of victims and perpetrators. The document ends with an outline of the existing legal framework and recommendations for action within the EU remit.<sup>5030</sup>

On 6 September 2018, Digital Economy and Society Commissioner, Mariya Gabriel, announced the “Back2School” campaign, under the umbrella of the “#SaferInternet4EU campaign.”<sup>5031</sup> The “Back2School” campaign aims to make children, parents, and teachers more aware of opportunities and potential risks of the digital landscape by fostering awareness of online safety, media literacy and cyber hygiene.<sup>5032</sup> Topics of focus include cyberbullying, sexting, exposure to harmful or disturbing content, grooming, fake news and disinformation and privacy concerns in connected toys.<sup>5033</sup> This program operates through the EU’s Safer Internet Centres and under the Safer Internet Programme, both of which work in tandem to develop and disseminate preventive educational programming on the potential risks young people may encounter online.<sup>5034</sup>

On 11 October 2018, the European Institute for Gender Equality, an autonomous research body of the EU, released a report titled “Gender Equality and Youth: The Opportunities and Risks of Digitalisation.”<sup>5035</sup> The report was produced at the request of the Austrian Presidency.<sup>5036</sup> The report highlighted a number of policy recommendations including incorporating a gender perspective in the EU’s digital policies; collecting data in order to design gendered, digital policy measures and evaluate their effectiveness; and the legal recognition of cyberviolence as a form of gender-based violence and cybercrime by the EU.<sup>5037</sup> The report also called for supporting preventive efforts through law enforcement and awareness-raising campaigns.<sup>5038</sup>

On November 2018, the European Security and Defence College published a “Handbook on Cybersecurity,” where one chapter entitled “gender and cyberspace” addresses gender-related aspects, including sexual and gender-based violence in the digital domain. The handbook is distributed, read, and used both within and outside of the trainings in the European Security and Defence College.

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<sup>5030</sup> Cyber Violence and Hate Speech Online Against Women, European Parliament (Brussels) 16 August 2018. Access Date: 9 February 2019.

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2018/604979/IPOL\\_STU\(2018\)604979\\_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2018/604979/IPOL_STU(2018)604979_EN.pdf).

<sup>5031</sup> Back2School with the #SaferInternet4EU Campaign, Government of the U.K (London, England), 6 September 2018. Access Date: 16 October 2018. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/back2school-saferinternet4eu-campaign>.

<sup>5032</sup> Back2School with the #SaferInternet4EU Campaign, Government of the U.K (London, England), 6 September 2018. Access Date: 16 October 2018. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/back2school-saferinternet4eu-campaign>.

<sup>5033</sup> Back2School with the #SaferInternet4EU Campaign, Government of the U.K (London, England), 6 September 2018. Access Date: 16 October 2018. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/back2school-saferinternet4eu-campaign>.

<sup>5034</sup> Back2School with the #SaferInternet4EU Campaign, Government of the U.K (London, England), 6 September 2018. Access Date: 16 October 2018. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/back2school-saferinternet4eu-campaign>.

<sup>5035</sup> Gender Equality and Youth-The Opportunities and Risks of Digitalisation, European Institute for Gender Equality (Vilnius, Lithuania), 11 October 2018. Access Date: 16 October 2018. <https://eige.europa.eu/rdc/eige-publications/gender-equality-and-youth-opportunities-and-risks-digitalisation>.

<sup>5036</sup> Gender Equality and Youth-The Opportunities and Risks of Digitalisation, European Institute for Gender Equality (Vilnius, Lithuania), 11 October 2018. Access Date: 16 October 2018. <https://eige.europa.eu/rdc/eige-publications/gender-equality-and-youth-opportunities-and-risks-digitalisation>.

<sup>5037</sup> Gender Equality and Youth-The Opportunities and Risks of Digitalisation, European Institute for Gender Equality (Vilnius, Lithuania), 11 October 2018. Access Date: 16 October 2018. <https://eige.europa.eu/rdc/eige-publications/gender-equality-and-youth-opportunities-and-risks-digitalisation>.

<sup>5038</sup> Gender Equality and Youth-The Opportunities and Risks of Digitalisation, European Institute for Gender Equality (Vilnius, Lithuania), 11 October 2018. Access Date: 16 October 2018. <https://eige.europa.eu/rdc/eige-publications/gender-equality-and-youth-opportunities-and-risks-digitalisation>.

On 25 November 2018, the Commission marked the “International day to end violence against women” and the United Nations’ “16 days of activism” through a dedicated statement and social media distribution of communication materials. The Commission also organized an event on 4 December 2018 to take stock of EU actions on violence against women and bring together relevant stakeholders.<sup>5039</sup>

On 6 March 2019, Thomas Greminger, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Secretary General European Union External Action Service’s Principal Advisor on Gender, released a report on the physical, sexual and psychological violence faced by women and girls – both online and off – in South-Eastern and Eastern Europe.<sup>5040</sup> The report is based on a survey undertaken in 2018 in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Moldova and Ukraine.<sup>5041</sup> The survey aims to provide high-quality data to increase awareness and understanding on types of violence faced by women.<sup>5042</sup> The report calls on the governments of Member States to implement national legal frameworks that cover all forms of violence against women and girls, such as online violence, sexual harassment and psychological violence.<sup>5043</sup>

On 27 March 2019, the Committee of Ministers to EU Member States released a report outlining recommendations for preventing and combating sexism.<sup>5044</sup> The recommendations call on the governments of Member States to implement legislative measures that define and criminalize incidents of sexist hate speech on all forms of media — online and offline.<sup>5045</sup> The recommendations also call on Member States to develop preventative programs for children, young people, parents and educators on the sexist misuse of social media, and also generally on the safe and critical use of digital media. Lastly, the report calls on the governments of States to undertake ongoing studies to gather sex-and-age-disaggregated data on cybersexism and cyberviolence online.<sup>5046</sup>

The EU is addressing one of the two welfare targets through improving the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based abuse, harassment and the threat of violence in digital contexts.

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<sup>5039</sup> International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women: “Violence must stop now”, European Commission (Brussels) 25 November 2018. Access Date: 9 February 2019. [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/news/international-day-elimination-violence-against-women-violence-must-stop-now\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/news/international-day-elimination-violence-against-women-violence-must-stop-now_en).

<sup>5040</sup> New Survey Reveals Violence Against Women in South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 6 March 2019. Access Date: 05 June 2019. [https://ec.europa.eu/fpi/news/new-survey-reveals-violence-against-women\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/fpi/news/new-survey-reveals-violence-against-women_en).

<sup>5041</sup> New Survey Reveals Violence Against Women in South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 6 March 2019. Access Date: 05 June 2019. [https://ec.europa.eu/fpi/news/new-survey-reveals-violence-against-women\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/fpi/news/new-survey-reveals-violence-against-women_en).

<sup>5042</sup> New Survey Reveals Violence Against Women in South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 6 March 2019. Access Date: 05 June 2019. [https://ec.europa.eu/fpi/news/new-survey-reveals-violence-against-women\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/fpi/news/new-survey-reveals-violence-against-women_en).

<sup>5043</sup> New Survey Reveals Violence Against Women in South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 6 March 2019. Access Date: 05 June 2019. [https://ec.europa.eu/fpi/news/new-survey-reveals-violence-against-women\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/fpi/news/new-survey-reveals-violence-against-women_en).

<sup>5044</sup> Recommendation CM/REC(2019)1 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on Preventing and Combating Sexism, Council of Europe (Brussels) 27 March 2019. Access Date: 05 June 2019. <https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=090000168093b26a>.

<sup>5045</sup> Recommendation CM/REC(2019)1 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on Preventing and Combating Sexism, Council of Europe (Brussels) 27 March 2019. Access Date: 05 June 2019. <https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=090000168093b26a>.

<sup>5046</sup> Recommendation CM/REC(2019)1 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on Preventing and Combating Sexism, Council of Europe (Brussels) 27 March 2019. Access Date: 05 June 2019. <https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=090000168093b26a>.

However, the EU has not yet fully mobilized the international community, including through working with civil society, to build such strategies.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of 0.

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