Hate Aid

UNDER ATTACK & ABANDONED

How digital violence affects political engagement and how we can fix it

28 October 2026,
Parliamentarians for Global Action

Under Atttack Abandoned

Agenda

Introducing HateAid

How digital violence affects political engagement

Safe to engage: How to fix the problem









HateAid gGmbH

At a glance

Founding year:

2018

Office locations:

- Berlin, Germany
- Brussels, Belgium

Staff:

- 53 employees (34 FTE)
- across 6 teams, e.g., Consultation, Law & Politics, Marketing & Communications

Executive Management:

Anna-Lena von Hodenberg & Josephine Ballon

Introducing HateAid

Empowering those affected

- We offer **counselling for people affected** by digital violence with more than 9,000 clients so far
- We provide **litigation financing**, supporting civil and/or criminal legal action for 355 clients so far
- We organise **awareness campaigns & trainings** for third parties, e.g., law enforcement agencies

Developing solutions for a digital future

- We propose **legal amendments** and provide expert opinions on legislative initiatives
- We pursue **strategic litigation** in areas of legal uncertainty relevant to our mission
- We connect with academia , researchers and other experts to create visions for safer digital spaces

Making digital violence visible

- We conduct **campaigns**, as well as **PR and media work** on the topic of digital violence
- We **advocate and lobby** both in Germany and at EU level

Violence against women in politics

How digital violence affects political engagement

25%

Increase in **digital violence** against women compared to the previous year.

45 %

of these can be classified as **right-wing extremist and right-wing radical**.

62,3 %

Increase in the number of **politically motivated crimes** with a misogynistic background in 2023.





Bundeskriminalamt (BKA) & Forschungsverbund MOTRA (2025): Kommunales Monitoring – Gewalt und Anfeindungen gegen kommunale Amts- und Mandatsträger

Harms are part of the business model



Meta

This has implications for our democracy

How digital violence affects political engagement

58%

… of those involved in politics report being affected by **digital violence due to their political engagement.**

66%

...of the women and 53% of men affected by digital violence **adjusted their tone and content, considered reducing their public appearances or even taking time off work.**

22%

… of the women and 10% of men affected by digital violence **considered a complete withdrawal from political work**.

Study by Technical University of Munich, mixed method design

Quantitative online survey
Data collection: April 27 - October 21, 2024. Sample: 1,114 politically active individuals across Germany (51% female, 49% male).

Qualitative in-depth interviews
Data collection: July 2 - August 26, 2024; Ø duration: 40 minutes. Sample: 12 affected politically engaged women, from different regions, with a diverse range of experiences.

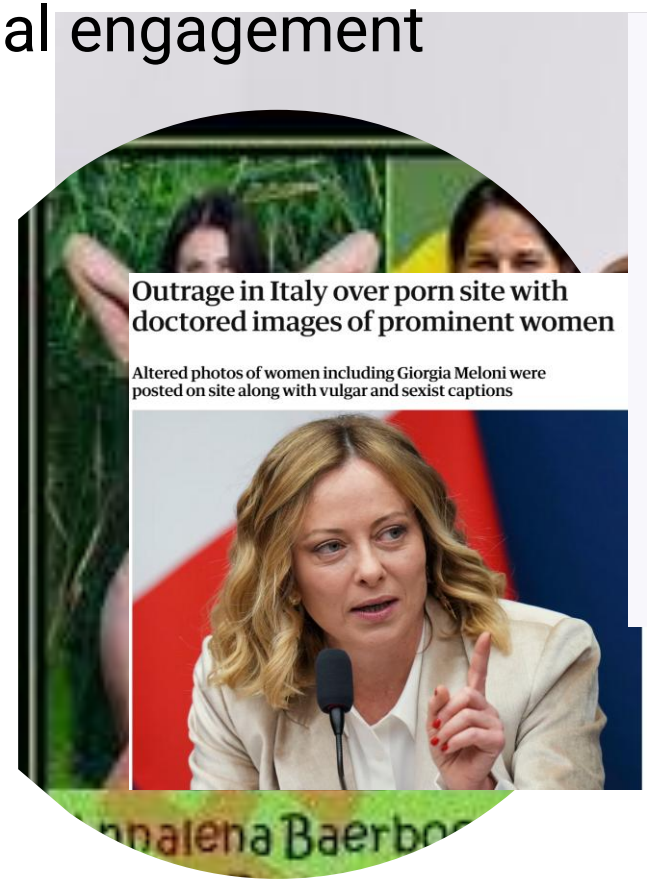
Source: HateAid, Koch, L., Voggenreiter, A., Steinert, J.I. (2025): Under attack & abandoned: How digital violence affects political engagement. A situation report.

Attacked & Abandoned

How digital violence affects political engagement

25%

... of affected female politicians say, they are afraid that **fake nude photos or intimate images** of them could be published online without their consent.

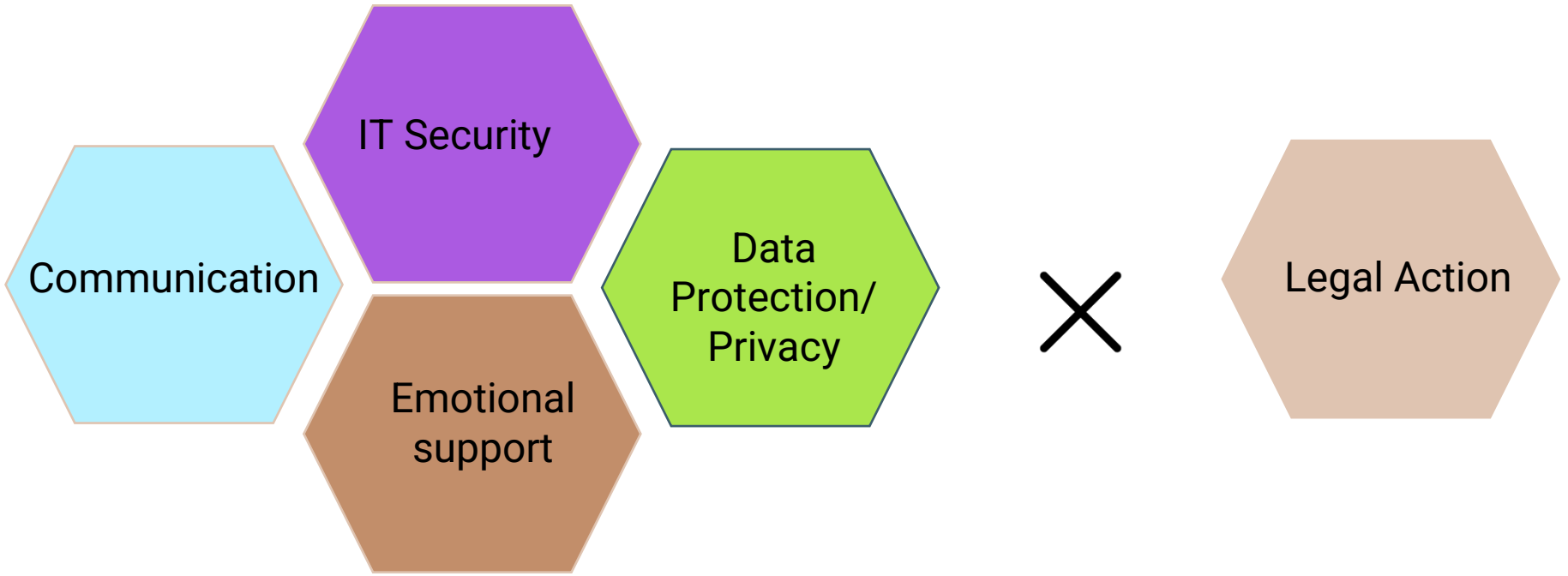




Source: HateAid, Koch, L., Voggenreiter, A., Steinert, J.I. (2025): Under attack & abandoned: How digital violence affects political engagement. A situation report.

What people affected need

Safe to engage: How to fix the problem



Regardless of whether it is illegal hate speech or legal hate speech

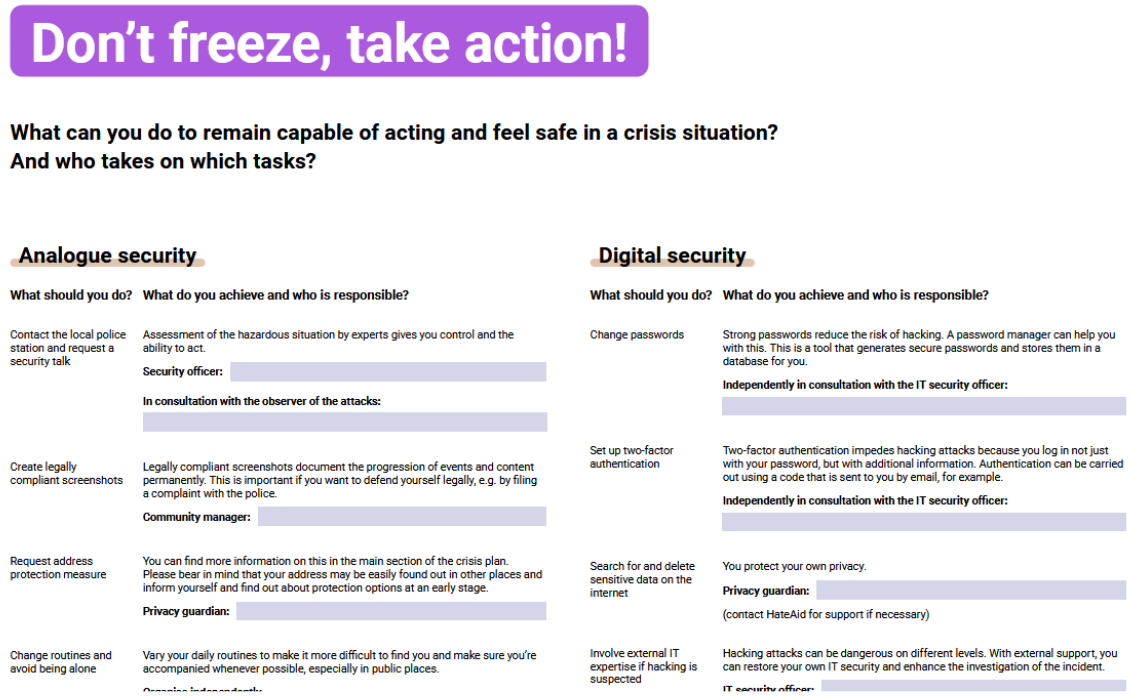
If it is illegal hate speech (additional)

What people affected need

Safe to engage: How to fix the problem



Link to crisis plan



Link to poster

Safe to engage: How to fix the problem

Our demands based on the study Under Attack & Abandoned

1 **To the chairpersons of the parties:**

Internal party contact point for those affected. With resources to support e.g. report content & secure evidence

Proactively protect candidates. E.g. Preventative measures, moderation resources

2 **To law enforcement & the judiciary:**

Consistent & fast criminal prosecution. Classify as a societal issue not private problem

Inform on the outcome of proceedings. Currently only when dismissed or upon request

Clear points of contact

3 **To social media platforms, regulators & European legislators:**

Enforcement of EU digital legislation: user-friendly reporting channels

Simplify obtaining legally admissible screenshots

Platforms should cooperate with law enforcement

Hate Aid

Thank you!

Feel free to get in touch!

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