SUPERRR

Digital Violence: what is it, and what can we do about it?

ZARA RAHMAN

zara@superrr.net

- *WHO IS SUPERRR?*
- *WHAT IS DIGITAL VIOLENCE*
- *AREAS OF TENSION*
- *WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT*

OUR MISSION

We envision a world in which we collectively build societies and structures that enable people and planet to thrive, and in which technology serves collective well-being.



RRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR

WHAT IS DIGITAL VIOLENCE?

- It’s when you are attacked online because of your gender

WHAT IS DIGITAL VIOLENCE?

- It’s when you are attacked online because of your gender
- It’s when someone surveils or controls you with tech

WHAT IS DIGITAL VIOLENCE?

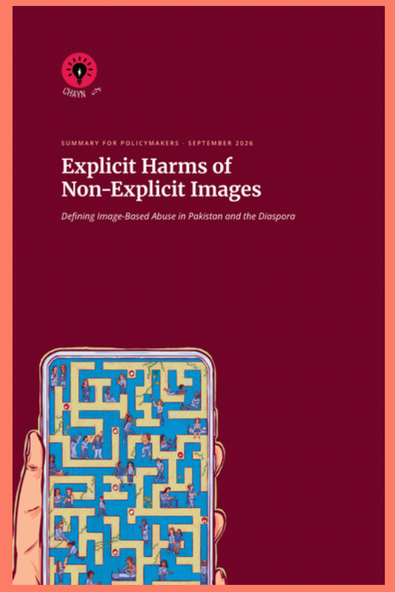
- It’s when you are attacked online because of your gender
- It’s when someone surveils or controls you with tech
- It’s unwanted sexual attention directed at you online

WHAT IS DIGITAL VIOLENCE?

- It’s when you are attacked online because of your gender
- It’s when someone surveils or controls you with tech
- It’s unwanted sexual attention directed at you online
- It’s harmful images that are amplified via the internet

Digital violence is context specific

“What makes an image harmful is not what it shows, but whether there was consent to share it.”



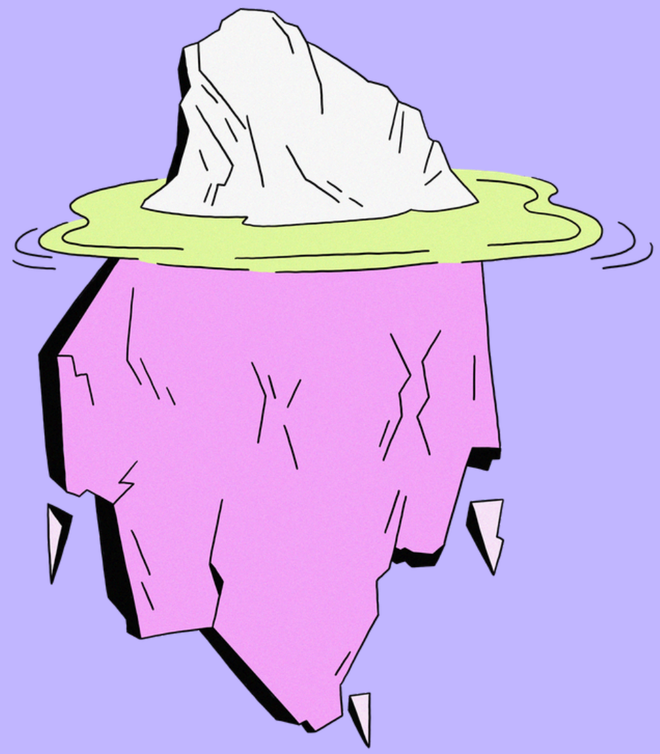
https://reports.chayn.co

How can digital violence be stopped?

- By addressing the **root causes**: misogyny, patriarchy, racism, homophobia.
- By **collaborating** across different spaces and movements
- By taking **preventative** (not only punitive) approaches
- By **listening** to survivors

Areas of tension

- Developing new laws, vs. enforcing existing ones
- How much digital violence actually exists?
- Who defines what is a ‘harmful’ image?
- The role of technical solutions
- Children committing cybercrimes



What do survivors want?

- Justice doesn’t always mean punishment
- Alternative approaches:
    - Directly confronting their attacker(s) face to face
    - Understanding why they did what they did
- Working together to deter others (restorative justice)

What you can do

- Understand what constitutes ‘harmful images’ in **your context** by listening to survivors
- Review existing laws and work on **enforcement**
- **Create survivor-centred** reporting pathways
- Support **trauma-informed approaches** to digital violence
- **Hold tech platforms accountable** for their role:
    - introduce penalties for companies that fail to remove unlawful content

Inspirations

- Preventative projects like **Troubled Desire**, aiming to reach potential perpetrators and redirect their attention.
- **Mediation** after online abuse in Finland
- **Restorative conference** after non-consensual image sharing in the US
- Image rights and **consent-based protections** in France and Denmark

Thank you!

zara@superrr.net