



## What is VAW – Violence Against Women?

VAW refers to any act or a series of acts committed by any person against a woman who is his wife, former wife, or against a woman with whom the person has or had a sexual or dating relationship, or with whom he has a common child, or against her child whether legitimate or illegitimate, within or without the family abode, which result in or is likely to result in physical, sexual, psychological harm or suffering, or economic abuse including threats of such acts, battery, assault, coercion, harassment or arbitrary deprivation of liberty.

## What is ICT – Information Communication Technology?

Technology and tools that people use to share, distribute, gather information; and to communicate with one another, one on one, or in groups. The three converged categories are (1) Information Technologies such as computers, (2) Telecommunications technologies like telephones and TV/radio broadcasting and (3) Networking technologies - most famously, the internet, also extending to mobile phone technology, VoIP, satellite communications, and other emergent platforms and applications.

## What is eVAW – electronic Violence Against Women?

A VAW (Violence Against Women) committed and perpetrated in the new spaces or arenas made available in the development of ICTs or VAW that is embedded in, mediated by or facilitated through ICTs.

They use ICT to track and harass women, young women and girls, causing emotional distress and fear for their personal safety. The acts include transmitting threats or false accusations through blogs, in chat rooms, or via mobile phones. Electronic violence also include sending repeated and unwanted communications with sexual undertones, stealing identity or data and spying and monitoring their computer and internet use without permission. Sometime, these violence escalate into reality and can seriously impair one's capacity to participate and use ICT without apprehension or fear.

## Emerging forms of eVAW

1. Unauthorised recording, reproduction and distribution of videos and images. Sex videos and compromising images of couples proliferate online and offline for various purposes. Many popular personalities are victims but even private individuals are not spared from these malicious and unacceptable practices that often target and affect women from different walks of life.

New tools and gadgets allow clandestine, fast, hassle-free, and inexpensive sharing of these recorded acts (authorised or not) for different reasons, such as harassment, to humiliate and scandalise particular women (or men), or for commercial purposes (i.e., the lucrative trade in sex videos). Because of these, women's privacy is often violated and exploited by perpetrators and viewers alike.

2. Cyber/Mobile Harassment. The following is a typical story that can be found in today's news: a relationship goes bad, and the couple breaks up; however, this is not where it ends as the woman's ex-boyfriend uploads their intimate photos or videos on Facebook to take revenge and humiliate the woman for leaving him. Similar issues abound with women being threatened that intimate and compromising images of them will be uploaded, shared over the office network, or circulated through mobile phones; or a woman forced to do things she does not want, or a woman being publicly humiliated. In the same way, lesbians, gays bisexuals and transgenders often face homophobic attacks from individuals ridiculing and shaming them in various spaces online.



3. Cyber Stalking. The fast, stalking would require physically following a woman to see what she does and where she goes, new technologies have made stalking easier and more prevalent.

