



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



SDC
GENDER
NETWORK

We will begin shortly

Online Violence Against Women in Public/Political Participation

Welcome!

Webinar Event #2

Wednesday March 22, 2023 / 11h00-13h00

Welcome

- According to the latest [Global Gender Gap Report 2022](#), with compounding crises, the risk of global gender parity backsliding further intensifies.
- This includes evidenced increases in gender-based violence, and the most persistent and widest gender gap which remains women's political empowerment at 78% (compared to health and survival which is at 4.2% gap to bridge)
- The most recent Commission on the Status of Women ([CSW67](#)) session focused on gender equality in the digital age, acknowledging the opportunities of digital solutions and the very real risk of digital harms impacting progress toward gender equality, including exacerbating gender divides and online gender-based violence in all its forms.
- This webinar is the second of a **mini-series** of three, about ***Violence against women engaged in politics and the public space.***

For this second webinar, we will be joined by **Regina Waugh**, who is the Senior Global Gender Advisor at **IFES**. (International Foundation for Electoral Systems)

She will share insights and experienced based preventive and responsive strategies at different levels, to counteract online violence against women, considering, or already participating in public and/or political spaces.



Corinne Huser

INTRODUCTIONS

	#	WHO	NAME	ROLE
HOST	1		Corinne Huser	Senior Gender Equality Policy Advisor, PGE section SDC
SPECIAL GUEST	2		Regina Waugh	Senior Global Gender Advisor, IFES Inputs
BACKSTOPPER	3		Agnieszka Kroskowska	Gender and Social Equity Coordinator, Senior Advisor Voice, Inclusion & Cohesion, HELVETAS Moderation

TECHNICAL GUIDANCE



Please keep **your microphone** muted to avoid background noise interference; open it if/when it is your turn to speak.



Feel free to turn **your camera** on if connectivity allows for it; and if/when you are speaking. Otherwise, you can turn it off.



If you experience **connectivity problems**, leave the meeting and join again. You can also close all unnecessary applications which are web based.



For the **Q&A Sessions**

- You can use the chat

or

- Raise your hand, and when called upon, open your mic to speak



Code of conduct:

- [Chatham House rule](#)
- Safe and respectful space



Corinne Huser

Purpose

1. To value and complement cumulative experiences to date, and foster learning and practice-based innovation for **addressing online VAWP in increasingly complex contexts.**
2. To explore **different levels of online VAWP and options for addressing it** practically and strategically throughout the 'electoral cycle' e.g., pre, during, and post public/political participation of women.
3. To share **Do No Harm good practices** for mitigating and responding to online VAWP, for adaptation and adoption throughout the project cycle.
4. To identify learning and practice **priorities to take forward**



Corinne Huser

AGENDA

#	Timing +/-	Topic	Responsible
0	11h00	Welcome, Introductions, General information (10')	Corinne, SDC
1	11h10	Objectives and Framing (10')	Corinne, SDC
2	11h20	Agenda (5')	Agnieszka, HELVETAS
3	11h25	Game/quiz (15')	Agnieszka, HELVETAS
4	11h40	Addressing Online VAWP (45') including Q&A	Regina, IFES Moderator: Agnieszka, HELVETAS
5	12h25	Interactive Reflection with Participants (30')	All Moderator: Agnieszka, HELVETAS
6	12h55	Conclusions and closing (5')	Corinne, SDC



Agnieszka Kroskowska

What is Violence Against Women in Elections?

Support Women to
Take on Leadership
Roles in Politics



Prevent Gender-
based Violence in
Elections



“IFES believes that violence against women in elections (VAWE) is a threat to the integrity of the electoral process and to the quality of democracy because it coercively excludes women from having a voice in the political life and governance of their country.

VAWE is a violation of political and human rights and frequently also a criminal or civil code violation that harms voters, candidates, election officials, activists and security and political professionals worldwide, occurring both online and offline.”

<https://www.ifes.org/programs-initiatives/violence-against-women-elections>



With special guest



Regina Waugh, IFES

Introduction to IFES

IFES - International Foundation for Electoral Systems

- Our mission: Together we build resilient democracies that deliver for all
 - Elections expertise, but also programming and thought leadership on all the necessary elements (well before, during, and after elections) that are necessary to democratic governance



Regina Waugh – Senior Global Gender Advisor

- IFES gender lead: focus on women's empowerment, gender equality, and advancing the human rights of LGBTQI+ persons
- The Gender team's goal: Women, men and people of all gender identities are equal in their families, workplaces, communities and governments.



With special guest



Regina Waugh, IFES

TFGBV and Women's Political Participation

- In the first session, you discussed technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) as a more general phenomenon.
 - "An act of violence perpetrated by one or more individuals that is committed, assisted, aggravated and amplified in part or fully by the use of information and communication technologies or digital media, against a person on the basis of their gender."
- TFGBV is a specific form of Violence Against Women in Politics (VAWP)
 - Women in politics and other prominent women leaders (including in civil society/activists/journalists) are often targets of this violence with the specific goal of silencing them and driving them from public life.
 - According to research conducted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union with 55 women parliamentarians across 39 countries, **41.8 percent** of participants reported that they had seen "extremely humiliating or sexually charged images of [themselves] spread through social media."
 - This violence online is not only psychologically harmful; it can be a precursor to physical violence



With special guest



Regina Waugh, IFES

How can we combat TFGBV against women in politics and public life?

We work to address TFGBV **across three levels:**

- **Individual** – how can we prepare individuals to keep themselves safe online, to take actions to combat TFGBV against themselves and others, and to understand how to use the internet as a tool for advocacy
- **Institutional** – we look at the entities, practices, laws, regulations that address/fail to address TFGBV online, and enforce prohibitions/ensure accountability
- **Socio-cultural** – programming to address the drivers of violence against women generally and violence against women in politics specifically, both online and off



How do we engage the full range of stakeholders in these efforts?



With special guest



Regina Waugh, IFES

How can we combat TFGBV against women in politics and public life?

Let's think about the ways that TFGBV can **impact the electoral cycle**:

- **Pre-election** (including candidate nomination, campaigning, etc.)
 - *Online threats against potential women candidates can keep women from seeking nomination*
 - *Those who do move forward may avoid campaigning online or may self-censor*
 - *Doxing and other violence can keep women from feeling safe at home, needing to devote resources to security in order to campaign*
- **Election Day** (women as voters, candidates, and elected officials)
 - *Advertisements, disinformation, and hate speech/threats online may keep women from exercising their political rights on election day*
 - *How are elections officials prepared to address violence and disinformation taking place online?*
- **Post-election** (women as elected representatives & women's access to electoral justice)



With special guest



Regina Waugh, IFES

Plenary Participation



With special guest



Regina Waugh, IFES

Q&A

10'min



Chat Participation



Moderator



Agnieszka Kroskowska

How can we combat TFGBV against women in politics and public life?

- Addressing TFGBV might be the entire focus of the program or may be an element that we include as part of gender mainstreaming across our work.
- Either way we must be prepared to address across all stages of the program design and implementation process.
 - **planning and design** – we talked about addressing at individual, institutional, socio—cultural levels
 - **implementation** – programming while keeping participants safe
 - **monitoring and evaluation** – how to measure our impact in combatting TFGBV and success in providing tools and training to increase skills and resilience



With special guest



Regina Waugh, IFES

Do No Harm

- Do No Harm/Safeguarding principles apply in all of our work
- When working with women leaders to increase their engagement online, we provide:
 - Digital safety training
 - Safety hardware as needed
 - Online engagement training
 - Resilience training
 - Psycho-social support



With special guest



Regina Waugh, IFES

IFES' work to address TFGBV

She Leads & Allies for Equality

- Stats on She leads – 7,500 women trained, across 8 countries
- Allies for Equality – to engage men in the fight for gender equality, including being an ally online

First She Leads Asia Regional Conference

- Focus was on digital advocacy strategies to combat hate speech and disinformation
- With increasing online engagement comes the increased risk of TFGBV
 - Providing skills building on how to develop a successful digital advocacy campaign on addressing hate speech/disinformation/online violence
 - Make sure they are aware of the risks associated with this type of advocacy
 - Prepared to protect themselves, speak up for others
 - Engage allies to be upstanders



With special guest



Regina Waugh, IFES

Plenary Participation



With special guest



Regina Waugh, IFES



Q&A

10'min

Chat Participation



Moderator



Agnieszka Kroskowska

Interactive Reflection

- Take a few minutes to reflect on **the 3 levels of strategic intervention for change:** individual, institutional and social-cultural ([Slide 11](#)) and **the pre-during and post candidacy cycle** ([Slide 12](#))
- Go to www.menti.com and input the following code 1947 8417 or scan this QR code.
- Follow the instructions to share your key insights from your reflection.



Agnieszka Kroskowska

Interactive Reflection

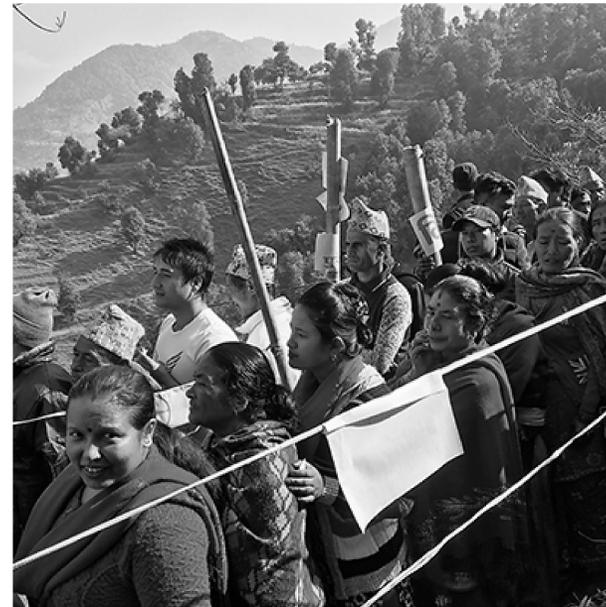
- We briefly talked about **Do No Harm** ([Slide 15](#))
- Reflect on what are key **Do No Harm actions related to online VAWP**, which you could integrate in the **design, implementation and/or monitoring** of your current or future project.
- Go to www.menti.com and input the following code 48 14 46 3 or scan this QR code.
- Follow the instructions to share your key insights from your reflection.



Agnieszka Kroskowska

Interactive Reflection

- Take a few minutes to reflect on integrating online VAWP in a current or future project. ([Slide 14](#)) Do you foresee any **challenges or bottlenecks**?
- Go to www.menti.com and input the following code 6634 2459 or scan this QR code.
- Follow the instructions to share your key insights from your reflection.



Agnieszka Kroskowska

Wrap Up and Closing

- Do you have other key takeaways or remaining open questions? (Share in the Chat)
- Considering the broader theme of gender-based violence and women's representation in the public and political spheres, we will organize **one more webinar**, between May and June.
- We will focus on gender, sexism and violence in the Media.
- You can find the resources and information from this mini webinar series here:
<https://www.shareweb.ch/site/PGE/PGE/Pages/Activities/Learning%20journeys/Gender/Violence-against-women-engaged-in-the-political-and-public-sphere.aspx>



Corinne Huser



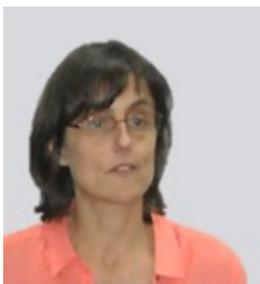
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Corinne



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Agnieszka

THANK YOU!