Call to Action: Addressing Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TF GBV) in Mongolia

Ulaanbaatar, 2 December 2024

In alignment with the 16 Days of Activism against GBV, UNFPA and The Asia Foundation in collaboration with Government of Mongolia, Member of Parliament, Mongolian civil society, diplomatic missions, and development partners promote high-level policy dialogue on addressing the TF GBV. In advance of the session, The Asia Foundation has collaborated with the National Center Against Violence NGO, the National Human Rights Commission and Mongolian civil society organizations, networks, and activists, including, MONFEMNET National Network,

LGBT Centre Mongolia, Beautiful Hearts Against Sexual Violence NGO, and Youth Lead NGO, as well as the National Committee on Gender Equality, to review the [Global Call to Action to Address Technology-facilitated Gender-based Violence](#) and adapt it to the Mongolian context. The Mongolian Call to Action has now been finalized and socialized with key stakeholders, ensuring a unified commitment to impactful action on TF GBV. Technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TF GBV) is not a new phenomenon. Yet, efforts to prevent and respond to this human rights violation are relatively recent, with significant gaps in research, policy, and interventions. Unlike other forms of GBV, online abuse is increasingly widespread, complex, and dynamic which allows perpetrators to act with impunity and compromises civic engagement in the digital space.

In Mongolia, TFGBV is an urgent and growing issue impacting the safety and well-being of individuals online. Despite being a member of the Freedom Online Coalition, the country's legal and institutional frameworks currently fall short of effectively protecting citizens from TF GBV. This call to action is built on a recent comprehensive study, identified priority areas to create safer digital spaces, support victims, and strengthen intersectoral collaboration to address this challenge.

Key areas for action:

1. **Strengthen Legislative and Governance Frameworks:** Mongolia's existing laws lack specific provisions to address TF GBV, hindering justice for victims and the collection of data on digital abuse. To address these gaps, we call on the government to strengthen legal frameworks by explicitly defining TF GBV offenses, adopting international conventions such as the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime, establishing a data collection mechanism, and conducting regular assessments to address emerging forms of TF GBV. These steps will build a stronger foundation for justice and victim support.

2. **Ensure TF GBV terminology aligns with international standards, enhancing clarity and enforceability:** To address TF GBV in Mongolia, clear terminology is essential. We urge the government and partners to formalize TF GBV terminology in line with international standards, ensuring clarity across legal and institutional frameworks. The refined terms, developed by TAF and the National Center Against Violence, will support more effective legal and policy implementation.

3. **Empower Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice:** An effective TF GBV response requires well-equipped and well-trained law enforcement. We recommend increasing resources for Mongolia's law enforcement, providing specialized training, and offering scholarships to build capacity in digital investigations to effectively address and prosecute TF GBV cases. Introducing and adopting international best practices in digital forensics will further enable law enforcement to hold perpetrators accountable and reduce recidivism.

4. **Comprehensive Victim Support:** TF GBV victims/survivors face significant barriers to access support, often experience revictimization due to inadequate resources and poor institutional capacity. To address this, we call for improving national capacity to provide victim-friendly services, particularly psychological support and accessible reporting tools. Furthermore, we recommend mapping national capacity to ensure damage claims can be supported with digital evidence and enhancing public awareness about accessing help by enabling pooled funding for CSOs and stakeholders.

5. **Promote Raising Societal Awareness and Preventative Education**: With limited public understanding of TF GBV and cybersecurity, many Mongolians remain at risk. TF GBV prevention must start with education. We advocate integrating TF GBV prevention into school curricula, expanding digital literacy programs, and promoting it as an essential part of Mongolia's education system. Our goal is for Mongolians to learn about safe online practices, recognize TF GBV, and take steps to prevent it. Public awareness campaigns will further strengthen these preventive efforts.

6. **Engage the Private Sector:** The private sector, including internet providers and social media platforms, must play a crucial role in combating TF GBV. We recommend conducting research on personal data security measures, developing protocols to support digital investigations, and providing training for internet providers on TF GBV prevention. We also call for strengthening partnerships between the private sector and law enforcement to combat TF GBV-related human rights violations. In this effort, the Communications Regulatory Commission (CRC) of Mongolia plays a critical role in facilitating partnerships to enhance accountability and support TF GBV prevention efforts.

7. **Engage Media's Role in Awareness and Education:** Media engagement is crucial to uphold human rights and ethical standards, ensuring protection of sensitive and personal data and amplifying widespread TF GBV awareness and driving collective action against it. Partnering with the Media Council of Mongolia, we call on media organizations to prioritize TF GBV as a critical issue by integrating TF GBV awareness, prevention, and digital safety into their platforms. This includes organizing a 'Media Hackathon' month to boost awareness and inspire innovative solutions.

8. **Advocate for Accessible Information for LGBTQI+ and Persons with Disabilities**: Many in these communities face unique barriers to report TF GBV. We advocate partnering with local organizations to ensure information on prevention and reporting is accessible and inclusive, accompanied by specialized education to address diverse needs.

9. **Support National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Initiatives on Cross-Sector Collaboration**: Intersectoral efforts are essential. At the recent 'Expanding Intersectoral Cooperation' meeting organized by TAF, over 50 professionals from government and civil society highlighted the need for coordinated action. The NHRC will address the importance of cross-sector collaboration and the need for action in the 24th Report on the State of Human Rights and Freedoms in Mongolia, which will be presented to Parliament in early 2025.

Your support can help amplify these efforts. Let us work together—across government, civil society, the private sector, and media—to build a safer, more inclusive digital space for everyone in Mongolia. Now is the time to act on these findings, protect our communities, and ensure technology enhances our lives rather than endangers them.

How to Get Involved

- **Sign the Petition**: Add your voice to demand stronger protections against TF GBV in Mongolia.
- **Share the Message**: Use social media to spread awareness using the hashtag *#MongoliaAgainstTFGBV* and encourage others to support this movement.
- **Support pooled funding**: Contribute to organizations providing resources and support initiatives under the Call to Action.