



Funded by the European Union's
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POW!ER

New European project on cyber violence launched

The number of internet users has surged over the past years, with more than one million people coming online each day. Since its establishment, the internet has become a very powerful platform that has transformed the way we communicate. With its global and rapid characteristic it has become an important and popular source of information and communication for millions of people around the world. The distinction between the online and offline world is becoming blurred. The internet is an essential element of our daily social and political life.

A development that has not come without negative side-effects: cyber violence! It is increasing and affects the internet usage. Women are 27 times more likely to be impacted by cyber violence than men, while online harassers are more likely to be men (61%). In the EU, 18% of women have experienced a form of serious internet violence since the age of 15. Women aged 18-24 are at heightened risk of cyber violence; Female user names receive more online threats than male usernames. Cyber Violence includes harassment, public shaming, and the threat of physical harm including sexual assaults, murders and induced suicides. The spread and establishment of it means, that more and more women and girls are being silenced and avoid using parts of the internet. It is a limitation of their political and social participation possibilities and therefore a violation of human rights, according to the United Nations General Assembly. This is an alarming development and is calling for effective responses.

As project *POW!ER* we aim to influence the sharpening of the public opinion and awareness by working with young multipliers. Young people have to be at the forefront of European answers and solutions. Empowered, they will be a main factor of change and positive development. It is crucial now to increase efforts to promote youth participation and commitment. Therefore *POW!ER* aims at:

Raising awareness about cyber violence against women and girls. As the cyber world is becoming an indispensable part of society, it is essential for women and girl's empowerment to ensure a safe environment. Silence is no longer an acceptable response and everyone has a voice. By providing workshops at schools





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and distributing information through diverse channels, *POW!ER* calls attention to a particular young audience.

Increasing knowledge about rights and protection of women and girls affected by cyber violence. It is inevitable that targets of cyber violence know their rights, how to exercise them and what to do when they are violated. Therefore, *POW!ER* informs youths about effective countermeasures and their legal rights and available support services.

Increasing engagement of youth in prevention of cyber violence against women and girls. We believe that youths should act as brokers, traders and advisors of knowledge. Furthermore, women and girls have to be involved as content creators and developers of solutions. By offering peer leader trainings and supporting young people to implement projects, *POW!ER* selected an empowering and participative approach.

Developing, testing and disseminating innovative methods for prevention of cyber violence against women and girls contribute to further research and future projects in the field of cyber violence. Moreover, cross-border cooperation ensures easy transferability of insights across Europe.

Support POW!ER by following our Social media channels and sharing our content!

For more Information visit our website www.project-power.eu

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