

Statement at the 62nd Session of the UN Human Rights Council

Item 3: Discrimination against women and girls

24/06/2026

Mme Chair,

Digital violence against women, and specifically women human rights defenders is a growing human rights concern in Kenya. In WHRDs, women journalists, and women in public life are increasingly subjected to online harassment, cyberstalking, gender-based hate speech, doxing, disinformation campaigns, and threats of sexual and physical violence aimed at silencing their participation in public affairs.

In Kenya, technology-facilitated violence has increasingly been used to intimidate and suppress activists and human rights defenders, according to Amnesty International Kenya. Online harassment is common across Kenya particularly in relation to women HRDs and young advocates talking about abortion rights, queer rights, and comprehensive sexuality education and has increased during and after the protests in 2023, 2024 and 2025.

These abuses undermine the rights to freedom of expression, privacy, security, and participation in public life, contribute to self-censorship, and restrict the work of women human rights defenders Kenya. Civil society organisations including Equality Now! warn that digital platforms play a central role in enabling online sexual exploitation and abuse, but are slow or inconsistent to respond to reports or remove content or supporting survivors, operating with limited accountability. Online sexual exploitation is rooted in broader patterns of gender inequality, poverty, unemployment and corruption. We urge the Government of Kenya to strengthen measures to prevent, investigate, and address online gender-based violence and ensure effective protection and remedies for survivors.

Thank you.