Gender-based hate speech in gaming and online communities

Online gaming and digital communities remain highly gendered spaces. Female gamers frequently report sexist insults, sexual harassment, and exclusionary behaviour. Studies show that over 70% of women gamers in the EU have experienced gender-based abuse.

Gaming platforms often lack effective moderation, and toxic cultures are sometimes dismissed as "part of the game." However, such environments reinforce harmful gender stereotypes and discourage female participation in digital innovation spaces.

EU-funded initiatives promote inclusive gaming cultures through awareness campaigns and industry partnerships. Encouraging diversity in game design teams has also proven effective.

Creating safer online communities requires cultural change alongside technical moderation tools.