

Intersectionality in online hate: When gender meets other forms of discrimination

Gender-based hate speech online often intersects with other forms of discrimination, creating compounded harm. Women who are migrants, ethnic minorities, disabled, or LGBTQI+ face significantly higher levels of online abuse.

The European Institute for Gender Equality reports that minority women are almost twice as likely to experience severe online harassment compared to women from majority groups. Attacks often combine sexism with racism or homophobia, intensifying psychological and social harm.

For example, Muslim women in several EU countries report coordinated online attacks targeting both gender and religious identity, particularly following political or media events. Similarly, trans women face extreme levels of hate speech, often escalating into threats of violence.

EU equality frameworks increasingly acknowledge intersectionality as essential for effective policy design. Collecting disaggregated data and supporting grassroots organisations working with vulnerable groups are key best practices.

Addressing gender-based hate speech without an intersectional lens risks leaving the most affected individuals unprotected.