

# OGBV REPORT

by LP Digital

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## INTRODUCTION

The Launchpad Tanzania has been executing multiple programs on digital rights, digital literacy, and digital skills for women and youth in various professions. However, we have noted the necessity of increasing the number of women who must be resilient online, which will, in turn, increase the number of active women online. In order to achieve this, it is imperative that we provide equal training to all stakeholders in the eco-system. A step closer to bridging the digital gap will be made as we increasingly conduct our lives online, i.e., working, socializing, and sharing information. Our digital rights, particularly the right to access the internet and stay online, are becoming more critical due to increased cyberbullying and harassment.

## TRAINING WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED

### 1. Digital Resilience, Safety, and security workshop training for women in human rights defense, politics, and journalism

This training focused on women with high social media presence who will later use the knowledge to navigate safely on digital platforms as they are the most targeted group for online gender-based violence. Through experience sharing, these women found common ground on how to protect themselves when using digital platforms but also how to resist attacks towards them.

The digital resilience training for women in politics highlights the need for targeted support to address online violence. Participants expressed a desire for more days to cover additional tools and skills. The training's duration was a challenge, but the high number of applications underscored the widespread demand. Recommendations include extending the training period to accommodate more trainees. The training has been successful, with women in politics seeking it, media creating tailored content, and human rights defenders incorporating new tools.





Full report: <https://drive.google.com/drive/search?q=report>

## 2. Mitandao Salama training for Tanzania Police forces' cybercrime unit

This training was essential for the cybercrime unit, as with the fast-changing digital activities, it was important that they too understood what digital rights are and the many forms of online gender-based violence. The training helped them understand the laws and policies in place but also how to mitigate the cases when they receive them, for example, not sharing the victim's images among themselves, not attacking the victim, but also making sure that they help the victim understand what the law says about the case at hand.



### 3. Training On Correct Reporting On Online Violence Against Women For Journalists

Journalists hold a majority of the most trusted voices in the community. If a case is wrongly reported or published, society will go with how they receive the news. Unfortunately, most cases are not reported correctly, and as a result, no justice is done for the victims of online gender-based violence. Online gender-based violence is as important as any other type of gender-based violence; this means that cases must be reported based on facts and not using a one-fits-all format for reporting.

The training initiative aimed to equip journalists with skills to report online gender-based violence, identify such violence in newsrooms, and create digital citizens. The outcomes included improved knowledge on reporting online violence against women, understanding gender-based violence, and creating digital ambassadors. Challenges included limited time, practice, and resource constraints. Recommendations include extending training to media houses and supporting it with digital campaigns to educate journalists and empower victims.



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## ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS EXECUTED

### 1. Safe Online Spaces

Spearheaded by the Women at Web regional project, the safe online spaces campaign was focused on East African women and how they deserved to be provided with a safe and reliable environment when using digital platforms.

#MitandaoSalama | #SafeSpacesTZ | #SafeSpacesEA | #WomenAtWeb.

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**#MitandaoSalama | #SafeSpacesEA** **#WomenAtWebTZ | #WomenAtWeb.**

**We already have  
#CyberCrime  
Laws & Regulations  
that govern the  
#OnlineSpace**

however these laws and regulations are silent when it comes to the **#OnlineGenderBasedViolence** cases. There are lots of cases where young women are harassed and abused some even lose their lives.

**#SOS\_EA #SafeSpacesEA #MitandaoSalama**

Logos: Women at Web, DW Akademie, German Cooperation, PLAN International, UN Women, Embassy of Sweden, her initiative, ndotohub, Gender Equality, Global Fund, de.tanzania, dot.

## 2. Mitandao Salama Campaign

This campaign, like the Safe Online Spaces campaign, focused on providing Tanzanian women and young girls with information such as digital rights, digital citizenship, digital safety, and security so that they can fully participate on the online platform and be able to harness the opportunities that are present online.



## 3. Mtandao Katili Campaign

For the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, the Launchpad carried out a campaign that had a personalized aspect where it was a call for self assessment of how each digital citizen was responsible for creating a safe environment for other digital citizens. Many women face a violent environment when online, hence the need for the campaign to show how brutal it can be for them.



#### 4. Jeshi La Dada campaign

This campaign was launched in 2019 with the aim of encouraging young girls and women to be each other's keepers. With any online violence incidence, 13 young women, together with the mass of followers established on the Jeshi la Dada social media pages, would join forces to report and call out the perpetrator of the incident, protecting the victim if needed.

#### THE DIGITAL RIGHTS COALITION

To cement all the knowledge and information shared in the training workshops, the Launchpad initiated a Digital Rights Coalition together with Jamii Forums and 10 other NGOs and CSOs. One of the objectives of the coalition is to advocate for digital rights so as to ensure that youth and women have the right to participate on digital platforms and all the opportunities that exist.

#### THE ONLINE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE HELPLINE (LP DIGITAL HELPLINE)

The LP Digital Helpline was initiated in January 2023 to combat online gender-based violence (OGBV). Focusing on digital rights, safety, and literacy, particularly for women and youth, the helpline aims to provide psychological and legal help to anyone who is experiencing any kind of online violence. Most cases that we receive are based on online abuse, including misuse of the internet, distribution of intimate content, and digital defamation.

#### Cases received in 2023

In total, six cases were reported through the LP Digital Helpline.

Month	OGBV	Cybercrime	Reported case
January	0	6	0
February	1	4	0
March	2	8	1
April	1	4	0
May	0	4	1
June	1	11	2
July	0	6	0
August	0	5	0
September	4	7	1
October	1	5	1
November	0	8	0

**Challenges Faced:**

**Victims' Hesitation:** Victims feel embarrassed when reporting since there are no private chambers in police stations.

**Judgmental Attitudes:** Some police officers exhibit judgmental behavior, hindering OGBV case reporting.

**Ignorance of Consequences:** Victims are unaware of the potential legal consequences of creating explicit content.

**Fear of taking legal action:** Many cases are reported, but few victims agree to pursue legal action.

**Delayed response:** Many OGBV cases reported at the police station lack prompt feedback.

**Recommendations****Training for Police:**

Advocate for police training on handling OGBV cases with empathy and professionalism.

**Awareness Programs:**

Conduct awareness campaigns on legal consequences and victim rights.

**Confidential Reporting:**

Establish confidential reporting mechanisms to address embarrassment concerns.

**Follow-Up Procedures:**

Implement structured follow-up procedures for timely responses.

THANK YOU!