

Generation Equality Forum

Thematic Session: Media, the role of media in building a feminist agenda.

When it comes to equality between women and men in the news media, progress has virtually ground to a halt. According to the Global Media Monitoring Project 2015, the largest study on the portrayal, participation, and representation of women in the news media spanning 20 years and 114 countries, **only 24% of the people heard, read about, or seen in newspaper, television and radio news are women.** A glass ceiling also exists for women news reporters in newspapers bylines and newscast reports, **with 37% of stories reported by women as of 2015**, showing no change over the course of a decade.

Despite the democratizing promise of digital media, women's poor representation in traditional news media is also reflected in digital news, with women making up only **26% of the people in internet news stories and media news tweets.** **Only 4% of traditional news and digital news stories clearly challenge gender stereotypes.** **And only 6 of the 100 largest international media corporations in the world have women CEOs in 2017.** Among other factors, stereotypes, and the underrepresentation of women in the media play a significant role in shaping harmful attitudes of disrespect and violence towards women.

According to UNESCO's 2020 Global Survey on Online Violence against Women Journalists, **73% of women journalists have experienced online violence in the course of their work; 25% had received threats of physical violence; 18% had been threatened with sexual violence and 20% reported being attacked offline in connection with online violence they had experienced.** These dynamics are amplified in crisis and conflict settings. For example, although men make up most journalists reporting in conflict settings, as of 2015, **64% of women journalists killed worldwide died while working in conflict countries, as compared with 54% in the case of male journalists' deaths.** **Moreover, 70% of women killed in conflict settings were murdered (compared with 62% of men) and 53% of the perpetrators of murders of women in conflict settings enjoy full or partial impunity.** This makes reporting in conflict and crisis situations particularly dangerous for women and violence against journalists, male and female, remains un-prosecuted.

The session intended to question existing norms and rules; to explore the gap in regulatory mechanisms, particularly in respect of social media's cross border jurisdiction and role in shaping national public spheres; and to reinforce global to local mechanisms for promoting gender equality within the media and digital sectors and to tackle gender stereotypes in the media.

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