Lagos State Policy Framework on Technology-Facilitated Sexual and Gender-Based Violence



November, 2025

Lagos State Policy Framework on Technology-Facilitated Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

POLICY COMMITMENTS

"Technology must never be used to perpetuate Sexual and Gender-Based Violence or any crime for that matter. If SGBV goes online, justice will follow it there. As Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, I am committed to ensure the arrest and prosecution of offenders of any form of technology-facilitated SGBV.

Lawal Pedro, SAN
Hon. Attorney- General & Commissioner for Justice, Lagos State

"Technology-facilitated Sexual and Gender Based Violence deepens inequality, harms dignity, and undermines opportunity. Our commitment is to empower survivors with protection, support, and pathways to rebuild.
As Chairman House Committee on Women Affairs, Poverty Alleviation and Job Creation, I stand firmly behind this policy because safety is the first step to true empowerment."

Hon. (Dr.)Princess Omolara Oyekan -Olumegbon, Chairman, House Committee on Women Affairs, Poverty Alleviation and Job Creation.

"As the Honorable Commissioner for Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, I affirm our collective commitment to eliminating technology-facilitated SGBV. No society can claim progress while its digital spaces endanger the dignity and safety of women. We stand resolute in safeguarding every woman's right to protection, both online and offline."

Hon. Cecilia Bolaji Dada
Honourable Commissioner for Women Affairs & Poverty Alleviation

"In a digital age, our laws must be as strong as our values. No one should ever face violence, intimidation, or coercion through technology. We stand united with survivors, protecting their dignity, their rights and their hope.

As Chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary, Public Petitions, Human Rights and LASIEC, I pledge to champion policies that confront technology facilitated SGBV and ensure that justice is accessible to all."

Hon. Ladi Ajomale
Chairman, House Committee on Judiciary, Public Petitions, Human Rights, and LASIEC

POLICY COMMITMENTS

"Education should enlighten minds, not expose them to harm. We must teach students about technology-facilitated SGBV and digital safety.
As Commissioner for Basic & Secondary Education, I stand with learners, and I commit to empower them to stay safe online and offline, safeguarding against TFSGBV."

Hon. Tolani Alli- Balogun
Hon. Commissioner, Basic &Secondary Education

"As the Honourable Commissioner for Youth, I am committed to fostering a digital space where every young person feels safe, respected, and empowered. This policy underscores our collective responsibility to prevent and respond effectively to technology-facilitated Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. Together, we can build a future where dignity and safety are guaranteed for all, harnessing technology for positive change rather than harm."

Hon. Mobolaji Ogunlende
Hon. Commissioner, Ministry of Youth & Social Development

"A screen is not a shield for offenders. Technology-facilitated Sexual and Gender Based Violence is still violence, and we will protect survivors while pursuing perpetrators.
As the Commissioner of Police, Lagos State Police Command, I am committed to enforcing the law and ensuring justice, online and offline".

CP Olohundare Moshood Jimoh
Commissioner of Police
Lagos State Police Command

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The development and successful formulation of this policy on Technology-Facilitated Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (TF-SGBV) is the direct result of a dedicated and multi-sectoral collaboration.

We extend our profound gratitude to the numerous individuals and institutions whose expertise, commitment, and courage were essential in shaping this strategic response.

We must acknowledge the unwavering support and strategic vision of the Lagos State Government, whose institutional mandate provided the necessary foundation to prioritize digital safety and combat TF-SGBV.

Special appreciation is extended to the Executive Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Olushola Sanwo-Olu, the Lagos State House of Assembly, ably led by Rt. Honorable (Dr.) Mudashiru Obasa, the Lagos State Judiciary, ably led by The Hon. Justice Kazeem Alogba and the leadership of relevant Ministries, Justice, Health, Women, Youth, Technology and Education, for their steadfast commitment to allocating resources and ensuring this policy's feasibility.

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We recognize the invaluable contributions of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the Nigeria Police Force, Cybercrime Unit, whose expert insight ensured that the policy is grounded in addressing the needs of all vulnerable groups.

We express our sincere appreciation to the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption (RoLAC) Programme for its support, partnership, and commitment to strengthening justice-sector responses to emerging forms of SGBV, including TF-SGBV.

Appreciation is also extended to the Nigerian Communications Commission, Tech societal, representatives from other Technology Sectors and Internet Service Providers (ISPs), for their input.

I would like to appreciate the contributions of DSVA officers who worked on the Policy Framework: Ann Onyechefula, Yetunda Odekunle, Tomiwa Adeniran, Ayomide Ogunrinola, Damilola Segun, Kanyinsola Ajani, Zainab Alaka, Maryam Abdulkabir, Ifeoma Nwonu and by extension, the entire Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA) workforce, for continuously demonstrating exceptional diligence, particularly in handling sensitive data and coordinating survivor-centered consultations.

Above all, this document is a tribute to the resilience and courage of SGBV/TF-SGBV survivors and their families. Your experiences are the most powerful catalyst for change, and your voices form the moral core of this framework.

The absolute safety and dignity of every Lagos State resident, remains a non- negotiable goal.

FOREWORD

Lagos, the vibrant epicenter of Nigeria's economy and technological advancement, is defined by its energy, innovation, and rapid digital growth. Yet, with every step forward in technology, we must acknowledge the new frontiers of vulnerability that emerge.

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), already a profound challenge, has been amplified, weaponized, and accelerated by digital platforms, giving rise to the insidious threat of Technology-Facilitated SGBV (TFSGBV). TFSGBV is not an abstract threat; it is a direct assault on the dignity, safety, and participation of our citizens, particularly women and girls. It exploits the very tools we rely on for education, commerce, and connection, transforming them into instruments of harassment, exploitation, and trauma.

This policy, developed through rigorous consultation and a commitment to global best practices, represents the Lagos State Government's uncompromising commitment to safeguarding its citizens in both physical and digital spaces. It moves beyond traditional response frameworks to prioritize proactive digital literacy, specialized forensic capacity, and a unified, multi-sectoral approach centered on the survivor.

To the various Ministries, Agencies and Parastatals notably, the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Ministry of Youth and Social Development, Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology, Ministry of Education, the Health Sector, the Nigeria Police Force, Civil Society Organizations, and our technology partners: the successful implementation of this policy depends on our collective resolve.

Let this document stand as a solemn promise that Lagos State will not allow technology, designed to connect us, to be used to silence or harm the vulnerable among us. We are building a future where digital opportunity comes with guaranteed digital safety for everyone.

We must be relentless in prevention, swift in protection, and decisive in prosecution.

I urge all stakeholders to actively engage with and implement the strategies outlined herein, to ensure that Lagos remains a safe, empowering, and equitable digital environment for everyone.

Titilola Vivour-Adeniyi
Executive Secretary,
Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency
November, 2025

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Above all, this document is a tribute to the resilience and courage of SGBV/TFSGBV survivors and their families. Your experiences are the most powerful catalyst for change, and your voices form the moral core of this framework.

The absolute safety and dignity of every of Lagos State resident, remains a non-negotiable goal.

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BACKGROUND/ PROBLEM STATEMENT

The rapid growth of digital technology has transformed the social, economic, and cultural landscape of Lagos State. As Nigeria's commercial and technological hub, Lagos has one of the highest rates of internet and smartphone usage in the country. Social media, mobile applications, and digital platforms have become central to communication, education, business, and civic engagement. However, these same technologies have also created new avenues for violence, exploitation, and abuse, particularly against women, girls, men and boys.

Technology-Facilitated Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (TF-SGBV) refers to any act of gender-based violence that is committed, assisted, aggravated, or amplified through the use of digital technologies such as mobile phones, social media platforms, email, or other online tools. Common forms include cyberstalking, online sexual harassment, non-consensual sharing of intimate images, impersonation, digital blackmail, and the use of technology to threaten, coerce, or humiliate individuals based on gender.

In Lagos, incidents of TF-SGBV have become increasingly prevalent, reflecting global trends in online Gender-Based Violence. Women, girls, and persons with disabilities (PWDs) face disproportionate risks. Many survivors experience long-lasting psychological, social, and economic consequences, often compounded by the ease with which digital content can be shared, stored, and accessed indefinitely.

Despite the existence of national legal instruments such as the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act, 2015, and the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, etc.) Act, 2015, there remains a significant gap in addressing the intersection of Gender-Based Violence and Technology at the subnational level. The current legal and policy frameworks in Lagos do not provide specific mechanisms for preventing, identifying, reporting, or prosecuting technology-facilitated forms of SGBV. Survivors often face stigma, lack of awareness of their rights, and limited access to justice or psychosocial support.

Moreover, law enforcement and judicial institutions in Lagos often lack adequate training, resources, and coordination to respond effectively to TF-SGBV. Tech companies and digital platforms operating within the state also have varying levels of commitment and capacity to enforce safety standards or support victims of online abuse. This results in, inconsistent protection and enforcement practices that leave many victims unprotected and perpetrators unaccountable.

Research by academics in Lagos State as well as data from DSVA reveals that tech-facilitated sexual and gender-based violence (TF-SGBV), is on the increase.

Prior to the restructuring of the agency in September 2021, the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Team documented only a few cases specifically, 10 survivors who reported incidents of cyber harassment(release of nudes and publication of porn). Although such cases were received at the time, they were not as frequent as they are now. From 2022 to date, however, the Agency has recorded 134 cases, ranging from cyberstalking, revenge pornography, sextortion, among others, reflecting a significant increase in reportage."

BACKGROUND/ PROBLEM STATEMENT

In a sample of social media posts between January–September 2024, 66 instances of cyber-bullying, online harassment and misogynistic content directed at women were identified. For example: Facebook has 74.2 % of flagged content. X and Instagram each 12.1 %. The perpetrators were primarily male 60.6%.

These figures vary widely depending on how "TF-SGBV" is defined (harassment, image-based abuse, stalking, sextortion).

For example: A couple in Lagos were arrested by police for kidnapping an online vendor delivering goods in the Iyana-Ishashi area. They stripped the victim, took nude photographs, and demanded a ransom of N2 million, threatening to leak the images if she failed to pay.

The Nigeria Police Force National Cybercrime Centre arrested three men alleged to be handlers of a blog ("Gistlover blog") for cyber-stalking, blackmail and threat to life.

In Lagos, two women, a 22-year-old and a 25-year-old, were arraigned before an Ojo Magistrate's Court for allegedly obtaining money (N70,000) from a victim with the promise not to post her nude photo on social media.

Given the above, it is reasonable to infer that TF-SGBV prevalence in Lagos is substantial, 1 in 4 adult women or students, face digital abuse.

RATIONALE

The rapid expansion and persistence of Technology-Facilitated SGBV, erodes public trust in digital systems and deters full participation in online spaces.

Despite their frequency, these violations often go unreported or unaddressed due to weak legal and institutional mechanisms tailored to the digital space.

While Nigeria has general laws addressing cybercrime (e.g., the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, etc.) Act, 2015) and sexual offences (e.g., VAPP Act, 2015), these laws do not sufficiently cover the intersection of gender-based violence and technology.

Lagos, though a leader in subnational governance innovation, lacks a coordinated state-level policy addressing TF-SGBV specifically.

Women, girls, and Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), face disproportionate levels of online harassment and threats in Lagos.

These experiences often extend offline, resulting in physical harm, reputational damage, and psychological trauma.

Without a policy response, technology will become a tool for amplifying gender inequality rather than empowerment. Addressing TF-SGBV is therefore not only a matter of gender justice but also a prerequisite for safe, inclusive, and democratic digital ecosystems.

A State Policy-framework would reinforce the States' commitment to digital rights, online safety, and responsible innovation, which also aligns with Nigeria's National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy (2020–2030) and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure).

It would establish clear roles and responsibilities, capacity-building programs, and multi-sectoral coordination among government, CSOs, tech companies, and communities as well as institutionalize digital literacy and public sensitization campaigns to challenge harmful gender norms, encourage respectful online engagement, and educate citizens about their rights and responsibilities in digital spaces.

Lastly, it would safeguard citizens, especially women and girls, from emerging digital harms. Bridge legal gaps, strengthen institutional coordination, promote digital safety, and ensure Lagos continues to lead Nigeria in progressive, gender-responsive governance within the digital age.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

For clarity and consistency in application, this Policy Framework on Technology-Facilitated Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (TF-SGBV) adopts the following working definitions:

Term	Definition
Accountability	The obligation of governments, institutions, digital platforms, and individuals to take responsibility for their actions and omissions, particularly those that enable or fail to prevent TF-SGBV, and to provide effective remedies.
Artificial Intelligence (AI)	Systems designed to simulate human cognitive functions, used in the creation, moderation, or distribution of digital content, and frequently leveraged to generate deepfakes or facilitate algorithmic harm.
Cyberstalking	Persistent and unwanted surveillance, contact, or monitoring of a person's online or digital activities, often involving the use of ICT's (Information and Communication Technologies) to create a sense of fear or insecurity.
Deepfake	Digitally manipulated audio, video, or image content created using advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) techniques that realistically depicts individuals performing actions or speaking words they never did, frequently used for exploitation, harassment, or reputational harm.
Digital Justice	The equitable protection and realization of human rights within digital and online environments, ensuring non-discriminatory access to technology, protection from digital harms, and effective legal and technological remedies.
Digital Literacy	The ability to access, understand, create, and communicate safely, ethically, and responsibly using digital technologies, including critical awareness of online risks and digital safety practices.
Digital Platform	Any entity that provides online services, such as social media networks, messaging applications, search engines, online forums, or content-hosting services, which facilitates user interaction and content distribution.
Doxxing	The malicious publication or dissemination of private, identifying information (such as home addresses, private photographs, or family details) about an individual without consent, often with the intent to incite offline harassment, threats, or violence.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Term	Definition
Gendered Disinformation	The deliberate creation and circulation of false or misleading narratives and content targeted at individuals based on their gender, often intended to damage their reputation, silence their voices, or deter them from public participation.
Image-Based Abuse	A broad term encompassing non-consensual sharing of intimate images, the creation and distribution of deepfakes, and other forms of visual abuse where technology is used to create or disseminate harmful imagery of a person without their consent.
Intermediary Liability	The legal responsibility of digital platforms, social media companies, and internet service providers for unlawful or harmful user-generated content shared or hosted on their platforms.
Intersectionality	A conceptual framework that recognizes how multiple social identities (e.g., gender, race, class, disability) combine to create unique, compounded, and interdependent experiences of discrimination, vulnerability, and harm, including TF-SGBV.
Non-Consensual Sharing of Intimate Images (NCSII)	The distribution, publication, or threat to share private, sexual, or intimate images or videos of a person without their explicit and informed consent. This is the preferred terminology over "revenge porn."
Online Harassment	Repeated or targeted abusive behavior using digital means (e.g., insults, threats, slurs, humiliation) intended to intimidate, silence, or cause psychological harm to an individual.
Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)	Any harmful act perpetrated against a person's will that is based on socially ascribed gender differences, including sexual violence, harassment, exploitation, and abuse.
Sextortion	A form of sexual exploitation where a perpetrator coerces or blackmails a person into providing sexual images, videos, or performing sexual acts online by threatening to expose private information or images.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Term	Definition
Survivor-Centered Approach	A policy framework that ensures all responses (legal, medical, psychosocial) prioritize the human rights, safety, dignity, confidentiality, and informed consent of the person who experienced violence, empowering them in decision-making processes.
Technology-Facilitated Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (TF-SGBV)	Any act of gender-based harm or abuse that is committed, assisted, or aggravated through the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) or online platforms.
Trauma-Informed Care	An approach to service delivery that recognizes the prevalence of trauma and the impact it can have on a survivor's life, integrating knowledge about trauma into all policies, procedures, and practices.
Digital Citizenship Education	Educational programming that teaches individuals the norms of appropriate, responsible, and ethical behavior regarding technology use, encompassing digital safety, rights, responsibilities, and the promotion of a positive and inclusive online culture.
Transforming Gender Relations	A strategic approach in SGBV prevention that aims to shift the underlying power dynamics, social norms, and institutional practices that perpetuate gender inequality and violence, moving beyond simply accommodating women to actively challenging harmful patriarchal structures.

ABBREVATIONS

SDGs	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
SARCs	SEXUAL ASSAULT REFERRAL CENTRES
WAPA	MINISTRY OF WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION
MYSD	MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
ISPs	INTERNATIONAL STANDARD PRACTICES
SOP	STANDARD OPERATING SYSTEM
BPD	BUREAU OF PUBLIC DEFENDER
NGO	NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
PWDs	PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
SLAs	STANDARD LEARNING AGREEMENTS
NAPTIP	NATIONAL AGENCY FOR THE PROHIBITION OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
OSEA	ONLINE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND GROOMING
NPF	NIGERIA POLICE FORCE
TWG	TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP
KPIs	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
CSR	CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
M&E/MEA	MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND ACCOUNTABILITY
OC	OFFICER-IN-CHARGE
SCID	STATE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT
DSVA	LAGOS STATE DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGENCY
TFSGBV	TECHNOLOGY-FACILITATED SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
SGBV	SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
NCSII	NON-CONSENSUAL SHARING OF INTIMATE IMAGES
LASODA	LAGOS STATE OFFICE FOR DISABILITY AFFAIRS
MIST	MINISTRY OF INNOVATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
NCC	NIGERIAN COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
IBSA	IMAGE-BASED SEXUAL ABUSE
AU	AFRICAN UNION
UNDP	UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
ITU	INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

1.1

PURPOSE OF THE POLICY FRAMEWORK

The purpose of this Policy Framework on Technology-Facilitated Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (TFSGBV) is to provide a comprehensive, coordinated and rights-based approach to preventing, addressing, and possible elimination of all forms of Gender-Based Violence perpetrated, facilitated, or amplified through digital technologies.

The framework will serve as a strategic guide for government institutions, civil society organizations, technology companies, academia, and development partners to align efforts in protecting individuals, particularly women, girls, and Persons with Disabilities, from abuse and harm in digital environments.

By establishing clear policy directions, this framework is hoped to amplify prevention and response strategies, that ensures technology becomes a tool for empowerment rather than oppression.



1.2. Policy Vision, Goals, and Objectives



1.2.1 Vision Statement

A safe, inclusive, and equitable digital ecosystem where all individuals, regardless of gender, age, or ability, can participate freely, confidently while being protected from every form of Technology-Facilitated Sexual and Gender-Based.



1.2.2 Core Policy Goal Objectives

The overarching goal of this policy framework is to prevent, respond to, and ultimately eliminate Technology-Facilitated Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, through coordinated legal, institutional, and societal action.
To achieve this, the policy is guided by the following core objectives:

i. Prevention and Education

• Increase public awareness and digital literacy to recognize, prevent, and report TF-SGBV.
• Integrate education on online safety, gender equality, and responsible technology use in schools, workplaces, and community settings.

ii. Protection and Access to Justice

• Strengthen legal and regulatory frameworks to criminalize TF-SGBV and ensure prompt, survivor-centered justice.
• Enhance access to remedies, legal aid, and psychosocial support for survivors, with attention to privacy and confidentiality.

iii. Accountability and Governance

• Hold perpetrators, intermediaries, and digital platforms accountable for enabling or failing to prevent online harms.
• Establish clear institutional responsibilities and coordination mechanisms across law enforcement, judiciary, regulators, and civil society.

iv. Partnerships and Collaboration

• Promote multi-stakeholder partnerships between government, non-governmental organizations, technology companies, academia, local government/local council development areas and the media, to design and implement sustainable solutions.
• Strengthen regional and national cooperation to address cross-border digital crimes and information-sharing.

v. Data, Research, and Innovation

• Support data-driven policymaking through systematic research and collection of disaggregated data on TF-SGBV.
• Encourage ethical innovation and technology solutions that prioritize safety-by-design and gender inclusion.

vi. Empowerment and Inclusion

• Promote digital inclusion of women, girls, and Persons with Disabilities by addressing the digital gender divide.
• Empower survivors through economic, legal, and digital reintegration programs.

1.3 Guiding Principles

The TF-SGBV Policy Framework is guided by the following principles:

1. Human Rights and Gender Equality — Upholding the right to dignity, safety, privacy, and equality in digital and offline spaces.
2. Survivor-Centered Approach — Ensuring confidentiality, informed consent, and trauma-informed support for all survivors.
3. Accountability and Justice — Holding perpetrators, institutions, and platforms responsible for actions and omissions that enable TF-SGBV.
4. Collaboration and Multi-Stakeholder Engagement — Fostering coordinated action between government agencies, civil society, private sector, academia, and international partners.
5. Prevention through Education and Empowerment — Promoting digital literacy, ethical technology use, and gender-transformative education at all levels.
6. Evidence-Based and Data-Driven Decision-Making — Using reliable data, research, and monitoring to guide interventions and assess progress.
7. Technology for Good — Encouraging innovation, platform accountability, and digital safety tools that protect
   users and promote gender justice.

1.4 Scope and Application

This framework applies to all forms of Technology-Facilitated Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (TF-SGBV), perpetrated through digital devices, platforms, including but not limited to;

- Online harassment and cyberbullying based on gender or sexuality.
- Non-consensual sharing of intimate images (NCII), “revenge porn,” and deepfakes.
- Cyberstalking, digital monitoring, or location tracking by intimate partners.
- Sextortion, grooming, and online exploitation, including of minors.
- Doxxing, impersonation, or identity theft for the purpose of abuse or control.

It applies to:

- All individuals, institutions, and digital service providers within the State.
- Public and private educational institutions, media, workplaces, and online communities.
- Law enforcement agencies, justice institutions, and government ministries mandated to prevent and respond to Gender-Based Violence.

This policy also complements existing state and national instruments such as the Lagos State Child Right’s Law (2015), Lagos State Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency Law (2021), the Protection Against Domestic Violence Law (2007), the Criminal Law of Lagos State (2015), the Cybercrime (Prohibition, Prevention, etc.) Act (2015), the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act (2015), and Nigeria’s commitments under CEDAW, the Maputo Protocol, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) (1989), the United Nations General Comment No. 25 (2021) on children’s rights in relation to the digital environment, ITU Guidelines on Child Online Protection (2020), the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) (2006), and the Sustainable Development Goals.

2.0

EMERGENCE AND CONTEXT

The rapid growth of digital technology and internet connectivity has profoundly transformed patterns of social interaction, communication, and relationships. In Lagos State, as in many urban centers across the world, the digital revolution has enabled new forms of participation, expression, and empowerment, particularly through social media, online marketplaces, and mobile communication platforms. However, these same technologies have also created new spaces where violence, discrimination, and abuse can occur. Technology-Facilitated Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (TF-SGBV) has emerged as a troubling by-product of this digital transformation. It mirrors pre-existing gender inequalities and social hierarchies but operates through digital tools that amplify reach, anonymity, and harm. Understanding the emergence of TF-SGBV therefore requires situating it within broader social, cultural, and technological contexts that shape online behavior and power relations.

In Nigeria, TF-SGBV has escalated alongside the digital boom. Lagos, as the country's technology hub, has one of the highest internet penetration rates, estimated at over 60% of residents connected through smartphones.

Key contextual factors include:

- The COVID-19 pandemic, which intensified online interaction and exposed users to new digital risks.
- Rise of youth-driven digital culture, including dating apps, influencer communities, and group chats.
- Proliferation of inexpensive mobile data and smartphones, which increased exposure but not necessarily digital safety knowledge.
- Institutional response gaps, as many SGBV response systems are not yet digitally equipped to handle online evidence or reporting.

TF-SGBV thus sits at the intersection of gender inequality, digital inclusion, and cybercrime, requiring a coordinated response from justice, ICT, and social service sectors.



2.1 Definition of Technology-Facilitated SGBV

Technology-Facilitated Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (TF-SGBV) refers to acts of sexual, psychological, or physical harm perpetrated through the use of digital technologies, including mobile phones, the internet, and social media platforms. It encompasses behaviours intended to control, humiliate, threaten, or violate individuals based on their gender.

According to UN Women and other global bodies, TF-SGBV includes online harassment, cyberstalking, non-consensual image sharing, sexual extortion, and online hate speech targeting women, girls and PWDs. While traditional SGBV occurs in physical or interpersonal spaces, TF-SGBV extends such violence into digital environments, often with transnational reach, permanence of harm, and anonymity of perpetrators. The term thus bridges the domains of gender studies, criminology, and digital rights.

b. Common Platforms and Technologies Used for TF-SGBV
TF-SGBV is prevalent across various digital platforms, including:

- **Social Networking Platforms:** These are frequently used for harassment, image-based abuse (non-consensual sharing of intimate images), cyberstalking, and the malicious distribution of information. Examples: Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter), TikTok, Snapchat, etc.

- **Messaging and Communication Apps:** Used for unwanted messages, explicit content sharing, threats, harassment, and sextortion. Examples: WhatsApp, Telegram, SMS/Text Messaging, Email, Instant Messaging services, etc

- **Online Dating Platforms:** Can be used for harassment, impersonation, and to connect with victims for the purpose of abuse, including offline violence. Examples: Tinder, Bumble, etc

- **Video Broadcasting and Sharing Websites:** Used for sharing non-consensual intimate images or videos, including 'deepfakes' (manipulated explicit media) and to broadcast harassment.
  Examples: YouTube, etc

- **Online Gaming Sites and Forums:** Used for targeted harassment, hate speech, and bullying, often with gendered slurs.

- **Other Digital Tools and Devices:** These include technologies used for surveillance and tracking.
  Examples: Smartphones, GPS trackers, 'Smart' home devices (IoT devices), e.g., smart cameras or voice assistants (used for monitoring or control), email, websites, etc.

2.3. Forms and Manifestations of Technology-Facilitated SGBV

TF-SGBV manifests in diverse and evolving forms, reflecting how technology can amplify pre-existing gender inequalities and pattern of abuse. Understanding these forms is crucial for developing effective prevention, legal responses and survivor-centered support mechanisms.

2.3.a Online Harassment:
Online harassment refers to a range of abusive behaviours, including insults, threats, slurs, intimidation, and the spread of harmful content, that occur through digital platforms. Such behaviours are often aimed at controlling, silencing, or humiliating the victim. Women in public life, including journalists, activists, and politicians, are particularly vulnerable to orchestrated harassment campaigns.

Case scenario:
Several female journalists and social media influencers in Lagos have reported gendered online abuse following public commentary or advocacy work. For instance, women who speak on issues of feminism or gender rights frequently receive threats of rape, death, or public humiliation via X-Space, Facebook, Instagram, etc.

A Lagos-based woman reported that her estranged partner installed spyware on her smartphone to track her location and monitor communications. The perpetrator used the information to intimidate her and interfere with her employment.

In the national context, a 2022 report by Paradigm Initiative, highlighted that Nigerian women face disproportionate online abuse, particularly those in politics, media, and activism. Such harassment often discourages women's participation in public discourse.

2.3.b Non-Consensual Sharing of Intimate Images (Revenge Porn):
This form of abuse involves the distribution or publication of intimate, nude, or sexually explicit images or videos of a person without their consent. The perpetrator may be a current or former intimate partner, acquaintance, or anonymous actor.
The intent may be to humiliate, coerce, extort, or punish the victim, often described as "revenge porn," though this term is misleading as it implies motive rather than harm. The preferred terminology is "non-consensual intimate image abuse."
Consequences for survivors are severe, including reputational damage, psychological distress, and economic hardship. Legal and platform-based remedies remain inconsistent across jurisdictions, underscoring the need for harmonized laws and victim-centered redress mechanisms.

Case scenario:
In 2020, a university student in Lagos had her intimate photos leaked online by an ex-partner following a breakup. The images went viral on Twitter and WhatsApp, leading to public shaming and severe emotional distress. Despite public outcry, the lack of specialized digital investigation capacity slowed justice delivery.

Although the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, etc.) Act, 2015 criminalizes the non-consensual distribution of intimate images, enforcement has remained inconsistent across jurisdictions. Recent incidents, including several high-profile cases in 2021 and 2023, underscore the persistent misuse of social media platforms and pornography websites to perpetrate such violations.

This highlights the urgent need for stronger state-level enforcement mechanisms, digital literacy initiatives, and inter-agency coordination to effectively address technology-facilitated sexual exploitation within Lagos State.

2.3.c Online Sexual Exploitation and Grooming (OSEA)

Online sexual exploitation encompasses acts where perpetrators use digital technologies to coerce, deceive, or manipulate individuals, especially children and adolescents, into sexual activities, content creation, or trafficking. Grooming involves establishing emotional trust online with the intent to exploit.

This includes activities such as sextortion (blackmail involving sexual images), online enticement, live-streamed sexual abuse, and use of social media or gaming platforms for exploitation networks. Victims are often isolated and manipulated into compliance through deception, emotional pressure, or threats.

Prevention requires robust monitoring, child protection systems, and international collaboration between technology companies, law enforcement, and social services.

Case scenario:

The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) reported cases in Lagos where young girls were lured through Instagram and WhatsApp by individuals posing as talent scouts or job recruiters. Victims were later coerced into producing sexual content or meeting for exploitation.

In several Nigerian states, including Lagos, online grooming has become a tool for sexual exploitation and human trafficking, often targeting vulnerable youth seeking modeling or acting opportunities.

2.3.d Deepfakes, Image-Based Abuse, and AI Manipulations

Advances in artificial intelligence (AI) and deep learning have made it possible to create hyper-realistic synthetic media, commonly known as deepfakes, that depict individuals engaging in sexual or compromising acts they never consented to.

Such AI-enabled image-based abuse has emerged as a new and dangerous form of TF-SGBV, disproportionately affecting women, public figures, and activists. Deepfake pornography, in particular, weaponizes technology to sexually objectify and discredit victims.

Beyond sexual abuse, AI manipulation can be used to spread disinformation, harass, or threaten individuals, blurring the line between truth and fabrication. Policy responses must therefore combine technical solutions (e.g., detection tools and watermarking) with legal recognition of synthetic abuse as a prosecutable offence.

Case scenario:

A 2023 incident in Lagos involved a local musician's image being digitally altered into pornographic content that circulated online. The case drew attention to the lack of digital forensics infrastructure for deepfake verification in Nigeria.

While deepfake cases are still emerging, Nigeria's growing use of AI and video editing tools has increased the risk of such technology being weaponized for sexual humiliation.

2.3.e Doxxing and Threats of Violence

Doxxing involves the intentional exposure of private or identifying information, such as home addresses, phone numbers, personal documents, or family details, without consent and often with malicious intent.

Victims of doxxing, particularly women and activists, frequently face follow-up harassment, stalking, and threats of physical harm. Such actions blur online and offline boundaries of violence, forcing victims into self-censorship or withdrawal from public engagement.

Addressing doxxing requires stronger privacy protections, platform accountability, and swift legal remedies for victims, alongside digital literacy campaigns on safe information sharing.

Case scenario:

During the 2023 general elections, some women activists in Lagos reported that their home addresses and phone numbers were shared publicly on social media. This led to threats and harassment from anonymous users.

Female journalists and human rights defenders across Nigeria have been doxed for exposing gender-based violence cases, leading to both online and offline safety risks.

2.3.g Tech-Enabled Trafficking and Exploitation

Digital technologies have increasingly been used to facilitate human trafficking, including the recruitment, advertisement, and exploitation of victims for sexual or labour purposes. Online platforms, messaging apps, and classified websites are frequently exploited by traffickers to target, deceive, and control victims.

Emerging technologies, including cryptocurrency and encrypted communications, complicate detection and prosecution. Women, girls and PWDs remain the majority of victims in cases of online sexual exploitation and trafficking.

Case scenario:

NAPTIP and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) have documented cases where young women in Lagos were recruited through Facebook, WhatsApp, etc for supposed job opportunities abroad, later discovering they had been trafficked for sexual exploitation.

Nigeria remains a major source country for human trafficking, with digital tools increasingly used for recruitment and control of victims.

Conclusion

In Lagos and across Nigeria, TF-SGBV reflects a convergence of digital innovation and deeply rooted gender inequalities. The anonymity and reach of technology amplify the impact of violence, often extending harm beyond physical spaces. Combating TF-SGBV requires coordinated efforts, strengthening relevant laws, building digital forensic capacity, and promoting digital literacy and safety for women and girls. While women and girls are disproportionately affected, TF-SGBV also impacts men, boys, and persons with disabilities, underscoring the need for an inclusive, survivor-centered response.

2.4 Drivers of Technology-Facilitated SGBV

The drivers of TF-SGBV are multifaceted and deeply rooted in societal structures. Key contributing factors include:

i. persistent gender inequality, which normalizes male dominance and women's subordination both offline and online. The anonymity and impunity offered by digital platforms often embolden perpetrators, while weak institutional responses further entrench the problem.
ii. Cultural and social norms that tolerate sexist or violent behaviour, particularly against women who challenge patriarchal expectations, also fuel digital abuse.
iii. In addition, technological design itself, such as inadequate reporting mechanisms or algorithmic biases, can perpetuate harm.
iv. Finally, limited digital literacy among users reduces awareness of online risks and available remedies, leaving many victims vulnerable to repeated violations.

2.5. Who Are TF-SGBV Perpetrators?

Perpetrators of TF-SGBV are individuals or groups who use technology (phones, internet, social media, or digital tools) to commit acts of gender-based harm such as harassment, stalking, image-based abuse, doxxing, sextortion, or threats of sexual violence.

They can be:

- Intimate partners or ex-partners
- Peers and acquaintances
- Anonymous online actors (trolls, scammers, or cyberstalkers)
- Organised networks or blackmail rings
- Public figures or influencers who mobilize online harassment against men and women

2.6. People most affected by TF-SGBV

Technology-Facilitated Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (TFSGBV) disproportionately affects women and girls globally. It is rooted in structural gender inequality and aims to shame, intimidate, and silence them. However, TFSGBV also affects other vulnerable groups across digital spaces.
The primary groups most affected by TFSGBV include:
a. Women and Girls: They are overwhelmingly the targets of TFSGBV, which includes sexual harassment, image-based abuse (like non-consensual sharing of intimate images), and cyberstalking.

b. Young Women and Adolescent Girls: Younger demographics are more likely to use technology and social media for connecting and learning, which increases their exposure to online violence. Studies indicate that between 16% and 58% of women worldwide have personally experienced some form of technology-facilitated violence.

c. Women in Public and Political Life: Journalists, human rights defenders, politicians, and activists are frequently targeted with high rates of TFSGBV, often in the form of misogynistic hate speech, gendered disinformation, and doxxing (publishing private information). This is used to silence their voices and participation in public life.

d. Men and Boys: Though less frequently reported, men and boys also experience TFSGBV, including cyberbullying, sextortion, impersonation, and online harassment, particularly in contexts of peer abuse or financial exploitation.

e. Persons with Disabilities (PWDs): People with physical, sensory, or intellectual disabilities are at heightened risk of online coercion, manipulation, and exploitation, often due to barriers in digital literacy, communication challenges, and social isolation that perpetrators may exploit.

2.7 Impact and Consequences of Technology-facilitated SGBV(TFSGBV)

Technology-Facilitated Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (TF-SGBV) causes multidimensional harm, psychological, social, economic, legal, and technological.

The consequences often extend beyond the digital space, spilling over into victims' offline lives, affecting their safety, livelihood, and participation in society.

2.7.a. Psychological and Emotional Impact

Core effects: trauma, anxiety, fear, depression, shame, suicidal thoughts, and loss of self-worth.

Manifestation	*Description*	*Evidence / Example (Nigeria & Global)*
Anxiety & PTSD	Survivors often develop long-term anxiety, panic attacks, or hypervigilance after online stalking or exposure of intimate content.	Lagos DSVA (2023) reported multiple survivors needing long-term trauma counselling after image-based abuse.
Shame & humiliation	Public sharing of private images or sexualized rumors leads to intense shame and social isolation.	Brain Builders Initiative (2025) found that 68% of TF-SGBV survivors felt "permanently damaged" in their reputation.
Fear & withdrawal	Fear of continued surveillance or online attacks causes withdrawal from digital and social spaces.	UN Women (2022): 1 in 3 women worldwide reduce online presence after experiencing cyber-harassment.
Suicidal ideation	Some survivors report self-harm or suicidal thoughts, especially in cases of widespread non-consensual image sharing.	Mirabel Centre Lagos (2022): multiple referrals for mental health crisis linked to sextortion.

2.7.b Social and Cultural Consequences

TF-SGBV reinforces patriarchal norms, restricts women's voices, and worsens gender inequality, both online and offline.

Dimension	*Impact*	*Local/Regional Illustration*
Social stigma	Survivors often develop long-term anxiety, panic attacks, or hypervigilance after online stalking or exposure of intimate content.	Lagos DSVA (2023) reported multiple survivors needing long-term trauma counselling after image-based abuse.
Loss of reputation	Public sharing of private images or sexualized rumors leads to intense shame and social isolation.	Brain Builders Initiative (2025) found that 68% of TF-SGBV survivors felt "permanently damaged" in their reputation.
Self-censorship	Fear of continued surveillance or online attacks causes withdrawal from digital and social spaces.	UN Women (2022): 1 in 3 women worldwide reduce online presence after experiencing cyber-harassment.
Erosion of trust	Some survivors report self-harm or suicidal thoughts, especially in cases of widespread non-consensual image sharing.	Mirabel Centre Lagos (2022): multiple referrals for mental health crisis linked to sextortion.

2.7.c Economic and Educational Consequences

TF-SGBV directly undermines women's economic empowerment and access to education.

Type	*Consequence*	*Example*
Job loss or demotion	Survivors may face termination or forced resignation due to leaked intimate materials or online scandals.	Cases documented by Lagos DSVA and WRAHP show survivors being fired after viral videos.
Educational disruption	Victims of cyberbullying or sextortion often drop out of school due to ridicule or blackmail.	Borno and Lagos university surveys show 1 in 5 female students experiencing online harassment quit online classes or withdrew temporarily.
Digital exclusion	Survivors often avoid online work or business due to fear of harassment.	Women entrepreneurs report loss of clients or social media pages due to harassment or hacking.
Financial extortion	Perpetrators demand money ("sextortion") to delete or hide compromising images.	Lagos Police Cybercrime Unit (2024): average loss per sextortion victim = ₦120,000 – ₦500,000.

2.7.d. Legal and Justice-Related Impacts

Access to justice for TF-SGBV survivors remains limited due to structural and systemic challenges.

Issue	*Consequence*	*Illustration*
Under-reporting	Only a fraction of survivors report cases due to shame, fear, and weak enforcement.	UNFPA (2023): less than 10% of TF-SGBV survivors in Nigeria seek legal redress.
Prosecution gaps	Lack of digital forensic skills and ambiguous laws lead to dismissal or non-prosecution.	The existing State laws do not contain explicit provisions addressing TF-SGBV. In practice, prosecutions rely on general provisions of the Criminal Law which are often insufficient to capture the digital dimensions of such offences.
Secondary victimization	Survivors face victim-blaming by police or media leaks of evidence.	Reports of police officers demanding to view explicit material "for proof."
Data misuse	Mishandling of survivors' digital evidence can cause further exposure or retaliation.	Highlighted by NGOs in the Lagos GBV Tech Safety Dialogue (2024).

2.7.e Physical and Safety Consequences

TF-SGBV frequently escalates into physical violence, stalking, or assault in the offline world.

Risk	*Example*	*Data*
Offline stalking or assault	Perpetrators use GPS data, social media posts, or phone numbers to locate victims.	DSVA recorded 12 cases in 2023 where digital stalking led to physical harm.
Domestic violence escalation	Digital monitoring by partners often coincides with physical control or assault.	UNFPA (2023): 1 in 4 domestic violence survivors experience concurrent digital surveillance.
Loss of physical security	Leaking of personal data (doxxing) exposes survivors to threats or attacks.	Nigerian female journalists report home visits by online harassers.

2.7.f Political and Civic Consequences

TF-SGBV silences women in public life, media, and politics, reducing gender equality in leadership.

Sector	*Impact*	*Example*
Politics	Female politicians targeted with deepfakes or sexualized rumours to discredit them.	During 2023 elections, several female aspirants in Lagos faced coordinated online harassment campaigns.
Media & activism	Journalists and women's rights defenders withdraw from online advocacy due to trolling and threats.	Nigerian media monitoring shows female reporters 2x more likely to face digital harassment than male peers.
Democratic participation	Reduced willingness of women to engage in online debates, activism, or leadership roles.	Mirrors global pattern (UN Women, 2022).

2.7.g Family and Community Consequences

TFSGBV causes severe family and community consequences, including social alienation, conflict, stigma, loss of trust, and the breakdown of social cohesion.

Level	*Consequences*	*Explanation/examples*
Family	Social alienation	Survivors often face rejection, isolation, or victim-blaming by family members, leading to emotional distress and loss of support.
Family	Family conflict	Partners or relatives may react violently, unsupportively, or with anger, causing tension, domestic disputes, or family breakdown.
Community	Community mistrust	Persistent digital abuse and exposure to TF-SGBV create fear, suspicion, and loss of confidence among community members, discouraging cooperation and safe technology use.

2.7.h Digital and Technological Consequences

TF-SGBV leads to serious digital and technological consequences such as loss of privacy, damage to digital reputation, cyber insecurity, and reduced online participation, which hinder society's safety, confidence, and inclusion in digital spaces

Level	*Consequences*	*Explanation/examples*
Individual (Survivor)	Loss of privacy	Personal data, photos, or videos are exposed or circulated online without consent, often permanently, causing humiliation and emotional distress.
Individual (Survivor)	Digital footprint damage	Once abusive or explicit content is shared online, it becomes nearly impossible to fully erase, leading to lasting reputational and psychological harm.
Individual (Survivor)	Reduced digital participation	Survivors may withdraw from online platforms, limiting access to digital education, employment opportunities, e-commerce, and civic engagement.
Individual (Survivor)	Cyber insecurity	Survivors experience increased anxiety, fear, or mistrust toward using digital tools such as social media, online banking, or messaging apps.
Community / Society	Erosion of trust in technology	Widespread online abuse fosters community-wide skepticism toward digital systems, reducing confidence in online communication and governance.
Community / Society	Digital inequality	Fear of cyber violence can disproportionately silence women, PWDs, youth, children, and the elderly, deepening existing digital divides.
Community / Society	Perpetuation of online violence	Unchecked digital harassment or exploitation can normalize cyber abuse, encouraging further gender-based violence in online spaces.
Community / Society	Reduced collective engagement	Communities become less active in digital collaboration, innovation, or awareness campaigns due to fear of exposure or retaliation.

2.7.j Summary Table — The Ripple Effect of TF-SGBV

Impact Area	*Individual Consequences*	*Institutional / Societal Impact*
Psychological	Trauma, anxiety, fear	Mental-health burden on public services
Social	Isolation, stigma	Weak community cohesion; silencing of women
Economic	Job loss, financial extortion	Reduced workforce participation, productivity
Legal	Impunity, under-reporting	Erosion of trust in justice institutions
Safety	Stalking, assault	Heightened insecurity, need for protection services
Digital	Withdrawal from online life	Digital gender divide widens

2.7.i Broader Societal Consequences

SGBV experts and United Nations agencies conceptualize Sexual and Gender-Based Violence as a multifaceted phenomenon that cuts across several dimensions:

- A human rights violation rooted in gender inequality and power imbalance;
- A public health issue, affecting survivors' physical and mental well-being;
- A social and developmental issue, undermining family stability, community peace, and gender equality;
- A criminal offence, requiring justice, accountability, and deterrence.

2.8.a. Lagos State Criminal Law, 2015

- State legislation defining criminal offences within Lagos State. It applies to digital conduct where unlawful intent or harm is established.
- Covers offences such as blackmail, extortion, defamation, threats to life, and conduct that causes fear or distress, offences frequently committed through digital platforms or electronic communication.

2.8.b Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency Law, 2021

- Establishes the DSVA as the coordinating body for the prevention and response to all forms of SGBV, including Technology-Facilitated Forms.
- Empowers the Agency to handle digital reports, provide survivor support, and collaborate with cybercrime units and digital platforms.

2.8.c Lagos State Protection Against Domestic Violence Law, 2007

- Provides civil remedies to protect individuals from domestic violence, including emotional, psychological, and verbal abuse, which may occur through digital communication.
- Enables courts to issue protection orders restraining perpetrators from contacting survivors through phone calls, text messages, emails, or any electronic means.
- Offers a legal basis for addressing harassment, intimidation, and coercive control facilitated by technology within domestic or intimate partner relationships.

2.8.d Lagos State Child Rights Law, 2015

- Provides for child protection in all spheres, including digital environments where minors may be targeted.

2.8.f Lagos State Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy (2018)

- Establishes guidelines for online child safety, data privacy, and digital conduct among institutions working with children and young people.

2.9. National Laws

2.9.a Cybercrime (Prohibition, Prevention, etc.) Act, 2015

- Federal legislation governing online conduct, digital security, and cyber-enabled offences. It provides a legal basis for addressing technology-facilitated harms.
- Criminalises cyberstalking, identity impersonation, non-consensual dissemination of harmful or intimate data, computer-related extortion, and other behaviours commonly used to perpetrate tech-facilitated GBV.

2.9.b Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act, 2015 (VAPP)

- Federal framework for preventing and responding to physical, psychological, and emotional violence. Increasingly relied upon to address technology-enabled abusive conduct.
- Prohibits emotional, verbal, and psychological abuse; intimidation; harassment; and threatening behaviour, which apply equally to digital forms of abuse such as online threats, persistent messaging, and technology-driven intimidation.

2.9.c Nigeria Data Protection Regulation (NDPR, 2019) / Nigeria Data Protection Act (NDPA, 2023)

- National regulatory framework governing the processing and protection of personal data by individuals, public institutions, and organisations. Provides a legal foundation for safeguarding digital privacy.
- Prohibits the unauthorised collection, processing, sharing, or dissemination of personal data, including images and communications. These provisions are critical for addressing non-consensual image sharing, doxxing, and other forms of TF-SGBV involving misuse of personal information.

2.9. National Laws

Lagos State, through the Federal Republic of Nigeria, is bound by several regional and international human rights instruments that underpin the TF-SGBV framework:

1. **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW, 1979) –** affirms women's right to live free from discrimination and violence, including digital spaces.
2. **African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (1981) and its Maputo Protocol (2003)** – mandate State Parties to protect women from all forms of violence, including online and psychological abuse.
3. **UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (1993)** – extends obligations to prevent emerging forms of violence facilitated by information technology.
4. **UN General Assembly Resolution 68/181 (2013)** – recognizes cyber violence against women and girls as a human rights concern.
5. **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 and Goal 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions),** calls for the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, leveraging digital innovation responsibly to achieve gender equality.
6. **The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR, 1948),** affirms the inherent dignity and equal rights of all human beings, including the right to privacy, security, and freedom of expression.
7. **The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR, 1966),** protects the rights to privacy, security, and freedom from arbitrary interference, which are frequently violated through TF-SGBV.
8. **The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) (1989),** affirms every child's right to be protected from all forms of violence and exploitation, including online harms, and mandates States to safeguard their safety, privacy, and well-being.
9. **The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995),** calls for the elimination of violence against women and the promotion of women's participation in media and technology sectors.
10. **The Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention, 2001)** and the Istanbul Convention (2011) provide standards for addressing cyber-enabled crimes and violence against women

11 **The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) (2006),** affirms the rights of PWDs to equality, dignity, and full participation in society. It requires States to protect persons with disabilities from all forms of violence, abuse, and exploitation—including those occurring online—and to ensure accessible communication, digital safety, and inclusive support services

12 **ITU Guidelines on Child Online Protection (2020),** offer global best practices for protecting children online, addressing safety, prevention of digital exploitation, and promoting responsible, child-friendly digital environments.

13 **The United Nations General Comment No. 25 (2021)** on children's rights in relation to the digital environment, clarifies that children's rights must be protected online, requiring States to prevent digital harms and ensure safe, inclusive, and supportive digital environments for all children.

2.11 Legal Gaps and Emerging Needs

While Lagos has strong foundational laws, gaps remain in:

Specific Recognition of Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence as a Distinct Category under the Law:

Although existing Lagos State laws such as the (Criminal Law, 2015; Protection Against Domestic Violence Law, 2015 and Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency Law, 2021) do not explicitly define or categorize "technology-facilitated sexual violence" (TFSV) as a standalone legal offence. As a result:

- TF-SGBV incidents are often treated as generic crimes rather than as gender-based or sexual violations.
- Survivors may not receive adequate protection, specialized investigation, or psychosocial support, since the gendered and sexualized nature of digital abuse is not legally acknowledged.
- Law enforcement and prosecutors may apply inconsistent charges, creating gaps in justice and unequal sentencing.

Why It Matters: Recognizing TF-SGBV as a distinct category:

- Ensures targeted legal remedies (e.g., criminalizing non-consensual image sharing, deepfake pornography, or digital sexual extortion).
- Strengthens survivor rights under both gender and cybercrime frameworks.
- Enables data collection and monitoring specific to technology-related gendered harms.

What Is Needed:

- Amend the Lagos State DSVA Law (2021) to explicitly define and criminalize Technology-Facilitated Sexual and Gender Based Violence.
- Develop guidelines for prosecutors and investigators to handle TF-SGBV as a sexual and gender-based offence.

2.12. Platform Accountability and Cross-Border Enforcement in Online Abuse Cases

Technology-facilitated SGBV often occurs on social media platforms and messaging services (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, TikTok, Telegram), many of which are owned by multinational companies headquartered outside Nigeria.

Current Nigerian and Lagos State laws provide limited mechanisms for:

- Holding digital platforms accountable for harmful content shared or hosted on their systems.
- Enforcing court orders or takedown requests when servers or perpetrators are located abroad.
- Ensuring timely cooperation between law enforcement and tech companies.

This leads to delays in content removal, loss of digital evidence, and further harm to survivors, especially in cases of non-consensual intimate image sharing or online blackmail.

Why It Matters:

- Without platform accountability, perpetrators act with impunity, and survivors struggle to remove harmful content.
- Cross-border limitations undermine Nigeria's sovereignty and survivor protection rights.

What Is Needed:

- Develop protocols or memoranda of understanding (MoUs) between Lagos State and major platforms for expedited content takedowns in TF-SGBV cases.
- Advocate for regional cooperation (ECOWAS-level) and mutual legal assistance treaties (MLATs) to improve cross-border enforcement.
- Encourage platform transparency and due diligence obligations under future data protection or digital safety laws.

2.13. Digital Literacy and Data Ethics in Law

Many TF-SGBV cases involve digital evidence, cyber forensics, and data privacy concerns. Yet, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judicial officers often lack adequate training in digital literacy, data protection, and survivor-centered handling of digital evidence. As a result:

- Sensitive evidence (e.g., screenshots, chat logs, or images) may be mishandled or leaked.
- Survivors may experience secondary victimization through insensitive questioning or public exposure.
- Courts may face challenges authenticating or interpreting digital evidence.

Why It Matters:

- TF-SGBV cases demand technical competence and ethical sensitivity.
- Mishandling digital data violates survivors' privacy and dignity, undermining trust in justice institutions.

What Is Needed:

- Institutionalize capacity-building programs on TF-SGBV, digital evidence, and cyber ethics for police, prosecutors, and judges.
- Include data privacy and digital rights modules in law enforcement and judicial academies.
- Develop a standard operating procedure (SOP) for secure evidence collection, storage, and presentation in TF-SGBV cases.

2.14. Insufficient Survivor Protection

Most existing legal and institutional systems in Nigeria, including Lagos State, focus on offline Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, with limited integration of digital-specific survivor protection measures. While agencies such as the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA) provide psychosocial and legal support, few jurisdictions have comprehensive frameworks addressing confidentiality in digital spaces, secure digital evidence handling, or specialized survivor-centered digital services.

This gap means that survivors of TF-SGBV often face:

- Public exposure of their cases when digital evidence (e.g., screenshots, images, or videos) is mishandled or leaked.
- Limited legal protection from continued online harassment or re-victimization.
- Lack of specialized digital forensics or cyber support services that could remove harmful content or trace perpetrators effectively.

Why It Matters:

Without survivor-centered digital protection mechanisms:

- Survivors may avoid reporting incidents due to fear of further harm, stigma, or data exposure.
- The justice process can unintentionally re-traumatize survivors, undermining trust in institutions.

What Is Needed:

- Integrate a confidential digital case management procedure into the existing State's case management system and by extension, the law enforcement and other responder agencies.
- Develop digital evidence handling protocols (including encryption and secure data storage).
- Provide specialized survivor support units that include digital safety advisors, online reporting tools, and anonymous assistance.

2.15. Lack of Accountability for Digital Platforms

Digital platforms, such as social media companies, messaging services, and dating apps, play a major role in enabling or preventing TF-SGBV. Yet, current regulatory frameworks in Nigeria and Lagos are not fully equipped to hold platforms accountable for their role in spreading harmful content, enabling algorithmic targeting, or violating user privacy.

Most platforms operate under foreign jurisdictions, meaning:

- Content moderation decisions are made outside Nigeria, with limited responsiveness to local laws or contexts.
- Survivors face long delays or inaction when reporting online abuse or requesting content removal.
- There is no enforceable requirement for platforms to cooperate with local authorities or respect survivors' digital rights.

Why It Matters:

- The absence of platform accountability allows impunity for perpetrators and systemic negligence by companies.
- Algorithms can amplify harmful content, such as non-consensual images or hate speech, worsening the psychological and reputational impact on survivors.

What Is Needed:

- Develop regulatory frameworks and memoranda of understanding (MoUs) between the Lagos State Government and major digital platforms for rapid takedown of TF-SGBV content.
- Advocate for platform due diligence obligations, ensuring transparency in content moderation and algorithmic decision-making.
- Integrate data protection and gender-sensitive digital governance into state ICT and cybersecurity policies.

2.16. Data and Evidence Deficits

Effective prevention and response depend on accurate, disaggregated data, yet Nigeria and Lagos currently lack comprehensive statistics on the prevalence, typologies, and impact of TF-SGBV. Most available data come from case reports, civil society documentation, or small-scale research studies, which do not provide a representative picture.

As a result:

- Policymakers operate with limited situational awareness, making it difficult to design evidence-based interventions.
- Budget allocations for TF-SGBV prevention and survivor support remain under-informed.
- Opportunities for early warning, trend analysis, and monitoring of online harms are missed.

Why It Matters:

- Without reliable data, policy design, prevention strategies, and law enforcement responses remain reactive instead of proactive.
- Lack of data disaggregation (by age, gender, geography, or platform) masks which groups are most at risk, especially young women, and children online.

What Is Needed:

- Develop a centralized TF-SGBV data registry within DSVA for tracking cases, platforms involved, and outcomes.
- Partner with academic institutions and digital rights organizations to conduct prevalence surveys and research on digital harms.
- Establish standard indicators for monitoring TF-SGBV in official statistics, aligning with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5

2.17 Key Insights for Policy and Practice

1. TF-SGBV is both a digital rights issue and a public health issue.
2. Survivor support must integrate mental-health, legal, and digital safety services.
3. Tech platforms and telecoms are key duty bearers in providing safeguards for interactions conducted over telecoms networks.
4. Social norm change, especially among men and youth, is central to prevention.
5. Long-term recovery requires both psychological healing and digital restitution (content removal, reputation rebuilding).

2.18 Nigerian Case Data — What We Know

(a) Lagos DSVA Reports

- 70–80% of digital harassment or image-based abuse perpetrated by men aged 18–35.
- Romantic or former partners are the single largest perpetrator group (45% of cases).
- Peers or classmates (university and secondary school level) account for 25%.
- Anonymous online actors (trolls, sextortion scammers) — 15–20%.
- Remaining 10% involve employers, coworkers, or influencers using power/status for harassment.

(b) Brain Builders Initiative & UNFPA (2025)

From national TF-SGBV mapping (covering Lagos, Abuja, Kano, Enugu, and Port Harcourt):

- Young men aged 20–29 are the dominant perpetrators of image-based abuse and cyber-harassment.
- Extortion and non-consensual sharing are often done by former partners or online scammers.
- Fake accounts and pseudonyms are common, but 64% of victims could identify the perpetrator.
- 12% of perpetrators operate in groups or online communities (e.g., Telegram "revenge" groups).

Global Patterns (for Comparison)

Region	*Key Findings*
Global (UN Women, 2022)	85% of perpetrators are male; 63% between 18–34 years; 70% known to victims.
UK & EU (EIGE, 2023)	Younger men (18–30) most likely to engage in online misogyny and image-based abuse.
Australia (eSafety Commission, 2022)	76% male perpetrators; most attacks occur on mainstream social platforms; intimate partners lead in sextortion and image-based abuse.
South Africa (2023, GSMA study)	Male perpetrators aged 19–35, often motivated by control, humiliation, or extortion; 60% were personally known to victims.

Typology of Perpetrators (by Relationship to Survivor)

Category	*Example*	*Proportion (Nigeria / Lagos)*	*Motivation*
Intimate/Ex-Partner	Non-consensual image sharing, sextortion	40–45%	Revenge, control, humiliation
Peer/Acquaintance	Harassment, trolling, threats	25–30%	Peer pressure, entertainment
Anonymous/Online Actor	Sextortion scams, doxxing	15–20%	Financial gain, misogyny
Institutional/Professional	Boss, lecturer, official	5–10%	Abuse of power, coercion
Organised Groups	Online misogynist networks, blackmail rings	2–5%	Ideological hate, profit

c. Motivational Categories (Cross-Cutting)

1. Control and Dominance: Ex-partners surveilling or blackmailing women.
2. Revenge porn: Sharing nudes post-breakup ("revenge porn").
3. Financial Exploitation: Sextortion, scams, or sale of images.
4. Entertainment or Peer Pressure: Posting harassment "for likes."
5. Political/Ideological: Harassment of female journalists, politicians, or activists.
6. Hate Speech: Targeting women, men, or minorities with cyber-violence.

d. Psychosocial Profile (from qualitative interviews)

- Low empathy and high entitlement attitudes toward women.
- Perceived anonymity online reduces accountability.
- Peer validation in male-dominated online spaces.
- Low awareness of legal implications under the Criminal Law and the DSVA Law
- Tech familiarity: Many perpetrators know how to bypass privacy controls or use fake profiles.

e. Key Takeaways

1. Young men (18–35) dominate TF-SGBV perpetration across Nigeria and globally.
2. Majority are known to survivors — partners, exes, classmates, or coworkers.
3. Digital literacy ≠ digital ethics: Many perpetrators are urban, educated, and tech-savvy.
4. Social norms of male dominance and victim-blaming encourage impunity.
5. Institutional gaps (slow law enforcement, limited digital forensics) perpetuate repeat offending.
6. Prevention must target behaviour change, digital citizenship education, masculinity programs, and accountability.

3.0

POLICY COMPONENTS

Component One - Prevention and Education

Effective prevention of Technology-Facilitated Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (TF-SGBV) requires a multi-layered approach that combines awareness, education, and cultural transformation. Preventive strategies must go beyond punitive measures to address the root causes of gender-based violence, including harmful gender norms, digital inequality, and limited technological literacy.

This section outlines the preventive dimensions of the policy framework, focusing on empowering individuals, transforming social attitudes, and fostering safe digital behaviours across all segments of the society.



3.1 Public Awareness and Digital Literacy

Public awareness and digital literacy are central to preventing TF-SGBV. Individuals must be informed about their rights, risks, and responsibilities in digital spaces, as well as the resources available for reporting and seeking help.

Key policy actions include:

- State and local campaigns to raise awareness about TF-SGBV, its consequences, and available legal and support mechanisms.
- Use of mass media, social media, and community networks to promote positive online behavior and respect for digital rights.
- Public service announcements that challenge gender stereotypes and normalize reporting of online abuse.
- Integration of digital safety education into ongoing State literacy and inclusion initiatives.
- Development of digital literacy toolkits that teach privacy settings, consent in digital sharing, and recognition of online manipulation or abuse.

Campaigns should be inclusive, accessible, and multilingual, reaching rural, marginalized, and digitally excluded populations.

3.2 Community Engagement and Gender

Community-based interventions are essential to shifting social norms and attitudes that enable TF-SGBV. Prevention must focus on transforming gender relations and promoting collective responsibility for digital safety.

Key policy actions include:

- Engaging community leaders, faith-based organisations, and grassroots groups in dialogue on digital rights and gender equality
- Supporting peer-led initiatives that empower children, youth, men, women, and PWDs to take leadership in promoting online safety.
- Promoting gender transformative programs that challenge power imbalances and traditional/religious gender norms that fuel online abuse.
- Strengthening local support networks that provide early intervention, guidance, and safe spaces for survivors.
- Encouraging digital citizenship education emphasizing empathy, consent, and accountability in online interactions.

Summary: Through a collective action, communities can help transform the digital environment into one that challenges harmful behaviors, values consent, upholds equality, and promotes respectful and equitable online interactions for all.

3.3 Educational Curriculum Integration

Education systems play a critical role in instilling values of equality, respect, and digital responsibility from an early age. Integrating TF-SGBV prevention into formal and non-formal education creates a foundation for long-term cultural change.

Key policy actions include:

- Development of teacher training modules on identifying and responding to TF-SGBV among pupils and students.
- Integration of digital ethics, online safety, and gender equality education into school curricula at primary, secondary, and tertiary levels.
- Inclusion of topics such as cyberbullying, consent, privacy, and responsible technology use in digital and life skills education.
- Collaboration with educational institutions to develop gender-sensitive digital codes of conduct and reporting procedures.
- Promotion of youth-led initiatives and safe digital innovation projects that encourage creative and respectful technology use.

Note: Educational materials should be age-appropriate, gender-responsive, and inclusive, addressing the needs of learners with disabilities.

3.4 Role of Media and Technology Platforms

Media organizations and technology companies hold a pivotal role in shaping public discourse and online behaviour. Their participation is crucial to preventing the normalization and amplification of TF-SGBV.

Policy actions include:

- Encouraging media self-regulation and ethical reporting standards on cases of TF-SGBV to avoid victim-blaming and sensationalism.
- Promoting positive and gender-sensitive portrayals of women, girls and PWDs in digital and broadcast media.
- Partnering with technology companies and social media platforms to strengthen content moderation systems, safety features, and reporting mechanisms.
- Supporting co-regulation frameworks between government, platforms, and civil society to enhance accountability and transparency in addressing online abuse.
- Incentivizing the adoption of "safety-by-design" principles in digital products and services, ensuring that online environments are secure by default.
- Establishing public-private partnerships for rapid response to online harassment, including takedown procedures and survivor support.

Media and technology platforms must act as agents of social change, advancing digital ethics, gender sensitivity, and respect for human rights.

3.5 Engaging Men and Boys As Allies

Preventing TF-SGBV requires the active involvement of all members of society, particularly men and boys, who often play key roles in challenging harmful norms and modeling positive behaviour.

Key policy actions include:

- Designing male engagement programs that promote respectful online conduct, challenge toxic masculinity, and foster allyship.
- Involving men and boys as champions in campaigns promoting consent, empathy, and accountability.
- Supporting mentorship and peer education initiatives that encourage reflection on gender norms and digital responsibility.
- Ensuring inclusive programming that reaches population groups with varied socio-economic, cultural, linguistic, or demographic characteristics, including children, adolescents, the elderly, and persons with disabilities, to build solidarity and mutual respect in online spaces.
- Encouraging intergenerational dialogues on technology use, respect, and digital ethics to bridge understanding between age groups.

Engaging men and boys not only broadens the reach of prevention strategies but also promotes collective ownership of safer digital environments, contributing to lasting social transformation.

Summary

Prevention and awareness creation are the foundations of this policy framework. Through coordinated action across all forms of education, community engagement, and institutional collaboration, these measures seek to foster a culture of respect, inclusion, and accountability in digital spaces, thereby reducing the incidence and impact of TF-SGBV.

4.0

UNDERSTANDING TFSGBV RESPONSE

An effective response to Technology-Facilitated Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (TF-SGBV) requires a comprehensive, survivor-centered, and trauma-informed system that provides timely redress, access to justice, and holistic support. Survivors must be empowered to report incidents safely, access essential services, and obtain both legal and non-legal remedies.

This section establishes the core principles and mechanisms for ensuring that every survivor of TF-SGBV receives protection, justice, and support, both online and offline.



4.1 Survivor-Centered and Trauma-Informed

A survivor-centered approach prioritizes the dignity, autonomy, and safety of those affected by TF-SGBV. Trauma-informed response mechanisms acknowledge the psychological, emotional, and social impact of digital violence and aim to reduce further harm during reporting, investigation, and adjudication.

Key policy actions include:

- Embedding survivor-centered principles, confidentiality, respect, safety, and non-discrimination, across all institutions and services.
- Ensuring that all responders (law enforcement, social workers, medical staff, educators and platform moderators) are trained in trauma-informed care and communication.
- Providing survivors with informed choices regarding reporting, evidence sharing, and public disclosure of their experiences.
- Prioritizing non-retaliation and protection from further harm, including online harassment or intimidation following a report.
- Adopting inclusive and intersectional approaches, recognizing the distinct needs of vulnerable groups such as women, persons with disabilities, children, the elderly, rural populations, and the youth.
- Establishing ethical standards and protocols for interviewing and supporting survivors in digital contexts, ensuring sensitivity and empathy.

These measures create an environment where survivors feel safe to seek help, knowing that their experiences will be validated and handled with professionalism.

4.2 Digital Evidence Management and Forensics

Proper handling of digital evidence is vital for successful prosecution and justice in TF-SGBV cases. Evidence may include screenshots, metadata, messages, emails, or content hosted on online platforms. Weak evidence handling can jeopardize cases or compromise privacy.

Policy actions include:

- Developing standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the collection, preservation, and analysis of digital evidence in TF-SGBV cases.
- Equipping law enforcement and forensic units with specialized digital forensics tools and expertise.
- Training investigators, prosecutors, and judicial officers in cyber evidence management, including chain-of-custody requirements.
- Establishing secure data storage systems to protect survivors' digital information and prevent unauthorized access or leaks.
- Encouraging collaboration with technology companies for lawful access to digital evidence under data protection safeguards.
- Allowing survivors to submit evidence safely and remotely, through authenticated online platforms or secure drop boxes.
- Integrating privacy and consent protocols in evidence handling to prevent re-traumatization or secondary exposure.

A robust digital forensics framework enhances the credibility of investigations and ensures the integrity of digital justice processes.

4.3 Victim Support Services (Psychosocial, Legal,

Survivors of TF-SGBV require comprehensive and coordinated support services that address the psychological, legal, medical, and social consequences of digital violence. Such services must be accessible, survivor-friendly, and culturally sensitive.

Policy actions include:

- Building on DSVA's existing one-stop support center to provide integrated services, including legal aid, psychosocial counseling, medical care, and digital assistance.
- Providing free and confidential counseling services for emotional recovery and mental health support.
- Offering legal assistance and representation to survivors pursuing justice through criminal or civil processes.
- Ensuring medical services, sexual and reproductive health support, including post-exposure care, where relevant.
- Creating digital literacy and safety clinics to help survivors reclaim online spaces, strengthen security settings, and manage digital reputations.
- Partnering with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Voluntary Youth Organization (VYOs), and community based-organizations to extend outreach and referral support, particularly for rural or vulnerable survivors.
- Developing specialized support programs for youth, journalists, activists, and other high-risk groups who experience TF-SGBV.

The integration of psychosocial, legal, and health services ensures a holistic and restorative recovery process for survivors.

4.4 Online and Offline Reporting Channels

Effective redress depends on survivors' ability to report incidents safely, conveniently, and confidentially. Multiple, accessible channels increase reporting rates and ensure faster intervention.

Policy actions include:

- DSVA shall leverage and strengthen its existing 24-hour toll-free line, web-based reporting portals, and mobile applications, to incorporate TF-SGBV reporting.
- Integrating TF-SGBV into existing GBV and cybercrime reporting systems, ensuring gender-sensitive protocols.
- Partnering with social media and tech platforms to enable direct in-app reporting of harassment, threats, or image-based abuse.
- Introducing anonymous or pseudonymous reporting options to encourage disclosure without fear of retaliation.
- Ensuring real-time referral from digital platforms to law enforcement and survivor support services where appropriate.
- Providing multi-language and disability-inclusive interfaces for online and offline reporting tools.
- Conducting awareness campaigns to inform the public of available reporting mechanisms and rights to protection.

Accessible and survivor-centered reporting channels are the first step in breaking the silence around TF-SGBV and building trust in institutional systems. The DSVA toll-free number **08000-333-333,** Child Protection official number **09067353002** and the State's emergency lines, **767/112** remain accessible 24/7 for reporting TFSGBV and GBV related issues.

4.5 Compensation and Rehabilitation Mechanisms

Justice for TF-SGBV survivors extends beyond prosecution, it includes reparation, compensation, and rehabilitation to restore dignity, livelihoods, and social participation.

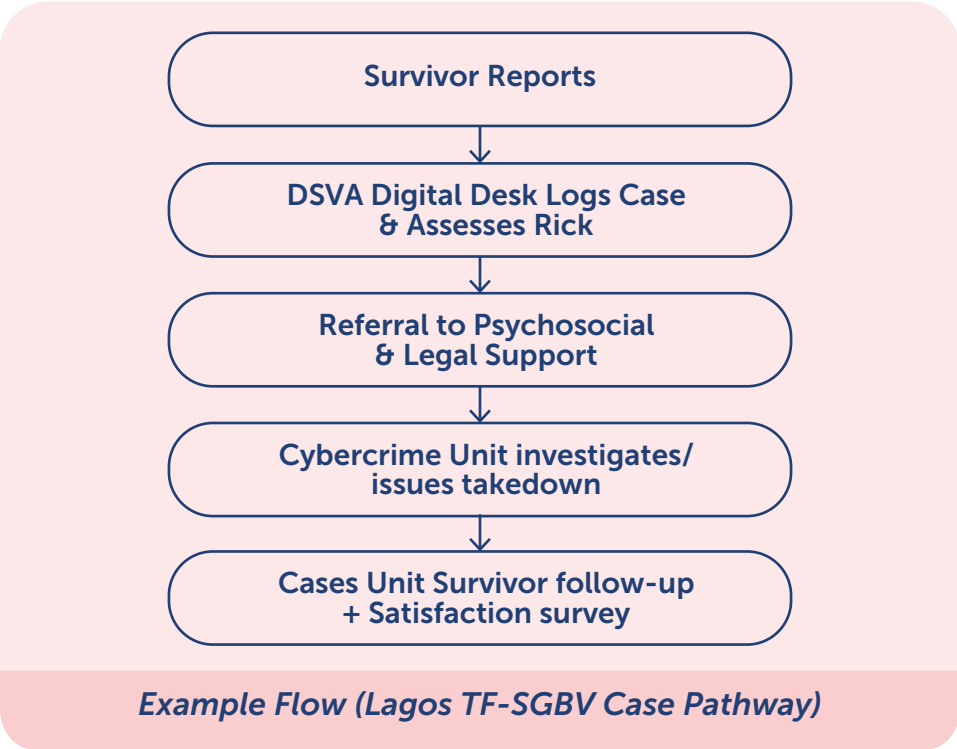
Key policy actions include:

- Integrating TF-SGBV survivors into existing state gender-based violence compensation scheme.
- Providing financial assistance to cover legal costs, therapy, digital repair (content takedowns, identity recovery), and relocation where necessary.
- Facilitating civil remedies such as restitution, damages for emotional distress, and compensation for reputational harm.
- Partnering with technology platforms to support content removal, reputation repair, and digital rehabilitation services for survivors.
- Implementing community-based rehabilitation programs to rebuild survivors' confidence and social reintegration.
- Offering skill-building and empowerment programs, especially for those whose careers or education were

Compensation and rehabilitation mechanisms reinforce the survivor's right to justice and reparation, ensuring that redress is not limited to criminal accountability but also extends to recovery and empowerment.

Summary

A strong response and remedy framework transforms justice from mere punishment to protection, healing, and empowerment. By centering survivors' needs, ensuring professional evidence handling, expanding access to holistic services, and providing avenues for compensation, governments can create an environment where survivors of TF-SGBV are believed, supported, and restored.



Example Flow (Lagos TF-SGBV Case Pathway)

Detailed Step Breakdown

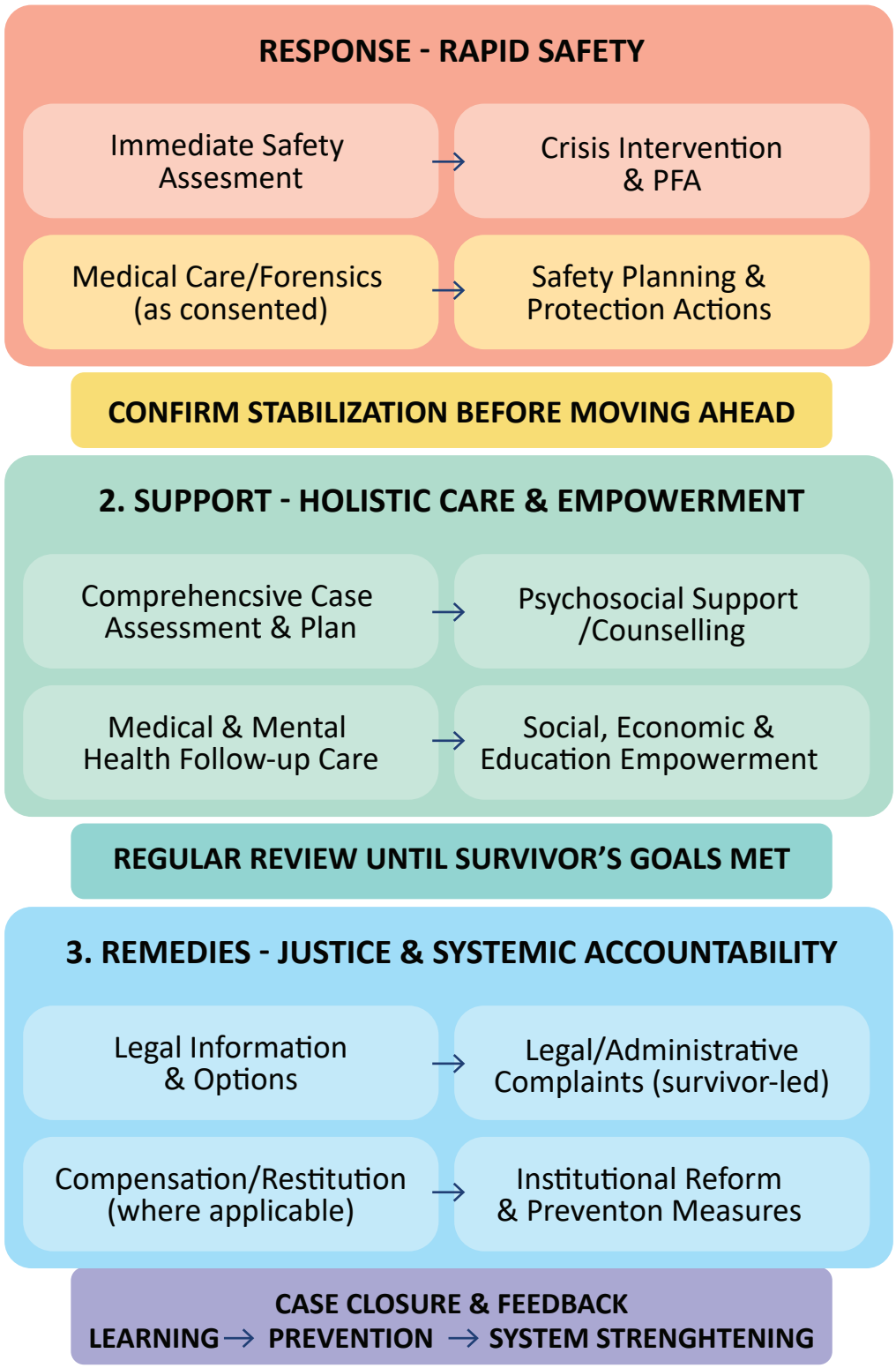
No.	*Action Key*	*Functions*
1	Survivor Reports TF-SGBV Incident	Initiation of the process, typically via a dedicated hotline, website, or physical desk (e.g., to the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency - DSVA).
2	DSVA Digital Desk Logs Case & Assesses Risk	Documentation of the incident, evidence collection (screenshots, URLs), and immediate safety and risk assessment to determine urgency.
3	Referral to Psychosocial & Legal Support	Survivor -Centered Care: Connecting the survivor with trauma counselling, safe spaces, and legal aid for advice on criminal and civil options.
4	Cybercrime Unit Investigates / Issues Takedown Notice	Digital Intervention: Specialized unit (e.g., Police Cybercrime Unit) conducts digital forensics, traces perpetrators, and contacts platform providers (Meta, X, etc.) for content removal/takedown.
5	Court or Administrative Remedy Pursued	Justice Pathway: Legal team pursues: (a) Criminal prosecution under the criminal law or (b) Civil remedies (e.g., restraining order, damages), or (c) Administrative sanctions.
6	Case Closed with Survivor Follow-up + Satisfaction Survey	Closure and Evaluation: Formal closing of the case file after resolution; conducting follow-up to assess the survivor's well-being and gathering feedback to improve service quality.

4b. Case Management

Goal: To ensure survivors of technology facilitated Sexual and Gender Based Violence receive timely, survivor-centered assistance, and perpetrators are held accountable through both digital and legal remedies.

The TF-SGBV Life-Cycle Framework below illustrates the continuum of coordinated actions required to address incidents of Technology-Facilitated Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. It ensures that survivors receive timely protection, holistic care, and sustainable redress, while institutions uphold accountability and prevention responsibilities.

TFSGBV Case Management Life Cycle



4b.i. Response – Immediate and Coordinated Action

Objective: To contain harm, ensure survivor safety, and initiate formal intervention.

Key Activities:

- Reporting & Case Intake: Survivor or third-party reports incident via helpline, DSVA digital desk, or police channel.
- Risk Assessment: Evaluate urgency, type of TF-SGBV, and digital threat (e.g., ongoing image circulation, blackmail).
- Emergency Measures: Secure survivor's online safety — change passwords, deactivate hacked accounts, issue urgent takedown requests.
- Interagency Coordination: DSVA alerts Cybercrime Unit, psychosocial services, and legal aid partners for rapid response.

Outcome:
The incident is officially logged, digital and physical risks are reduced, and the survivor is connected to a protection network.

4b.ii. Support – Integrated Survivor Assistance

Objective: To restore dignity, wellbeing, and agency of the survivor.

Key Activities:

- Medical Care: Treatment for physical or sexual harm (if applicable) and documentation of evidence.
- Psychosocial Support: Trauma counselling, peer support, and empowerment sessions.
- Legal Aid: Guidance on rights, evidence preservation, and filing formal complaints.
- Digital Forensics & Assistance: Data recovery, account restoration, and removal of harmful content from platforms.
- Social Protection: Access to temporary shelter, livelihood support, and protection orders where needed.

Outcome:
The survivor is stabilized, empowered, and equipped with the legal and digital tools to pursue justice safely.

4b.iii. Remedies – Justice and Redress

Objective: To achieve accountability, repair survivor's harm, and prevent recurrence.
Key Activities:

- Legal Remedies: Prosecution of perpetrators under relevant laws.
- Restitution and Compensation: Financial or symbolic redress for survivors' harm or losses.
- Administrative or Platform-Based Remedies: Content removal, account bans, and corporate policy sanctions.
- Institutional Reforms: Integration of lessons learned into law enforcement, platform governance, and public policy.
- Monitoring and Follow-Up: Post-case follow-up and survivor satisfaction surveys to ensure closure and ongoing safety.

Outcome:
Justice is achieved through institutional, legal, or technological channels, contributing to deterrence, survivor recovery, and systemic change.

Lifecycle Summary

Stage	*Focus*	*Lead Actors*	*Expected Result*
Response	Rapid containment and safety	DSVA, Police Cybercrime Unit	Incident controlled, survivor safe
Support	Holistic care and empowerment	DSVA, MYSD (involving a child), Health services,(General Hospitals, PHC, SARCs) Psychosocial & Legal aid (including BPD, DCR, FIDA, AWLA), WAPA for empowerment	Survivor stabilized and supported
Remedies	Justice and systemic accountability	Courts, Digital platforms, MoJ, DSVA	Redress achieved, recurrence reduced

a. MULTI-SECTORAL RESPONSE STRUCTURE (Lagos Example)

Actor	*Core Role*
Lagos State DSVA	Lead coordination and Policy Implementation; operate helplines and virtual response; collect data.
Lagos State Ministry of Justice /Bureau of the Public Defender)	Legal aid, prosecution guidance, legislative review.
Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation	Empowerment, advocacy, and monitoring of gender-responsive measures.
Ministry of Youth and Social Development	Prevention, response, youth engagement, and social welfare services. The MYSD will collaborate with DSVA to ensure that cases of TF-SGBV involving children receive specialized protection, timely intervention, and comprehensive support in line with Lagos State child safeguarding standards.
Lagos State Police Command (Cybercrime Unit + Gender Desk)	Investigation, evidence collection, perpetrator tracking.
NAPTIP	Handle cases with child exploitation or trafficking links.
Health Sector / SARCs	Provide trauma care and medical examinations.
Civil society & NGOs	Advocacy, awareness, counselling, and survivor accompaniment.
Private Sector / Tech Platforms	Provide safety tools, quick takedowns, awareness campaigns.
Educational Institutions	Campus reporting, investigations, counseling, prevention programs.

b. Monitoring and Evaluation Indicators

Domain	*Indicator*	*Source*
Access to services	Number of TF-SGBV survivors who accessed DSVA/helpline support	DSVA case management system
Timeliness	percentage of cases receiving first response within 24 hrs	DSVA/Police logs
Justice outcomes	Number of TF-SGBV prosecutions & convictions	Ministry of Justice data
Platform cooperation	Average time for content takedown	DSVA-platform MoU reports
Survivor satisfaction	Percentage of survivors reporting satisfaction with support received	Anonymous feedback survey

c. Best-Practice Principles

1. Survivor safety first — never take actions that could expose survivors to retaliation.
2. Do no harm — always anonymize and secure digital evidence.
3. Consent and confidentiality — survivors decide what to report, share, or pursue legally.
4. Intersectionality — tailor services for children, youth, and Persons with Disabilities PwDs).
5. Collaboration over silos — DSVA, Police, NGOs, Tech Firms, and health workers must share anonymised data and coordinate responses.
6. Accountability and transparency — public annual reports on TF-SGBV trends, actions, and outcomes.

d. Key Tools and Resources to Develop Locally

- TF-SGBV Case Intake & Referral Form (print and online).
- Digital Evidence Collection Guide (safe screenshotting, metadata preservation).
- Survivor Information Sheet (rights, contacts, support services).
- Hotline / Chatbot Integration SOP (confidential triage workflow).
- MoU templates for collaboration with the Nigerian Communications Commission.
- Training curriculum for law enforcement, counsellors, and digital responders.

e. Global Inspiration & Lagos Application

Model	*Key Feature*	*How Lagos Can Adapt*
UNFPA "Bodyright" campaign	Digital rights awareness & survivor education	Integrate into state-wide online safety curriculum.
Australia's eSafety Commissioner	Government-backed online harm reporting system	Create a "Lagos Digital Safety Office" under DSVA.
Kenya's NCIC / GBV Helpline 1195	Integrated helpline for SGBV + cyber cases	Leverage existing hotlines and reporting channels to operate an integrated helpline for SGBV and cyber-related cases.

Summary — Lagos TF-SGBV Response Framework

Phase	*Core Focus*	*Responsible Actors*
Immediate Response	Safe reporting, case triage, digital evidence	DSVA, Police, Cyber Desk
Support	Counselling, legal aid, medical, shelters, digital safety	DSVA, WAPA, MYSD, NGOs, BPD, MOH, PHC, SARCs and Educational Institutions
Remedies	Prosecution, civil protection, platform takedown	Ministry of Justice, Courts, DSVA, MYSD, Tech companies
Monitoring	Data dashboard, evaluation, policy review	DSVA, WAPA, MYSD, M&E Unit, MoJ

5.0

LEGAL AND REGULATORY MEASURES

An effective response to Technology-Facilitated Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (TF-SGBV) requires a strong, coherent, and gender-responsive legal framework. Laws and regulations must recognize TF-SGBV as a distinct form of gender-based violence, harmonized across criminal, civil, and administrative systems. They should also ensure accountability, prevention, victim protection, and access to justice.

This section outlines the legal and regulatory actions needed to prevent, prosecute, and redress TF-SGBV, while safeguarding human rights and the principles of proportionality, legality, and due process.



5.1 Legislative Reforms and Criminalization of

Many existing legal systems lack explicit provisions addressing TF-SGBV or treat it under general criminal law, which often fail to capture its gendered dimensions. Legislative reform is therefore necessary to close gaps and ensure comprehensive coverage.

Policy actions include:

• Criminalizing TF-SGBV as a specific offence, covering acts such as online harassment, cyberstalking, image-based abuse, deepfake pornography, doxing, sexual extortion, and online grooming.

• Harmonizing definitions with national instruments such as Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, etc) Amendment Act, 2024, and international instruments, including CEDAW General Recommendation No. 35, the Istanbul Convention, the United Nations Convention of the Rights of a Child and the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime.

• Integrating aggravating factors in cases where offences are motivated by, or perpetrated against, minors and Persons with Disabilities. Such circumstances shall be deemed to heighten the gravity of the offence, warranting enhanced penalties and stricter judicial consideration.

•Establishing clear penalties and remedies proportionate to the harm caused, including criminal, civil, and administrative sanctions.

• Recognizing non-consensual sharing of intimate content and synthetic media manipulation as violations of dignity and sexual autonomy.

• Ensuring survivor-centered procedures, including anonymity protections, confidentiality in proceedings, and sensitivity in handling digital evidence.

• Embedding restorative justice options, where appropriate, that prioritize survivor consent and healing.

Legislative reform should be accompanied by capacity-building for justice actors, including prosecutors, judges, and law enforcement, to ensure gender-sensitive application of the law.

5.2 Data Protection and Privacy Laws

Privacy and data protection are fundamental in both preventing and responding to TF-SGBV. Legal frameworks must ensure that digital rights and personal data are protected, while enabling lawful investigation and prosecution of offenders.

Policy actions include:

• Adopting Nigeria Data Protection Act, 2023 and regulation to ensure that individuals' personal data, images, and communications cannot be misused or shared without consent.

• Introducing privacy-by-design requirements in technology development and online service provision, leveraging existing NCC industry frameworks to ensure compliance.

• Establishing secure protocols for the collection, preservation, and presentation of digital evidence, aligned with NCC's industry standards—to prevent re-traumatization and secondary victimization.

• Empowering data protection authorities to collaborate with law enforcement, ensuring privacy-compliant investigative practices in line with the provisions of the Nigeria Data Protection Act, 2023.

• Providing survivors with rights to removal ("right to be forgotten"), correction, or restriction of unlawful online content.

• Enforcing strict penalties for unauthorized use, sale, or disclosure of personal data that leads to TF-SGBV.

A gender-sensitive approach to data governance recognizes that privacy is not only an individual right but also a precondition for safety, dignity, and freedom from digital violence.

5.3 Regulation of Digital Platforms and Intermediary Liability

Technology companies and digital platforms play a central role in shaping the online environment. Their policies, design choices, and moderation practices can either prevent or perpetuate Technology-Facilitated Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (TF-SGBV).

Recognizing their influence and responsibility, this section establishes a framework for ensuring that technology actors contribute proactively to safety, transparency, and accountability across digital spaces, while upholding human rights, freedom of expression, and privacy.

5.3.a Platform Responsibility and Transparency

Technology platforms have an ethical and legal duty to protect users from digital harms, including TF-SGBV. They must operate with transparency, accountability, and due diligence in preventing and responding to online abuse.

Key policy actions include:

- Requiring platforms to adopt clear terms of service and community standards explicitly prohibiting TF-SGBV, including harassment, non-consensual image sharing, deepfakes, and doxxing.
- Publishing annual transparency reports detailing the number and nature of TF-SGBV cases reported, response times, and actions taken.
- Conducting regular human rights and gender impact assessments of platform policies, algorithms, and moderation systems.
- Establishing compliance frameworks in alignment with Nigeria Data Protection Act, 2023, other national TF-SGBV legislation and global standards such as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.
- Providing clear and accessible information to users about how to report abuse, appeal decisions, and seek redress.
- Collaborating with governments and civil society to develop voluntary codes of conduct on preventing and addressing online gender-based violence.

Transparent operations enhance public trust and ensure that platforms are accountable to both their users and regulatory authorities.

5.3.b Content Moderation and Algorithmic

Algorithms and automated systems significantly shape what content users see online, influencing the spread of harmful material and hate speech. Ensuring algorithmic fairness, accountability, and inclusivity is essential to prevent the amplification of gendered abuse.

Key policy actions include:

- Implementing robust content moderation policies and laws that balance user safety with freedom of expression such as the National Information Technology Development Agency Act, 2007; the National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure Act, 2004 (as amended); the Nigerian Communications Commission Act, 2003, amongst others.
- Investing in multilingual and context-sensitive moderation teams, trained to recognize gendered and culturally specific forms of abuse.
- Ensuring responsibility in algorithmic decision-making, including how content is prioritized, what outcome the algorithm has, what influences this outcome, how content is flagged, or removed.
- Conducting independent audits of AI-driven moderation tools to identify biases that disproportionately impact women and marginalized groups.
- Requiring companies to publish algorithmic responsibility reports, summarizing safeguards against discrimination and misuse.

• Promoting collaboration and liaising with NCC and other regulators to monitor the design and implementation of content-moderation and review policies developed by digital platforms, technology companies, and telecom operators, in partnership with DSVA, digital ethics experts, and other relevant stakeholders.

Algorithmic accountability ensures that technological systems reinforce equality rather than replicating or amplifying existing social biases.

5.3.c Cooperation with Law Enforcement

Platforms play a key role in facilitating lawful access to information and evidence in TF-SGBV investigations, while maintaining user privacy and due process.

Key policy actions include:

• Establishing clear, rights-compliant protocols and timelines for responding to law enforcement requests related to TF-SGBV incidents, in line with the Lawful Interception of Communications Regulations (2019).
• Providing training and liaison officers to interface between platform safety teams and authorized investigators.
• Ensuring cooperation is rights-based and compliant with privacy, data protection, and human rights laws.
• Participating in joint working groups with governments and cybercrime units to streamline reporting and information-sharing.
• Preserving digital evidence in a secure, time-bound, and verifiable manner, to aid investigations and prosecutions, in line with the Lawful Interception of Communications Regulations (2019).
• Engaging inter-state collaboration through harmonized data request frameworks consistent with national laws like Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, etc) (Amendment) Act, 2024 and international treaties (e.g., the Budapest Convention).

Effective cooperation builds stronger enforcement capacity and demonstrates corporate commitment to justice and accountability.

5.3.d User Safety Tools and Complaint Mechanisms

Empowering users with tools to protect themselves and report abuse is fundamental to preventing TF-SGBV. Platforms must ensure that complaint mechanisms are accessible, effective, and survivor-friendly.

Key policy actions include:

• Integrating accessible and easy-to-use reporting buttons to expand the scope of existing reporting channels or mechanisms to include or factor in technology-facilitated sexual and gender-based violence such as harassment, impersonation, non-consensual imagery, and threats etc.
• Promoting rapid content takedown procedures, especially for intimate or harmful material, with transparent appeal options.
• Providing in-platform safety features, such as blocking, muting, privacy settings, two-factor authentication, and location controls.
• Offering in-app guidance on safety, digital literacy, and how to document evidence for reporting.
• Partnering with local helplines and survivor support services to provide referrals within complaint interfaces.
• Ensuring disability-inclusive, multilingual, and gender-sensitive reporting and complaint mechanisms.
• Periodically reviewing user feedback and survivor experiences to improve safety tools and support pathways.

Accessible and survivor-oriented complaint mechanisms reduce harm, restore agency, and reinforce the message that online violence will not be tolerated.

5.3.e Ethical Design and Safety-by-Design Principles

Technology products and platforms should be built with safety, inclusion, accessibility and ethics embedded from the outset, rather than as afterthoughts. A safety-by-design approach ensures that user protection is integral to technological innovation.

Key policy actions include:

- Encouraging early integration of safety and gender impact assessments during the design and development stages of digital products.
- Promoting ethical design principles, including consent-based sharing, privacy defaults, and user control over data visibility.
- Requiring periodic safety audits to identify vulnerabilities that could enable TF-SGBV.
- Supporting research and innovation grants for technologies that enhance online safety, such as image-tracking tools and AI-based detection of abuse.
- Adopting and supporting the adoption of industry standards and certification systems for gender-responsive design and data ethics.
- Promoting inclusive design teams by ensuring representation of women, population groups with varied linguistic or demographic characteristics—including children, adolescents, the elderly, and persons with disabilities as well as human rights experts in product development.
- Collaborating with the Nigeria Communication Commission and other regulatory agencies to incentivize technology companies and telecom operators to publicly commit to safety-by-design charters as part of corporate social responsibility frameworks.

Ethical and safety-by-design approaches ensure that digital platforms foster empowerment, not exploitation, and that technological innovation aligns with human rights values.

Summary

Technology companies and digital platforms are both enablers and gatekeepers in the digital ecosystem. Their proactive engagement in transparency, responsible design, algorithmic fairness, cooperation with authorities, and survivor-centered user tools is indispensable in the fight against TF-SGBV.

A collaborative, transparent, and ethically grounded technology sector is key to creating a safe, inclusive, and rights-respecting digital environment for all.

5.4 Geographical Cooperation and Jurisdictional

The nature of digital technologies means that TF-SGBV often involves perpetrators, survivors, and service providers across multiple jurisdictions. Legal responses must therefore prioritize local cooperation.

Key policy actions include:

- Supporting Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLATs) and extradition agreements to facilitate state-wide investigations and prosecutions.
- Collaborating with the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), other regional national telecommunication regulators or its equivalent and regional cybercrime networks for intelligence-sharing and capacity development.
- Establishing clear jurisdictional rules in Lagos State to address crimes committed online that transcend borders.
- Promoting state/regional dialogues on TF-SGBV legislation and digital rights frameworks.
- Enhancing real-time cooperation mechanisms between law enforcement and technology platforms to preserve and share evidence lawfully.
- Supporting capacity-building of government and non-governmental bodies, to address technical barriers to effective case management.

Cross-border cooperation ensures that perpetrators cannot exploit digital anonymity or jurisdictional gaps to evade accountability.

5.5 Access to Justice and Protection Orders

Ensuring equitable access to justice is essential for the credibility and effectiveness of this policy framework. Survivors of TF-SGBV often face barriers such as lack of awareness, stigma, high costs, or inadequate institutional support.

Key policy actions include:

- Integrating fast-track and confidential reporting mechanisms for online violence into DSVA's existing hotlines and digital reporting platforms.
- Promoting electronic filing of complaints and evidence submission, especially for remote or marginalized communities.
- Introducing into Lagos State's legal framework, digital protection orders (restraining, take-down, or no-contact orders) enforceable across online platforms as adopted from the Nigerian Communications Commission Internet Code of Practice (ICoP), 2025 and the Consumer Code of Practice Regulation, 2024.
- Ensuring free legal aid and psychosocial counseling for survivors.
- Training police and judicial officers in gender-sensitive and trauma-informed procedures, including handling of digital evidence.
- Leveraging DSVA's existing one-stop service structure to incorporate integrated support units for survivors of both digital and offline violence.
- Guaranteeing non-discrimination and accessibility in justice delivery for persons with disabilities.

A survivor-centered justice system must prioritize safety, confidentiality, and empowerment, ensuring that reporting TF-SGBV leads to protection, not further harm.

Summary

Legal and regulatory measures form the backbone of the state response to TF-SGBV. They must criminalize digital violence, safeguard privacy and data rights, hold platforms accountable, and ensure survivor-centered access to justice. A coherent legal environment, aligned with international standards, enables both prevention and accountability, fostering a digital society grounded in safety, equality, and human rights.

6.0

COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIP

A coordinated and multi-sectoral approach is essential to effectively prevent, address, and monitor Technology-Facilitated Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (TF-SGBV). Fragmented responses, institutional silos, and limited communication between agencies weaken protection mechanisms and undermine accountability.

This section establishes the institutional architecture necessary for policy coherence, implementation, monitoring, and collaboration across all relevant sectors, including government ministries, law enforcement, civil society, academia, and private sector actors.

Clear delineation of institutional roles and responsibilities ensures accountability and efficiency in addressing TF-SGBV.



a) Coordination Body - Government Ministries and Agencies

DSVA shall serve as the Coordinating and Implementing Body for TF-SGBV prevention and response in Lagos State. Building on existing state structures, DSVA shall continue to leverage the established multi-sectoral coordination framework that brings together relevant government ministries, departments, agencies, and partners.

Mandate and Functions:

- **Policy Coordination:** Oversee implementation of the State TF-SGBV policy and related action plans.
- **Inter-Agency Collaboration:** Facilitate coordination among ministries responsible for children, justice, ICT, education, health, and communication.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Develop indicators, collect data, and produce periodic progress reports on TF-SGBV prevention and response.
- **Advisory Role:** Provide technical guidance on legislative reforms, digital governance, and emerging technological trends.
- **Crisis Response:** Coordinate rapid response to large-scale or high-profile online violence incidents, ensuring timely survivor support.
- **Resource Mobilization:** Advocate for budgetary allocations and mobilize external funding to sustain prevention and response efforts.

Membership shall include representatives from relevant government ministries, departments such as:

- **Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation:** Advocacy and Collaboration with DSVA to integrate TF-SGBV measures into women's empowerment and poverty alleviation programmes.
- **Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology and Nigerian Communications Commission:** Memoranda of understanding to regulate technology platforms, support safety-by-design initiatives, standardize reporting, takedown procedures, and data-sharing protocols in line with Nigerian Communications Commission Internet Code of Practice (ICoP), 2025.
- **Ministry of Justice:** Draft and enforce legislation, ensure access to justice, and integrate TF-SGBV into State legal frameworks.
- **Ministry of Youth and Social development:** Integrate TF-SGBV policy measures for direct intervention, prevention, response, protection, youth engagement/education and social welfare services.
- **Law Enforcement Agencies:** Investigate and prosecute TF-SGBV cases using gender-sensitive, technology-enabled approaches.
- **Judiciary:** Interpret and apply laws related to TF-SGBV fairly and consistently, ensuring survivor protection.
- **Ministry of Education:** Integrate digital safety and gender equality into curricula and teacher's training.
- **Health Sector/SARCs:** Provide Trauma-informed Care and medical examinations.
- **Social Protection Coordinating Department (SPCD):** supports survivors of TF-SGBV through tracking and supervision, reporting, awareness and protection services
- **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** influencing law reforms, providing international frameworks for promoting muti-sectoral action, data and monitoring systems, and supporting survivor-centered approaches.
- **Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs (LASODA):** Serve as a Coordinating Agency for the disability community to ensure access for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).
- **Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs):** Partner with the State to disseminate information, correct harmful beliefs and support early detection of TF-SGBV cases in their immediate environment.
- **Data Protection Authority:** Oversee compliance with privacy laws and ethical handling of digital evidence

b) Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

- Provide survivor-centered services such as legal aid, counseling, and advocacy.
- Conduct public education campaigns and community outreach.
- Serve as watchdogs to monitor implementation and hold institutions accountable.
- Support research and data collection on emerging TF-SGBV trends.

c) Private Sector and Technology Companies

- Enforce robust platform policies and transparent complaint-handling procedures.
- Develop user safety tools and cooperate with authorities in investigations.
- Partner with government and CSOs on digital literacy and awareness campaigns.
- Report on safety, content moderation, and compliance with TF-SGBV standards.

d) Academia and Research Institutions

- Conduct evidence-based research for policy development and innovation.
- Build training programs for professionals and students in technology, law, and social sciences.
- Serve as knowledge hubs for data-driven analysis and evaluation of interventions.

e) Regional Partners

- Provide technical assistance, capacity development, and funding for state-wide initiatives.
- Facilitate cross-border advocacy and information-sharing on emerging threats.

Summary

Effective institutional coordination is essential for the successful implementation of this policy framework. The Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency shall serve as the central coordinating body, ensuring a unified, multi-sectoral, and survivor-centered response to Technology-Facilitated Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. This coordinated approach will guarantee that TF-SGBV is addressed comprehensively, systematically, and sustainably across Lagos State.

7.0

OVERALL CHALLENGES AND MITIGATION MECHANISMS

Practical breakdown of the main challenges Lagos (and Nigeria more broadly) face when preventing and responding to TF-SGBV, plus concrete mitigation strategies:

7.1. Under-reporting and survivor reluctance

Why it's a problem: stigma, fear of retaliation, limited trust in law enforcement, and privacy concerns substantially deter survivors from reporting incidents to authorities or seeking assistance from NGOs.

Mitigation

- Leverage anonymous, easy reporting channels (toll-free/official lines, secure web form, WhatsApp chatbot) managed by trusted NGOs/DSVA/relevant MDAs.
- Trauma-informed intake and guaranteed confidentiality; publish survivor rights sheets.
- Quick win: run an awareness campaign informing survivors of anonymous reporting and free legal/psychosocial services.



7.2. Data & measurement gaps

Why: no standardized indicators, few representative surveys, and siloed admin data make it impossible to track scale and trends.

Mitigation

- Add TF-SGBV modules to Lagos household or campus surveys using UN-aligned questions.
- Harmonise DSVA/relevant MDAs/police/NGO data fields and create an anonymised dashboard.
- Quick win: agree on a small core indicator set (e.g., number of TF-SGBV reports, takedowns, referrals completed) and start quarterly reporting.

7.3. Rapidly evolving technology (deepfakes, spyware, encrypted apps)

Why: new tools create novel harms faster than laws or guidance can adapt.

Mitigation

- Create a tech-watch unit (small) to track emerging risks and brief policymakers quarterly.
- Invest in partnerships with tech companies and civil-society researchers for counter-tools.
- Quick win: produce a one-pager on "deepfake risks & immediate responses" for frontline workers.

7.4. Privacy vs. evidence tension

Why: collecting digital evidence can expose survivors or violate privacy norms; yet evidence is necessary for prosecution.

Mitigation

- Adopt strict data minimisation, encrypted case storage, access logging, and provision of legal counsel for handling evidence requests.
- Build digital evidence kits that instruct survivors on safe capture & transfer.
- Quick win: circulate a vetted "how to preserve digital evidence safely" guide for survivors and counsellors.

7.5. Lack of survivor-centered services & referrals

Why: technology-related harms require blended services (legal, psychosocial, digital safety) which are often not coordinated.

Mitigation

- Standardize referral pathways (DSVA/relevant MDAs ↔ police ↔ legal aid ↔ health) with clear SLAs and single case managers.
- Fund mobile psychosocial teams and online counselling options.
- Quick win: map existing services and publish a live referral directory (phone + WhatsApp).

7.6. Socio-cultural norms and victim-blaming

Why: gender norms discourage reporting and reduce social support for survivors.

Mitigation

- Behaviour-change campaigns targeting men (to shift norms of entitlement/control) and bystander interventions.
- Integrate digital-consent modules in school curricula and university orientations.
- Quick win: a radio & social media series featuring male champions against online abuse.

7.7. Economic barriers & access to justice

Why: legal proceedings and digital forensics can be costly; survivors may lack funds to pursue remedies.

Mitigation

- Establish legal aid funds and pro-bono tech forensic clinics with universities.
- Explore small emergency stipends for survivors needing relocation/shelter.
- Quick win: create a legal-aid router with volunteer lawyers for TF-SGBV cases.

7.8. Platform/infrastructure issues (further engagement and cooperation with the Nigerian Communications Commission, SIM registration)

Why: tracking abusive numbers or rapid takedowns requires telcos and SIM data access under lawful procedures.

Mitigation

- Pre-negotiated rapid cooperation protocols with telecoms; judicial fast-track for emergency data preservation.
- Leverage SIM registration to help trace repeat offenders were lawful.
- Quick win: Nigerian Communications Commission sign an MOU for emergency preservation of call/SMS logs on DSVA request.

7.9. Children and educational settings gaps

Why: schools often lack policies, teachers lack capacity, and minors are especially vulnerable to grooming.

Mitigation

- Mandate TF-SGBV prevention modules in state education curriculum; train school counsellors; set school reporting SOPs.
- Quick win: conduct pilot digital safety workshops in a cluster of Lagos secondary schools and measure reach.

7.10. Resource constraints & sustainability

Why: interventions often start as pilots but lack funding for scale and long-term M&E.

Mitigation

- Build a costed implementation plan with phased scaling and private-sector partnerships (CSR).
- Demonstrate early wins and ROI to unlock government budget lines.
- Quick win: create a short pilot with clear KPIs and cost per survivor supported to attract funders.

Prioritised action plan (practical sequence)

1. Immediate: Set up anonymous reporting channels; issue digital evidence & safety guides; create a core indicator set; convene inter-agency technical working group.
2. Short: Negotiate platform & telco MOUs; run frontline training for police/DSVA; pilot campus & school prevention modules; launch behaviour-change campaign.
3. Medium: Legal reform/model ordinance; integrated DSVA case management system; representative prevalence survey with TF-SGBV module; scale toll-free number & forensic services.

Key indicators to monitor progress

- TF-SGBV reports (DSVA/relevant MDAs /police/NGO) per quarter (trend).
- Percentage reports receiving first response within 24–72 hours.
- Percentage successful takedowns within 7 days.
- Number of prosecutions/convictions for TF-SGBV offences.
- Survivor satisfaction & safety outcomes (post-service follow-up).
- Percentage trained police/prosecutors; # of schools with prevention modules.

8.0

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS SAFEGUARDS

The implementation of policies to prevent and respond to Technology-Facilitated Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (TF-SGBV) must be grounded in ethical principles and human rights obligations. While addressing online harms and holding perpetrators accountable, it is essential to ensure that actions do not undermine freedom of expression, privacy, data protection, inclusivity, or equality.

This section establishes ethical standards that safeguard the dignity, autonomy, and rights of all individuals in digital spaces.



8.1 Balancing Safety with Freedom of Expression

Efforts to address TF-SGBV must carefully balance the imperative of ensuring safety and dignity online with the protection of freedom of expression and access to information, core democratic values recognized in national constitution and international law.

Key policy actions include:

- Ensuring that laws and regulations addressing TF-SGBV are proportionate, necessary, and consistent with international human rights standards.
- Avoiding overbroad or vague legal provisions that could lead to censorship, suppression of legitimate speech, or misuse against activists and journalists.
- Encouraging transparent content moderation processes by platforms, with clear definitions of harmful content and accessible appeal mechanisms.
- Promoting media and digital literacy that empowers users to engage responsibly while recognizing harmful and rights-violating behavior.
- Supporting independent oversight mechanisms to review restrictions on online speech or content removal decisions.
- Facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogue to maintain balance between user safety, platform responsibility, and open discourse.

A rights-respecting approach ensures that the fight against TF-SGBV strengthens, rather than restricts, the digital public sphere.

8.2 Privacy, Surveillance, and Consent

Protecting individuals' privacy, autonomy, and consent is central to ethical digital governance. Measures to detect, investigate, or prevent TF-SGBV must uphold data protection standards and avoid enabling surveillance or intrusive monitoring practices.

Policy actions include:

- Upholding the right to privacy in all interventions related to data collection, digital investigations, and survivor support.
- Ensuring informed consent in the collection, storage, and use of personal data — particularly for survivors of TF-SGBV.
- Implementing strict data protection protocols for law enforcement, service providers, and online platforms handling sensitive information.
- Avoiding mass surveillance or indiscriminate data scraping in the name of online safety.
- Requiring that digital monitoring tools and forensic technologies meet legal, ethical, and technical safeguards before deployment.
- Promoting user empowerment through privacy settings, consent-based data sharing, and awareness on digital rights.
- Aligning state measures with national, global standards, including the UN Personal Data Protection Principles and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) benchmarks.

An ethical and consent-based approach reinforces public trust and ensures that interventions protect rather than compromise individual rights.

8.3 Inclusivity and Non-Discrimination

Addressing TF-SGBV requires a firm commitment to equality, inclusivity, and non-discrimination. Responses must be sensitive to intersecting vulnerabilities related to gender, age, disability, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and digital access.

Policy actions include:

• Ensuring that all laws, programs, and platforms uphold the principle of non-discrimination, as enshrined in CEDAW and national equality laws.
• Designing interventions that are inclusive of persons with disabilities, ethnic minority groups, and rural or low-income populations
• Incorporating intersectional gender analysis in policy planning, implementation, and evaluation.
• Ensuring accessible digital safety resources (e.g., sign language interpretation, easy-to-read formats, multilingual content).
• Partnering with community-based organizations that represent key population groups to co-create prevention and response mechanisms.
• Promoting digital inclusion policies that bridge gendered gaps in access to technology, digital literacy, and online safety tools.
• Monitoring and addressing algorithmic bias or discrimination that disproportionately affects women, girls and PWDs.

A non-discriminatory, inclusive framework ensures that all individuals, regardless of gender or circumstance, can participate safely and equally in digital life.

8.4 Ethical Data Use and AI Governance

The increasing role of data analytics, artificial intelligence (AI), and automation in addressing TF-SGBV raises complex ethical and governance challenges. While these technologies can enhance detection and response, they must be guided by accountability, transparency, and fairness.

Policy actions include:

• Developing ethical guidelines for AI use in monitoring, content moderation, and law enforcement investigations related to TF-SGBV.
• Ensuring that AI systems are transparent, explainable, and subject to human oversight, particularly in decisions affecting rights and freedoms.
• Preventing the use of biased algorithms that could reinforce gender stereotypes or discriminate against PWDs.
• Establishing data governance frameworks that promote accuracy, consent, and the responsible sharing of information among stakeholders.
• Mandating impact assessments (e.g., Gender Impact Assessments, Algorithmic Impact Assessments) before deploying digital tools or automated systems.
• Requiring tech companies to publish regular transparency and human rights reports related to their AI systems and data policies.
• Encouraging multi-stakeholder ethics boards to oversee AI and data use in digital safety interventions.

Ethical AI governance ensures that technology serves as a tool for empowerment and protection, not surveillance, discrimination, or harm.

Summary

Ethical and human rights safeguards are not supplementary; they are foundational to an effective and sustainable TF-SGBV response.

By balancing safety with freedom, ensuring privacy and consent, promoting inclusivity, and enforcing ethical technology use, this framework upholds the core principle of digital dignity, the right of every person to exist, express, and engage safely and equally in digital spaces.

This rights-based approach ensures that technological progress and gender justice move hand in hand, reinforcing the broader vision of a safe, inclusive, and equitable digital future for all.

9.0

MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Accountability (MEA) are integral to ensuring that the TF-SGBV Policy Framework achieves its intended impact and remains responsive to evolving digital realities.

An effective MEA system promotes transparency, evidence-based decision-making, and institutional accountability, ensuring that commitments translate into measurable results that protect and empower all individuals, especially women, girls, and PWDs.

This section outlines the mechanisms for policy review, periodic reporting, institutional accountability, and continuous improvement.



9.1 Framework for Policy Review and Evaluation

A robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework ensures that the implementation of the TF-SGBV Policy is systematically tracked, assessed, and refined over time. The framework will measure both progress toward policy objectives and the quality and effectiveness of interventions.

Key policy actions include:

- Leverage the existing Monitoring and Evaluation framework of DSVA, with data inputs from relevant MDAs, police, and partner NGOs, to track TF-SGBV interventions, aligned with the State Implementation Plan and gender equality indicators.
- Defining clear, measurable indicators for each policy goal and outcome area (e.g., prevention, access to justice, survivor support, digital safety).
- Conducting mid-term (every 2–3 years) and end-term (every 5 years) evaluations to assess policy effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability.
- Commissioning independent evaluations to ensure impartiality and credibility.
- Using both quantitative and qualitative data (case studies, survivor experiences, platform reports) to inform evaluations.
- Linking evaluation findings to policy revisions and future planning cycles.
- Ensuring that all review processes are participatory, engaging survivors, CSOs, academia, and the private sector.

This systematic framework ensures that the policy remains dynamic, adaptive, and grounded in lived realities and emerging evidence.

9.2 Periodic Reporting Mechanisms

Periodic progress reporting promotes transparency, accountability, and cross-sector learning. Progress reports will provide a structured mechanism for sharing results, challenges, and best practices across institutions and stakeholders.

Key policy actions include:

- Developing a standardized TF-SGBV reporting format for all implementing agencies and stakeholders.
- Requiring bi-annual or annual progress reports from relevant ministries, law enforcement bodies, regulatory authorities, and partner organizations.
- Compiling these reports into an Annual State TF-SGBV Implementation Report, coordinated by DSVA
- Presenting findings to the stakeholders and the public, reinforcing government accountability.
- Submitting relevant data to international and regional reporting mechanisms (e.g., CEDAW Committee, Universal Periodic Review, and SDG reporting).
- Creating an online TF-SGBV dashboard or public portal to publish non-sensitive data, indicators, and achievements for public access.
- Encouraging citizen feedback and participation in policy review through public consultations, surveys, and online platforms.

Consistent reporting strengthens policy credibility, enhances transparency, and ensures that progress remains visible and measurable.

9.3 Accountability Framework for Institutions and Platforms

Accountability mechanisms ensure that all stakeholders, including government institutions, technology companies, and implementing partners, uphold their responsibilities under the TF-SGBV framework. This approach emphasizes shared responsibility, ethical compliance, and institutional integrity.

Key policy actions include:

• Developing an Institutional Accountability Framework outlining the roles, responsibilities, and performance standards for all implementing entities.
• Establishing clear lines of accountability across ministries, law enforcement, judiciary, regulators, and CSOs.
• Introducing annual performance audits and scorecards to assess institutional progress in preventing and responding to TF-SGBV.
• Holding technology companies and digital platforms accountable through mandatory transparency reporting, compliance with content moderation standards, and cooperation with law enforcement.
• Including penalty or sanction provisions for platforms or institutions that fail to meet obligations under applicable laws and regulations.
• Encouraging internal accountability mechanisms within agencies, such as gender focal points, ethics committees, and staff training programs.
• Promoting independent oversight through state's human rights institutions.

A clear accountability framework ensures that all actors operate transparently, uphold survivor rights, and deliver results consistent with human rights and gender equality principles.

9.4 Feedback and Continuous Improvement

Continuous learning and adaptation are essential to ensure the policy remains effective amid evolving technologies, digital risks, and societal changes.
Institutionalizing feedback loops promotes policy agility, inclusiveness, and innovation.

Key policy actions include:

• Establishing feedback mechanisms to capture input from survivors, civil society, and community networks regarding service quality and accessibility.
• Conducting annual stakeholder dialogues and learning forums to review implementation challenges and propose solutions.
• Utilizing digital feedback tools, helplines, and anonymous surveys to collect user perspectives on safety and online experiences.
• Encouraging real-time policy adjustments based on monitoring data, evaluations, and stakeholder feedback.
• Documenting and disseminating lessons learned and best practices through the State Knowledge Hub (see Section 11.5).
• Promoting continuous professional development for personnel to stay updated on emerging forms of TF-SGBV, AI-driven abuse, and digital trends.
• Institutionalizing a five-year policy review cycle to update the framework in line with new technologies, evidence, and legal developments.

By integrating feedback and learning into governance, the policy framework remains responsive, survivor-centered, and future-ready.

Summary

Monitoring, evaluation, and accountability form the backbone of a credible and sustainable TF-SGBV response. Through a structured M&E framework, periodic reporting, institutional accountability, and ongoing feedback, the government and its partners can ensure that actions are not only implemented but also effective, transparent, and continuously improving.

This approach transforms the TF-SGBV Policy from a static document into a living framework of action, capable of evolving with technology, social change, and the needs of survivors.

10

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Effective implementation is the cornerstone of the Technology-Facilitated Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (TF-SGBV) Policy Framework. Translating policy commitments into measurable results requires a clear action plan, dedicated resources, capacity development, strategic partnerships, and risk mitigation measures.

This section sets out the practical mechanisms for operationalizing the policy, ensuring coordination, accountability, and sustainability across all sectors and levels of governance.



10.1 Action Plan and Timeline

A detailed and time-bound TF-SGBV Action Plan shall guide the phased implementation of this policy. The action plan will outline specific objectives, activities, outputs, responsible institutions, timelines, and performance indicators.

Key policy actions include:

- Developing a three- to five-year implementation plan aligned with national gender equality, digital governance, and human rights strategies.
- Assigning lead and supporting agencies for each thematic area (prevention, legal reform, platform regulation, survivor support, etc.).
- Defining short-term (1 year), medium-term (3 years), and long-term (5+years) milestones to ensure progressive realization of objectives.
- Integrating TF-SGBV actions into sectoral plans, including justice, education, ICT, and Youth, Women, social protection.
- Establishing annual review and reporting cycles, coordinated by DSVA
- Using monitoring dashboards and digital tools for real-time progress tracking.
- Launching the TF-SGBV Technical Working Group (TWG)

A time-bound action plan ensures that commitments move from policy statements to tangible outcomes that improve safety and justice in digital spaces.

10.2 Resource Mobilization and Budgeting

Sustainable financing is essential to ensure that TF-SGBV prevention and response efforts are adequately supported. Resource mobilization must leverage domestic budgets, private sector contributions, local and international partnerships.

Policy actions include:

- Integrating TF-SGBV activities into state and sectoral budget frameworks (Justice, ICT, Women, education, social welfare, etc.).
- Establishing a dedicated TF-SGBV Fund or budget line to support survivor services, public awareness campaigns, and capacity-building programs.
- Engaging development partners, international organizations, and philanthropic foundations to provide technical and financial support.
- Encouraging public–private partnerships (PPPs) with technology companies and telecom providers for co-funding prevention and digital safety initiatives in line with the Nigerian Communications Commission Internet Code of Practice (ICoP), 2025.
- Ensuring gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) principles are applied to resource allocation and expenditure tracking.
- Promoting accountability and transparency in budget management through annual financial reporting.

Adequate and predictable financing guarantees that policy commitments are translated into sustainable, long-term impact rather than ad-hoc interventions.

10.3 Capacity Development Strategy

Building institutional and human capacity is critical to the success of the TF-SGBV framework. A comprehensive capacity development strategy will strengthen the skills, systems, and resources of implementing agencies, ensuring consistent and gender-sensitive responses.

Policy actions include:

- Conducting capacity needs assessments across key sectors (law enforcement, judiciary, ICT regulators, education, and Women and social services).
- Developing state training curricula and toolkits on TF-SGBV prevention, investigation, and survivor support.
- Training law enforcement officers, judges, prosecutors, educators, first responders, and digital safety focal points on gender-sensitive and trauma-informed approaches.

• Enhancing the technical capacity of ICT ministries and regulators to oversee platform compliance and digital evidence management.
• Supporting CSOs and community networks through grants, workshops, and digital literacy programs.
• Promoting peer learning for knowledge exchange and innovation.
• Establishing academic partnerships to incorporate TF-SGBV studies into primary, secondary, tertiary and professional education programs.

A well-trained, coordinated, and gender-responsive workforce is vital for consistent implementation and effective service delivery.

10.4 Partnerships and Collaboration

The multifaceted nature of TF-SGBV demands a whole-of-society approach involving government, private sector, academia, and civil society. Strategic partnerships foster innovation, accountability, and sustainability.

Policy actions include:

• Strengthening collaboration between government ministries, law enforcement, and ICT regulators for joint planning and implementation.
• Partnering with technology companies to promote transparency, user safety, and data-sharing for research and accountability.
• Engaging civil society organizations (CSOs) as implementing partners for survivor support, advocacy, and awareness campaigns.
• Collaborating with academic and research institutions to generate data and evaluate interventions.
• Building alliances with regional and international organizations (e.g., UN Women, ITU, UNDP, African Union) for technical assistance and policy harmonization.
• Promoting multi-stakeholder forums and advisory councils to coordinate efforts and share lessons learned.
• Encouraging community-based partnerships that involve youth, men, boys, and local leaders in prevention initiatives.

Collaborative governance ensures that implementation is inclusive, coordinated, and reflective of diverse perspectives and expertise.

10.5 Risk Management and Mitigation

Effective implementation requires anticipating and mitigating potential risks that may impede progress. These risks may be financial, institutional, technological, or political in nature.

Policy actions will include:

• Conducting a risk assessment at the start of implementation to identify potential obstacles and vulnerabilities.
• Establishing risk mitigation plans that include contingency funding, adaptive management strategies, and rapid response mechanisms.
• Addressing technological risks such as data breaches, misinformation, and platform non-cooperation through regulatory safeguards.
• Managing institutional risks by ensuring high-level commitment, regular communication, and inter-agency coordination.
• Monitoring reputational risks through transparent reporting, stakeholder engagement, and ethical compliance.
• Building resilience and flexibility into implementation plans to adapt to emerging technologies and evolving forms of digital harm.
• Ensuring that all implementation activities comply with human rights, privacy, and data protection standards.

Proactive risk management guarantees that implementation remains stable, adaptive, and aligned with policy objectives, even under changing circumstances.

Summary

The successful implementation of the TF-SGBV Policy Framework depends on strategic planning, adequate resourcing, skilled personnel, and strong partnerships.

A well-structured implementation plan, underpinned by monitoring, flexibility, and accountability, ensures that the policy moves from paper to practice, safeguarding the digital rights, dignity, and safety of all individuals.

11

CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

Technology-Facilitated Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (TF-SGBV) represents a growing threat to gender equality, digital safety, and human rights in the 21st century. Addressing it requires coordinated action across legal, institutional, and technological spheres, grounded in gender justice, ethics, and inclusivity.

This Policy Framework establishes a comprehensive roadmap for preventing, responding to, and ultimately eradicating TF-SGBV through an integrated, survivor-centered, and rights-based approach. It recognizes that technology, when governed responsibly, can be a force for empowerment, equality, and justice.

This section ties together the framework's vision, commitments, and next steps for implementation, situating TF-SGBV within the broader agenda of digital rights, gender equality, and sustainable development.



11.1 Key Recommendations

The effective implementation of this Policy Framework will depend on sustained political will, adequate resources, and strong multi-sector collaboration. The following key recommendations summarize the core priorities for action:

a. Strengthen Legal and Institutional Frameworks

- Enact and enforce comprehensive laws criminalizing TF-SGBV, ensuring alignment with human rights and data protection standards.
- Strengthen institutional coordination through the DSVA and clear inter-agency protocols.
- Integrate TF-SGBV considerations into cybersecurity, ICT, and gender equality policies.

b. Promote Prevention, Awareness, and Education

- Implement statewide digital literacy and awareness campaigns, especially targeting youth, educators, and community leaders.
- Integrate TF-SGBV and digital ethics into school curricula and teacher training programs.
- Foster a culture of respect, consent, and equality in digital interactions.

c. Enhance Survivor Support and Access to Justice

- Strengthen survivor-centered reporting, referral, and support mechanisms (legal, psychosocial, medical, and digital).
- Improve capacity building for police, prosecutors, and judges to handle TF-SGBV cases effectively and sensitively.
- Ensure data protection and confidentiality in all survivor-related services and investigations.

d. Foster Collaboration with Technology Companies

- Require platform transparency, algorithmic accountability, and timely content removal for harmful or illegal materials.
- Encourage safety-by-design and privacy-by-design principles in digital product development.
- Establish formal cooperation mechanisms between platforms, law enforcement, and regulators.

e. Advance Research, Data, and Evidence-Based Policy

- Institutionalize State data collection on TF-SGBV, disaggregated by gender, age, and other social markers.
- Support ongoing research and innovation to understand emerging trends such as deepfakes, AI abuse, and digital trafficking.
- Use evaluation findings to adapt and refine the policy in response to new challenges.

f. Embed Human Rights and Ethics in All Interventions

- Balance safety with freedom of expression, ensuring measures do not enable censorship or surveillance.
- Guarantee privacy, consent, inclusivity, and non-discrimination across all policy actions.
- Uphold ethical standards in AI use, data sharing, and law enforcement practices.

Together, these recommendations provide a roadmap for a holistic, multi-sector, and sustainable response to TF-SGBV.

11.2 Long-Term Strategic Vision

The long-term vision of this policy framework is to establish a safe, inclusive, and rights-respecting digital environment where technology empowers rather than harms, and where women, girls, men and boys can participate fully and freely in the digital age.

Over the next decade, the strategy aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- Institutionalization of TF-SGBV prevention and response mechanisms across government, civil society, and the private sector.
- Mainstreaming of gender equality and survivor-centered approaches in state digital transformation policies.
- Regional and international cooperation to address cross-border dimensions of TF-SGBV.
- Sustainable funding and innovation ecosystems that support digital safety solutions and survivor empowerment.

• Cultural transformation that challenges gender norms and promotes digital ethics, empathy, and accountability.

The long-term vision is not only to mitigate harm but to reshape digital spaces into arenas of equality, respect, and human dignity.

11.3 Commitment to Gender-Responsive Digital Transformation

This Policy Framework reaffirms the government's and partners' commitment to ensuring that digital transformation is gender-responsive, rights-based, and inclusive.

Key commitments include:

• Embedding gender analysis and human rights safeguards in all digital and ICT policies.

• Supporting inclusive innovation that prioritizes safety, access, and empowerment for women, men and PWDs.

• Ensuring participation of women, youth, and civil society in technology governance and policymaking.

• Aligning state efforts with global frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 5 (Gender Equality), Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), and Goal 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions).

• Promoting a whole-of-society approach that leverages partnerships between governments, tech industries, academia, and communities.

Through this commitment, the State recognizes that digital transformation must serve people, rights, and equality, ensuring that technological progress advances justice and safety for all.

Summary

This Policy Framework marks a decisive step toward eliminating Technology-Facilitated Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and building a digital future that is safe, equitable, and empowering.

By combining robust legislation, ethical governance, inclusive partnerships, and survivor-centered action, this framework lays the foundation for a transformative state agenda, one that upholds dignity, protects rights, and ensures that no one is left behind in the digital era.

Together, government, civil society, the private sector, and citizens can forge a digital ecosystem where equality, respect, and accountability prevail, advancing both gender justice and digital freedom for generations to come.

Annex A: Glossary of Terms

This glossary defines key concepts used throughout the Policy Framework to ensure shared understanding among policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders.

Term	*Definition*
Technology-Facilitated Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (TF-SGBV)	Any act of sexual or gender-based violence that is committed, assisted, aggravated, or amplified by the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs), including social media, mobile devices, messaging platforms, and artificial intelligence.
Online Harassment	Persistent or unwanted behaviour conducted through digital means that causes fear, distress, or harm to the target. Includes threats, intimidation, or humiliation online.
Cyberstalking	The repeated use of digital technology to monitor, follow, or contact an individual without consent, causing fear or distress.
Non-Consensual Image Sharing (NCII)	The distribution or threat of sharing intimate images or videos without the subject's consent, often referred to as "revenge porn."
Deepfakes	Artificially generated or manipulated images, audio, or videos that depict a person engaging in actions they did not consent to, often used for sexual exploitation or disinformation.
Doxxing	The public release of private or identifying information (e.g., address, phone number, workplace) about an individual online, usually with malicious intent.
Survivor-Centered Approach	A rights-based framework that prioritizes the safety, dignity, autonomy, and informed consent of survivors in all interventions and decisions.
Safety-by-Design	A design principle where safety, privacy, and user protection are built into technologies and platforms from the outset.
Intersectionality	An analytical framework recognizing how overlapping identities (gender, race, class, disability, etc.) shape individuals' experiences of discrimination and violence.
Data Protection	Legal and ethical practices to safeguard individuals' personal information from misuse, unauthorized access, or disclosure.

Annex B: List of Relevant International and Regional Instruments

The following instruments provide the normative and legal foundation for addressing TF-SGBV within international and regional human rights frameworks.

Global Frameworks

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR, 1966)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR, 1966)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW, 1979)
- General Recommendation No. 35 on Gender-Based Violence Against Women (CEDAW, 2017)
- Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995)

- UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (1993)
- Sustainable Development Goals (2015), particularly SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions)
- UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (2011)
- UN Resolution 68/181 on Women Human Rights Defenders (2013)
- UN Human Rights Council Resolution on the Right to Privacy in the Digital Age (2014)
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989
- ITU Guidelines on Child Online Protection (COP) 2020
- General comment No. 25 (2021) on children's rights in relation to the digital environment

Regional Frameworks

- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (1981)
- Maputo Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003)
- Council of Europe Istanbul Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women (2011)
- ASEAN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children (2013)
- Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence Against Women (Belém do Pará, 1994)
- EU Digital Services Act (2022) and EU Charter of Fundamental Rights

Annex C: Case Studies and Best Practices

This annex highlights selected international and regional best practices demonstrating effective responses to TF-SGBV.

Country/Region	*Best Practice*	*Key Takeaways*
Australia	eSafety Commissioner Office — national body addressing online abuse through prevention, reporting, and education.	Centralized mechanism, survivor-centered processes, and collaboration with platforms.
Philippines	Anti-Photo and Video Voyeurism Act (2009) and Safe Spaces Act (2019).	Comprehensive criminalization of online sexual harassment and non-consensual image sharing.
Kenya	National Cybercrime and Digital Safety Awareness Campaign.	Cross-sector collaboration between government, telecoms, and CSOs.
European Union	Digital Services Act (2022).	Platform accountability through transparency obligations and user redress mechanisms.
South Africa	Cybercrimes Act (2020).	Integration of gendered online violence provisions into broader cybercrime legislation.
Canada	Online Harms Act (Draft, 2023).	Emphasizes transparency, proportionality, and user safety.

These case studies demonstrate that a combination of legislation, education, platform regulation, and survivor support yield the most sustainable results.

Annex D: Sample Codes of Conduct for Platforms

This sample code of conduct provides guiding principles for digital platforms, social media companies, and internet intermediaries in addressing TF-SGBV. It can be adapted for national or regional use.

1. Commitments

- Recognize TF-SGBV as a human rights violation and a priority for action.
- Uphold user safety, privacy, and dignity across all products and services.
- Implement a zero-tolerance policy toward harassment, hate speech, and non-consensual content.

2. Governance

- Establish a dedicated online safety team responsible for content moderation and user protection.
- Ensure transparency through regular public reports on moderation outcomes, appeals, and policy enforcement.

3. Prevention

- Integrate safety-by-design principles into all products and algorithms.
- Provide user education tools on privacy settings, reporting, and digital rights.

4. Response

- Offer accessible reporting mechanisms for victims of TF-SGBV, available in multiple languages.
- Respond to verified reports within 24–48 hours.
- Cooperate with law enforcement and regulators while upholding data privacy.

5. Accountability

- Publish annual transparency reports on TF-SGBV cases.
- Support independent audits and human rights impact assessments.
- Participate in multi-stakeholder working groups on online safety and gender equality.

Annex E: Template for National Action Plan (NAP)

The following is a suggested template for countries or institutions developing a **National Action Plan (NAP)** on TF-SGBV implementation.

Component	*Description*
1. Vision and Objectives	Outline the state vision and strategic goals for eliminating TF-SGBV.
2. Priority Areas	Identify thematic focus areas: prevention, legislation, survivor support, technology governance, and data systems.
3. Key Actions and Indicators	Specify actions, measurable indicators, and targets under each objective.
4. Responsible Institutions	Assign lead and supporting agencies (e.g., the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency, Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Ministry of Science and Technology, Police, Judiciary, and CSOs).
5. Timeline	Provide implementation timelines (short-, medium-, and long-term).
6. Resources and Budget	Outline estimated costs, funding sources, and allocation mechanisms.
7. Monitoring and Evaluation Framework	Define indicators, reporting timelines, and evaluation methodologies.
8. Risk Mitigation Strategy	Identify key risks and mitigation measures (e.g., political, financial, technological).
9. Partnerships and Collaboration	Detail partnerships with civil society, academia, private sector, and international organizations.
10. Review and Update Mechanisms	Establish procedures for periodic review, learning, and policy adaptation.

Together, they strengthen the framework's utility, adaptability, and alignment with international human rights standards and emerging digital governance norms.

Summary of Annexes

The annexes provide essential reference tools to operationalize the Lagos State SGBV Policy Framework. They serve as practical instruments that connect high-level policy commitments with on-the-ground implementation, ensuring coherence, standardization, and accountability across all actors and sectors.

Together, these annexes enhance the framework's usability, flexibility, and alignment with both national legal frameworks and international human rights standards.

Annex A – Shared Vocabulary and Definitions

This annex establishes a common vocabulary for key terms related to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). It provides standardized definitions of concepts such as survivor, consent, coercion, intimate partner violence, sexual harassment, digital violence, and harmful traditional practices.

By harmonizing terminology across government agencies, law enforcement, civil society, and service providers, Annex A promotes consistent understanding, communication, and reporting.

Annex B – Legal and Normative Frameworks

Annex B outlines the national and international instruments underpinning the Lagos State SGBV Policy.

It references relevant laws and conventions including:

- **Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Law (2021)**
- **Child Rights Law of Lagos State (2015)**
- **Lagos State Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy**
- **Criminal Law of Lagos State (2015)**
- **Protection against Domestic Violence Law (2015)**
- **CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women)**
- **Maputo Protocol on Women's Rights in Africa**
- **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 5 and 16)**

This annex ensures the policy framework is grounded in existing legal mandates and global human rights commitments, guiding compliance and accountability.

Annex C – Illustrative Case Studies and Good Practices

This annex provides real-world examples and success stories from Lagos communities and comparable jurisdictions.

It highlights innovative prevention and response initiatives, such as community watch groups, youth-led awareness campaigns, survivor-centered shelters, and workplace SGBV reporting systems.

These case studies serve as practical learning models for replication, adaptation, and scaling across Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Lagos State.

Annex D – Ethical and Operational Guidance for Digital and Media Actors

Recognizing the growing role of digital spaces in both enabling and preventing SGBV, this annex provides ethical and operational guidelines for digital platforms, media professionals, and online advocates.

It addresses issues of online harassment, data privacy, digital reporting mechanisms, survivor image use, and responsible journalism.

The annex supports a culture of ethical communication and protection against digital forms of gender-based violence while promoting safe technology use.

Annex E – Implementation and Coordination

This annex provides a step-by-step roadmap for the rollout of the SGBV Policy Framework.
It defines milestones, timelines, responsible institutions, performance indicators, and resource mobilization strategies.
The roadmap translates the policy's strategic pillars, Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, Partnership, and Coordination, into measurable and time-bound actions for all implementing partners.

Overall Contribution

Collectively, the annexes strengthen the operational foundation of the Lagos State SGBV Policy Framework by:

- Promoting shared understanding and coherence in implementation;
- Providing a clear legal and ethical basis for action;
- Offering adaptable, evidence-based models;
- Ensuring responsiveness to both physical and digital environments;
- Enhancing accountability, monitoring, and sustainability.

1. TF-SGBV Case Intake & Referral Form (Print and

Purpose: To record survivor complaints, assess risk, and facilitate appropriate referrals.
Format: One-page printable form + online form (with encryption and password protection).

Section A: Survivor Information (Confidential)

- Unique Case ID: _____
- Name / Alias: _____
- Age: _____ Gender: F ☐ M ☐
- Contact: _____
- Preferred mode of contact: ☐ Phone ☐ Email ☐ Chatbot

Section B: Incident Details

- Date of report: _____
- Type(s) of TF-SGBV experienced:

☐ Non-consensual image sharing
☐ Cyberstalking / Online harassment
☐ Sextortion
☐ Deepfake / manipulated media
☐ Doxxing / exposure of personal data
☐ Other: _____

Section C: Platforms Involved

- Platform(s): ☐ Facebook ☐ Instagram ☐ WhatsApp ☐ TikTok ☐ Telegram ☐ Others _____
- Links or handles (if applicable): _____

Section D: Risk Assessment

- Threat level: ☐ Low ☐ Moderate ☐ High
- Immediate safety concerns: _____
- Referral required: ☐ Legal ☐ Psychosocial ☐ Cybercrime Unit ☐ Shelter

Section E: Action Taken

- Officer handling: _____
- Case referred to: _____
- Date of referral: _____
- Follow-up plan: _____

2. Digital Evidence Collection Guide

Purpose: To ensure ethical, secure, and admissible handling of digital evidence in TF-SGBV cases.

Step-by-Step Protocol:

a. Do No Harm: Obtain informed consent before viewing, copying, or preserving digital material.

b. Safe Screenshotting:

- Capture entire screen including date/time and URL bar.
- Avoid cropping or altering images.

c. Metadata Preservation:

- Right-click → "Properties" → "Details" → save metadata in a separate file.
- If possible, use a digital evidence collection app (e.g., Hunchly, Magnet AXIOM).

d. Chain of Custody Record:

- Assign a unique ID and record who handled the evidence, when, and where it is stored.

e. Secure Storage:

- Encrypt files and back up in a secure DSVA digital vault.

f. Avoid Victim Exposure:

- Never transmit sensitive images via email or unsecured platforms.

3. Survivor Information Sheet

Purpose:

To empower survivors with clear, accessible information on their rights and available support.

Sample Content:

You Have Rights.

- You have the right to confidentiality and privacy.
- You have the right to withdraw or limit consent at any time.
- You have the right to medical, psychosocial, and legal support — free of charge.

You Are Not Alone.

- Report to: Lagos State DSVA – 08000-333-333
- Report to MYSD-09067353002
- Lagos State Emergency lines – 767/112
- Report via ekoselfreport.ng
- Chat with INU on WhatsApp: 0812-893-7058
- Online support: www.dsva.lagos.org
- Cybercrime Unit (Police): report@npf.gov.ng

Digital Safety Tips:

- Do not delete messages or images (they may serve as evidence).
- Change passwords and enable 2FA on your accounts.
- Block perpetrators, but do not engage.

4. Hotline / Chatbot Integration SOP

Purpose: To standardize survivor interaction via DSVA's toll-free line or chatbot.

Confidential Triage Workflow:

1. **Initial Contact:**

•Greet warmly, assure confidentiality.

•"Hello, this is the Lagos State DSVA Digital Desk. You are in a safe space."

2 **Triage:**

- Identify if the case involves immediate danger → refer to emergency response.
- If not urgent, proceed to case intake.

3. **Case Entry:**

- Input information directly into the secure TF-SGBV Case Database.
- Assign digital desk officer for follow-up.

4. **Referral:**

- Based on type:

Psychosocial → DSVA counsellor, WARIF

Legal → DSVA Legal Unit, Ministry of Justice or Bureau of Public Defender

Cybercrime → NPF Cyber Unit

5. **Follow-up and Closure:**

- Record survivor satisfaction survey at case closure.

5. Training Curriculum: Law Enforcement,

Purpose: To build capacity for ethical, effective TF-SGBV response.

Module	*Topic*	*Learning Outcomes*
1	**Understanding TF-SGBV**	Recognize forms, impacts, and gender dynamics of tech-facilitated abuse
2	**Digital Evidence & Investigation**	Learn how to collect, preserve, and present online evidence
3	**Survivor-Centered Response**	Apply trauma-informed interviewing and referral practices
4	**Legal & Ethical Standards**	Understand the DSVA Law, Criminal Law, Protection against Domestic Violence Law, Cybercrimes Act, and NDPA
5	**Platform Cooperation**	Navigate requests to SSPs and social media companies
6	**Psychosocial & Digital Safety Support**	Provide survivors with immediate emotional and digital protection steps

STANDARDIZED REPORTING FORMAT FOR TFSGBV IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- Reporting Agency:
- Date of Report:
- Reporting Officer (Name, Position, Contact):

2. SURVIVOR INFORMATION

- Unique Case ID:
- Gender / Age:
- Location (Community/LGA):
- Vulnerability Status (Child, Person with Disability, Displaced Person, etc.):

3. INCIDENT DETAILS

- Type of Violence (Tick as applicable):

Physical ☐ Sexual ☐ Psychological ☐

Economic ☐ Forced Marriage ☐ Torture ☐

Other (Specify):

- Date and Time of Incident:
- Perpetrator Relationship (Intimate Partner / Family Member / Stranger / Authority Figure / Other):
- Brief Description of Incident:

4. SERVICES PROVIDED

- Medical Assistance Provided:
- Psychosocial Support Provided:
- Legal Support Provided:
- Safety Planning Measures:

5. REFERRAL INFORMATION

- Agencies/Services Referred To:
- Date of Referral:
- Follow-up Status (Pending / In Progress / Completed):

6. OUTCOMES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Case Outcome:
- Challenges Encountered:
- Recommendations for Improvement

7. CONFIDENTIALITY AND DATA PROTECTION

- Was Consent Obtained from Survivor? (Yes/No):
- Data Handling Method (Secure Database / Locked Cabinet / Encrypted File)

SERVICE REFERRAL DIRECTORY OF LAGOS STATE DSVA AND PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

S/N	ORGANIZATION	ADDRESS	PHONE	SERVICES	EMAIL
1.	**Bureau of Public Defender**	2/8 Iyun Street, Stadium/Barracks Bus	0812-946-0800	Legal representation	info@opdlagosstate.org
2.	**Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation**	Block 18, The Secretariat, Alausa	0802-300-1646	Poverty alleviation programs, women's rights empowerment	wapa@lagosstate.gov.ng
3.	**Ministry of Youth and Social Development**	Block 18, The Secretariat, Alausa	09067353002	Child Protection, Psycho-social Support/Counseling, Youth and Social Development, and Welfare Services for the vulnerable(s).	mysd@lagosstate.gov.ng
4.	**Directorate of Citizens' Rights**	1st Floor, Ministry of Justice Block 2, The Secretariat, Alausa	0802-929-3003	Legal Aid	info@lagosministryofjustice.org
5.	**Lagos State Domestic and Sexual violence Agency**	Novel House, Plot 3, Block J, Otunba Jobi Fele way, Alausa-Ikeja	08000-333-333	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence prevention and response (Holistic support)	Info@lagosdsva.org
6.	**African Women Lawyers Association (AWLA), Nigeria Chapter**	13, Town Planning Way, Ilupeju- Oshodi, Lagos State	0803-535-3306 0903-7404272, 0815-088-7710, 0803-307-8329	Pro Bono services Advocacy/awareness/sensitization	awlanigeria2015@gmail.com www.awlanigeria.org
7.	**Bimbo Odukoya Foundation**	12, Industrial Estate Road, Ilupeju by PZ Industries, Off Town Planning way, Oshodi-Lagos State	0803-580-0201, 0809-393-3439	Advocacy (family and schools) Psycho-social support Counselling/therapy	admin@pbofoundation.org www.pbofoundation.org
8.	**Cece Yara Foundation Advocacy Centre**	2A, Akin-Ogunmade davies Close, Gbagada Phase 2, Shomolu, Lagos State	0908-569-2623, 0908-569-2612, 0700-700-7001	Child protection Forensic interview Legal advocacy	info@ceceyara.org www.ceceyara.org help@ceceyara.org
9.	**Centre For Children's Health Education and Protection (CEE-Hope)**	6, Boledeoku Street, Dideolu Estate (opposite Dideolu Court), Ogba, Lagos State	0703-230-8897	Rape crises response Counselling/psychosocial support	www.cee-hope.org ceehopeng@gmail.com
10.	**Centre For Women's Health and Information (CEWHIN)**	34, McNeil Road, off Montgomery Road, Sabo-Yaba, Lagos State	0907-418-7490	Advocacy/awareness Counselling Training/capacity building for psychosocial first aiders (PFAs)	info@cewhinn.com, cewhin@yahoo.com
11.	**Day Springs Helps Ministry (Shelter Provider)**	56, Seriki Aro Avenue, Ikeja, Lagos State	0807-860-4883, 0908-077-7714	Shelter Counselling Sensitization/Advocacy	info@dayspringhelps.org www.dayspringhelps.org debolaoni@dayspringhelps.org
12.	**International Federation of Female Lawyers (FIDA), Lagos Chapter**	FIDA Secretariat, 16, Makoko Road, Yaba, Lagos State	0805-702-7545, 0803-309-20056	Litigation Mediation Awareness/sensitization	fida-lagos@yahoo.com, ogbolung@yahoo.com

SERVICE REFERRAL DIRECTORY OF LAGOS STATE DSVA AND PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

S/N	ORGANIZATION	ADDRESS	PHONE	SERVICES	EMAIL
13.	**Legal Defense and Assistance Project (LEDAP)**	11B, Christ Avenue, off Admiralty Road, Lekki Phase 1, Lagos State	0803-691-3264	Advocacy, sensitization and awareness on domestic violence Pro bono services	info@ledapnigeria.org obiagwu@ledapnigeria.or
14.	**Media Concern Centre**	13, Anthony Oti Street, off Bolthine Schools Street, Aboru, Lagos State	0809-952-2487, 0805-820-7164	Victim's advocacy Forensic interviewing Counselling Manager of Iprotect App	info@mediaconcern.net www.mediaconcern.net
15.	**Mirabel Centre**	Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH), Ikeja – Lagos State	0701-349-1769, 0815-577-0000, 0818-724-3468	Free medical and counselling services to survivors of sexual violence	sarc@pjnigeria.org https://mirabelcentre.org
16.	**Project Alert on Domestic Violence Against Women**	21, Akinsanya Street, off Isheri Road, Ojodu-Berger	0818-009-1072	Advocacy, Legal aid Counselling/mediation, Shelter	projectalert@projectalertnig.org josephine@projectalertnig.org
17.	**Real Woman Foundation**	58, CMD Road, Magodo, Lagos State	0803-717-8963, 0808-832-3967	Shelter Rehabilitation of ex-commercial sex workers	info@therealwoman.org www.therealwoman.org info@therealwoman.org
18.	**Women Advocates Research and Documentary Centre (WARDC)**	22, Aforiogun Street, off Obafemi Awolowo Way, Ikeja, Lagos State	0818-005-6401, 0818-009-3277, 0805-595-1858	Pro bono legal aid services, Paralegal services, Advocacy	womenadvocate@yahoo.com www.wardcnigeria.org
19.	**Women At Risk International Foundation (WARIF)**	6, Turton Street, off Thorburn Avenue, Yaba, Lagos State	0809-210-0008, 0809-846-2006	Health care services, Counselling, Referrals, Legal aid Shelters, Skill acquisition, Psychosocial counseling	info@warifng.org bridget.taremotimi@warifng.org https://warifng.org
20.	**Centre For Women's Health and Information (CEWHIN)**	The Pent House, 196, Egbe-Ikotun Road, Ejigbo, Lagos State	0803-718-3072, 0913-520-5119	Counselling and mediation, Referral service, Human rights protection	whr.project@yahoo.com info@wrahp.com wrahp.nig@gmail.com www.wrahp.com

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United Nations Population Fund. Measuring Technology-facilitated Gender-Based Violence: A Discussion Paper. UNFPA. (2023) – Discusses measurement challenges for TFGBV. United Nations Population Fund

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United Nations. Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls : Technology-facilitated violence against women and girls : Report of the Secretary-General. A/79/500. (2024) – Covers TF VAWG in UN system context. unwomen.org+1

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. Technology-facilitated Violence Against Women: Taking Stock of Evidence and Data Collection. UN Women. (2023) – Evidence/data focus. unwomen.org

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UN Women (2022). Online and ICT-Facilitated Violence Against Women and Girls.

EIGE (2023). Cyber Violence Against Women and Girls in the EU. eSafety Commissioner (2022). Perpetrator Typologies in Image-Based Abuse.GSMA (2023). Digital Harassment in Sub-Saharan Africa.

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Lagos State DSVA official reports and press (DSVA case tallies & outreach). lagosstate.gov.ng

UNFPA — TFGBV overview and guidance. United Nations Population Fund

Meta advisory on takedowns / sextortion removals in Nigeria (2024). Facebook About

Nigeria Police / NPF-NCCC press on sextortion arrests & dating-app warnings

Dunn, S. (2020). "Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence: An Overview." A valuable paper that reviews common forms of TFGBV (e.g., image-based abuse, doxing, cyberstalking) and its systemic harms.

Henry, N., & Powell, A. (2020). "Technology-Facilitated Domestic and Sexual Violence: A Review." Focuses on how technology is used in the context of intimate partner and sexual violence.

Citron, D. K., & Franks, M. (2014). "The Internet as a Sewer for Gender-Based Slurs." While older, it is a foundational legal article on online abuse and gendered hate speech.

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Afrouz, R. (2023). "The Nature, Patterns and Consequences of Technology-Facilitated Domestic Abuse: A Scoping Review."

Bansal, V., Rezwan, M., Iyer, M., et al. (2024). "A Scoping Review of Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence in Low- and Middle-Income Countries Across Asia."

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Intersectionality and Specific Populations:
UN Women (United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women)
"Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence: Developing a Shared Research Agenda" (2024, in partnership with SVRI and others). This is essential for understanding current knowledge gaps and research priorities.
"Repository of UN Women's work on technology-facilitated violence against women and girls." A digital collection of their publications, briefs, and guidance documents on the topic.
Reports of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, which increasingly focus on the digital dimension (e.g., the 2024 report on "Technology-facilitated violence against women and girls").
UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund)
"Technology-facilitated Gender-based Violence: Making All Spaces Safe" (2021) and related resources. Provides a definition and focuses on prevention and response, often within the context of global programs.
ICRW (International Center for Research on Women)
Hinson, L., Mueller, J., O'Brien-Milne, L., & Wandera, N. (2018). "Technology-facilitated gender-based violence: What is it, and how do we measure it?" One of the foundational papers that helped establish a comprehensive framework for TFGBV.
Research focusing on the experiences of women in politics/public life (e.g., UNESCO reports on online violence against women journalists).
Research on TFGBV against LGBTQI+ individuals and women with intersecting marginalized identities.
Policy and Preliminary Landscape Analysis
Preliminary Landscape Analysis from Government or Policy Bodies:
Search for publications by national government bodies (e.g., the UK government's analysis) or policy think tanks, which synthesize the issue for a policy-making audience and often cite international research.
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. Repository of UN Women's Work on Technology-Facilitated Violence Against Women and Girls. (2025) – Collection of initiatives. unwomen.org
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (Executive Summary). UNDP. (2024) – Highlights digital dimension of violence against women and girls.
The IEEE Standard 2089-2021 for an Age Appropriate Digital Services Framework which provides for age-appropriate design and a certification program to protect children's rights online by promoting age-appropriate digital services. IEEE Standard 2089.1-2024 for Online Age Verification which establishes a framework for the design, specification, evaluation, and deployment of online age verification systems.
The ISO 27566-1 on Age Assurance, key principles of which include data minimization, a layered "step-up" approach for better user experience, and ensuring privacy-preserving technologies are used.

LAGOS STATE DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGENCY



DEVELOPED WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE RULE OF LAW AND ANTI-CORRUPTION (ROLAC) PROGRAMME

Funded by the European Union

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