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Commission on the Status of Women



Measures to Strengthen the Protection of Women on Social Media, with a particular Focus on Deepfakes

-Committee Guide-

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Introduction:

a).Introduction to the committee:

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality, the rights and the empowerment of women. A functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), it was established by ECOSOC resolution 11(II) of 21 June 1946.

The CSW is instrumental in promoting women and girls' rights, documenting the reality of their lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. In 1996, ECOSOC in resolution 1996/6 expanded the Commission's mandate and decided that it should take a leading role in monitoring and reviewing progress and problems in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and in mainstreaming a gender perspective in UN activities.

During the Commission's annual two-week session, representatives of UN Member States, civil society organizations and UN entities gather at UN headquarters in New York. They discuss progress and gaps in the implementation of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the key global policy document on gender equality, and the 23rd special session of the General Assembly held in 2000 (Beijing+5), as well as emerging issues that affect gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Member States agree on further actions to accelerate progress and promote women's and girls' enjoyment of their rights in political, economic, and social fields. The outcomes and recommendations of each session are forwarded to ECOSOC for follow-up.

b) Introduction to the topic:

In today's world, many new problems are emerging, and one of the biggest issues are so-called "deepfakes." Using artificial intelligence, images, videos, or audio files that appear deceptively real can be created or manipulated. These technologies are often misused to portray especially women in compromising or sexualized content without their consent. The rapid spread of such content via social media can have serious psychological, social, and professional consequences for those affected. In many countries, women, in particular, do not have the means or the rights to defend themselves against this. This is an enormous problem

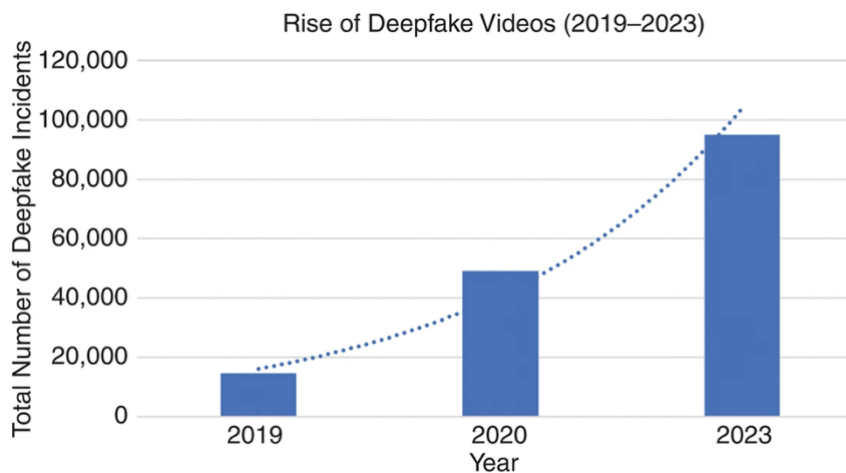
that must be addressed. That is why CSW has an obligation to address and tackle the following topic:

Measures to Strengthen the Protection of Women on Social Media, with a particular focus on deepfakes

Facts and current situation:

a).Facts:

Deepfakes are an increasingly widespread phenomenon. In recent years, we have seen a steady rise.



https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Deepfake-incidents-2019-2023-The-number-of-deepfake-incidents-is-expected-to-increase_fig2_381277089

- Deepfake files surged from 500,000 in 2023 to a projected 8 million in 2025
- Deepfakes are now responsible for 6.5% of all fraud attacks, a 2,137% increase from 2022
- Generative AI fraud in the U.S. is expected to hit \$40 billion by 2027

- Every second business globally reported incidents of deepfake fraud in 2024.



<https://sumsub.com/newsroom/deepfake-cases-surge-in-countries-holding-2024-elections-sumsub-research-shows/>

b) Current situation:

Deepfakes and especially deepfake pornography have become a serious global problem in recent years. Deepfakes are AI-generated videos, images, or audio recordings that imitate real people and often appear highly realistic. Originally, the technology was mainly used for entertainment purposes, but today it is increasingly associated with misinformation, fraud, identity theft, cyberbullying, and online harassment. Experts report that the number of deepfake incidents is rising rapidly worldwide, while the quality of AI-generated content is improving so quickly that many people can no longer reliably distinguish fake media from real recordings.

One of the most concerning developments is the spread of deepfake pornography. Studies estimate that the vast majority of deepfakes online are non-consensual pornographic videos or images, and most victims are women. While celebrities were originally the primary targets, ordinary people, students, influencers, and even teenagers are now increasingly affected because AI face-swapping and “nudify” applications have become widely accessible on the

internet. Victims often experience severe emotional, social, and professional consequences, including humiliation, harassment, reputational damage, and mental health problems.

At the same time, deepfake technology is also being used for financial scams and political manipulation. Criminals use AI-generated voices and videos to impersonate company executives, family members, or public figures in order to steal money or spread false information. Governments and cybersecurity experts warn that deepfakes could seriously damage public trust in digital media because fake videos can influence elections, manipulate public opinion, and make it difficult to determine what is real and what is fake.

In response to these risks, many countries are beginning to introduce laws and regulations against harmful deepfake content, especially non-consensual deepfake pornography. However, legal systems are struggling to keep up with the speed of technological development and the rapid spread of content online. Experts therefore emphasize the importance of stronger AI regulation, improved detection technologies, public education, and better support for victims.

Major parties involved

a). United States

In the United States, the situation surrounding deepfakes has become significantly more serious in recent years and is now viewed as a serious social and legal problem. Women are particularly affected, as they are disproportionately targeted by manipulative and sexualized content. A particularly problematic area is sexualized deepfakes, i.e., non-consensual intimate images. In these cases, the faces of real women are often superimposed onto pornographic content, or entirely artificial videos are created. This content spreads very quickly via social media and, once published, is difficult to remove completely from the internet. For those affected, this often has serious consequences such as damage to their reputation, psychological distress, social exclusion, or professional disadvantages. Legislatively, there have already been some developments in the U.S., though the situation remains inconsistent. While individual states have already enacted laws against deepfake pornography and digital harassment, for a long time there was no uniform federal law. It is only in recent years that stricter regulations have been enacted, which specifically criminalize the distribution of non-consensual intimate deepfakes and hold platforms more accountable. Despite this progress, the problem persists because technology is evolving very rapidly. Deepfakes are becoming increasingly realistic and easier to create, while social media further facilitates their rapid

spread. This creates a situation in which legal measures and technical safeguards often cannot keep pace with the speed of technological development.

b).China

China is also facing a high number of deepfake cases. However, it has already taken measures and is therefore ahead of many European countries. China is the first country to have adopted specific laws regulating deepfakes, which have been in force since January 10, 2023. With these measures, it is addressing not only the consequences but also the underlying causes of deepfakes.

c).Germany

There have also been serious cases involving deepfakes in Germany. One particularly well-known case is that of Collien Fernandes. Deepfake content of the well-known actress was created and distributed online by her ex-husband.

This case brought significant public attention to the issue in Germany and led to large-scale demonstrations across the country, where hundreds of people expressed their solidarity with Fernandes.

She herself also took action against this abuse. On the one hand, she filed a lawsuit against her ex-husband, Christian Ulmen. On the other hand, despite increased security concerns, she actively participated in the demonstrations and gave speeches. As a result, the topic gained widespread attention in Germany and sparked discussions about possible legal measures. The proposed legislation stipulates that not only the distribution, but also the creation of non-consensual real or manipulated sexual content should be punishable by law. This includes material that violates a person's privacy, as well as depictions of sexualized violence, such as violent pornography or rape videos. Furthermore, stricter regulations are being developed at the European Union level, which are expected to be implemented in Germany as well.

Possible solutions:

a). What has been done so far?

- the United States „Take It Down Act“ explicitly covers AI-generated intimate imagery and requires platform removal within 48 hours
- European Parliament intends to introduce stricter laws against sexualized deepfakes starting in August/December 2026

b).What else could we do?

- psychological and legal support for victims
- Promoting Media Literacy in Schools
- Use of AI to detect deepfakes
- Digital watermarks to identify authentic content

Useful links:

- <https://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/commission-on-the-status-of-women>
- https://keepnetlabs.com/blog/deepfake-statistics-and-trends?utm_source=chatgpt.com
- <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/deepfakes-and-crisis-knowing>
- <https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/03/1167174>
- <https://www.spiegel.de/netzwelt/netzpolitik/collien-fernandes-erstattet-anzeige-gegen-ex-mann-christian-ulmen-a-6abfb991-1665-4469-9c8e-3cc5a2cb4f29>
- <https://www.tagesschau.de/inland/innenpolitik/digitale-gewalt-gesetzentwurf-hubig-100.html>
- <https://www.heise.de/hintergrund/Zum-Schutz-oder-zur-Zensur-China-erlaesst-Gesetz-fuer-Deepfakes-7470247.html#top>