

Adolescent Technology-Facilitated Violence Against Women & Girls (TFVAWG):

A Practice Framework for Early Detection and Response

These stages are interconnected and can overlap – early action at any stage can prevent further harm

STAGE: TWO

Early digital boundary testing:

Digital technologies can enable the initiation, escalation, and persistence of abuse through communication, surveillance, image-sharing, and AI-enabled features.

Missed opportunities:

- ✦ Repeated pressure not recognised as coercion
- ✦ Digital jealousy seen as care

Potential interventions:

- ✦ Education on digital consent and boundaries
- ✦ Recognise repeated pressure and monitoring

Question to think about:

Are these behaviours mutual, or is someone experiencing pressure or control?

STAGE: FOUR

Continuum & mutual reinforcement:

Image circulation, harassment, and coercive control intersect and amplify, with online/offline crossover increasing risk and harm.

Missed opportunities:

- ✦ Incidents viewed in isolation
- ✦ Poor coordination across agencies

Potential interventions:

- ✦ Identify patterns across incidents
- ✦ Share information across services

Question to think about:

Is this incident part of a wider pattern?

STAGE: ONE

Normalisation of behaviours & enabling conditions:

Gender norms, peer cultures, misogyny, and poor adult understanding can normalise harmful behaviours and prevent them from being recognised as abusive.

Missed opportunities:

- ✦ Sexism and peer cultures unchallenged
- ✦ Online harms underestimated by systems

Potential interventions:

- ✦ Early education on consent and respect
- ✦ Challenge harmful gender norms

Question to think about:

Are harmful behaviours being normalised?

STAGE: THREE

Pathway escalation

Three overlapping, behavioural escalation pathways

Image-based abuse

Pressure → image sharing → image circulation

Coercive control

Monitoring → coercion → intimidation

Peer harassment

Sexism → reinforcement → targeting

Missed opportunities:

- ✦ Early escalation goes unrecognised
- ✦ Online risk indicators overlooked

Potential interventions:

- ✦ Train practitioners to recognise escalation
- ✦ Early intervention with harmful behaviours

STAGE: FIVE

Embedded TFVAWG & cumulative harm:

Harm becomes entrenched, causing humiliation, distress, fear, shame, and/or social exclusion. Sustained abuse and revictimisation are a possibility going forward.

Missed opportunities:

- ✦ Intervention delayed until harm is embedded
- ✦ Fear prevents disclosure and help-seeking

Potential interventions:

- ✦ Specialist support for victim-survivors
- ✦ Trusted, non-punitive disclosure & response pathways

Question to think about:

Is there a risk of further harm or revictimisation?