Transform Digital Spaces (Transform) Activity

Overview

Transform is a three-year global pilot initiative, which is supporting practical approaches to preventing, mitigating, and responding to technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV), with a focus on addressing violence experienced by women in politics and public life.

Context:

Transform is being implemented during a period of increased need and opportunity to prevent, monitor, mitigate, and respond to TFGBV globally, especially against women in politics and public life. In addition to its harm to women who experience it, TFGBV dampens civic engagement and increases self- or externally imposed- censorship, resulting in a "chilling effect" on women's civic participation which negatively impacts institutions, communities, and countries, and exacerbates the global trend of growing digital authoritarianism.

Transform:

- Seeks to address the root causes of TFGBV.

- Strengthens capacity and collaboration between diverse local actors who monitor and analyze as well as prevent, mitigate, and respond to it.

- Creates accountability mechanisms for those who enable and perpetrate TFGBV and reinforce positive incentives for those who seek to eliminate it.

- Catalyzes public demand and support for equity-focused gender and digital citizenship norms and policy reform.

Community Advisory Board: Transform activities are supported and guided by a Community Advisory Board (CAB) of international and pilot-country based experts, practitioners, and survivors working to address TFGBV. The CAB ensures that Transform activities are sensitive to the local context, at the cutting edge of international best practices, and informed by co-creation.

Visit our website: www.irex.org

To learn more about Transform's work and how you can partner with us contact us at info.transform@irex.org

Transform's Pilot Approach:

Transform is piloting its approach in three locations: Kenya, Georgia, and Guatemala.

Objective 1

Increase capacity building resources (including training, education, and internal policies) and coordination between women public participation, digital democracy, anti-violence organizations, service and support organizations, and civic tech groups, advocacy coalitions and other stakeholders, to advance the safety, inclusion, participation, and leadership of women on digital platforms.

Objective 2

Strengthen service and support organizations, relevant women public participation, digital democracy, and anti-violence organizations, and civic tech groups in delivering services to those impacted by TFGBV.

Objective 3

Strengthen the evidence base for contextualized approaches to document, prevent, mitigate, and respond to TFGBV.

Transform's Foundational Landscape Assessment insights from the pilot countries:

In **Georgia**, women politicians and journalists are targeted by online abuse as a malign foreign influence tactic in the context of ongoing democratic backsliding and closing civic spaces.

In **Kenya**, women politicians are targeted by political rivals seeking to discredit them as opponents. Political parties often do not hold their own members accountable.

In **Guatemala**, online violence is produced and disseminated by "netcenters", staffed to perpetrate it with financing from government, military, and business players.

Program Partners:

Transform is an Associate Award (AA) carried out under the Civil Society and Media-Strengthened Together and Advancing in New Directions (CSM-STAND) Asia EE LAC and Africa, MENA Leader with Associates Award (LWA). It is implemented by the CSM-STAND consortium, with Pact as the holder of the leader award and recipient of the AA, and IREX as implementing lead of this AA. CSM-STAND is a five-year, USAID funded LWA award that aims to foster independent civic forces; enhance civic engagement; and build vibrant, resilient, and self-reliant civil society and media sectors that cultivate more pluralistic, democratic societies.