

South Africa: Violence against Women and Information Communication Technologies

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Preface

Information and communication technologies (ICT) are changing the ways women experience and confront violence. Despite this, there has been little attention paid to issues arising from the intersection of ICT and violence against women. The Association for Progressive Communications Women's Networking Support Programme (APC WNSP) regards this intersection as a critical site of intervention both for women's rights activists and those working in the ICT development and policy arena. In this context, the APC WNSP commissioned the following overview paper as part of its 12-country project, "Strengthening Women's Strategic Use of Information and Communications Technologies to Combat Violence against Women and Girls" supported by the Dutch government's MDG3 Fund to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. The two-and-a-half year project is being carried out in Africa, Asia and Latin America and includes ICT technical training, support for ICT-enabled initiatives to end violence against women and policy advocacy. Papers from each of the participating countries provide an initial scoping of the current state of ICTs and violence against women to generate further reflection, discussion and action by stakeholders in women's rights and ICT arenas. While the research undertaken in the writing of the country papers is not exhaustive, reports do map the existing legislation and policy landscape in both areas, provide examples of strategic use of ICTs to end VAW, highlight incidents of VAW perpetrated via ICT and unearth specific concerns regarding women's rights with the emergence of new technologies. The papers are a starting point for learning and exploration and a step towards increased awareness of the potential and risks of ICT in each country.

Opinions expressed in the paper are those of the author(s) and do not represent the opinion of APC WNSP.

For more information about the "Strengthening Women's Strategic Use of Information and Communications Technologies to Combat Violence against Women and Girls" project visit www.apcwomen.org/ictstoendvaw or write ictstoendvaw@apcwomen.org.

Executive Summary

The South African Constitution is one of the most progressive in the world. South Africa's government has committed itself to eradicating violence against women (VAW). It has ratified the Beijing Platform for Action and CEDAW and passed a number of pieces of legislation that attempt to tackle the issue of VAW. But for many women, violence has become a part of everyday life and threatens to erode legal and political gains. Statistics show that 8.8 per 100,000 women 14 years and older are killed. A woman is killed every six hours in South Africa – the highest rate yet reported by research anywhere in the world. The rape homicide rate is 3.65 per 100,000 women 14 years and older. Domestic violence affects one in two women in some parts of South Africa. One in nine women raped report the attack to the police. Civil society organisations provide shelters, intervention services, legal assistance and rape crisis centres and are implementing a growing number of social services. Some are using ICTs in their work to combat VAW.

ICT statistics reveal that 10.5% of the population access the internet, of which 51% are women but this is limited to the wealthy. Eighty percent of the population own mobile phones, almost half being women. ICT policies take a gender-neutral approach so benefits accrue to men. Technology is developing faster than South African society can fully comprehend its uses and implications. There is little understanding of the strategic use of ICTs to support combating VAW as well as recognition of new avenues for perpetrating violence against women.

ICT-related VAW legislation

The Domestic Violence Act 1998 recognizes stalking and harassment through telephone calls and electronic mail. The Sexual Offences Amendment Act 2007 includes display of child pornography and creation of child pornography as an offence. The act makes interim provisions relating to combating trafficking in persons for sexual purposes. The Protection From Harassment Bill 2009 defines harassment as directly or indirectly engaging in conduct that causes harm and includes, following, pursuing or accosting verbally or electronically. The Children's Act 2005, Children's Amendment Act 2007 provide provision to combat child pornography. South Africa's National Policy Framework for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality makes a commitment to redress inequities in the ICT sector and support women's participation.

Concerns

Censorship vs. freedom of expression: Technically pornography is permissible as the Constitution states that every person has the right to freedom of expression, freedom of the press, other media and to freedom of artistic creativity. It also states that everyone has inherent dignity and protection against anything that constitutes incitement to cause harm.

Privacy vs. surveillance: The right to privacy of communication is a fundamental right protected in the constitution but other acts seek to ensure that all electronic communications infrastructure of organs of state are protected and secure. This resides in quiet tension with the Access to Information Act to guarantee transparency for citizens.

Recommendations

For government: Harmonise and implement ICT policy with a strong gender perspective and allow for redress and transparency; put in place gender monitoring mechanisms to monitor regulations; ensure government has genuine multi-stakeholder consultations including gender and ICT experts.

For civil society: Develop collective strategies for policy and practice; action between civil society and Commission on Gender Equality (CGE); educate policy makers, police and service providers on VAW and ICT; suggest relevant legislation to combat this; lobbying for sex disaggregated statistics and indicators; development of strategic content which is locally relevant and helps with women's immediate survival needs and communication rights.

For the Association for Progressive Communications Women's Networking Support Programme: Awareness-raising on the importance of ICTs and the potential harm to women and strategic use of ICTs for anti-VAW organizations; skills transfer workshops and training sessions for key practitioners and social justice activists in the use of ICTs.

Acronyms

APC WNSP	Association of Progressive Communicators Women's Networking Support Programme
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
ECA	Electronic Communications Act
ECT	Electronic Communications and Transactions
FBP	Film and Publication Board
DVA	Domestic Violence Act
GPS	Global Positioning System
HIV AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus / Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
IBAA	Independent Broadcasting Authority Act
IBA	Independent Broadcasting Authority
ICASA	Independent Communications Authority of South Africa
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
LGBTI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersexed
MMS	MultiMedia Messaging Service
RICPCRIA	Regulation of Interception of Communications and Provision of Communication Related Information Act
SABC	South African Broadcasting Corporation
SATRA	South African Telecommunications Regulatory Authority
SMS	Short Message Service
TVEP	Tohoyandou Victim Empowerment Programme
USAASA	Universal Service and Access Agency of South Africa
VAW	Violence Against Women
ZTVA	Zero Tolerance Village Alliance

1. Introduction

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa that took effect on 4 February 1997 is one of the most progressive in the world². It laid the foundation for a multi-racial society based on democratic principles. South Africa's new found freedom meant that women could participate in co-determining South Africa's democracy as voters, legislators, members of the judiciary, members and leaders of political parties, civil society activists, political analysts, media agents, public servants, public intellectuals and more generally as citizens exercising their agency in the broad spectrum of their daily lives.

But even with some of the most progressive changes and laws, South Africa is not a safe place for women. Many women are unemployed, continue to live in poverty, too few own land and are without houses of their own, and some struggle from the multiple effects of diseases like HIV/AIDS. For many, violence has become a part of everyday life. The deficit of justice to the thousands of women and girls whose rights to bodily integrity are violated through rape and other forms of violence keeps growing and threatens to erode the policy, legal and political gains women have made.

How does this violence against women intersect with information and communications technologies (ICTs)?³

ICTs shape how we see our world in terms of time, space and a range of social relations. Technology-mediated communications inform us of and reproduce hegemonic norms including unequal relations and raced, classed and gendered discourses. Technological advances now mean that women must be prepared to deal with new avenues for violence and need to be equally prepared to reclaim the technology to further their own social justice struggles including that of combating violence and overthrowing patriarchy.

This report prepared for the Association of Progressive Communicators Women's Networking Support Programme (APC WNSP) explores this terrain through the following key issues:

- An overview and background of violence against women (VAW) and ICT in the country including an examination of competing rights at play
- The legal and policy framework, documents, processes and stakeholders/actors on VAW and ICT, national, regional and international
- Key issues on VAW and ICT South Africa
- Three studies on best practices and the use of ICTs to combat violence, where possible addressing the issue of competing rights

²Government of South Africa website www.info.gov.za/documents/constitution/index.htm

³ ICTs: Information and communication technologies is a broad term that encompasses a range of technologies that meet our communication and information needs. The more "traditional" ICTs like radio, television and the print media have been harnessed and used by women's rights activists, by no means exhaustively. The newer generation of ICTs, more specifically, Web 2.0 tools, refers to a second generation of web development and design that facilitates communication, information sharing, interoperability, and collaboration on the world wide web. This has led to the development and evolution of web-based communities, hosted services, and applications such as social networking sites, video sharing sites, wikis, blogs and folksonomies, also known as collaborative tagging.

- Action points that include potential approaches to end VAW that connect issues of VAW with ICT and communication rights
- Stakeholders within civil society, private sector and government, stakeholders working on women's rights, ICT and communication rights in the country.

2. ICT policy landscape in South Africa

An ICT policy is an integrated set of decisions, guidelines, laws, regulations and other mechanisms geared to directing and shaping the production, acquisition and development of ICTs.

The way ICTs develop has an enormous effect on the possibilities of working for social justice. For example, if a government decides to promote free software, a larger number of people are likely to enjoy the benefits of the free software (better security, lower cost, easy adaptation to local conditions and needs), because it will be more available throughout society and the material benefits in ordinary people's lives will accrue. If a government decides to introduce a new form of censorship, or fails to protect citizens' rights to privacy, then we will suffer too. If Telkom (the primary telecommunication provider for South Africa) is allowed to keep prices artificially high for broadband internet access, or refuses to introduce a cheap flat rate for modem access, then people have to pay too much to access the internet, and access becomes prohibitive. If telecommunications companies are not encouraged or obliged by regulation to roll out services in rural areas, people there will have to rely on more expensive mobile phone services. ICTs make it possible for local women's voices to be heard throughout the world but, if policy and regulation limit their access, they will also limit their reach.

In South Africa, the Department of Trade and Industry developed a strategy for developing the ICT sector through the South African Information Technology Industry Strategy (SAITIS) project.⁴ The strategy is intended to be complementary to and supportive of broader socio-economic development with an emphasis on social upliftment and empowerment. Legislation has been developed in order to adhere to policy guidelines.

⁴South Africa Information Technology Industry Strategy, "South African ICT Sector Development Framework," November 2008, <http://www.thedti.gov.za/saitis/docs/ictnov-00.html>

2.1 An overview of ICT policy in South Africa

Policy Related To Content	Purpose	Regulatory Bodies and Institutions
Independent Broadcasting Authority Act 1993	The IBA Act introduced a separation of powers between formulation of broadcasting policy and regulation of broadcasting activities. The IBA supervised the expansion and diversification of the broadcasting industry and the licensing of new sound and television broadcasting services. Reforming the regulation of broadcasting activities in South Africa.	The Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) in order to ensure effective and seamless regulation of the telecommunications and broadcasting sectors as well as to accommodate the convergence of technologies.
Broadcasting Act 1999	Established a broad framework for the regulation of the broadcasting industry and supplemented the provisions of the IBA Act. A substantial part of the act devoted to the restructuring of the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) into public company of which the state is the sole shareholder. Minister of Communications ultimately responsible for the development of broadcasting policy.	
Independent Communications Authority of South Africa Act (ICASA) 2000.	Provided for the dissolution of the IBA and the South African Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (SATRA) and for the creation of a regulatory body known as the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA).	ICASA
Film and Publications Act 1996 with amendments in 1999 and 2004. Proposed Amendment Bill 2006 (pending)	Original objective of the Board was to regulate the distribution of certain publications, the exhibition and distribution of certain films, in the main by means of classification, the imposition of age restrictions and the giving of consumer advice and the regulation of pornography, with due regard given to the Constitution. The 1999 amendment extended the powers of the board from regulating distribution to regulating creation and possession. The 2006 proposed amendment seeks to broaden the objects even further, to include the regulation of broadcasting and bringing computer games and mobile phones under the purview of the Act.	Film and Publication Board. Film and Publication Review Board.
The Interception and Monitoring Prohibition Act 1992. The Regulation of Interception of Communications and Provision of Communication Related Information Act (RICPCRIA) 2002.	Prohibits the interception and monitoring of certain communications and data messages. Provides for authorisation to do so via the high court in certain circumstances of serious offence or national risk.	
Policy Relating To Access And Infrastructure	Purpose	Regulatory Bodies and Institutions
Promotion of Access to Information Act	This landmark Act addresses a culture of secrecy in state and private institutions, seeking instead to	

2002	foster a culture of transparency and accountability thus permitting access to records held by private as well as public bodies. Also acknowledges the need to educate citizens on their rights, to enable them to participate in decision-making that affects their lives.	
IT Industry Related Policy and Regulation	Purpose	Regulatory Bodies and Institutions
Telecommunications Authority Act 1996	Authorises Telkom to be the exclusive holder of a licence to provide the public service comprising local access, long-distance and international services for a period of five years. Thereafter a second national operator is licensed. Some competition in the value-added services sector (comprising such services as internet service provision, email and other data services) which was not part of Telkom's exclusive rights, although service providers were required to obtain facilities from Telkom alone. Following delays in the licensing process, the second national operator, Neotel (Pty) Ltd, was only licensed in 2005 and commenced with the provision of wholesale services in 2006. Repealed by the Electronic Communications Act 2005.	South African Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (SATRA).
Electronic Communications Act 2005, formerly the Convergence Bill	Repealed and replaced the IBA Act and the Telecommunications Act. Provides a horizontal licensing framework which provides for the separate licensing of networks and services. Facilitates the convergence taking place in the sector, provides for a single licensing framework in respect of all communications networks, regardless of the services provided. Distinction between electronic communications services and broadcasting services retained.	The Universal Service and Access Agency of South Africa (USAASA) is responsible for promoting the goal of universal service and the provision of universal access in under-serviced areas of South Africa.
Electronic Communications and Transactions (ECT) Act 2003	Gives legal effect to electronic transactions. This means automatic replenishment systems and electronic orders and invoices are now valid legal documents when used to conclude an electronic contract between two parties. Makes provision for dealing with cyber-crimes and cyber-security issues.	
Electronic Communications Security (Pty) Ltd Act 2002	To ensure that all electronic communications infrastructure of all organs of state are protected and secure. Its primary function is to prevent any unauthorised parties from having access to important and/or classified information	Electronic Communications Security (Pty) Ltd.
		Other Regulatory Bodies and Institutions
		Department of Communication Presidential National Commission on Information Society and Development (est. 2001) to build an inclusive information society in which human rights, economic prosperity and participatory democracy are fully realised through optimising the usage of ICTs for a better life for all.

South Africa's National Policy Framework for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality states that:

The question of gender perspectives in telecommunications, broadcasting and postal policies is one of the most important aspects of restructuring and planning in the communications sector ... If the ultimate goal is to provide universal access ... it would be counterproductive, to neglect the gender dimensions during planning processes. Allowing for gender perspectives of policies in communications means to understand fully how women and men have been socialised differently.

Despite a commitment within the constitution of South Africa to gender parity and an even firmer commitment to gender equality within the national policy framework for women's empowerment, and the fact that government's ICT policy around content, access and infrastructure acknowledges a category of "historically disadvantaged persons" of which women are considered a part, policies take a gender neutral approach assuming that equal benefits will automatically accrue to women.

Women's rights activists have shown that "gender-neutral" policies tend to favour men, as they usually have more resources and better education than women. The integration and mainstreaming of gender into government systems and the implementation of policy is critical.

While some of the key tensions that reside within policy and implementation will be explored a later in this paper, for now some key issues for consideration include:

- How do socio-cultural customs and infrastructural barriers restrict women from access and using ICTs?
- Do women have the necessary education, training and skills required to function in an information society?
- What is appropriate media and content for women? Is it available?
- What are the gendered patterns of risk to privacy and security?
- What is the extent of women's representation and participation in ICT policy and governance?
- What is the impact of ICTs on women and girls?
- How can ICTs contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment?

3. ICTs and violence against women

Against this policy backdrop let us examine ICTs in relation to violence against women. As the "new" South Africa moves into its fourteenth year of democracy and freedom, male violence against women has assumed new and alarming proportions.⁵

But there is nothing new about violence against woman in South Africa. Throughout history, South African women have been subjected to the whims and brutality of men. In answer to the question why men are violent toward women in South Africa, two primary inter-connected theories emerge. The first is that of sexist ideology and the male preoccupation with all the qualities assigned to the male sex role. The second draws a shocking picture of South African society as a "mysoginistic

⁵Tshwaranang Legal Advocacy Centre, "Violence Against Women in South Africa Fact Sheet," date unknown, tlac.org.za/images/documents/Violence_Against_Women_South_Africa_Fact_Sheet.pdf

culture”, in which violence against women is tacitly accepted. Currently, in addition to these theories, there is a common, and problematic, link made between male violence and poverty. But using theories of social deprivation to explain crimes against women results in projecting blame onto an abstract, albeit genuine, reality, rather than placing responsibility with the perpetrator. Women are not exempt from poverty – in fact, they are the poorest of the poor. Most critically, using poverty to explain men's violence towards women risks excusing the violence.

These issues begin to speak to some of the connections between ICTs and new avenues for VAW. ICTs affect several areas: they are a range of technological tools used to communicate, exchange, express, disseminate, create and transform information; they create spaces where individuals interact, whether physically or through text and other forms of representation; they are part of a discourse, i.e. the discourse of technology and information society where subjects are constructed and socially relevant axes of identities are privileged, performed and destabilised. Therefore, ICTs are intrinsically about power relations, and the construction or subversion of these relations. They can perpetuate gender stereotypes and be used to positively transform gender roles.

The technologies are developing at a rapid rate, often faster than South African society can keep up with and fully understand the range of uses and implications of the technology.⁶ ICTs are used in numerous ways to perpetrate violence against women. They have a big role to play in the commodification and objectification of women's bodies and sexualities. Like anyone else, traffickers in women use ICTs to improve the efficiency with which they carry out their activities. It is relatively easy to recruit victims quickly over the internet. They can also take advantage of the borderlessness of the internet to evade localised legislative restrictions. International anti-trafficking laws do not usually adequately address the issue of virtual trafficking but typically confine their work to the trafficking of women's physical person. Domestic violence perpetrators have used tools like spyware and global positioning systems (GPS) to track and control their partner's movements by tracking their internet use and telephone communications.

ICTs also enable sexual predators to exploit women and especially children anonymously. Chat rooms and instant messaging services are some of the safe spaces for predators, especially since they neither archive messages nor keep log files of communication. Cyber stalking and digital voyeurism are other violations typical of the internet age. There is a proliferation of video games that not only perpetuate gender stereotypes, but also glorify rape, torture and other human rights abuses carried out by the player. These games are readily available to adolescents and young adults and undoubtedly influence their world view.

The South African government has committed itself to eradicating violence against women. In compliance with the provisions of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) the government has passed legislation that attempts to tackle the issue of violence against women.

⁶ The majority of organisations interviewed were unaware of these manifestations of violence against women.

3.1 An overview of legislation on violence against women in South Africa and links to ICT use

Policy Relating to VAW	Purpose
<p>The Domestic Violence Act 1998</p>	<p>In legal terms, the Act together with the sections of the criminal procedures act, provides for the granting of protection orders in cases of violence within domestic relationships; an obligation to report cases of suspected ill-treatment of children; for a criminal conviction of a partner or person who rapes. The Act recognises that "controlling or abusive behaviour that harms the health, safety or well-being of the woman or child... emotional, verbal and psychological abuse together with other forms of abuse"⁷ directed at women, denies them their basic human rights. While it expands the definition of violence and recognises stalking and harassment through telephone calls and electronic mail it does not explicitly surface or make provision to combat new avenues through which violence manifests. For example, sexually explicit materials whose dissemination is aided by developing technologies and Web 2.0 tools like pornography on the internet, or sexual harassment of women via cell phones and social networking sites. While the Act was seen as a success, it also over time resulted in a number of challenges. For instance, the Act fails to address the issue of secondary victimisation through the obtaining of protection orders.</p>
<p>The Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act 1996 and 2008 Amendment</p>	<p>Prior to 1997 abortion in South Africa was legal for very limited reasons. The passing of the Act legalises abortion.⁸ In 2008, The Termination of Pregnancy Amendment Act was passed. The law builds on the 1996 Act by strengthening and extending services offered as well as monitoring. It tries to prevent the proliferation of illegal abortion clinics and providers and strengthens the arm of the state in prosecuting these thereby reducing the number of deaths and health complications for women.</p>
<p>The Sexual Offences Amendment Act 2007</p>	<p>Replaces sections of the Sexual Offences Act 1957. The Act deals with all legal aspects of or relating to sexual offences in a single statute by repealing the common law offence of rape and indecent assault and replacing them with a new expanded statutory offence of rape and sexual assault, respectively, applicable to all forms of sexual penetration and violation, respectively, without consent, creating new statutory offences relating to certain acts of penetration or violation, irrespective of gender.</p> <p>Creates new statutory offences for adults by criminalising conduct or causing the witnessing of certain sexual conduct and certain parts of the human anatomy, the exposure or display of child pornography and the engaging of sexual services of an adult. The Act addresses violations of a sexual nature and enacts corresponding new statutory offences and provisions dealing with the creation of certain new, expanded or amended sexual offences against children and persons who are mentally disabled. These include offences relating to sexual exploitation or grooming, exposure to or display of child pornography or pornography to children and the creation of child pornography. The act criminalises sex work and makes interim provisions relating to combating the trafficking in persons for sexual purposes.</p>
<p>The Protection From Harassment Bill 2009</p>	<p>The existing civil and criminal law framework provides for an interdict, and punishes stalking conduct as a crime or prohibits such conduct by means of peace orders but does not provide adequate recourse to victims of stalking who are not in a domestic relationship.</p> <p>This Bill aims to address this so the harasser is prohibited from continuing with the harassing act, contravention of which will be punishable as a crime. The Bill shows similarities to the Domestic Violence Act, 1998, which, however, is limited to persons who are in domestic relationships. Harassment means directly or indirectly engaging in conduct that causes harm and includes, following, pursuing or accosting verbally or electronically.</p>

⁷ The Domestic Violence Act, Act 116 of 1998, Section 1 (viii).

⁸ In 2005, the Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Amendment Act was passed but challenged in the Constitutional Court by Doctors For Life International on the basis that inadequate public participation had preceded it.

<p>The Children's Act 2005 Children's Amendment Act 2007</p>	<p>The Act contains general principles and how these principles in the best interests of the child should be interpreted. It changes the age of majority from 21 to 18, and obliges government to ensure substantive equality and equal access to services for all children. Together with the Film and Publication Act provides provision to combat child pornography.</p>
<p>South Africa's National Policy Framework for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality</p>	<p>Section 2.13.1 Makes a commitment to redress inequities in the ICT sector and support women's participation with regards recruitment, training, operational policies and practices.</p>

4. Competing rights

4.1 Censorship versus freedom of expression

To take the policy discussion further, let us consider the example of pornography. The internet facilitates the wide and rapid spread of pornography. Within feminist circles there are pro- and anti-pornography debates that stress the importance of defining pornography in terms of harm and not morality.⁹ A definition of "pornography" as sexually explicit material that depicts women's subordination in such a way as to endorse that subordination and cause harm, leaves it open in principle to the fact that there might be sexually explicit material that is not pornography: sexually explicit material that does not subordinate women and that will count as harmless "erotica." This definition takes us to the heart of the debate around competing rights.

The transmission and use of pornography in South Africa is not a new phenomenon: the Publication and Entertainment Act of 1963 and the Publication Act of 1979 prohibited the sale or possession of pornography, although it was in fact available. Technically, under the new 1996 Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, pornography is permissible as the constitution states that every person has the right to freedom of expression, which includes freedom of the press and other media; and that everyone has the right to "freedom of artistic creativity."¹⁰ Among other rights, the constitution also states that everyone has inherent dignity, and the right to have that dignity respected and protected is enshrined. The Bill of Rights goes further to maintain that this subsection does not advocate the right to "incitement of imminent violence; or advocacy of hatred that is based on race, ethnicity, gender or religion and that constitutes incitement to cause harm."¹¹ Thus we have competing rights.

This tension came alive in the autumn 2005 eTV and Daily Voice soft porn debate in which concerns were raised around pornography.¹² In both instances the parameters of the debate limited pornography to content that was harmful to children, notions of women's sexualities were taken for granted and were clearly being interpreted in an extremely sexist way. It also becomes visible through the February 2009 banning of the film "XXY" which was to be screened at the South African Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.¹³ The award winning Spanish film about a 15-year-old inter-sex girl explored the sexual awakening and psychological fallout and family anxieties about the

⁹ See Longino 1980, MacKinnon 1987

¹⁰ *ibid.*

¹¹ Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996

¹² Parliamentary Monitoring Group, "Pornography in the Media: briefing by e.tv and Daily Voice," 14 December 2005, www.pmg.org.za/minutes/20051213-pornography-media-briefing-etc-and-daily-voice

youth's gender. It was refused certification by the Film and Publication Review Board on the grounds that it constituted child pornography and all copies had to be confiscated by the police. In this instance while freedom of expression is not without limit and can be curtailed in relation to child pornography, blanket judgements such as this ban are dangerous because they stifle beliefs around sexuality that are different from our own. As such, we lose the opportunity to be exposed to different viewpoints so that we can make informed and legitimate decisions about our political and private lives, a process which makes democracy possible.

4.2 Privacy versus surveillance

In this technological society, private information has become a commodity that can be collected, bought or sold. There are numerous companies whose sole mission is to collect and distribute private information once solely controlled by the owner. As we turn to internet and wireless services to access, transfer and store vast amounts of private data the protection of privacy is becoming more of concern. Key-stroke loggers have been used to capture emails as they are written and to gain access to passwords; packet sniffers can scan emails going through an ISP node for specific words or phrases; many cell phones generate very detailed location data. Women are open to new forms of surveillance and policing.

Privacy is defined by the Oxford English dictionary as "the quality or condition of being secluded from the presence or view of others". This definition, though simple, is not restricted to the physical realm. It has relevance in the digital world. If we have to extend it to that realm, a definition of privacy is an individual's right to: control the information collected about them, control how that information is used, and control who has access to the information and the ability to access that personal information. The right to privacy of communication is a fundamental right protected in section 14 of the constitution. This includes the right to be free from intrusion and interference by the state and individuals. The constitution explicitly states that the right includes not having the privacy of communications infringed.

It is universally accepted however, that that no right is absolute in operation and as long as reasonable grounds exist to limit that right, and that the law is of general application to all citizens, this limitation may be constitutionally acceptable. The Interception and Monitoring Prohibition Act 1992 and The Regulation of Interception of Communications and Provision of Communication Related Information Act 2002 as well as certain sections of the Criminal Procedure Act 1977 is of general application, which provides for the limitation of the right to privacy in certain circumstances.¹⁴

Notwithstanding the glaring constitutional privacy concerns inherent in surveillance, monitoring and interception of communications, it is likely that given the current crime rates in South Africa and the criminal uses to which certain telecommunications equipment is being put to, the law will withstand constitutional scrutiny. The issue however remains to dilute the privacy invasions as

¹³ Freedom of Expression Institute, "FXI submission to Film and Publications Appeal Board on 'XXY'," 27 February 2009, www.fxio.org.za/content/view/207/1

¹⁴ Criminal Procedure Act, Act 51 of 1977, Section 205.

much as possible and to protect the privacy rights of the users, customers and subscribers on the networks.

Many women can only access the internet at their places of work and workplace regulations on personal use of company resources and company policy regarding personal communications at work, police and curtail women's access.

It is common in abusive relationships for the abusive partner to feel the need to control his/her partner through monitoring communication, whether by reading SMS communications, tracking phone records, intercepting emails or using GPS tracking to monitor movements. Done without consent this is in violation of the law.

Legally, in the case of harassment via cell phone, provisions have been made for the police to obtain phone records from providers and in the case of tracing perpetrators where a cellphone has been stolen police are authorised to trace the location of a cellphone if calls are made after the crime.

Further, the Electronic Communications Security (Pty) Ltd Act 2002 which seeks to ensure that all electronic communications infrastructure of all organs of state are protected and secure sits in quiet tension with the Promotion of Access to Information Act 2002 which seeks to allow citizens access to information.

5. ICT and VAW organising

While women in government structures like the Office on the Status of Women and The Parliamentary Joint Monitoring Committee On The Improvement Of The Quality Of Life And Status Of Women together with the Commission on Gender Equality (CGE) attempt to mitigate and challenge issues of gender-based bias, life for the majority of South African women continues to be marked by socio economic hardships, patriarchal domination and frequent gender violence.

As a result, grassroots organisations, coalitions and civil society initiatives have joined in the campaign to end violence against women. There are a wide range of civil society organisations working to provide a number of services including gender and life skills training sessions, empowerment programmes, face-to-face and group counselling, shelter and intervention services, legal assistance and one-stop rape crisis centres. They have become the primary contract agents for the new government, and they are implementing a growing number of social services. The concentration on legislation, on responsive mechanisms, providing counselling, and support to women is all vitally important work. But is it enough to challenge patriarchy and eradicate violence?

A survey of eleven organisations located in various parts of the country illustrated that there is a wide conceptual gap and understanding of the strategic use of ICTs to support and strengthen ongoing work to combat violence as well as counter new avenues for perpetrating violence against women.¹⁵ Organisations engaged spanned a range of ICT uses, on one end of the scale from "just

¹⁵ See stakeholders list.

using email” and “just having a website” to thinking about how ICTs can be used to strengthen their organisational vision of combating violence against women.¹⁶

For some “issues of access to ICTs” by “key constituencies” was seen as “problematic and often impossible.” As a result of such beliefs and realities the use of ICTs as a strategy to strengthen their organisational work was considered a moot point. But many more organisations expressed organisational commitment and engagement on the utilisation of ICTs to support and strengthen, add a “different dimension” and “fuel thinking and strategy development” within their organisations and work.¹⁷ Some were genuinely excited by the possibility of further engagement on this issue and were prepared to engage in debunking conventional myths around women’s relationship to technology as well as issues around access.

Many organisations are proactively using a range of ICTs to strengthen their work on VAW. These included: the establishment of a resources centre that provides computers, the redesigning of websites to make them user friendly, the use cell phones and particularly short message (SMS) and bulk SMS service providers as a strategy for reaching out to constituencies with information.¹⁸ Some organisations have launched facebook profiles and are currently exploring the implications of social networking and what it may mean for vulnerable women to publicly associate via these sites. There have also been mobile campaigns which allow for an organisation to move around the country engaging with women on issues of VAW and documenting women’s life histories, providing resources and utilising a blog as a means to document and record the journey. Some organisations are employing ICTs to fundraise and thereby reach out to the broader community to get involved in their work, spread the word and expand an advocacy base and some to recruit, inviting applicants to send a profile of themselves using multi media messaging (MMS).

¹⁶ Quotes from telephone conversations with people interviewed.

¹⁷ Quotes from telephone conversations with people interviewed.

¹⁸ Cell-Life, www.cell-life.org

5.1 Best practice case studies

The following three cases highlight some best practices in this area.

Organisation Name: The Thohoyandou Victim Empowerment Programme

Aim: to generate an attitude of zero tolerance towards all forms of sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse and AIDS stigmatisation.

Area of Operation: Thulamela Municipality of Limpopo Province. Services a population of 585,000 including one regional and two district hospitals, 48 clinics, 3 health centres, 7 police stations and satellites, and 500+ crèches, schools and tertiary education facilities that serve an estimated 220,000 children and learners. Established two 24/7 one-stop trauma centres at one regional and one district hospital.

Programme: Zero Tolerance Village Alliance (ZTVA)



Thohoyandou Victim Empowerment Programme

Help Desks operate in fourteen clinics in the area and educational workshops and campaigns are undertaken every day in eight villages in the Thulamela Municipality focusing on four core topics: domestic violence, sexual assault, rape and HIV/AIDS. Drama is used as a creative means to educate the community about their rights.

The Zero Tolerance Village Alliance (ZTVA) provides a holistic approach to the eradication of gender and child based crime. The strategy targets all elements of "hot-spot" villages to ensure that everyone in the community is empowered on their rights and responsibilities pertaining to TVEP and issues for addressing violence against women. Currently it has been introduced in eight villages, and the project includes the establishment of safe houses and support groups, and aims to generate community pride as a means of combating crime.

Male role models are required, at a public ceremony, to take an Oath committing themselves to the eradication of gender and child violence, following which they will be awarded a "Badge of Honour." Women who have "broken the silence" will receive a "Badge of Courage" at the same ceremony. As a part of this campaign TVEP has established fourteen help desks in their areas of operation. These help desks are based at rural clinics and aim to provide information and support to women and men who are participating in the Break the Silence campaign.

With a new layer of young and energetic staff joining the organisation the use of cell phones as a means to strengthen this programme is being utilised. The organisation is in the process of establishing a cell phone hotline where they can send bulk SMS messages providing information on rights, upcoming activities as well as allowing people who need on-the-spot information to send a "please call me" alert free from a cellphone to the central base. Upon receipt, the necessary support or information will be provided.



Sonke Gender Justice Network
HIV/AIDS, Gender Equality, Human Rights

Organisation Name: Sonke Gender Justice

Aim: To strengthen government, civil society and

citizen capacity to support men and boys to take action

to: promote gender equality, prevent domestic and sexual violence, and reduce the spread and impact of HIV and AIDS. In this way contributing to the development of societies in which men, women, youth and children can enjoy equitable, healthy and happy relationships that contribute to the development of just and democratic societies.

Area of Operation: National.

Programme: Photovoice

Sonke Gender Justice' photovoice Photovoice 2008- 2010 project trained two groups of 20 twenty children in Mhlontlo and Nkandla to use photography-based journals to depict their day-to-day lives, their accomplishments, hopes and challenges, their understanding of gender and HIV/AIDS, their experiences with service delivery and school and sometimes with illness, abuse and hunger. In two-week-long workshops, Sonke instructed children in technical photography skills, writing and story development, project planning and documentation as well as also facilitated workshops on gender, health and safety.

Children worked independently to express themselves through photography and writing and made known their needs by recording them in their photo journals. Throughout the project, learners focused especially on the roles of men in their lives, including whether men – their fathers, uncles, teachers, religious and traditional leaders and government officials – are involved in caring and supporting them, particularly in the context of gender-based violence and HIV and AIDS.

A review and analysis of the children's photographs and writings from both communities reveal that child safety, gender and poor service delivery – especially issues related to litter, sanitation and running water – are common themes. Many children wished for safe spaces to play organised sports, while others still wanted more positive role models to teach them about how to reach their dreams. Most of the children and youth shared stories of how alcohol and violence have caused pain and loss to them or someone they know.

To make children's needs known throughout Nkandla and Mhlontlo municipalities, Sonke collaborated with local partner organisations and area leaders to host interactive, participatory photovoice exhibits in each location. At each exhibit, posters featuring children's writing and photographs were grouped according to theme and featured corresponding questions that challenged men, fathers and parents to identify actions they can take to make the lives of children around them safer. Postcards featuring photovoice art and addressed to the Mayor mayor of each municipality provided a vehicle for people to write a question or comment, or to make a personal commitment to improving the lives of children. After the exhibit, the community responses were compiled by Sonke and shared with government to spur government representatives to take action and to alert traditional and religious leaders to areas of public concern and urgent need.

But the case that best demonstrates the intersections between the use of technology and the direct combating of violence against women is Women'sNet's May 2009 campaign "Keep Your Chats Exactly That!"¹⁹

Organisation Name: Women'sNet

Aim: Women'sNet is a feminist organisation that works to advance gender equality and justice in South Africa through the use of iInformation and Communication technologies (ICTs).

Area of Operation: National, with a strong regional and international profile.

Campaign: Keep your chats exactly that!

Keep you chats exactly that is a campaign launched by Women's Net in 2009. It aims to empower young people to prevent them from becoming victims of violence or harassment when they use the internet and cell phones. Additionally it seeks to help young people use these tools in order to advocate for change on a range of important social issues.



Women's Net believes that the Information Age has brought about an increase in the use of technology. This means quick, easy and in some instances, cheaper ways to share and disseminate information. But within these virtual meeting spaces, there exists destructive or sexist intentions from people who are themselves regular users and or sexual predators may have destructive or sexist intentions. This is where images, video sharing and particularly language is used as a violent tool to weaken, bully, lure and/or control other users. While virtual spaces are supposed to offer some level of privacy and control regarding regulation of interaction between people, the very nature of the spaces means that girls often can often feel excluded at best, and are or fall victims of to violence at worst.

As Women's Net notes: "Girls and boys are confronted with offensive language use or get involved in a tug of coercive language and threats. While exploring developmental or educational and leisure spaces, they are sometimes lured or flashed with pornographic material and postings of images or videos. Initially in some cases, contact between girls and males begins online but leads to physical contact, which and in this process the sharing of private and personal information, further contributes to creating levels of vulnerability. Sometimes this contact leads to human trafficking of girls which is an increasing problem in South Africa society."

¹⁹ Women'sNet, "Keep Your Chats Exactly That!" May 2009, www.womensnet.org.za/files/conferences/resources/keep_your_chats.pdf

There is an increased need for young people to access, use and own spaces such as the internet and cell phone technology for their own development. These tools offer huge potential for addressing development challenges. , bBut the gender disparities and power imbalances that exist play out in virtual environments too. The campaign therefore serves to address violence experienced on internet and cellular phones by raising awareness and disseminating information and thereby promoting the same tools for positive social participation on the same issues.

6. Action points

Violence against women and girls is unacceptable, whatever the manifestation, the context, or the circumstances. Ultimately, perhaps the only way to end violence against women is to directly confront patriarchy within our society. This is long and hard work. It involves consciousness raising, political education to overthrow sexism, access to information and women recognising their own position and condition as a result of male domination. It also involves a recognition of power and agency by women and the broader community to begin to dismantle the institutions of patriarchy that lock women into very specific gender roles and that police women through a range of violence and the fear of recrimination. This is long-term work.

In the medium- to short-term, a number of actions and interventions can potentially be undertaken that can contribute to combating violence against women harnessing ICTs.

1. Awareness-raising around the intersections and interconnectedness of communications technology and violence against women in all its manifestations is necessary.
2. There is an urgent need to harmonise and implement ICT policy with a strong gender perspective using existing policy and, where necessary, to develop policy to allow for redress. This should include the opening up and transparency of the policy-making process and the harmonisation of policy where ministries are legislating on ICT and communication rights as well as VAW. The establishment of monitoring mechanisms is necessary. For example a task force or gender unit that specifically monitors regulatory agencies like the Film and Publication Board or Independent Communications Authority of South Africa, in order to minimise sexism, monitor implementation, ensure goals are achieved and guarantee that ICT policies and programmes do not increase already existing inequalities.
3. It is apparent that the bias in policy-making processes aimed at multi-stakeholder participation has been in the interests of the private sector. There is a need for a consolidated lobby to ensure government establishes mechanisms for ongoing consultation with gender and ICT experts, allows broad-based participation of women's groups, and accounts for diversity to enable genuine multi-stakeholder involvement.

4. The importance of ICTs and their potential harm for women, as well as tools for use in strengthening and amplifying women's visions, voices, demands and actions at all levels to raise awareness and counter violence should be highlighted. This could include working with VAW organisations and the Commission on Gender Equality in developing communications strategy and action.
5. Women's safety and privacy in public internet access sites needs to be addressed. Together with department of labour and other relevant bodies, development of an internet usage policy that is sensitive to women and women's information needs on VAW including sexual harassment.
6. Resources should be made available for new and creative initiatives which explore the possibilities of communications technologies and their potential use for women's equality. Examples include hands-on skills transfer workshops and training sessions for key practitioners and social justice activists in the use of ICTs to strengthen their work, as well as highlighting new avenues for violence against women and strategies for combating them.
7. Ongoing discussion spaces/listserves on ICT and VAW regarding technological developments, implications and collective strategies that can be implemented both at the level of policy and practice.
8. Educating policy makers, police and service providers on the potential use of online/cell phone communications in crimes against women and on applying the relevant legislation to combat such crimes.
9. Within the broad topic of gender and ICTs, there are a number of areas where sex-disaggregated statistics and indicators would be useful. These include access and usage, content, representation in ICT decision-making and impact of ICTs on women.
10. Development of internet content which is both locally relevant and challenges sexist stereotypes. Priority needs to be given to content that is developed by women and reflects their knowledge and perspectives, and which helps them with their immediate survival needs, aspirations, their well-being, and that of their families. Attention must also be paid to strategic content in areas such as women's reproductive health, rights and awareness, communication rights.

List of Stakeholders: ICTs in South Africa

National Government Departments		
Institution	Focus areas	Contact
Department of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology (DACST) www.dacst.gov.za	Responsible Department for the Foresight project Administers Innovation Fund, which applies about a third of its awards to ICT projects.	Contact: Ms Lisa Combrick Lisa.Combrinck@dac.gov.za Kingsley Centre 481 Church Street Cnr Beatrix & Pretorius Streets Arcadia Tel: (012) 441 3000
Department of Communications www.docweb.pwv.gov.za	Telecommunications Policy, e-Commerce policy Information Society issues - including universal access Universal Service Agency (USSASA)	Contact: Ms Samantha Bloem iParioli Office Park, 399 Duncan Street, Hatfield, Pretoria Postal address: Private Bax X860, Pretoria, 0001 Tel: (012) 427 8000
Dept of Education - Centre for Educational Technology www.education.pwv.gov.za	Introduction of ICTs into schools. Integration of ICTs into teaching curricula. Curriculum development.	Contact: Mashala Kwape kwape.u@educ.pwv.gov.za Sol Plaatje House, 123 Schoeman Street, Pretoria Tel: (012) 312 5911
Dept of Public Service Administration (DPSA) www.dpsa.gov.za	Responsible for developing IT policy for government. Coordination of all government IT initiatives.	Contact: Michelle Williams Batho Pele House 116 Proes Street Pretoria Tel: (012) 336 1548
Dept of Trade and Industry (DTI) www.saitis.co.za	Emphasis on industrial policy and economic growth. The host government department for the SAITIS project.	Contact: Saré Grobler (Saitis) sgrobler@dti.pwv.gov.za (012) 310 1556
Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) www.gcis.gov.za	Communications arm of government.	Contact: Terry Vandayar terry@gcis.gov.za 356 Vermeulen St, Midtown Building, Pretoria Tel: (012) 314 2911
Presidential National Commission on Information Society and Development	To advise on the establishment of government policy framework on Information and Communication	Contact: Eugenie Mawoko

(PNC on ISD) www.pnc.gov.za	Technologies (ICTs); The best structure to foster cooperation and coordination and joint action by national, provincial and local government with a view to building ways of attaining a knowledge-based society; Appropriate ways of building a rich base of electronic learning materials with local content.	Eugenie.Mawoko@pnc.gov.za 399 Duncan st Cnr Park st & Duncan st, Parioli office Park, Block, A&B, Hatfield, PRETORIA, Gauteng, S.A, 0028, Pretoria Tel: (012) 420 7700
Government Agencies, National Bodies and Parastatals		
Film and Publications Board www.fpb.gov.za	Film and Publication Regulatory Authority	Contact: Yewande Langa 87 Central St, Houghton, 2198 Tel: (011) 483 0971
ICASA www.icasa.org.za	Regulator for South African communications sector responsible for regulation of broadcasting, postal and telecommunications services	Contact: Tracy Cohen (ICASA Councillor) Blocks A, B, C & D Pinmill Farm, 164 Katherine St, Sandton Tel: (011) 566 3000
Broadcast Complaints Commission of South Africa (BCCSA) www.bccsa.co.za	The BCCSA is an independent judicial tribunal which must reach its decisions on the Broadcasting Code independently and in line with the precepts of administrative justice, as required by the Constitution of the Republic and legislation that governs fair administrative justice. Although initially set up by the Broadcasting industry, it is entirely independent from that industry and it would be in conflict with its corporate independence to be called an "industry body".	Contact: Dr Lynda Gilfillan (commissioner) Dr Linda Venter (commissioner) bccsa@nabsa.co.za
The Universal Service and Access Agency of South Africa (USAASA) www.usaasa.org.za	Promoting the goals of universal access and universal service in the under serviced areas of South Africa.	Contact: Building 21 Thornhill Office Park, 94 Bekker St, Vorna Valley, Midrand Tel: (011) 564 1600 Mr. Daniel Ramahlape 2nd Floor Safmarine House, 22 Riebieck Street, Cape Town, 8000 Tel: 082 800 8604
Telkom SA Ltd www.telkom.co.za	Telkom is Africa's largest integrated communications company, providing integrated communications solutions for satellite, data, voice, internet and LAN provisioning to an entire range of customers in South Africa.	Contact: Mr. Pynee Chetty chettPR2@telkom.co.za Telkom SA Limited Tel : (012) 311 5247
South African Broadcasting	South Africa's National broadcaster	Contact:

Corporation (SABC) www.sabc.co.za		Kaizer Kganyago (082 466 3053) P.O. Box 1198, Hatfield 0001, Pretoria Tel: 012 431-5300 Beach Road, Sea Point, 8005 Tel 021 430-8100
Business and Industry		
Cell C www.cellc.co.za	Cellphone communications provider	Contact: Zeona Motshabi Cell C Esher Place 7 Federal Drive Sandhurst Sandton 2196 Tel: 084 0 278/(011) 807 1556
MTN www.mtn.co.za	The MTN Group Limited (MTN Group) is a leading provider of communication services, offering cellular network access and business solutions on the African continent.	Contact: Santie Botha (Executive Director) Tel: (011) 912 4056
Vodacom www.vodacom.com	Vodacom is a leading African communications group providing mobile communications and related services	Contact: Dot Field (Chief Communications Officer) Tel: (011) 653 5440
Psitek Africa www.psitek.com	Using cellular and wireless technologies to provide access to voice and data services to people in underserved areas of the world.	Contact: Ryan Callis Ryan.callis@psitek.com Tel: (011) 207 5900
Neotel www.neotel.co.za	Neotel is South Africa's first converged communications network operator, dedicated to improving the way South Africans communicate.	Contact: The technology team network@neotel.co.za 28 Saddle Drive, Woodmead Office Park, Woodmead, Johannesburg, 2191 Tel: (011) 585 0000
E TV www.etv.co.za	The first free-to-air commercial television station in South Africa	Contact: Bronwyn Keene-Young (Operating Officer) 5 Summit Road, Hyde Park, 2196 Tel: (011) 537 9300

Universities and Research Institutions		
Institution	Focus areas	Resources and Capacity
Centre for Applied Legal Studies (CALS), University of the Witwatersrand www.law.wits.ac.za	Currently running a Master's programme in Communications Law. e-Commerce, telecommunications, broadcasting law, introduction to technology, space/satellite law, media law.	Contact: Justine White (visiting lecturer) whitej@law.wits.ac.za
National Research Foundation (NRF) www.nrf.ac.za	Mandated by a no. of govt depts to fund research on knowledge management. NRF provides access to researchers, and a series of grants / funds to foster research in prioritised areas. ICT policy has been added as a category in the call for proposals.	Contacts: Dr. Daisy Selematsela (Executive Director: Knowledge Management and Strategy) Meiring Naudé Rd, Brummeria Pretoria Tel: (012) 481 4000 / 4001
University of Cape Town ICT-related Departments www.uct.ac.za	Has separate Computer Science and Information Systems (IS) Departments.	Contact: Prof Dewald Roode Dewald.Roode@uct.ac.za Tel: (021) 650 4387
University of Pretoria ICT-related Departments www.sit.up.ac.za	School for Information Technology brings together several departments. Runs an active Doctoral programme. Some focus on ICT policy emerging. (http://www.up.ac.za/academic/sit/) Has a separate School for Public Management and Administration with a strong interest in ICT policy topics	Contact: Mr Michael Köhn Department of Computer Science Education and Law Building - Level 4, University of Pretoria, Lynnwood Rd, Hillcrest, Pretoria Tel: (012) 420 3653
University of South Africa http://www.unisa.ac.za	Offers courses in telecommunications policy, computer science and information systems. Involved in the national plan for higher education	Contact: Prof Ruth De Villers dvillmr@unisa.ac.za Tel: (012) 429 6559
University of the Witwatersrand LINK centre http://link.wits.ac.za	Offers courses in: Telecommunications policy, regulation and management, Information management for the public sector, ICT literacy, ICT for empowerment (emphasis on SMMEs).	Contact: Alison Gillwald: Gillwald.A@pdm.wits.ac.za
Labour Unions		
Institution	Focus areas	Resources and Capacity
Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) http://www.cosatu.org.za/	Clear focus on job creation and job enhancement. Has representation on national projects such as SAITIS. Ongoing concerns that ICT initiatives will lead to job losses. COSATU is running a campaign for online rights for shop stewards. COSATU	Contact: Charley Lewis charley@cosatu.org.za

	wants a national Information Society vision.	
Communication Workers Union www.cwu.org.za/index.php	The Communication Workers' Union of South Africa is the most progressive, militant and growing union in the communication industry, boasting some 44,000 members spread across most of the communication industry of South Africa.	Contact: Gallant Roberts gallantr@cwu.org.za 29 Rissik St, Johannesburg, 2000 Tel: (011) 838 4848
NGOs and Associations		
Institution	Focus areas	Resources and Capacity
Black IT Forum (BITF) http://www.bitf.org.za	Association of black professionals working to address the poor representation of black people in the ICT industry.	Contact: Lesedi Phora 1st Fl, 25 Wellington Rd, Parktown Tel: (011) 484 5110
Computer Society of South Africa (CSSA) http://www.cssa.org.za	42-year old association and major representative of 3 500 - 4 000 ICT professionals.	Contact: Lerina Nel ICT House, 546 16th Rd, Constantia Park, Halfway House, Unit 3 Tel: (011) 315 1319
Information Industries South Africa (IISA) http://www.InformationIndustry.org.za	Umbrella body which coordinates the activities of the representative bodies in the ICT sector and provides a channel of communication between the industry and government. IISA also represents South Africa's interests in world bodies such as the World IT and Services Alliance (WITSA). Its mission is to promote the ICT industry and the use of ICT for the benefit of the whole community.	Contact: ICT house, Constantia Park, 546 16th Rd, Halfway House 1685 Tel: (011) 315 1319
National Community Radio Forum (NCRF) www.ncrf.org.za	The NCRF is a national, membership-driven association of community radio stations and support service organizations. Radio station members are independent non-profit CBOs - owned and run by diverse local communities who actively participate in the development of programming activities, for sustainable non-discriminatory local development.	Contact: Mpho Mhlongo (Programme Officer) mpho@ncrf.org.za 9th Floor Field North Building, 23 De Beer Street, Cnr Jorissen Street Braamfontein, Johannesburg, South Africa Tel: (011 403 4336)
Out in Africa (OIA) www.oia.co.za	The Out In Africa South African Gay & Lesbian Film Festival (OIA) aims at addressing the lack of visibility of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex individuals (LGBTIs) in social and cultural life, to counter negative images of LGBTIs	Contact: Sharon Jackson sharon@oia.co.za Tel: 021 461 4027

	that prevail in traditional and religious communities, and to serve as a platform for discussion and debate about the situation of LGBTIs in South Africa.	
Internet Service Providers Association (ISPA) www.ispa.org.za	The Internet Service Providers' Association is a South African Internet industry body not for gain. ISPA currently has more than 145 members, comprised of large, medium and small Internet service and access providers in South Africa. Formed in 1996	Contact: Secretariat queries@ispa.org.za Tel: (011) 314 7751
Women's Net www.womensnet.org.za	Women'sNet is a feminist organisation that works to advance gender equality and justice in South Africa through the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).	Contact: Sally-Jean Shackleton sallys@womensnet.org.za 31 Quinn Street, Newtown Johannesburg, South Africa Tel: (011) 838 6943/4
Tshwaranang Legal Advocacy Centre (TLAC) www.tlac.org.za	Tshwaranang Legal Advocacy Centre is a multi-disciplinary centre that promotes the right of women to live lives free of violence through research, advocacy, litigation and the provision of free legal advice services.	Contact: Anneke Meerkotter anneke@tlac.org.za 10th floor, Braamfontein Centre 23 Jorissen Street, Braamfontein Tel: (011) 403 8230
Thohoyandou Victim Empowerment Programme www.tvpep.org.za	Working to generate an attitude of Zero Tolerance towards Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Child Abuse Abuse & HIV and AIDS related stigma in Limpopo's Thulamela Municipality	Contact: Tian Johnson tian@tvpep.org.za House Number 2, Old Embassy Buildings, Sibasa, 0970, Thohoyandou, Limpopo Tel: (015) 963 1222
Masimanyane Women's Support Centre www.masimanyane.org.za	Non-profit organisation based in East London, focusing on gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health and rights and the gendered nature of HIV and Aids.	Contact: Lesley Anne Foster maswsc@iafrica.com 35 St Mark's Rd, Southernwood, East London, Eastern Cape, 5201 Tel: (043) 743 9169
Sex Workers Education and Advocacy Trust (SWEAT) www.sweat.org.za	Non-profit organisation working with sex workers around health and human rights.	Contact: Diane Massawe Diane.massawe@SWEAT.org.za Community House, Salt River, Cape Town Tel: (021) 448 7875
Triangle Project	To contribute towards eradicating	Contact:

<p>www.traingle.org.za</p>	<p>discrimination against and within the LGBT community, and to provide defined services to the LGBT community. required.</p>	<p>Marlow Valentine Marlow@traingle.org.za Unit 29, Waverley Business Park, Dane St, Mowbray, Cape Town Tel: (021) 448 3812</p>
<p>One in Nine Campaign www.oneinnine.org.za</p>	<p>The One In Nine Campaign was established in February 2006 at the start of the rape trial of Jacob Zuma, to ensure the expression of solidarity with the woman in that trial as well as other women who speak out about rape and sexual violence.</p>	<p>Contact: Nisha Fakir 1in9@powa.co.za Tel: (011) 642 4346</p>
<p>Rape Crisis Cape Town Trust www.rapecrisis.org.za</p>	<p>Working to end violence against women. Working to improve access to care, treatment and justice for rape survivors.</p>	<p>Contact: Kathleen Day kath@rapecrisis.org.za PO Box 46 Observatory 7935</p>
<p>Ilitha LaBantu People who care about people www.ilithalabantu.org.za</p>	<p>Non-Governmental Organization with a specific focus on addressing violence against women and children.</p>	<p>Contact: Ella Molakali NY 22, No. 26 (a), Guguletu Tel: (021) 633 2383</p>
<p>South African Non Governmental Organisation Coalition (SANGOCO) http://www.sangoco.org.za</p>	<p>South African NGO coalition</p>	<p>Contact: NGO HOUSE, Methodist Place, 114 Rissik Street Braamfontein, Gauteng Province 2017 Tel: (011) 403 7746</p>
<p>Centre for Study of Violence and Reconciliation www.csvr.org.za</p>	<p>The CSVR is a multi-disciplinary institute involved in policy formation, community interventions, service delivery, education and training, as well as providing consultancy services. The primary goal of the CSVR is to use its expertise in building reconciliation, democracy and a human rights culture and in preventing violence in South African and in other countries in Africa.</p>	<p>Contact: Kenneth Collis kcollis@csvr.org.za Tel: (011) 403 5650</p>
<p>Sonke Gender Justice www.genderjustice.org.za</p>	<p>Sonke Gender Justice Network works across Africa to strengthen government, civil society and citizen capacity to support men and boys to take action to: promote gender equality, prevent domestic and sexual violence, and reduce the spread and impact of HIV and AIDS.</p>	<p>Contact: Patrick Godana Patrick@genderjustice.org.za 4th Floor Westminster House, 122 Longmarket Street, 8001, Cape Town Tel: (021) 423 7088</p>

<p>People Opposing Women Abuse (POWA)</p> <p>www.powa.co.za</p>	<p>An NGO undertaking research into gender-based violence in Africa.</p>	<p>Contact: Nhlanhla Mukwena Nhlanhla@powa.co.za Tel: (011) 642 4345</p>
<p>Association of Progressive Communicators – Women’s Networking Support Programme (APC WNSP)</p> <p>www.apcwomen.org</p>	<p>A global network of women who support women networking for social change and women's empowerment, through the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). Promoting gender equality in the design, development, implementation, access to and use of ICTs and in the policy decisions and frameworks that regulate them.</p>	<p>Contact: Jenny Radloff jenny@apcwomen.org Jan Moolman jan@apcwomen.org</p>

The Association for Progressive Communications

The Association for Progressive Communications Women's Networking Support Programme (APC WNSP) is an international network of individual women and women's organisations promoting gender equality in the design, implementation, access and use of information and communications technologies (ICTs) and in the policy decisions and frameworks that regulate them.

The APC WNSP is made of feminists and activists who believe that ICTs have a strong role to play in transforming gender and social relations. In our ranks are techies and trainers who help women's organisations and other civil society groups take control of the tools they use to advance their missions and advocacies. More than 175 women from 55 countries – librarians, programmers, journalists, trainers, designers, scholars, communicators – come together to work online jointly in various projects in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe and Latin America.

APC WNSP is also a programme of the Association for Progressive Communications, an international network of civil society organisations dedicated to empowering and supporting those working for peace, human rights, development and protection of the environment through the strategic use of ICT.

Founded in 1990, APC works to build a world in which all people have easy, equal and affordable access to the creative potential of ICTs to improve their lives and create more democratic and egalitarian societies. www.apcwomen.org www.apc.org

This paper was commissioned as part of the APC WNSP project "Strengthening Women's Strategic Use of Information and Communications Technologies to Combat Violence against Women and Girls" supported by the MDG3 Fund. The "MDG3 Fund: Investing in Equality" aims to support activities that lead to concrete results with regard to improved rights and opportunities for women and girls in developing nations. The fund's specific purpose is to bring about improvements in gender equality and to empower women. www.mdg3.nl



MDG3Fund