

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE VS GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE: IS THE UN CYBERCRIME CONVENTION OUR KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR COMING TO THE RESCUE?



THE *Alliance*
OF NGOS ON CRIME PREVENTION
& CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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EVERY
WOMAN
TREATY

Date/Time: 11 March 2025, 3:30-5pm CET
Vienna International Centre room G-0541 and online



In the face of a polycrisis—including climate change, armed conflict, and economic uncertainty—states are navigating the rapid rise of artificial intelligence (AI) and its gender implications. Generative AI has created opportunities for gender equality, such as improving access to health, social services, and violence prevention for women and girls during crises. However, significant barriers remain, including unequal access to technology, online exploitation, and exclusion from AI's benefits, especially for marginalized groups. Without targeted interventions, emerging technologies risk reinforcing gender biases, enabling new forms of violence, and amplifying misogynistic rhetoric, disinformation, and systemic inequalities, especially in workplaces and societal power structures. What is the role of the recently adopted UN Convention against Cybercrime (UNGA New York 24 December 2024) in this context? Can a new Optional Protocol to CEDAW fill the gaps?

In 2025, the global community marks the thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995).

This Information day is jointly organized by the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development (CSD) Vienna, the NGO Committee on the Status of Women (CSW) Vienna and the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Its aim is to brief Vienna audiences on important issues relevant to the 69th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, to be held in New York from 10-21 March 2025. It is also the first occasion to discuss gender-related issues within the framework of the newly adopted UN Convention on Cybercrime.

Speaker

Linda Witong, Soroptimist International



Discussants

Pavlina Pavlova, WG Cybercrime Coordinator, Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice



Patricia Elias, Lawyer, Chief of Diplomatic Campaign, Every Woman Treaty



Moderator

Anna Alvazzi del Frate, Kennis: Knowledge for Safety and Good Governance, Chair, CSD Vienna



To join remotely:

Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86014063674?pwd=hdAXvAEnrJwuJl4JkZbPUR0Ma6Zawk.1>

For inquiries: <https://ngocsdvienna.org> - email: ngocsd.vienna@gmail.com

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During **Linda Witong's** prior work as a prosecutor in California for 32 years, she endorsed and upheld laws to protect women and children who were victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Trafficking, Elder Abuse, Child Abuse, Molestation, Fraud both online and offline and Homicides. In addition, to working as a NGO delegate to the United Nations for Soroptimist International as an advocacy consultant, Linda is also a member of the Board of the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.. Linda has been the recipient of awards recognizing her outstanding contributions throughout the years including receiving most recently receiving a Certificate of Congressional Recognition from the US House of Representatives as well as a Certificate of Recognition from the California Senate and admission into the Marin Women's Hall of Fame.

Pavlina Pavlova is the Coordinator of the Working Group on Cybercrime at the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and a Fellow at New America. She has supported stakeholder engagement in United Nations negotiations on responsible state behaviour in cyberspace and the Cybercrime Convention. Pavlova brings over a decade of international policy experience in technology, governance, security, and human rights from civil society and international, regional, and national institutions. Her research examines the impact of technology on people and translates the evidence into recommendations for improved governance, with the latest report investigating how data weaponization exploits gender.

Patricia Elias is a lawyer specializing in international law. Chief of the Global Diplomatic Campaign for Every Woman Treaty, leading the overall strategy and representing the campaign to world leaders, heads of state, presidents, and prime ministers. Senior Gender Expert with extensive experience in gender equality, women's empowerment, governance, political participation and leadership, the rule of law, and ending violence against women and girls. Former Senior Advisor and Coordinator at the UN Women Regional Office for the Arab States. Author of Key Legal Reports, founder of Avenir Liban, humanitarian activist. Recipient of the Medal of Community Commitment, awarded by the Prefect of Paris and Île-de-France for outstanding contributions to human rights and civic engagement.

Anna Alvazzi Del Frate is a criminologist with vast experience in international studies on crime, violence, gender and firearms, developed over a long career at the UN and in academic and applied research. She worked at UNODC in Vienna (RAB – 2003-2010) and at the Small Arms Survey in Geneva (2010-2019). She is now the Chair of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development Vienna and a member of the Executive Board of the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. She is also the Executive Director of Kennis: Knowledge for Safety and Good Governance.

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