



Press Release

Digital Rights, Privacy Protections, and Platform Accountability...NCW's Comprehensive Report to the Government

New Delhi, 04 November 2025: The National Commission for Women has recommended the *Review of Cyber Laws Relating to Women* to the Ministry of Law and Justice, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, the Ministry of Women and Child Development, and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The report is the culmination of a year-long national consultation aimed at reviewing and reforming India's cyber legal framework through a gender-sensitive lens. As part of this comprehensive exercise, eight regional consultations were held across Punjab, Haryana, West Bengal, Odisha, Assam, Gujarat, Karnataka, and Chhattisgarh, followed by two rounds of national consultations—at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, and at the National Law University and Judicial Academy, Guwahati.

Smt. Vijaya Rahatkar, Chairperson, NCW in her remarks, said that “The digital world has opened infinite doors for women — of learning, enterprise, and expression — but it has also given rise to new frontiers of threat and intimidation. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that technology becomes an instrument of empowerment, not exploitation. Through this report, NCW envisions a cyber ecosystem where laws do not merely punish offenders, but protect dignity; where awareness replaces fear; and where every woman can step into the digital world without hesitation — confident, informed, and secure.”

The final consultation was graced by Hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, who appreciated NCW's proactive efforts in driving reforms that safeguard women in the digital space.

Hundreds of experts, including judges, senior advocates, technology specialists, police officers, academicians, and members of civil society, participated in this consultative process. Their collective insights culminated in a comprehensive set of over 200 actionable recommendations aimed at addressing the legal and institutional gaps in India's response to cyber offences targeting women.

The Commission's recommendations span several major legislations and digital governance frameworks:

Information Technology Act, 2002

- Tougher penalties under Sections 66, 66C, 66D & 68 for offences against women and children.
- Penal action for threats to share private or obscene content.
- Mandatory *Victim Compensation Fund* and appointment of *district-level psychologists* and *forensic experts*.

IT Rules, 2021

- Longer user data retention (360 days) and stronger victim anonymity.
- Mandatory account verification and inclusion of *AI-manipulated imagery* in rules.
- New provisions for *gender-based harassment, platform transparency, AI audits, victim support, and cross-border content regulation*.

Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023

- Define “*sensitive personal data*” and “*gender-specific damage*”.
- Stricter consent norms and 24-hour breach reporting.
- Mandatory removal of non-consensual content within 12 hours.
- Tiered penalties for gendered data misuse and anonymous reporting options.

POSH Act, 2013

- Extend protection to *digital harassment* and *remote workplaces*.
- Digital evidence protocols and tech support for Internal Committees (ICs).

Indecent Representation of Women Act, 1986

- Cover online and OTT content.
- Swift 48-hour recourse for digital offences.
- Accountability of intermediaries and *victim compensation fund*.

POCSO Act, 2012

- Recognize *digital manipulation* and *online grooming* as offences.
- Increased penalties and child anonymity protection.
- Social media accountability for failure to report abuse.

Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023

- Protect complainant identity in cyber offences.
- Include *cyberbullying, trolling, deepfakes, and privacy violations*.
- Intermediaries to remove harmful content within 36 hours.

Bhartiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023

- Recognize *metadata* and *temporary files* as key digital evidence.
- Ensure *fast-track forensic analysis* and chain of custody for cybercrimes.

Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023

- Quick recording of victim statements and timely sharing of charge sheet/judgment.
- Enhanced procedures for seizure and handling of digital evidence.

The *Recommendatory Report for Law Review 2024–25* represents one of the most comprehensive national reviews undertaken by NCW to modernize legal protections for women in cyberspace. The report combines statutory review, stakeholder insights, and comparative global analysis to propose reforms that:

- Strengthen **digital rights and privacy protections** for women,
- Promote **platform accountability and transparency**,
- Enhance **forensic and law enforcement capacities**, and
- Foster **digital literacy and preventive awareness** through education and community engagement.

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