

Baroness Keeley of Worsley
Chair, Communications and Digital Committee
House of Lords

25 November 2025

Chi Onwurah MP
Chair, Science, Innovation and Technology
Committee
House of Commons

Sarah Owen MP
Chair, Women and Equalities Committee
House of Commons

By email only

Dear all,

[A safer life online for women and girls: publication of Ofcom's guidance for tech companies](#)

Ofcom has today published its dedicated guidance for technology companies on improving online safety for women and girls. This guidance sets out clear, practical steps that technology companies including social media platforms, dating apps, gaming services, pornography sites and search engines – should take to reduce online harms affecting women and girls. This is a significant milestone in implementing the Online Safety Act.

When Parliament passed the Online Safety Act, it required Ofcom to produce this guidance in recognition of the unique and serious risks women and girls face online. Evidence shows they are more likely to have intimate images – including deepfakes – shared without consent, to be targeted by misogynistic abuse and pile-ons, and to experience stalking and coercive control.

Survivors tell us how a single image shared without consent can destroy their sense of security. Public figures – journalists, politicians, athletes – describe relentless abuse simply for doing their jobs. [Ofcom research](#) found that women in politics experience online hate and abuse consistently, often with a direct undertone of misogyny, and regularly including threats. These experiences have left women politicians feeling isolated, questioning their abilities, and adopting specific tactics to stay safe.

The guidance focuses on four key areas of harm and sets out practical measures for online services. We recommend that services, amongst other measures:

- **Misogynistic abuse and sexual violence:** use prompts to encourage users to reconsider harmful posts, use timeouts for repeat offenders, reduce toxic echo chambers, and demonetise abusive content.
- **Pile-ons and coordinated harassment:** set volume limits on posts to help prevent mass-posting of abuse, allow users to quickly block or mute multiple accounts at once, and introduce more sophisticated tools for users to make multiple reports and track their progress.

- **Stalking and coercive control:** have stronger privacy defaults, remove geolocation by default, and enhance account security.
- **Image-based sexual abuse:** use automated detection tools to identify and remove non-consensual intimate images, blur nudity with opt-in overrides, and clearly signpost to support including how to report a potential crime .

While some harms are not illegal, the guidance reflects lived experience and calls for better protections and more choice for users, while safeguarding freedom of expression. Prioritising the safety of women and girls' online will raise safety outcomes for everyone.

This work reflects extensive engagement across the UK. We consulted widely with civil society, academia, industry, and frontline organisations. Our formal consultation received over 111 responses, and we held workshops in Cardiff, Edinburgh, and Belfast, alongside focused sessions with men and boys' groups, young people, and domestic abuse survivors. The insights they shared were clear: the digital world is failing women and girls, at huge cost to society.

We are grateful for the input we have received from Parliamentarians and Government, and for the evidence and insights shared by stakeholders. This breadth of engagement underlines the shared commitment to tackling online harms and protecting women and girls.

Ofcom will closely monitor how providers apply this guidance and hold companies to account, using our enforcement powers where legal duties are not met. We will report in summer 2027 on progress made by individual providers, and the industry as a whole, in reducing online harms to women and girls.

I have attached the guidance and our statement following consultation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanie Dawes', written in a cursive style.

Melanie Dawes