

DURGA DARES



DURGA INDIA'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



GET THE INSIDE SCOOP

Context

Why is it important to address tech-enabled violence now?
How to be an active bystander?
Here's what our 16 days of activism looked like:

- Reclaiming Our World Defiantly
- Clothesline Campaign
- Feminist Imaginations through Zine-making
- Street Play

This year's theme:

ENDING DIGITAL VIOLENCE.

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM
AGAINST
GENDER-BASED
VIOLENCE

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence is a global annual campaign that runs from 25 November to 10 December every year. It is one of the most recognized international initiatives to end violence against women, girls, and gender-diverse people.

Details:

- Starts: *25 November* – International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
- Ends: *10 December* – Human Rights Day
- Duration: 16 days (symbolically linking gender-based violence to human rights)

What it aims to do:

- Raise awareness about gender-based violence (GBV) as a human rights issue.
- Mobilise individuals, organisations, and governments to take concrete action.
- Advocate for stronger laws, policies, and resources to prevent and respond to GBV.
- Create spaces for survivor voices, community education, solidarity events, and activism.



Why is it important to address tech-enabled violence now?

Digital violence is not a “future” issue anymore, it is a current, escalating crisis. Technology is amplifying existing inequalities, creating new forms of gendered, casteist, communal, and queerphobic harm. Addressing it now is urgent for several reasons.

What AI ENABLES

- Deepfakes of women, queer people, and minorities used for humiliation or extortion
- AI “nudify” apps that create sexualised images without consent
- Automated trolling or bot-driven harassment campaigns
- Voice cloning used for blackmail
- AI-aided stalking through facial recognition, scraping, and location prediction

AI collapses the boundaries between private and public, making people, especially those already socially vulnerable, more exposed to harm with almost no accountability.

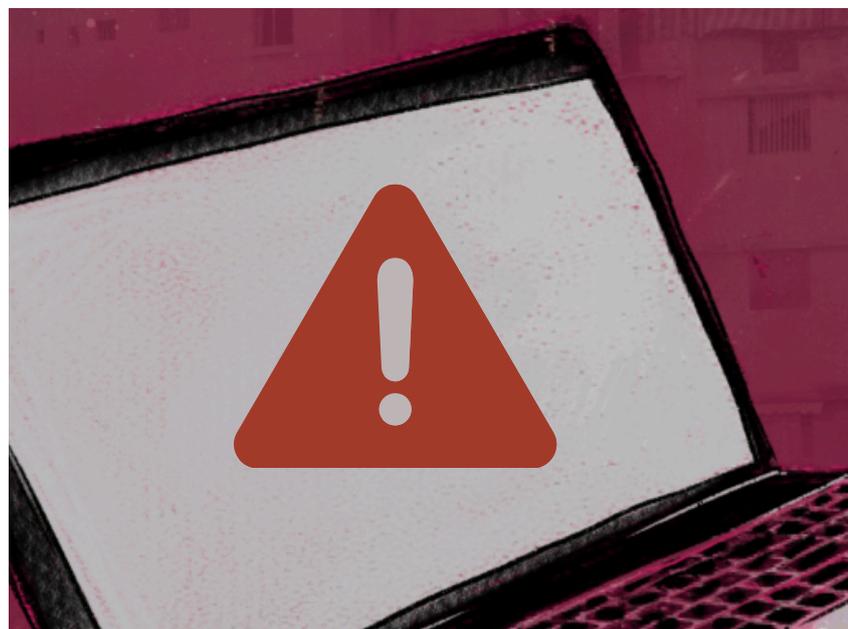
Digital Violence Mirrors and Magnifies Offline Inequalities

Digital violence is becoming faster, harder to detect, technologically sophisticated, and structurally targeted.

- Digital violence reproduces heteronormativity and punishes gender non-conformity, thereby exploiting queer people.
- Coordinated hate campaigns weaponise casteist or communal stereotypes, pushing people out of public digital spaces. Therefore, marginalised caste & religious minorities face targeted digital oppression
- Digital violence becomes a tool of surveillance, intimidation, and political exclusion.
- Digital violence limits democratic participation

Online harm translates directly into offline consequences. The boundary between online and offline violence no longer exists.

It does not just hurt individuals; it reshapes public space, reproduces hierarchies, and reinforces systems of exclusion.



Here's what you can do!

RECOGNISE.

- Before you act, identify what's happening. Digital violence can look like:
- Abusive comments, threats, trolling
- Non-consensual sharing of images
- Deepfake or manipulated content targeting someone
- Doxxing — sharing personal information
- Stalking or repeated unwanted messages
- Gendered misinformation or targeted hate

SUPPORT.

- Send the person experiencing the violence a private message:
- “I saw what's happening — I'm here if you need support.”
- Validate their experience, avoid minimising it.
- Boost the survivor's posts if they choose to speak.

INTERRUPT THE HARM.

- Call out abusive behaviour without escalating: “This comment is harmful and unacceptable.”
- Flood the thread with supportive comments to drown out hate.
- If you're part of the same group, DM admins/moderators.



REFER.

Direct the person to resources that can help them.

- National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (cybercrime.gov.in)
- 1091 Women's Helpline
- Local NGOs working on digital safety
- Platform-specific tools: blocking, filtering, privacy settings
- Trusted friends, colleagues, or mental health support if needed.

Ask the survivor what kind of help they want, don't assume.

ESCALATE.

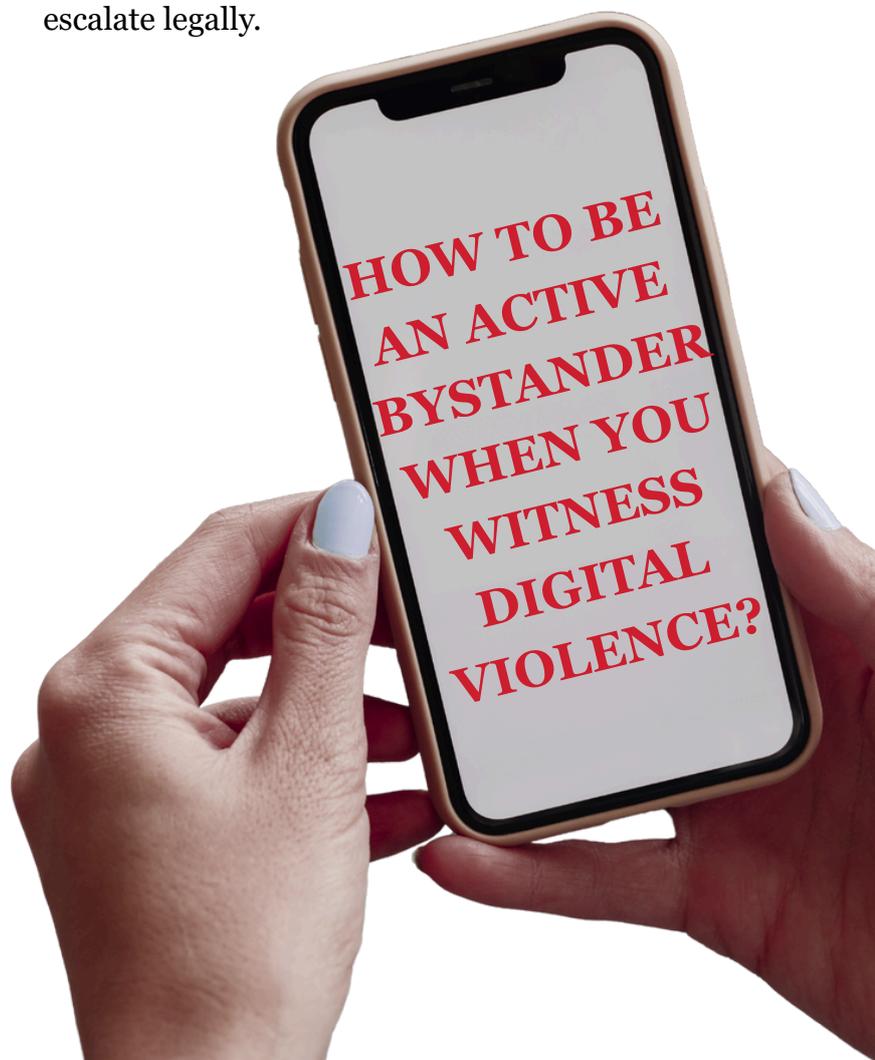
When direct action isn't safe or effective:

A. Report the content

- Use platform reporting tools (Instagram, X, Facebook, YouTube).
- Flag hate speech, impersonation, NCII, or harassment.

B. Document the abuse

- Save screenshots, URLs, timestamps.
- Help the survivor collect evidence if they want to escalate legally.



Here's what our 16 days looked like!

Reclaiming Our Worlds Defiantly (ROWDY)

What did we do?

- Durga put together some basic parameters that make a space safe for everyone (intersectionally). This included - bystander action, street lights, more people in streets, nature of streets etc.
- We worked on the first 1 km in KR Road during the night and built Bystander Action and understanding from people 'what makes this road safe/unsafe?'
- We will now monitor this road for weeks to ensure that the safety sustains.

reclaiming is resistance. more women, trans, queer and gender diverse people make public spaces safer for all!

We will keep reclaiming 1 km of public space every month in Bangalore!



CLOTHESLINE CAMPAIGN

The Clothesline Project is a visual display of violence that often go ignored. Each clothing item is made by a survivor of violence or by someone who has witnessed someone they know experience violence.

We organised this campaign in our VOICE community at VVN Degree college and had around 100 people participate in resisting gender-based violence. ***Art is resistance.***





FEMINIST IMAGINATIONS THROUGH ZINE MAKING!

The BBMP communities imagined their feminist futures! What would that world look like? What possibilities could we imagine together? These questions were answered through zine-making, a process that many thought embodied community-building, creativity and fun - everything that feminist futures should feel like!

STREET PLAY

We organised a street play with Srishti at the Shantinagar bus depot to spotlight sexual harassment in public spaces, using theatre as a powerful tool for dialogue. The performance opened up conversations with commuters and staff, who shared their experiences and reflected on how they would like to respond and take action.



16 Days. Every Day.

For us, the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence is not a moment—it is a reminder of the work we return to every single day.

Violence in public spaces is not inevitable, and safety cannot be built through surveillance, punishment, or exclusion. It is built through care, collective responsibility, and everyday acts of courage. Through our work we continue to centre community-led solutions that enable people to recognise harm, respond with accountability, and support one another.

As we close this year, we recommit ourselves to reclaiming public spaces as sites of dignity, belonging, and resistance. We are grateful to the communities who trust us, the partners who walk alongside us, and everyone who believes that safer worlds are possible—one conversation, one kilometre, one act of solidarity at a time.

