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## Webinar: "Tackling Online Gender-based Violence Through EU Laws and Policies", (English and Spanish)

25 February, 3.00-5.00 PM CET, 2021

[Webinar Registration](#)

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**Webinar: Tackling Online Gender-based Violence Through EU Laws & Policies**

**Speakers:**

- Sylwia Spurek, *Member of European Parliament*
- Laia Serra Perelló, *Catalan Association for the Defence of Human Rights*
- Spideralex, *Donestech*
- Seyi Akiwowo, *Glitch*
- Jelena Hrnjak, *Atina*

**Moderator:**

- Montse Pineda Lorenzo, *Creación Positiva*

**Thursday, 25 February, 3pm CET  
In English & Spanish**

Organized by: **WIDE+**  
Women Transforming Economic Development

Co-organized by: **Creación Positiva**

### Topic

According to a 2018 report by the EU Parliament's FEMM Committee, in Europe, 1 in 10 women have experienced cyberviolence since the age of 15. It is crucial to highlight that migrant women and girls are more vulnerable to online violence, in particular online hate that is racist or xenophobic in nature. During the COVID-19 pandemic, with increased reliance on ICT tools to connect socially and professionally, online violence is more prevalent than before.

**The webinar will draw out concrete suggestions and recommendations on how laws and policies in the EU and in general can be improved to tackle online gender-based violence.** To this aim, it will facilitate a conversation between activists protecting women, specifically migrant women, from gender-based violence, and

experts in law and technology, with Member of the European Parliament, Sylwia Spurek.

The webinar is organized by Women in Development Europe+ (WIDE+) and Creación Positiva. It will be in both English and Spanish.

## Speakers

The complete bio of all speakers and the moderator can be found [on our website](#).

### Dr Sylwia Spurek

Dr. Spurek is a lawyer; a politician; a holder of Ph.D. in law; a legal counsel; a legislator; and a feminist. She is currently Member of the European Parliament, Vice-chair of the FEMM Committee, and a Member of LIBE Committee. Dr Spurek will provide an overview of the EU legal framework in addressing online violence, and what are the gaps that need to be remedied.

### Laia Serra Perelló

Perelló is a criminal lawyer, teacher, trainer and activist, working on human rights, gender violence, non-discrimination, the right to protest, freedom of expression, hate crimes, and intersectionalities. She recently drafted the reform of the Catalan law against Gender-based violence (which was approved by the Catalan Parliament in December 2020). Perelló will elaborate on Catalonia's experience in the inclusion of cyberviolence to gender-based violence laws.

### Spideralex

Spideralex is a sociologist, PhD in social economy and a researcher on ICT for the public good. She is the founder of the Catalan cyberfeminist collective Donestech that explores the relation between gender and technologies developing action research, documentaries, and training. Spideralex will discuss feminist responses from civil society in the prevention and protection of women and girls against online gender-based violence.

### Seyi Akiwowo

Akiwowo is a multi-award winning founder and CEO of a newly formed charity, Glitch. Glitch's mission is to awaken a generation of digital citizens equipped to create and demand for safe online spaces for all. Akiwowo will explain how online gender-based violence disproportionately impacts minority and migrant women and how to empower

them to practice digital self-defense.

### **Jelena Hrnjak**

Hrnjak is a women's activist and has dedicated her work to providing direct support and long-term assistance to women and children, victims of human trafficking, and victims of gender-based violence. She is the Program Manager at Atina, a non-governmental organization based in Belgrade that works towards providing sustainable support mechanisms for marginalized groups, especially women and child victims of human trafficking. Hrnjak will present key findings from Atina's report, 'Behind the Screens' and discuss ways women's rights organisations, and migrant women groups, can advocate for law and policy reforms.

### **Moderator**

### **Montse Pineda Lorenzo**

Lorenzo is the advocacy coordinator of Creación Positiva, an NGO based in Barcelona working from a gender and intersectional feminist perspective in order to give effect to sexual rights. Lorenzo has over 25 years of extensive experience in advocacy, raising awareness, training and assisting, elaborating and coordinating both reports and action protocols, on gender-based violence, sexual violence, discrimination, sexual and reproductive rights, VIH people's rights.



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