#SheTransformsTech

Informing a New Global Tech Agenda that Works for Women

“Those in positions of power should give listening ears to women online, because that is the only place we can raise our voices.”
— Survey respondent, Nigeria

At the beginning of the global pandemic, World Pulse surveyed grassroots women leaders across the globe to gather recommendations on key technology issues and opportunities. In collaboration with 26 partners, the #SheTransformsTech campaign will inform a tech agenda that enables women’s leadership.

This sneak peek includes a sampling of key findings from the forthcoming full report, which will be released in early 2021 to global policymakers, thought leaders, tech companies, and the public.

400+ survey responses
54 countries

130+ personal stories
27 countries

WOMEN SPOKE OUT ON:
How technology enables leadership and social change

Early survey results confirm that technology can significantly strengthen women’s leadership, enabling them to:

- Since 2012, I have been working in citizen mobilization and online activism. In this sense, technology has been the means and a loudspeaker for social causes and problems to be heard by decision-makers and to solve them.”
  - Survey respondent, Mexico

- As a widow, I was being deprived of the few coins my late husband had. From some social platform I was helped and got access. I felt good and grateful. Technology has enabled me to get more information about my right as a widow and from that I have always encouraged friends in the same category not to sit back and watch others (in-laws) violate their rights.”
  - Survey respondent, Kenya

- I use social media to advocate for the rights of the adolescent girls and young women in the rural communities. Stories are shared by different papers, some people try to reach out for help, and others use the stories to connect me to the rightful authorities.”
  - Survey respondent, Uganda
WOMEN SPOKE OUT ON:
 Their top concerns & priorities related to technology

**TOP 3 TECH CONCERNS**

- Privacy & data concerns (78.1% of participants)
- Misinformation & ‘fake news’ (76.7% of participants)
- Online harassment &/or tech-enabled violence (64.9% of participants)

**TOP 3 BARRIERS TO ACCESS & USE**

- Quality of internet connection (49.8% of participants)
- Safety & security concerns (38.0% of participants)
- Financial constraints (35.1% of participants)

**WOMEN SPOKE OUT ON:**
Digital Safety

*If it is not safe, then tech companies are contributing to excluding women’s voices online.*
- Survey respondent, Nigeria

Approximately 75%

A staggering 3 out of 4 women who participated in the survey indicated they had personally experienced some form of online harassment or abuse through technology.

- Reported being stalked online (that is, repeatedly contacted online in a way that made them feel afraid or unsafe) 27.6%
- Reported being sexually harassed online 27.4%
- Reported having someone use technology to monitor their activity without their permission 26.4%

Women report that the response from those in power is inadequate

Only 10.2% agree or strongly agree that **politicians and other public officials** adequately address online abuse and harassment

Only 18.3% agree or strongly agree that **police in their country** adequately address online abuse and harassment

Only 18.9% agree or strongly agree that **laws and government policies** adequately address online abuse and harassment
WOMEN SPOKE OUT ON:
Actions that policymakers, tech companies, and governments must take to make tech work for women

TOP 6 ACTIONS TO TAKE

1. Offer more digital skills training (77.2% of participants)
2. Include more women in decision-making in the tech sector (76.0% of participants)
3. Implement stronger laws against online harassment and abuse (75.2% of participants)
4. Include more women in decision-making in government (74.0% of participants)
5. Hire more women digital teachers or trainers (65.6% of participants)
6. Enact better privacy protections (65.4% of participants)
DESIGN TECHNOLOGY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THOSE WHO HAVE THE LEAST ACCESS

“When considering the impact of technology, consider the impacts on all users, not just middle-class white males. If technology is designed to meet those to whom it is least accessible (e.g., a rural woman, with a low level of education), then it will, in theory, be accessible to all.”

~Survey respondent, United Kingdom

INCLUDE WOMEN IN EVERY STAGE OF TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

“If women decision-makers are part of the process from conception to implementation, there is likely to be a more thoughtful, inclusive, and practical bent to technology.”

~Survey respondent, Canada

CREATE SPACES TO EDUCATE AND ENABLE WOMEN AND GIRLS TO CONTRIBUTE TO TECHNOLOGY

“Continually speak with and engage with young women who are using your technology. Create specific opportunities where they can learn about and shape the technology they use but also are capacitated to contribute to the information they access through this technology.”

~Survey respondent, Fiji

CREATE SYSTEMS TO ENABLE WOMEN TO SAFELY REPORT ONLINE VIOLENCE

“Safety and security is no. 1. However current policies do not support women’s needs and tend to be dismissive of our claims and complaints. The reporting mechanisms need to have a gender-sensitive review of what abuse online looks like and how it affects women differently from men and respond to it. We all need to feel safe online.”

~Survey respondent, Nigeria