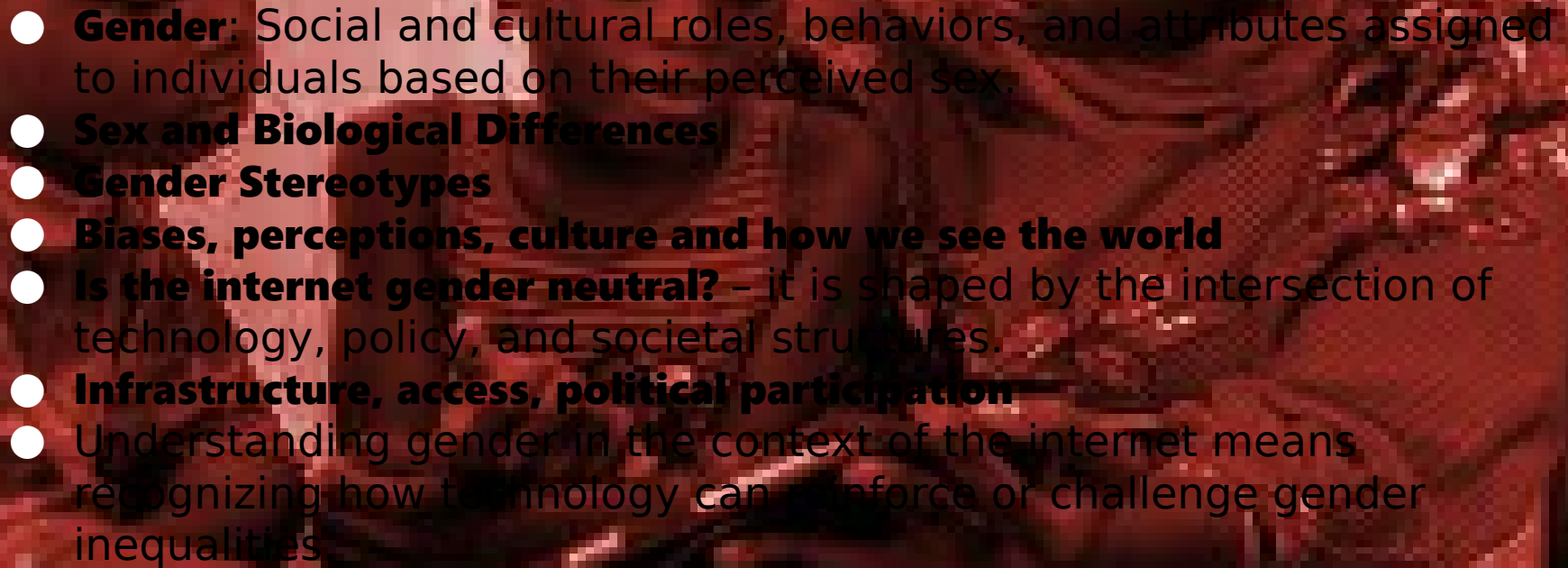


## **Gender and Internet Governance**

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- A group of diverse people, including a woman in a headscarf and a man with a beard, are gathered around a laptop, looking at the screen. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark red box containing a list of bullet points.
- **Gender:** Social and cultural roles, behaviors, and attributes assigned to individuals based on their perceived sex.
  - **Sex and Biological Differences**
  - **Gender Stereotypes**
  - **Biases, perceptions, culture and how we see the world**
  - **Is the internet gender neutral?** – it is shaped by the intersection of technology, policy, and societal structures.
  - **Infrastructure, access, political participation**
  - Understanding gender in the context of the internet means recognizing how technology can reinforce or challenge gender inequalities.

Does the Internet empower men and women the same?

Are women and men exposed to harms on the internet the same way?

- **Access & Connectivity:** Gender disparities in internet access, literacy, and usage.
- **Content and Representation:** Underrepresentation of women and gender minorities in digital spaces.
- **Online Safety & Security:** Gender-based violence, harassment, and cyberbullying.
- **Data Privacy and Security:** Gendered risks in the collection, sharing, and use of personal data.

## Concepts

- **Gender Digital Divide:** Unequal access to digital technologies between genders.
  - **Intersectionality:** How gender intersects with other identities (race, class, disability, etc.) in shaping online experiences.
  - **Gender-Based Violence Online (GBV):** Harassment, stalking, and other harmful behaviors targeting individuals based on their gender.
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## Gender Disinformation

Gendered Disinformation is a subset of online gendered abuse that uses false or misleading gender and sex-based narratives against women, aimed at deterring them from participating in the public sphere.

## What drives Gendered Disinformation?

- Actors behind gendered disinformation are often motivated by ideology or the intention to undermine social cohesion. In most extreme cases, gendered disinformation campaigns may seek to incite violence.
- The goal is not only to threaten democracy itself, or impact electoral results, but to create mistrust in information, particularly gendered related information. Financial and political gains are common short term objectives, but ideological victories are longer-term goals.
- Disinformation can serve various objectives. The ultimate goal of gender related and identity-based disinformation is to discourage the exercise of freedom of expression and manipulate the information ecosystem. Harm to individuals is in general a

## **What is the Impact of Gendered Disinformation?**

- Infringes on right to access to information
- Infringes on freedom of expression
- Undermines of right to privacy
- Undermining democracy and good governance, increasing political polarization, and expanding social cleavages.



# Countering Gendered Disinformation

- Research; *gender disaggregated data*

- Gendered lens in all approaches taken and policies

*Educate yourself about gender stereotypes and biases so you can recognize them when interacting with news about women politicians online, especially in election periods*

- Avoid fragmented efforts but rather a multistakeholder approach

- Fact checking, counter disinformation with facts

- Capacity building of journalist, policy makers, civil society

- Creating public awareness

## What is APC doing on Gendered Disinformation?

- APC has carried out several policy-related and public-facing actions to draw attention to the fact that increasingly, disinformation campaigns particularly target women and gender diverse individuals, marginalized groups and human rights activists.
- APC organised a conversation with SR Irene Khan as an informal side event to the 76th session of the UN General Assembly which marked the informal presentation of the SP report on FoE and gender justice to the UN General Assembly.
- APC welcomed the report of the Special Rapporteur on FoE presented at the Human Rights Council 47th session. Specifically the report's recognition of gendered disinformation online, recommendation to states and companies to confront it and attention to the consequences in the world.
- **In Africa, we are focusing on gendered disinformation in the context of elections**

**Thank you!**