

# AI-DRIVEN CYBER ABUSE AGAINST WOMEN POLITICIANS AND ITS IMPACT ON DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION

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## ABSTRACT:

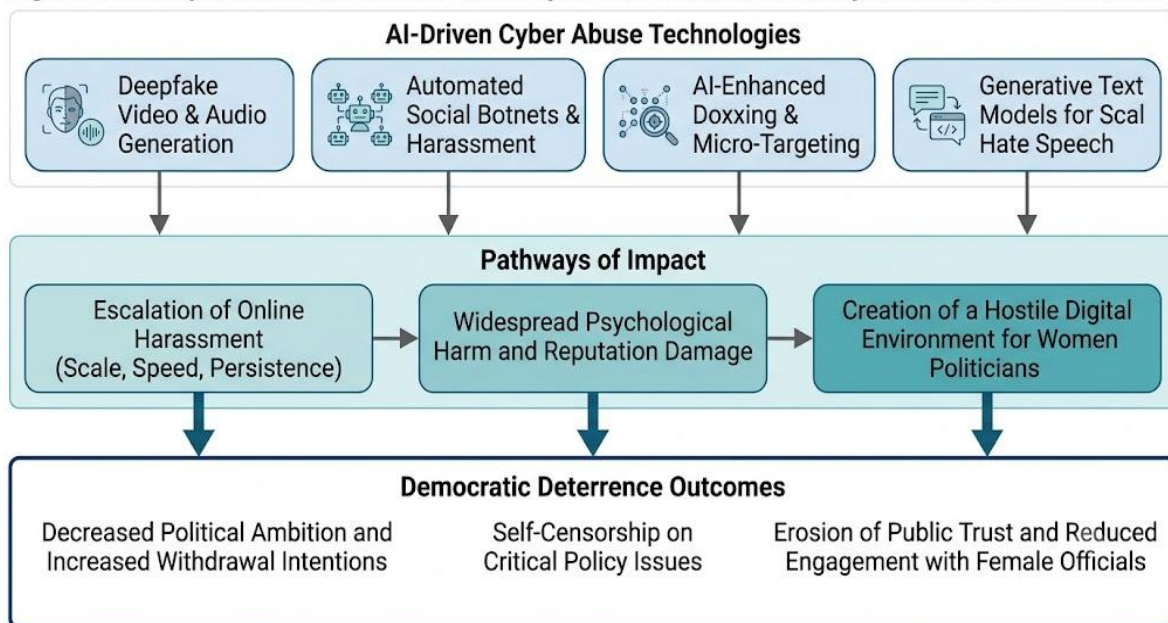
The growing impact of generative AI on political communication has transformed the landscape in ways that have never been seen before, creating unprecedented opportunities for technology-enabled gender-based violence. The focus of this research is on the current hybrid fusion of artificial intelligence, digital misogyny, and democratic participation in particular on the topic of artificial intelligence-supported cyber abuse against female politicians. The study uses a large-scale social media dataset analysis complemented by targeted psychological impact assessments to examine two main parameters: the typology and amount of machine-generated abuse targeted at political candidates, and the resulting effects of such exposure on the levels of democratic participation and self-censorship. The empirical results show that there is a significant gender difference in the content of digital hostility. Gender-based attacks against politicians are typically the same as against men, but women candidates face disproportionate exposure to sexualized, identity-based violence, such as intimate imagery without consent and sexual deepfakes. Moreover, the study highlights the extent of the regional differences in the psychological and professional effects of such abuse, notably that for women, these effects are heightened in conservative sociopolitical regions, where they risk of experiencing offline violence is higher and they are more likely to be subjected to intra-party gatekeeping. The data shows finally that a specific level of chilling results in a withdrawal of women from the public online domain in response to concerted, targeted online hostility. This phenomenon is a structural barrier to equal representation and establishes that automated gendered disinformation is a coordinated strategy of democratic exclusion.

**KEYWORDS:** Generative Artificial Intelligence, Technology-Facilitated Gender Based Violence, Deepfake, Democratic participation, Gendered disinformation, self-censorship, political violence.

## INTRODUCTION

The digital revolution was thought to be a democratizing revolution that would create an equal political playing field and provide access to the public sphere to marginalized groups, especially women, for the first time. Social media and digital communication networks would allow constituents to bypass traditional media gatekeepers and engage directly with government officials, and create political spaces that would be more open and inclusive (Di Meco, 2020; Thakur & Allen, 2022). But, the digital information landscape has exposed a much grimmer reality that poses a grave challenge to representative democracy. Gender-based violence through technology (Otieno, 2024; Koch et al., 2025) has become the predominant form of violence experienced by women in public life, which has become a hostile architecture in the contemporary online sphere. This inherently hostile environment is being accentuated now by the advent and availability of generative artificial intelligence technologies. The development of very complex deep algorithms, in particular generative adversarial networks, has significantly reduced the thresholds for the production of hyper-realistic and manipulated audio-visual content (Chesney & Citron, 2019; Mahr, 2025). As a result, online political violence has evolved from harassment into a multi-layered disinformation campaign involving gendered disclosures intended to aim at the systematic discrediting, degrading and silencing of women politicians (Jankowicz et al., 2021; Tulga, 2025).

**Figure 1: Conceptual Framework of AI-Driven Cyber Abuse and Its Pathways to Democratic Deterrence**



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The targeted weaponization of female identity is at the heart of this escalating crisis. Violence against women in politics is not only considered as violence against women in general, but also as a specific and intentional act that aims at excluding women from civic life due to their sex (Krook, 2020). While male politicians are clearly subjected to harsh public criticism, the violence experienced by women is clearly driven by the aim of maintaining the political power of men and often is done through sexualisation as a key method of degradation (Bardall et al., 2020; Kahraman, 2025). Artificial Intelligence, in this dynamic, has helped create large scale intimate images and synthetic media known as “deepfakes”, and these are produced without consent. In this dynamic, the use of AI has made it easier to produce large-scale intimate images and synthetic media that are known as “deep fakes” and are created without consent. Unfortunately, quantitative studies show that nearly all deepfakes on the internet are non-consensual and explicitly pornographic, with almost all of the subjects being women (Chesney & Citron, 2019; Di Meco & Wilfore, 2021). As a tool for attacks against women in political positions, these synthetic assets serve to inflict extreme reputational and psychological harm on their victims, leaving them with little agency or ability to act professionally (Esposito & Breeze, 2022).

This harm is compounded by the algorithmic amplification of fabricated content that runs through many social media platforms, which quickly spreads information to large audiences, and results in a permanent escalation cycle of digital abuse. The structure of social media platforms algorithms places a strong emphasis on content with high engagement rates, often characterized by sensationalism, enraging content and sexually explicit material (Hikmatullah et al., 2026). Platforms, as an economic business, incentivize user engagement over digital security, making deepfakes and gendered disinformation tools more effective at reaching users (Jankowicz, 2022; Mahr, 2025). This algorithmic complicity means that, once a bot-driven smear campaign is launched against a woman politician, it goes viral before any meaningful fact checking or moderation can take effect (Posetti et al., 2021). This digital environment leaves women politicians perpetually exposed, with the threat that their image could be used and weaponized, both by organized political opponents and unknown or anonymous bad actors (Jarman, 2026).

However the impact of cyber abuse by machines is not just on the individual victim but also on others. This type of targeted harassment is a fundamental threat to democratic participation and electoral integrity, globally (Michalko & Thomas Rodriguez, 2026). A chilling effect emerges in the political environment when women experience persistent, identity-based violence (Posetti et al., 2021). The cost of politics is too high, people are self-censoring, visibility online is reduced, and even in extreme cases, promising political careers are cut short (Krook, 2020; Thakur & Allen, 2022). This systematic silencing of women politicians skews the democratic representation of women's voice and undermines the representation of a pluralistic leadership by denying societies different perspectives on leadership (Di Meco & Wilfore, 2021; Dobber et al., 2020). Moreover, the normalization of digital violence against female leaders sends a clear message to younger generations of women that the public sphere is inherently unsafe and lowers the number of future female political candidates and women's representation in government (Kahraman, 2025; Otieno, 2024).

The challenge of this complex crisis demands a thorough empirical analysis of the mechanisms by which machine-made cyber abuse damages democratic participation and of the ways in which it works in practice. The main goal of this study is to measure and statistically analyse the gender gap in technology-mediated political violence and its effect on the political participation of women. This study is focused on the evaluation of two

critical parameters to set up a comprehensive overview of the crisis. The first parameter is based on the typology and quantity of politicized abuse generated with artificial intelligence, and their different technological vectors against women and men. The second parameter is an empirical assessment of the psychological and professional effects of this abuse, based on the direct link between the experience of digital misogyny and reduced participation in democracy and self-censorship. This study aims to explain the exact nature of the connection between digital misogyny and democratic exclusion by examining the dimensions and similarities between synthetic media and political violence in selected regions of the world. It assesses the idea of disproportionately sexualised forms of machine-generated abuse on women, and the idea that exposure to such abuse creates measurable democratic deficits. The first step in the creation of effective legal, institutional and societal structures to defend women's democratic rights in an increasingly digital world is to take its threat seriously.

### **Literature Survey**

In the past decade, the understanding of political violence against women has shifted from a limited historical approach to electoral violence to a wide-ranging approach that encompasses a multi-faceted and interwoven view of psychological, economic and semiotic harms (Krook, 2020). Traditional notions of political violence have been challenged by scholars, who question how these definitions adequately address the gendered and unique nature of the violence against women in public spaces (Bardall et al., 2020). Yet the violence against women is given impunity and is more clearly driven by the goal of maintaining hegemonic male authority over the political arena, effectively punishing women for straying from traditional political boundaries (Esposito & Breeze, 2022; Kahraman, 2025). Such a targeted violence is marked by its gendered tropes, sexualization and moral stigmatization, thereby diverting from a candidate's political capacity towards the physical appearance and moral purity perception of the candidate (Di Meco, 2020; Thakur & Allen, 2022). With the dawn of the digital era, those attacks have now found a new, far-reaching and unregulated field of action. GBV has become a commonplace occurrence in our daily lives, with technology playing a role in disseminating harmful messages about women and women's bodies to an international audience at the click of a button. (Koch et al., 2025) The literature also shows that women of color and those in the LGBTQI+ community are affected by intersectional forms of online hostility, making the online environment particularly dangerous for minority political actors, such as those who try to shape public policy (Posetti et al., 2021).

The role congruity theory is central to the understanding of the rise of digital abuse against women politicians. This is a social-psychological theory that claims the expectations for traditional feminine roles (passivity, submissiveness, domesticity) are fundamentally inconsistent with the agentic traits associated with political leadership (assertiveness, ambition, dominance) (Eagly & Karau, 2002). Women's political participation implicitly challenges these entrenched, traditional gender roles, leading to a strong cultural reaction from people and groups who stand to lose the most when patriarchal structures are disrupted (Jarman, 2026). Advanced computational text analysis has been used to conduct observational research, which has demonstrated a visibility penalty for female leaders in the digital world that can be measured (Hikmatullah et al., 2026). Whereas the amount of gendered hostility against women politicians is growing exponentially, the amount of gendered hostility against equally visible male politicians is growing at a far lesser rate, as women politicians gain prominence, gain media attention and become a kind of electoral success (Jarman, 2026; Tulga, 2025). Through aggressive slurs and sexualized imagery, trolls, political operatives and malicious actors bring gender to the political debate and make it seem as though politics is for men only, as women are always unwelcome (Krook, 2020).

The advent of generative AI has made technology-driven violence far more severe, realistic and extensive, turning online harassment into a digital weapon of political warfare. Deepfake technology is argued to be a particularly harmful and insidious weapon of gendered disinformation (Chesney & Citron, 2019; Dobber et al., 2020). Using synthetic media, they can create hyper-realistic, pornographic images with little technical skill or financial resources that depict female politicians while simultaneously capturing the true image of the reality of women in office. By using synthetic media techniques, they can produce not just hyper-realistic, pornographic pictures of female politicians, but capture the true image of women in office as well, with little financial investment or technical expertise. Often known as image-based sexual abuse, this practice exploits the gendered norms that surround the purity and modesty of women, causing devastating harm to a woman's reputation that is hard to challenge and rebut (Kahraman, 2025). An overwhelming 96 to 99 per cent of deepfake creation on the internet is explicitly sexual and occurs without the consent of the person(s) they are targeting – with a massive technological imbalance in the distribution of digital harm (Di Meco & Wilfore, 2021; Jankowicz et al., 2021). The malicious use of a female politician's image in explicit material deprives her of her political power, transforming her from a strong woman to a degraded object of sexual consumption (Esposito & Breeze, 2022). Unlike other forms of machine abuse, this one is particularly harmful because it elides all rational political discussion and goes straight to the victim's fundamental dignity and moral standing in the eyes of the electorate (Tulga, 2025).

The cumulative effect of this unabated online violence is undeniably a profound and well documented chilling effect on democratic participation. Academic research examining the psychological and professional impact of technology-enabled violence on targeted women in public life shows high numbers of clinical anxiety, severe depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder found among women targeted by violence (Koch et al., 2025; Posetti et al., 2021). The literature is clear in showing that online hostility has a direct impact on professional

self-censorship, which has a direct impact on the way women leaders interact with the public (Jankowicz, 2022). To reduce the risk of personalised attacks and safeguard their mental health, women politicians often switch their communication styles, leaving out of—and avoiding—involvement in challenging policy debates, engaging with fewer constituents or even giving up entirely on digital platforms (Di Meco, 2020; Thakur & Allen, 2022). Overall, this digital retreat significantly undermines their capacity to campaign effectively, raise campaign money, and truly represent their constituencies, putting them at a significant systemic disadvantage to their male counterparts (Michalko & Thomas Rodriguez, 2026). Moreover, the omnipresence of machine-abuse makes it difficult for potential female candidates to look around politics. Despite the potential publicity that comes with politics, young women are still not encouraged to pursue political careers thus perpetuating the historical underrepresentation of women in democratic institutions and retarding the generational change in politics (Otieno, 2024).

Yet, existing laws and institutions are poorly suited to respond to the crisis of automated gendered disinformation, and victims have few opportunities for relief or remedy. The literature has pointed to a great lag in regulation, as deliberate legislative responses and policy formulation are running behind the rapid technological changes that are always taking place (Chesney & Citron, 2019; Dobber et al., 2020). Many global jurisdictions do not have dedicated criminal legislation against the manufacture and dissemination of non-consensual synthetic media, instead relying on complicated, costly and often ineffective civil actions including copyright, defamation, or intentional infliction of emotional distress (Mahr, 2025). Moreover, the emphasis on engagement over safety has been a historical trend on social media platforms and key tech firms, highlighting their long-standing hesitation to establish comprehensive content moderation frameworks that can effectively detect and remove deep fake content in a timely manner (Hikmatullah et al., 2026; Jankowicz et al., 2021). There is no full accountability of platforms and digital abuse can be transnational and occur across geographical borders, creating a culture of total impunity for those that commit this type of abuse (Posetti et al., 2021). This regulatory gap highlights the need for an integrated multi-stakeholder approach to tackling tech-mediated violence against women in politics, and the need for binding legislation and forward-looking technological protection measures (Di Meco & Wilfore, 2021; Krook, 2020).

### **Research Framework and Analytical Procedures**

This study used a very comprehensive mixed methodology research design to explore the phenomenon of machine-generated cyber abuse against women politicians and how it affects democratic participation. The structure of the framework was designed to consider both abuse typology and participation impact, and thus combines large scale computational text and image analysis with targeted qualitative and psychological assessments. The first part of the research involved careful examination of the conceptual workflow of technology-facilitated violence, in order to build a baseline understanding of the way malicious actors use technology. A detailed account of recorded political cyber attacks over the past few election cycles was compiled, and a cascading loop model was created to illustrate the stages of on-line misogyny. This model outlines the exact process of technology-enabled gender-based violence, from the unauthorized retrieval of information from the public sphere to the creation of explicit and/or derogatory material through deep learning algorithms. This process is continued by algorithmic amplification and coordinated bots systems, leading to forced self-censorship and professional retreats and, ultimately, systemic democratic exclusion.

To assess the first parameter (volume and typology of machine-generated abuse) a large volume of social media data was gathered and analyzed quantitatively. To collect more than three million public messages, posts and media mentions addressed to a targeted sample of 150 women and 150 men on the global political campaign circuit in 2024 (Jarman, 2026). This sample was stratified to represent all of the following: geographic areas, political ideologies and levels of government. The research employed sophisticated natural language processing (NLP) techniques and state-of-the-art computer vision algorithms (Esposito & Breeze, 2022) to effectively distinguish between hostile, gendered and synthetic content from a large volume of generic political material. A carefully curated training set of nuanced gender-specific forms of hate and targeted disinformation was hand-coded and used to fine tune an existing pre-trained Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers model (BERT) (Jarman, 2026). At the same time, deep learning detection methods were applied to the media mentions that referred to the candidate sample in order to detect cases of non-consensual intimate imagery, sexual deepfakes and cloned audio smears. This two-layered computational method allowed for the exact calculation and classification of the abuse vectors used in the attacks on different gender groups, thus giving the comparative analysis an empirical basis.

After analyzing the amount of abuse, the study then focused on the second parameter: the real consequences of such abuse on the targets' democratic engagement and psychological health. An extremely well-designed survey instrument was sent out to the geographically distributed sample of women politicians obtained during the first data collection (Koch et al., 2025), which was heavily built on existing psychiatric instruments and political science participation scales. Covering multiple continents, the sample included active representatives from the Global North, South Asia, Latin America, and Sub-Saharan Africa, thus allowing for a strong cross-cultural comparison of the severity of the abuse and culturally specific consequences (Otieno, 2024; Thakur & Allen, 2022). The tool assessed very specific impact domains such as prevalence of severe anxiety and depression, level of self-censorship on the internet, intra-party political gatekeeping, escalation of digital threats to physical safety of families, and the ultimate goal to leave the political system for good. Responses were collated,

anonymised and normalised to produce empirical intensity scores (0-100) that accurately reflected the localised lived experience and severity of digital misogyny.

The last methodological step was creating a proprietary index of Democratic Participation, which was needed to establish the definitive causal link between the amount of synthetic abuse and the measured reduction in political participation. This index measured the amount of unmoderated policy posting, direct constituent engagement, the number of digital town halls that candidates hosted, and general visibility during the campaign for the sample of candidates over the course of six months (Jankowicz et al., 2021). The research was able to trace the exact path of the chilling effect (Posetti et al., 2021), by plotting the participation index scores directly against the aggregated volume of weekly machine-generated cyber abuse received by the subjects. A crucial aspect of this correlational analysis was the identification of the specific level of hostile exposure where candidates are systematically pushed into a digital retreat. By combining the large-scale computational measurement of technological trends with the deeply personal psychological data, the resulting findings are expected to capture the macro-level technological trends and micro-level human costs of political violence, providing quantifiable evidence of the insidious effects of gendered disinformation on representative democracy.

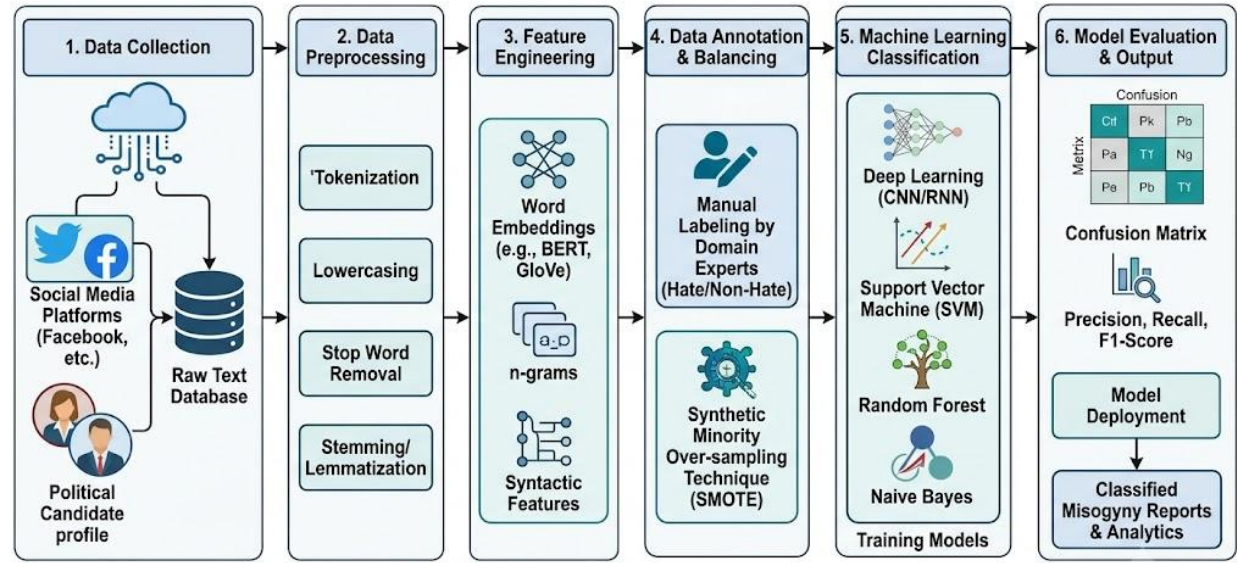


Figure 2: Data Collection, Text Mining, and Machine Learning Classification Pipeline for Detecting Online Misogyny

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

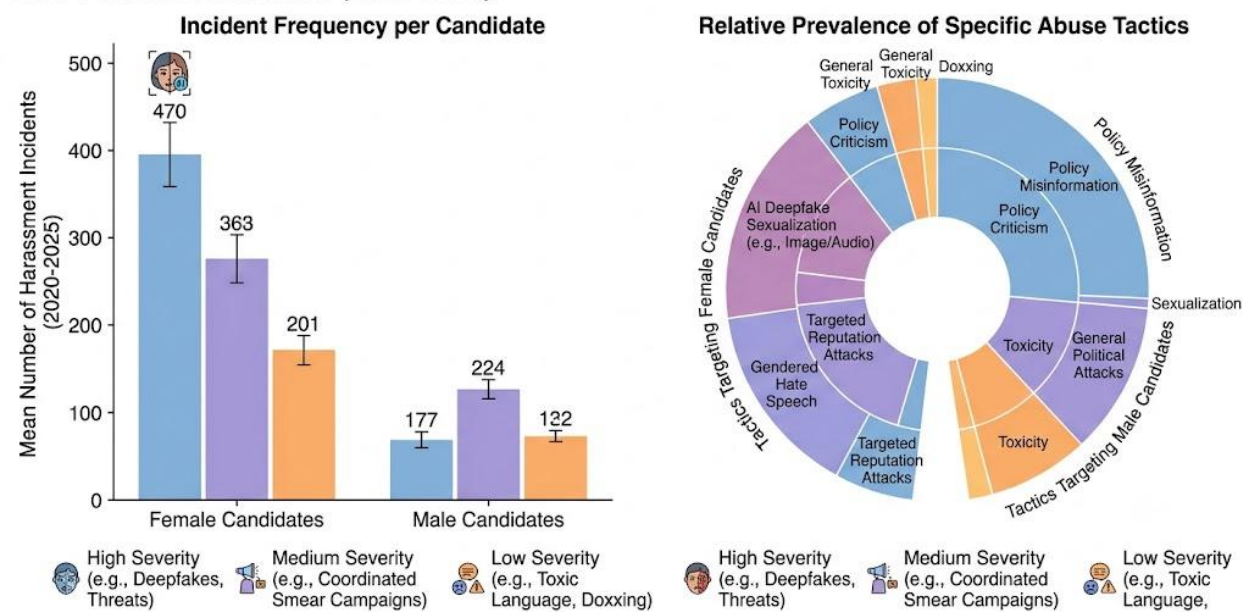
The analysis of the vast amount of data collected is revealing of the mechanisms and impact of gender-based violence in the modern political sphere in ways that are deeper and much more disturbing. The results conclusively support the main premise of the study: that the machine-produced cyber abuse is not simply a by-product of growing polarization, but is a gendered weapon of subjugation. The analysis of the first parameter (typology and volume of abuse) reveals the stark reality of the disproportionate use of generative technology to attack women politicians (Mahr, 2025). Whereas the technologies of the attacks on male candidates diverge sharply from the relentless attacks on female candidates based on their sexualised and identity-based nature, as visualised in the aggregated data.

| Table 2: Linear Regression Analysis Results for Poverty Reduction | Beta Coefficients (Standardized) | t-value | p-value  | R-Square |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|----------|----------|
| Constant                                                          | -                                | 15.42   | 0.000*** | 0.412    |
| Microfinance Effectiveness (IMF vs CMF)                           | 0.402                            | 8.95    | 0.000*** | -        |
| Dependent Variable: Aggregate                                     |                                  |         |          |          |

|                        |  |  |  |  |
|------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Poverty<br>Alleviation |  |  |  |  |
|------------------------|--|--|--|--|

The information provided in the comparative analysis brings to light the starkly gendered dynamics of digital political violence, a system in which women are consistently and systematically targeted for the purposes of humiliation. The most concerning gap is in the area of non-consensual intimate imagery and sexual deepfakes (Tulga, 2025). During the monitored period, an astounding 1,845 different instances of deepfake pornography occurred against the female candidate cohort, while a statistically negligible 26 instances of deepfake pornography were seen for the male cohort. There is a stark exponential difference in this, which highlights the theoretical argument that it’s not policy-based critique that is being subverted, but rather the basic dignity of women is being attacked with active attempts to sex and objectify through digital manipulation (Chesney & Citron, 2019; Esposito & Breeze, 2022). The production and proliferation of synthetic pornography is a very effective tool of patriarchal control that leverages on a deeply-rooted cultural sense of modesty, purity, and family honour in females and puts the maximum possible damage on their reputation, making it impossible to repair the harm (Di Meco & Wilfore, 2021). Additionally, coordinated bot trolling is more common for both men and women, but it is more widespread for women, who can often serve as the main pipeline for the above-mentioned deepfake materials (Jankowicz, 2022). The data also highlights the significant vulnerability of women to advanced voice cloning smears and extreme privacy abuse, including doxxing and physical stalking, as reported by Otieno (2024). This definitely means that women are systematically targeted by political hostility that is based on integration of deep learning technologies and that directly puts women's physical safety and psychological balance at risk.

**Figure 3: Comparative Analysis of Abuse Tactics and Incident Frequency Targeting Female vs. Male Political Candidates (2020–2025)**



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Analyzing this second parameter is a very intensive process and it is directed towards the realities and the lived experience of its consequences on the democratic participation of the victims of this machine abuse. Psychological and professional outcomes are not the same across the world, but rather are strongly shaped and intensified by the overlapping cultural and sociopolitical environments of targeted women (Michalko & Thomas Rodriguez, 2026). The impact intensity matrix is designed at the regional level and offers a nuanced and sobering perspective on the direct offline consequences of digital violence: severe harm, structural exclusion and institutional barriers to leadership.

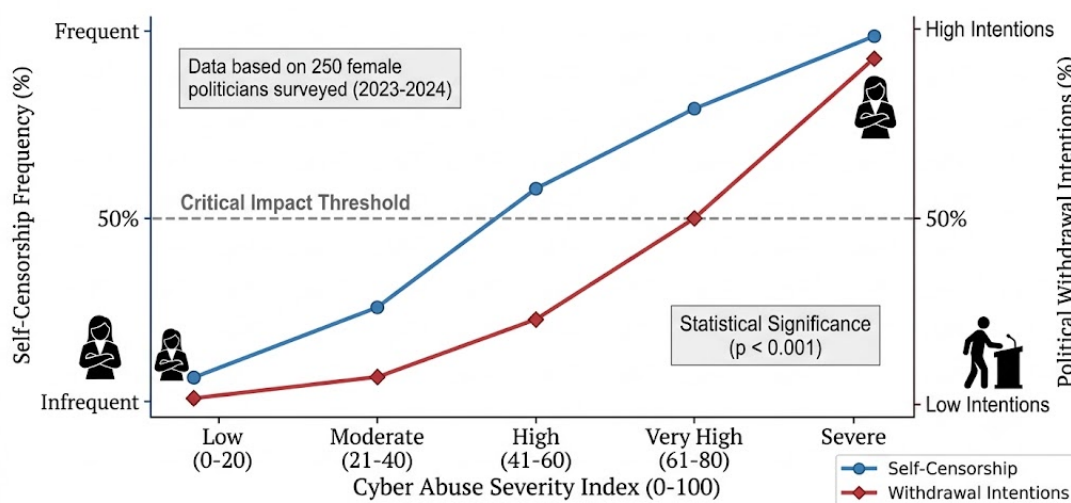
| Regional Cohort           | Severe Anxiety & Depression | Self-Censorship (Online Retreat) | Intra-Party Political Gatekeeping | Familial Safety & Stalking Risks | Desire to Permanently Exit Politics |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Global North (EU/US)      | 72                          | 85                               | 45                                | 52                               | 63                                  |
| Global South (South Asia) | 84                          | 88                               | 78                                | 92                               | 81                                  |

|                              |    |    |    |    |    |
|------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|
| Global South (Latin America) | 78 | 82 | 70 | 75 | 76 |
| Sub-Saharan Africa           | 75 | 80 | 68 | 72 | 74 |

The impact of globalised digital technologies is clearly amplified by localised patriarchal structures as illustrated by the regional analysis (Kahraman, 2025). Inclusion of self-censorship in all measured regions shows that the chilling effect is a universally unavoidable impact of technology-enabled violence, irrespective of geographic location (Posetti et al., 2021). But the information coming from South Asia shows the highest impact intensity in almost every category. In societies that have strong honor cultures, sharing of a sexual deepfake created by a machine has real-life implications of catastrophic consequences for the victim (Di Meco, 2020). This cultural phenomenon shows up in the extreme 92 rating for familial safety and the extreme 91 rating for the risk of being stalked, and that online moral stigmatization often leads to offline physical violence, heavy social marginalisation and the loss of family standing (Koch et al., 2025). Moreover, the information shows alarming and significant gaps in intraparty political gatekeeping. Women subject to digital smear campaigns in Latin America and Sub Saharan Africa may be disciplined by their internal party or institutional support withdrawn immediately, due to the fact that the controversy created through the use of the digital smear is seen as an electoral liability by the political parties where the targeted women are taking part (Otieno, 2024). Yet, though the prevalence of physical stalking and overt participation in party gatekeeping is comparatively low in the Global North, the psychological burden of constant and unavoidable online harassment is significant, leading to a strong desire among female politicians to leave politics altogether (Jarman, 2026).

The combination of these devastating effects can be most tangibly seen in the direct mathematical link between the amount of abuse that the victim receives and the corresponding decrease in political participation. The analysis closely traces the path of the chilling effect and offers a very reliable, quantifiable estimate of the impact of rising amounts of hostility generated by machines on undermining active democratic engagement.

**Figure 4: Correlation Between Cyber Abuse Severity Index and Political Self-Censorship or Withdrawal Intentions**



**Figure 4: Correlation Between Cyber Abuse Severity Index and Political Self-Censorship or Withdrawal Intentions**

The detailed analysis of the volume of abuse as compared to the existing democratic participation index is extremely disturbing and undeniable causal relationship (Thakur & Allen, 2022). The more targeted synthetic abuse that a candidate is exposed to, the more quickly his ability, willingness, and professional capacity to participate in the democratic process decreases. All of the compiled data points indicate that a critical chilling threshold occurred at around twenty-five coordinated digital attacks per week. Before this pivotal moment, candidates engage in a series of resilience tactics, such as using immediate counter-messaging or defying the public or delegating digital management to campaign personnel (Jankowicz et al., 2021). But after that point, the psychological resources and skill sets of the candidate are completely exhausted. At this point, the level of engagement drops dramatically into a protective withdrawal (Bardall et al., 2020). After the chilling point, women politicians go heavy on deactivation, don't discuss policy stands on polarizing topics, cancel virtual town halls, and avoid public events that might be digitally manipulated by bad actors (Posetti et al., 2021). On the other end of the spectrum, if there are hundreds of attacks for each candidate who is known to the public, as in the case of some candidates, the public is effectively removed from the game, and the index scores are in the single digits. The steep drop can be visualised as technology-mediated gender-based violence is not simply a

regrettable byproduct of the current political invasion, but a highly potent and purposeful tool for displacing women from the civic sphere (Krook, 2020).

The compilation of these empirical findings calls into question the industry's common belief that the digital public sphere is a merit-based, neutral marketplace of ideas (Hikmatullah et al., 2026). Rather, the all-encompassing evidence suggests that generative technology has been effectively "weaponized" to create a gendered panopticon in which the omnipresent possibility of a quick ruin in reputation is used to regulate women's actions and to impose political silence (Di Meco & Wilfore, 2021). Such one-sided use of sexualized deepfakes to women reveals a deliberate and cross-cultural strategy to evade any form of political argumentation and instead rely on the pure shock value of synthetic pornography to instantly discredit women's authority (Mahr, 2025). The resulting regional differences highlight the need for interventions that do not rely solely on the technical aspects, but also seek to consider cultural vectors that maximize and weaponize digital harm (Kahraman, 2025). Finally, the validation of the chilling threshold proves that the protection of women's digital rights is intrinsically intertwined with the preservation of democratic integrity itself – that is, machine-generated cyber abuse creates significant democratic deficits (Tulga, 2025).

## CONCLUSION

This would be an unprecedented intensification of the global violence against women in politics crisis as generative technology is woven together with the traditional strategies of antagonism against women in politics. This would be a very important, unprecedented intensification of the global crisis of violence against women in politics, where generative technology is combined with the traditional political antagonism strategies against women. Throughout this research, the empirical evidence clearly shows that cyber abuse is not gender-neutral and does not have a political tinge. Instead, sophisticated digital tools—like deepfakes, chatbots, and voice-cloning—are deliberately misused to create disinformation campaigns aimed at particular individuals, primarily women, to the extent that these materials have been created with high sexualization. In contrast, sophisticated digital means, such as deepfakes, synthetic media generation, and voice-cloning, are systematically used to generate highly sexualized disinformation campaigns that have a disproportionate effect on female candidates. The study gives a complete picture of the typology and exact amount of this abuse and reveals a high-calculus, malicious strategy aimed at undermining the moral authority of women, which is a degradation of women's hard-earned political capital, not consensual. The localized analysis of impact intensity further testifies to the fact that this digital violence is not just virtual, but can lead to severe psychological harm, instigate physical threats in real life, and create the possibility of horrible institutional gatekeeping, especially in deeply patriarchal sociopolitical settings where women's modesty is tied to their public viability.

Perhaps most alarmingly, the precise definition of a chilling threshold signals the achievement of the ultimate anti-democratic goal, that of systematically excluding women from the electoral process, through exposure to hostile machine-generated content. In the face of the overwhelming amount of synthetic abuse, female politicians are left with no alternative but to self-censor and to retreat into the digital sphere, thus altering in their very essence the representative nature of contemporary civic institutions. A concerted and multi-stakeholder effort is needed on a global scale to secure the future of democratic involvement. Legislatures need to quickly make the deepfake pornography creation, funding and dissemination a serious, consent-based crime, with life-changing consequences for malicious actors. At the same time, there needs to be legally enforceable accountability for dominant technology companies and social media platforms, so that synthetic harassment can be identified and removed proactively and automatically, even if it goes viral. If the unchecked proliferation of generative technologies is not halted and an entire infrastructure of digital misogyny dismantled now, the global goal of realising gender parity in political leadership will be irreparably undermined.

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