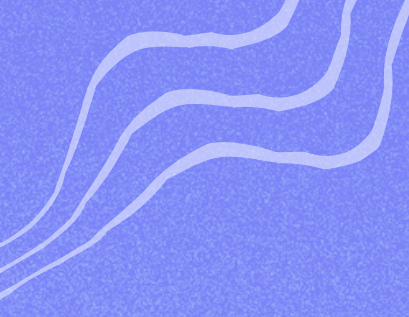
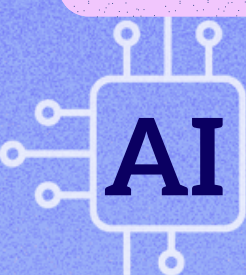




LEARNING NETWORK VIRTUAL FORUM



AI & GBV: Harms, Impacts, and Emerging Practices in Prevention & Response

February 3 & 4, 2026

1:00 - 4:30 PM ET



Western

Centre for Research & Education on
Violence Against Women & Children

LEARNING NETWORK



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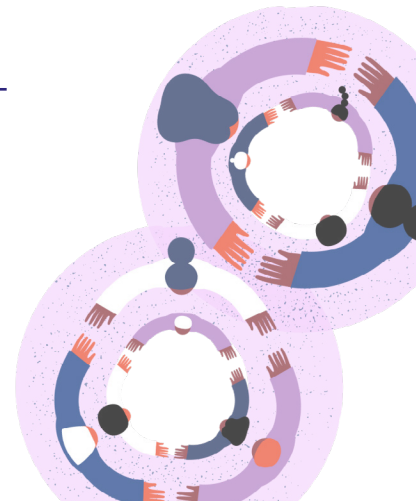
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Special Contributors

Acknowledgements

Learning Network Provincial Advisory Group



Land Acknowledgement



Artwork by Mike Cywink.

We acknowledge that the Learning Network at the Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women & Children (CREVAWC) is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lunaapeewak, and Chonnonton Nations. These lands are connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. Today, this land continues to be home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island.

We give our deep respect to the first inhabitants of this land and recognize that an acknowledgement of Indigenous land and sovereignty comes with a responsibility to understand the history and ongoing impacts of settler colonialism. These impacts continue to be felt in disproportionate and everyday ways against Indigenous communities. We also reflect on those who came to this land involuntarily, particularly those brought to these lands because of the trans-Atlantic slave trade and slavery.

The Learning Network is a public initiative dedicated to mobilizing knowledge to end the spectrum of gender-based violence. We recognize the connections between ongoing colonialism and all forms of gender-based violence that disproportionately impact Indigenous communities who continue to face a crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Peoples. We further commit and recognize the responsibility for our work to be informed of the colonial imprint and harms that shapes the experiences of GBV among Indigenous communities.

About the Learning Network

The [Learning Network](#) (LN) is a knowledge mobilization initiative focused on gender-based violence (GBV) based at the Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women & Children (CREVAWC) at Western University. Established in 2011, the Learning Network is a trusted source of evidence-based, accessible, and responsive educational resources and knowledge exchange opportunities for the GBV and allied sectors. Our work mobilizes knowledge on GBV and related issues, grounded in trauma- and violence-informed and equity-oriented approaches.

The Learning Network's work is shaped through collaboration with a wide community of contributors, including researchers, practice-based experts, advocates, and people with lived expertise who participate in webinars, contribute to written resources, share practice-based knowledge, and engage in ongoing learning. We are deeply grateful for the time, care, and expertise shared by those who contribute to and advance knowledge on GBV through their participation and collaboration.

Our work is further informed by the Learning Network's [Provincial Advisory Group \(PAG\)](#), comprised of members from 16 Ontario-based organizations with a mandate to end GBV. The PAG provides guidance related to research, curriculum development, prevention, and intervention, helping to ensure that the Learning Network's work remains responsive, grounded, and connected to practice.

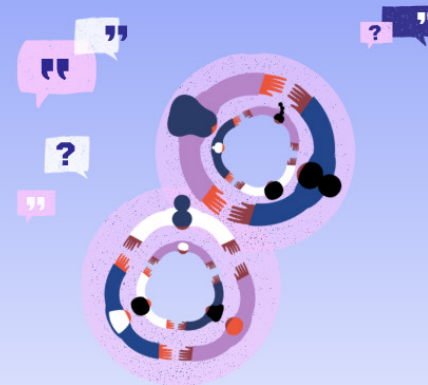
Together, these collaborations allow the Learning Network to amplify diverse forms of expertise, spotlight emerging issues, evidence- and practice-based knowledge, and support the translation of knowledge into practice to enhance the capacity of those directly addressing GBV.

The **Learning Network Forum** is a key part of this work, creating annual space for service providers, practitioners, researchers, advocates, and community leaders to learn from those advancing research, practice, and knowledge on timely issues, emerging trends, and promising practices shaping GBV prevention and response.

LEARNING NETWORK VIRTUAL FORUM



AI & GBV: Harms, Impacts, and Emerging Practices in Prevention & Response



Welcome to the Learning Network Forum

Welcome to the Learning Network Forum, AI & GBV: Harms, Impacts & Emerging Practices in Prevention & Response.

Over the next two days, the forum brings together practitioners, researchers, advocates, and organizations working at the intersection of artificial intelligence (AI) and gender-based violence (GBV). Through presentation-based sessions, we'll hear from those advancing research, practice, and advocacy as they share insights on how AI is contributing to GBV and shaping prevention, response, and practice across the GBV and allied sectors.

The LN Forum aims to create an evidence-informed, Trauma- and Violence-Informed (TVI), and survivor-centered space for exploring AI-enabled forms of GBV and the implications for practice, prevention and response across the GBV and allied sectors.

Learning Objectives

By attending this LN Forum, participants will:

- Enhance understanding and awareness of how AI is being used as a form of GBV and its intersecting impacts.
- Increase awareness of how AI is shaping GBV practice, prevention and response.
- Apply a TVI lens to discuss implications of AI for survivors, persons causing harm, practitioners, and communities.
- Build shared “AI literacy” across the GBV sector, supporting informed conversations about ethics, concerns, and responsible use.
- Support calls for equitable, accountable community- and survivor-centered approaches to navigating and responding to AI.

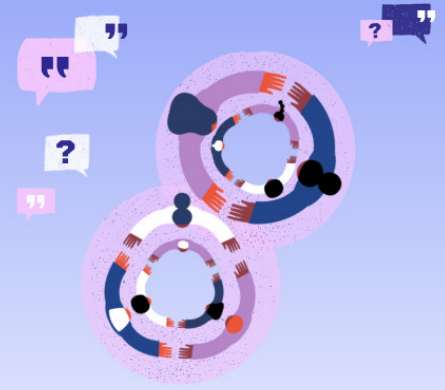
Background

The Learning Network acknowledges and values the work of researchers, practitioners, and advocates who are deepening understanding of AI and its connections to GBV. This LN Forum is informed by a growing body of research, practice-based knowledge, and advocacy examining these intersections, which has identified AI as an increasingly relevant and complex issue shaping both harm and responses across the GBV sector.

LEARNING NETWORK VIRTUAL FORUM



AI & GBV: Harms, Impacts, and Emerging Practices in Prevention & Response



Across many contexts, AI is becoming embedded in systems that influence how people live, work, and connect, including communication platforms, education, health care, justice systems, and social services. Within GBV-related contexts, researchers and practitioners have documented how AI can enable and extend harm, shape intervention, and raise important concerns related to bias, control, accountability, and equity. A growing body of scholarship also emphasizes that AI systems are developed within existing hierarchies of race, gender, and power, prompting ongoing calls for transparency and accountability in their design and use. Research and advocacy also point to the extractive foundations of AI's rapid expansion, including the extraction of data, natural resources, and human experience, raising important ethical considerations for trauma- and violence-informed (TVI) practice and reflecting power imbalances the GBV movement seeks to disrupt.

Given the breadth and complexity of this area, the LN Forum does not aim to address every concern related to AI and GBV. Rather, it creates space to deepen understanding and awareness by learning from existing research, practice-based knowledge, and the expertise of those leading this work.

To support shared understanding, participants also have access to a [glossary of AI-related terms](#) and [additional resources relevant to GBV & allied sectors](#). While not all materials are discussed during sessions, they informed the design of the LN Forum and are offered as optional reference points for those who wish to explore key concepts and related work in greater depth.



Participating in the Virtual Forum

Connect with the Learning Network

Connect with the Learning Network (LN) on social media throughout the event!



You can tag us on:

Facebook: [@LNandKH](#)

X: [@LNandKH](#)

LinkedIn: [Learning Network and Knowledge Hub](#)

Instagram: [@GBVLearningNetwork](#)

You are welcome to share reflections, resources, and insights using the Forum hashtag: **#AlandGBV**

Joining the Virtual Forum on Zoom

Once you have registered for the LN Virtual Forum, you will receive an automated email from Zoom with instructions on how to join each day. This automated email includes a unique link that should not be shared with others.

Please use the link included in the email to join the session. If you cannot locate the email, we recommend checking your junk or spam folder. If needed, you may re-register to receive a new link.

To view the ASL interpreter:

- Click on the interpretation button, the globe icon  on the bottom navigation panel if you are using a desktop.
- If you are using a mobile device, tap on the More icon and tap language interpretation.
- Select “American Sign Language” and then a separate window will pop up, displaying the ASL interpreter in their own window.

The Zoom chat will be open during the welcome and opening segments. During presentations, the chat will be paused to support the presentation environment. Questions for presenters or the LN organizers can be submitted at any time using the Q&A feature, which will be available throughout the Forum.

In some sessions, the use of interactive tools, such as polls or invitations for participants to raise their hands and speak using their microphone and camera, may be used.

Safety and Services

The content of these sessions is focused on gender-based violence and may address experiences of harm and help-seeking. We encourage you to please take care of yourself and engage in ways that feel supportive.

If you would like support during or after the Forum, [please click here to find services](#).



Accessibility

The Learning Network recognizes that participants have different accessibility needs.

Accessibility features of the Virtual Forum include:

- Any presentation slides presenters use will be provided by email the morning of the session.
- Live ASL interpretation will be provided by the Toronto Sign Language Interpreter Service on each day of the Forum.
- Participants will have the option to turn on live closed captioning for each session.
- Recordings of the sessions will be emailed to registrants following the event and will contain closed captioning and ASL interpretation.

If you have any specific questions and suggestions, please contact gbvln@uwo.ca.

Virtual Forum Safety Guidelines

The Learning Network is dedicated to providing a safe, respectful, and inclusive Virtual Forum. These safety guidelines apply to Forum organizers, speakers, and participants within the Forum sessions, in addition to communications pertaining to the Forum (e.g. on social media). There is no place at this Forum for harassment or intimidation based on race, religion, ethnicity, language, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age, appearance, or other group status.

Harassment includes, but is not limited to:

- Deliberate misgendering or use of dead names
- Racial microaggression (brief and commonplace verbal, behavioural, and environmental indignities that communicate hostile, derogatory or negative slights and insults toward a person (e.g. I can't understand this person, their accent is too strong) and macroaggressions (obvious or overt system-wide comments, acts or slights)
- Use of slurs and other dehumanizing language
- Doxxing (posting or threatening to post personally identifying information like addresses and phone numbers)
- Discriminatory "jokes" and language
- Intentionally disruptive behaviours (e.g. interrupting speakers, spamming, trolling)
- Sexually objectifying or harassing comments
- Bullying
- Threats or acts of violence

The Learning Network is committed to maintaining a respectful and supportive learning environment. In situations where behaviour causes harm or disrupts the safety of the space, the Learning Network may take steps to protect participants and the integrity of the Forum. If you need support or wish to raise a concern, you may contact the Learning Network team via Zoom chat or privately by email at gbvln@uwo.ca.

Forum-at-a-Glance

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026 | 1:00 PM – 4:30 PM ET

First Part

WELCOME

FORUM TRADITIONAL OPENING CEREMONY

Led by: Elder Gloria Thomson, Office of Indigenous Initiatives, Western University

SYNTHETIC MEDIA, GENAI, GENDER AND THE LAW IN CANADA

Presented by: Professor Suzie Dunn, Interim Director of the Law and Technology Institute and Assistant Professor, Dalhousie University's Schulich School of Law

WHAT WE HEARD: A SNAPSHOT OF PERSPECTIVES ON AI & GBV

Presented by: Learning Network

Second Part

Spotlight Session: Intersectional Systems, Harms, and Responses in AI & GBV

- **DISRUPTING AI: ADDRESSING AI-ENABLED FORMS OF GBV**
Presented by: Mitzie Hunter, President and CEO, Canadian Women's Foundation
 - **PREVENTING AI-ENABLED HARMS THROUGH DIGITAL MEDIA LITERACY**
Presented By: Dr. Kara Brisson-Boivin, Director of Research, MediaSmarts
 - **THE ALGORITHM IS NOT NEUTRAL: HOW RACIALIZED CARE, CONTROL, AND CRIMINALIZATION ARE CODED INTO EVERYDAY LIFE**
Presented By: Dr. Gifty Asare, Director of Research & Community Impact, WomenatthecentreE
-

USING AI SAFELY IN SURVIVOR ADVOCACY

Presented By: Rhiannon Wong, Project Manager of the Technology Safety Canada initiative with the BC Society of Transition Houses and Women's Shelters Canada

FORUM TRADITIONAL CLOSING CEREMONY

Led by: Elder Gloria Thomson, Office of Indigenous Initiatives, Western University

First Part

WELCOME

FORUM TRADITIONAL OPENING CEREMONY

Led by: Elder Gloria Thomson, Office of Indigenous Initiatives, Western University

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND GENDER-BASED TECHNOLOGY-FACILITATED ABUSE: HARMS, LIMITS, AND POSSIBILITIES

Presented by: Dr. Nicola Henry, Professor of Global Studies and Deputy Director of the Social Equity Research Centre at RMIT University, Australia

The presentation will be followed by a fireside chat featuring Dr. Nicola Henry and Deepa Mattoo, Executive Director of the Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic

Second Part

Spotlight Session: Intersectional Systems, Harms, and Responses in AI & GBV

- **RECLAIM YOUR DIGITAL SPACE: A COURSE FOR ENDING ONLINE GBV**
Presented By: Aliina Vaisanen, Community Initiatives Manager, Canadian Women's Foundation
 - **THE COST OF VIRTUAL CONNECTION: RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR A.I. RELATIONSHIPS**
Presented By: Dr. Ellen M. Kaufman, Kinsey Institute
 - **LESSONS FROM OUR SURVIVOR AI: WHAT DOES BUILDING A FEMINIST AI LOOK LIKE?**
Presented By: Eva Blum-Dumontet, Head of Movement Building and Policy, Chayn
-

AI IN GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PROGRAMMING: PERILS AND POTENTIALS

Presented by: Caroline Masbouni, UNICEF, Global GBViE Technology and Innovation

FORUM TRADITIONAL CLOSING CEREMONY

Led by: Elder Gloria Thomson, Office of Indigenous Initiatives, Western University



Session Details

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026 | 1:00 PM – 4:30 PM ET

Synthetic Media, Genai, Gender and the Law in Canada

Presented by: Professor Suzie Dunn, Interim Director of the Law and Technology Institute and Assistant Professor, Dalhousie University's Schulich School of Law

This presentation looks at some of the trends in AI and its connection to GBV with a specific focus on sexualized images. It will provide a brief legal overview of Canada's current and proposed laws to address AI and gender-based harms.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the landscape of AI and its connection to GBV, including emerging technologies and trends.
- Gain an understanding of the current and proposed laws and highlight potential gaps in the legal system.
- Understand how AI is impacting sexual integrity and autonomy.



Professor Suzie Dunn

Professor Suzie Dunn is the Interim Director of the [Law and Technology Institute](#) and an Assistant Professor at Dalhousie University's Schulich School of Law. Her [research](#) centers on the intersections of equality, technology and the law. She is a research partner on a four-year SSHRC funded research project on young people's experiences with sexual violence online, [DIY Digital Safety](#).

What We Heard: A Snapshot of Perspectives on AI & GBV

Presented by the Learning Network

This brief presentation shares a high-level snapshot from a Learning Network survey that invited people across the GBV and allied sectors to reflect on how artificial intelligence (AI) is showing up in their work and in the lives of those they support. It highlights where respondents are noticing AI in practice, the risks and concerns they are naming, and early ways AI is intersecting with prevention, response, and service delivery. The findings are presented at a high level and are intended to support orientation and a shared context for Forum discussions.

Spotlight Session: Intersectional Systems, Harms, and Responses in AI & GBV

This Spotlight Session features three presentations that focus on AI enabled forms of GBV and the intersectional impacts of these harms, as well as emerging approaches to prevention, media literacy, and accountability.

Disrupting AI: Addressing AI-enabled forms of GBV

Presented by: Mitzie Hunter, President and CEO, Canadian Women's Foundation

Gendered digital harm is widespread in Canada and rising with the arrival of AI. For women and gender-diverse people the consequences are serious. The Canadian Women's Foundation research study Challenging Gendered Digital Harm revealed that the majority of women and gender-diverse people experienced online harm including harassment, hate speech, stalking, and non-consensual sharing of intimate images. Harms are intersectional and disproportionate: Black, Indigenous, racialized, 2SLGBTQIA+, youth (18-25) and people with disabilities are most frequently targeted and impacts are significant. Survivors reported major mental health effects, including stress, anxiety, and depression. Women and gender-diverse people with intersecting identities reported higher levels of trauma, isolation, and safety concerns. Many reduce online activity or leave platforms altogether.

Foundation research explicitly recognized generative AI as an emerging amplifier of gendered digital harm. AI expands tech-facilitated gender-based violence exponentially by increasing the scale, speed, and anonymity of abuse as evidenced in non-consensual explicit images, automated harassment, fabricated content, and biased facial recognition systems. With AI transformation disrupting ways of working unlike anything since the advent of the internet and cloud computing, how do we prevent replication and deepening of inequities? What can we do to ensure that an intersectional gender lens is applied across AI policies? What are the levers can disrupt AI's role in tech-facilitated gender-based violence?



Mitzie Hunter

Mitzie Hunter is a dynamic, community-grounded trailblazer whose 30 years of leadership spans the nonprofit sector, private sector, and government. She was the first Black woman to serve as Ontario's Minister of Education. She also served as Ontario's Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development and Associate Minister of Finance. Mitzie is a respected advocate for women, girls, and gender-diverse people. She is known for her expertise in an array of issues, from women's leadership to inclusive economies to sustainable neighbourhood and city building.

Preventing AI-Enabled Harms Through Digital Media Literacy

Presented by: Dr. Kara Brisson-Boivin, Director of Research, MediaSmarts

This presentation will highlight MediaSmarts' prevention-focused approach to AI-enabled harms (e.g. gender-based violence) through digital media literacy education. Drawing on the Resilience through DigitalSmarts program and MediaSmarts' AI literacy resources, we will examine how to better support youth, parents, educators, and other adults as they navigate AI systems, to better understand harms such as deepfakes and image-based abuse and build skills to respond with resilience. We will emphasize that AI literacy is an equity issue: access to AI tools does not necessarily mean people have the critical skills needed to identify risks or engage safely.



Dr. Kara Brisson-Boivin

Dr. Kara Brisson-Boivin is the Director of Research for MediaSmarts-Canada's centre for digital media literacy. Kara is responsible for the planning, methodology, implementation, and dissemination of key findings from original MediaSmarts' research studies as well as evaluations of MediaSmarts' programs. She also holds an appointment as an Adjunct Research Professor in the Sociology and Anthropology Department at Carleton University. Kara brings to MediaSmarts extensive publication experience in academic journals, magazines, news op-eds and research blogs; and a background in presenting research to key stakeholders on parliamentary committees, at academic conferences, invited talks, panels, keynote addresses, and in media interviews. She works with partners across academia, industry, government, and community organizations on online issues including digital wellbeing, digital equity and inclusion, privacy, hate, tech-facilitated violence and abuse, youth online engagement, and algorithms and artificial intelligence.

The Algorithm Is Not Neutral: How Racialized Care, Control, and Criminalization Are Coded Into Everyday Life

Presented by: Dr. Gifty Asare, Director of Research & Community Impact, WomenatthecentrE

Algorithmic systems are often framed as objective, efficient, and impartial. Yet for Black women, girls, gender-diverse and trans people in Canada, these technologies frequently reproduce the same racial profiling, surveillance, and criminalization long embedded in institutions—and increasingly, in everyday life. Drawing on WomenatthecentrE's Truth and Transformation: Advancing Gender Equity project and the Amourgynoir Framework, this presentation connects lived realities of gender-based violence to the logics underlying algorithmic decision-making. It asks not only how bias operates in systems, but what it would mean to refuse carceral responses altogether and instead root care in revolutionary love, community accountability, and transformative justice.

Learning objectives:

- Understand how algorithmic bias is embedded within broader systems of racial profiling, criminalization, and gender-based violence affecting Black women, girls, gender-diverse and trans people.
- Explore how insights from the Truth and Transformation project illuminate the real-world impacts of AI and data-driven systems on everyday life.
- Be introduced to the Amourgynoir Framework as a lens for imagining non-carceral, care-centered responses to harm grounded in transformative justice and community accountability.



Dr. Gifty Asare

Dr. Gifty Asare is a Ghanaian Canadian neuroscientist and researcher from Tiohtià:ke/Montreal and is currently the Director of Research and Community Impact at WomenatthecentrE, a nonprofit by and for survivors of GBV. She holds a PhD in Psychology and Neuroscience from York University, with prior training in Psychiatry (McGill) and Neuroscience (Concordia). Her academic and professional work is rooted in quantitative and qualitative research, neuroimaging, and clinical intervention, with a focus on both younger and older adults; particularly as it relates to GBV, traumatic brain injury (GBV–TBI) and other intersecting injuries, injustices, and acts of violence.

Currently, Gifty is engaged in several national initiatives, including "**Truth and Transformation: Advancing Gender Equity for Black Women, Girls, Gender Diverse, and Trans People in Canada (B-WGGDT)**," which addresses the structural and systemic drivers of racialized gender-based violence in Canada. She is deeply committed to advancing survivor-led, culturally grounded, and trauma- and violence-informed responses to gender-based violence and brain injury across the lifespan and in racialized communities.



In Practice Session: Using AI Safely in Survivor Advocacy

Presented by: Rhiannon Wong, BC Society of Transition Houses and Women's Shelters Canada

This session looks at how technology, including emerging AI tools, can affect safety, privacy, and confidentiality in the context of intimate partner violence. Using established tech safety and anti-violence principles, the presentation explores how digital tools may be helpful in some situations, while also creating new risks for survivors.

Participants will consider practical AI examples relevant to shelter and frontline work and learn how to approach these tools thoughtfully and responsibly. The session focuses on ethical use, legal responsibilities, and clear boundaries to support survivor safety and maintain trust in anti-violence services.



Rhiannon Wong

Rhiannon Wong is Project Manager of the Technology Safety Canada initiative with the BC Society of Transition Houses and Women's Shelters Canada. She develops survivor-informed resources and delivers training to anti-violence workers nationwide on technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV). Her work highlights the dual role of technology, as a powerful tool for enhancing survivor safety and as a means for perpetrators to commit domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault, impersonation, and harassment. Beyond frontline training, Rhiannon works to advance private sector accountability by engaging tech companies to adopt safety-centered policies and design practices that prevent violence against women in digital spaces. Her expertise bridges survivor experience, technology, and systemic change. Rhiannon represented Canada as part of the official delegation to the 67th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, where she shared insights from the Tech Safety Canada project on addressing TFGBV and building safer digital environments



Wednesday, February 4, 2026 | 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm EST

Artificial Intelligence and Gender-Based Technology-Facilitated Abuse: Harms, Limits, and Possibilities

Presented by: Dr. Nicola Henry, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology

Rapid advancements in digital technologies have contributed to new and evolving manifestations of gender-based violence. This includes a range of behaviors such as cyberstalking, image-based sexual abuse, digital dating abuse, online sexual harassment, and sexualized threats. Among these developments, artificial intelligence (AI) has emerged as both a new facilitator of harm and a proposed site of intervention. AI-enabled tools have intensified existing forms of abuse, including AI-generated image-based sexual abuse and sextortion, while also being promoted as solutions through detection systems, automated moderation, and survivor-support tools.

Drawing on international empirical research, policy analysis, and the development of survivor-centred digital tools, this keynote critically examines the dual role of AI in the GBV landscape. Using a design justice framework, the session explores whose harms are made visible, whose voices shape technological responses, and what ethical, effective, and trauma-informed AI interventions might look like in practice.

Learning Objectives:

- Gain a clearer understanding of how AI is being used to facilitate emerging forms of gender-based technology-facilitated abuse, including AI-generated image-based sexual abuse.
- Understand key tensions in the use of AI as both a source of harm and a proposed solution in GBV prevention and response.
- Be introduced to the concept of "design justice" as a useful lens for thinking about ethical, survivor-centred digital interventions.



Dr. Nicola Henry

Dr. Nicola Henry is Professor of Global Studies and Deputy Director of the Social Equity Research Centre at RMIT University, Australia. Her research focuses on technology-facilitated gender-based violence, including image-based sexual abuse, sextortion, and AI-generated sexual harms. She has led multiple national and international studies examining the prevalence, impacts, and prevention of digital abuse and works closely with policymakers, technology companies, and frontline services. Nicola is the co-developer of Umibot, a survivor-centred chatbot designed to support people affected by image-based abuse, and her work is grounded in feminist and design justice approaches to technology.

The presentation will be followed by a fireside chat featuring Dr. Nicola Henry and Deepa Mattoo, Executive Director of the Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic.

Spotlight Session: Navigating AI Engagement in GBV Prevention and Response

This Spotlight Session features three presentations that explore how artificial intelligence is being engaged in ways relevant to gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response. They examine the risks, questions, and emerging practices associated with AI, creating space to reflect on how AI is already shaping people's lives and how prevention- and survivor-centred values can guide thoughtful, responsive engagement moving forward.

Reclaim Your Digital Space: A Course for Ending Online GBV

Presented by: Aliina Vaisanen, Community Initiatives Manager, Canadian Women's Foundation

Digital harm is a serious and growing issue that affects women, girls, and gender-diverse people across Canada, particularly those with intersecting marginalized identities. Research shows that 61% of women and gender-diverse people in Canada have experienced gendered digital harm, compared to 53% of the general population. Black, Indigenous, racialized, 2SLGBTQIA+, youth, and people with disabilities are targeted most frequently. This alarming trend impacts people's safety, mental health, and ability to participate fully and confidently in online spaces.

Addressing digital harm requires a collaborative response from organizations, governments, technology companies, schools, and communities. This session explores how hate, abuse, and harassment have been normalized online, and how gender equality organizations can play a critical role in pushing back against digital harm and advocating for safer, more inclusive digital environments.

Grounded in research and insights from women and gender-diverse people with lived experience, this session highlights the Canadian Women's Foundation's Reclaim Your Digital Space online learning resources. Designed for individuals experiencing digital harm, organizations concerned about online safety for women and gender-diverse people, and anyone interested in creating safer digital spaces, the session focuses on opportunities to learn, act, and drive change. By sharing practical tools, building knowledge and skills for safer online engagement, and inspiring collective action, Reclaim Your Digital Space supports efforts to address the rising prevalence of gender-based digital harm and strengthen digital safety for all.



Aliina Vaisanen

Aliina Vaisanen is the Community Initiatives Manager of the Rebuilding Lives grant program at the Canadian Women's Foundation. In her role, she connects and supports organizations running programs for survivors of gender-based violence throughout Canada. Aliina is passionate about inclusive, intersectional feminist approaches to supporting survivors and community building through feminist knowledge development and exchange.

The Cost of Virtual Connection: Risks and Opportunities for A.I. Relationships

Presented by: Dr. Ellen M. Kaufman, Kinsey Institute, Indiana University

In step with recent advances in artificial intelligence (AI), AI-enabled “companions”—chatbots designed to offer on-demand intimacy and emulate interpersonal connection—have risen to the fore. These technologies are often viewed as a solution for the growing “loneliness epidemic,” offering an outlet for those yearning for platonic, romantic or sexual connection.

But they also raise critical questions about how these relationships might challenge or reinforce harmful attitudes and behaviors that are ultimately inconsistent with existing relationship norms.

Building on nearly a decade of pioneering research in this rapidly growing area of relationship science, this talk explores the ongoing risks and benefits of A.I. relationships, parsing the potential for these technologies to meet individuals’ emotional, psychological and sexual needs while also acknowledging the prospective harms—particularly in terms of gender-based violence—introduced and reinforced by these dynamics. Focusing on key areas of consent and agency, this talk ultimately offers a vision forward for users, developers and policymakers to consider how we can shape the use of A.I. to meet our needs without corroding our relationships with each other.

Dr. Ellen M. Kaufman



Dr. Ellen M. Kaufman is an interdisciplinary researcher and Senior Research Associate at the Kinsey Institute. She received her Ph.D. in Informatics from Indiana University in Spring 2023. Her research focuses on the intersection of sexuality and technology, exploring how our relationships and overall sexual and emotional wellbeing are shaped by new modalities of connection. She is particularly interested in the use and implications of artificial intelligence within the context of romantic and sexual relationships, focusing on how sexual norms around consent, communication and gender roles are reconfigured by these dynamics. Her work has been published in peer-reviewed scientific journals including *Psychology & Sexuality* and *The Journal of Sex Research*.

Lessons from our Survivor AI: What does building a feminist AI look like?

Presented by: Eva Blum-Dumontet, Head of Movement Building and Policy, Chayn

In October 2025, Chayn launched Survivor AI, a letter-generation tool designed to support survivors of image-based abuse to assert their rights and reclaim control. But our Survivor AI was never just about shipping a product. From the start, we asked a bigger question: what would a feminist AI look like? And what would it mean to build an AI grounded in our trauma-informed design principles - accountability, agency, equity, hope, plurality, power sharing, privacy, and safety? This presentation will aim to get us thinking about how AI can be built differently.

Drawing on our process and work with academics who have been observing and documenting our work building our Survivor AI, this talk shares the lessons, tensions, and trade-offs we encountered while attempting to create a feminist AI in practice. We will unpack how our trauma-informed design principles were translated in practice and offer our insights for those wanting to move beyond “ethical AI” as rhetoric and towards building systems that genuinely serve those most impacted by harm.



Eva Blum-Dumontet

Eva Blum-Dumontet is Head of Movement Building and Policy at Chayn, an organization providing online resources to survivors of tech-facilitated gender-based violence. A tech and human rights policy expert specializing on the intersection of gender and technology, she is currently leading Chayn's work on AI, promoting the use of encryption as a feminist issue, and working on the impact of image-based abuse in the Global South.

Prior to her role at Chayn, Eva held the position of Senior Policy Adviser at the Royal Society, the UK's national academy of sciences, where she worked on the role of AI in scientific research. She also spent eight years at Privacy International as a Senior Researcher.



AI in Gender-Based Violence Programming: Perils and Potentials

Presented by: Caroline Masbouni, UNICEF, Global GBViE Technology and Innovation

This session explores how Artificial Intelligence can be leveraged to enhance Gender-Based Violence programming. Through participatory, scenario-based discussions, participants will examine AI's opportunities and risks and explore survivor-centered design principles.

Learning objectives:

- Deepen understanding of AI's potential, limitations, and risks in GBV and humanitarian programming, with actionable insights for ethical, survivor-centered integration.
- Engage in scenario-based discussions and collaborative problem-solving to critically examine AI use cases and co-design ethical solutions with cross-sectoral relevance.
- Gain practical tools for risk management and decision-making applicable across the humanitarian sector.



Caroline Masbouni

Caroline Masbouni is a French-Lebanese Gender-Based Violence specialist based in Geneva, leading UNICEF's global GBViE technology and innovation workstream. With over 15 years of experience across Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, she focuses on leveraging technology to address GBV, bridge the gender digital divide, and tackle technology-facilitated GBV. A trained lawyer specializing in humanitarian law, Caroline has worked with IOM, IRC, and OHCHR, combining humanitarian expertise with feminist research to center the voices of women and girls in digital and on-the-ground solutions. She spearheads initiatives like "Laaha," a virtual safe space empowering women and girls globally.



Special Contributors

INDIGENOUS ELDER



Gloria Thomson

Gloria Thomson (pronoun she/her) is a proud Metis woman with roots in the Northwest (Manitoba). As a Kairos-trained Blanket Exercise Facilitator and former Senator for the Metis Nation of Ontario, Gloria brings a wealth of experience and cultural knowledge to her role. Her journey of discovering her Metis heritage as an adult uniquely positions her to understand the challenges many face in reconnecting to their Indigenous roots.

Currently serving as a Visiting Elder for Metis students at the University of Western Ontario's Office of Indigenous Initiatives, Gloria is dedicated to supporting and encouraging others on their path of cultural discovery. Her approach combines humility, openness and a deep commitment to sharing and learning.

Elder Gloria Thomson will be sharing an opening ceremony on February 4 (Day 1) and an opening and closing ceremony on February 5 (Day 2).

MODERATOR



Deepa Mattoo

Executive Director of the Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic
Virtual Forum Special Contributor: Fireside Chat Moderator

Deepa Mattoo is a dedicated lawyer and intersectional feminist recognized for her commitment to advancing equity, anti-oppression, and anti-racism. Her extensive career spans various legal and leadership roles. Since 2019, Deepa has served as the Executive Director of the Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic, overseeing multiple departments and directing the Clinic's intervention and advocacy efforts. She has appeared before the Supreme Court of Canada,

Parliamentary committees, and UN civil society meetings, advocating on a broad spectrum of social justice and human rights issues. In 2023, Deepa was appointed to the Domestic Violence Death Review Committee (DVDRC). Deepa has trained thousands of service providers to support forced marriage survivors, racialized non-status women, and clients navigating immigration law. Since 2017, she has shared her expertise as an adjunct professor at Osgoode Hall Law School through numerous speaking engagements and interviews. Deepa's contributions have been recognized with several awards, including the Spirit of Schlifer Award in 2015 and the Law Society Medal and Women of Distinction Award in 2022 for her advocacy and access to justice efforts. In 2023, she received the Ontario Bar Association Award for Excellence in the Promotion of Women's Equality and the Desi Achiever's Award for her exceptional contributions to human rights and access to justice. In 2024, Deepa was honoured with an Honorary Degree from Humber College in recognition of her contributions to social justice and equity. In May 2025, she received the Victim Services Award of Distinction from the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General.



GRAPHIC RECORDER



Brittany Datchko

Senior Graphic Recorder, Illustrator & Animator

Brittany graduated with a Diploma in Sequential Arts in 2011. She specializes in women's rights, LGBTQ2S+ rights, mental health, and elevating marginalized voices. She maintains a strong focus on diversity and inclusion in her work and adapts her graphic recording to align with different cultures, wisdom, and world views.

Brittany enjoys graphic recording at in-person events, from small executive retreats to 500+ person gatherings. She has collaborated with many Indigenous Nations, strategic retreats, and health & patient engagement sessions. She lives on Treaty 13, the traditional territory of many Indigenous Nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, Anishnabeg, Chippewa, Haudenosaunee and Wendat peoples, also currently known as Toronto, Ontario.

Acknowledgements

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A special thank you to **Deepa Mattoo**, who served as the Learning Network Virtual Forum consultant. Deepa generously shared her time, expertise, and guidance throughout the planning process, and her thoughtful collaboration was instrumental to the development of this year's Forum.

We also extend our sincere thanks to **Nneka MacGregor** for her ongoing support, insight, and generosity throughout the planning process. Nneka's willingness to think alongside us, share ideas, and make meaningful connections helped shape the Forum in important ways, and we are deeply grateful for her care and contribution.

We are grateful for the feedback and insights shared by members of the Learning Network's **Provincial Advisory Group (PAG)**, whose guidance continues to help ensure that our work remains grounded, responsive, and connected to practice.

We also extend our thanks to **Dr. Kara Brisson-Boivin, Dr. Angelique Jenney, Dr. Kaitlyn Mendes, Nicole Pietsch, and Dr. Katreena Scott** for their valued insights and contributions during the planning process.

Finally, we thank the **Toronto Sign Language Interpreter Service** and the ASL interpreters supporting the Forum for their essential role in advancing accessibility and inclusion throughout the event.

Learning Network team:

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Learning Network Provincial Advisory Group

The Learning Network works with a Provincial Advisory Group (PAG) made up of dynamic leaders from organizations across Ontario with mandates to end gender-based violence. PAG members provide expertise to the Learning Network on research, practice, and prevention across the continuum of gender-based violence. They also offer unique knowledge on principles of diversity, equity, and accessibility.

Click here to learn more about the [Provincial Advisory Group](#).



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