

Nº05

PART 1 – WOMEN

EVERY NUMBER
HAS A FACE



THE NEW PHYSICS OF FORCE.

WHY PEOPLE MIGRATE · EPISODE V · GENDER PERSECUTION

How technology altered the balance between violence,
protection e resistance.

THE NEW PHYSICS OF FORCE.

WHY PEOPLE MIGRATE — EPISODE V • PART 1 • WOMEN

How technology altered the balance between violence, protection, and resistance. This is the first episode in the series that does not correspond to a classical cause of displacement recognized by IOM — it is an acelerador.

IN THIS EDITION • 9 VERTEBRAE + INTERLUDE + CODA

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■ INSTITUTIONAL REFERENCE

IOM • INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

United Nations agency headquartered in Geneva, founded in 1951. Officially recognizes eight classical causes of forced displacement: war, famine, economic collapse, political persecution, religious persecution, organized crime, climate change, and gender persecution. In 2024 it documented **281 million** migrants worldwide — about 3.6% of the global population.

SOURCE: IOM WORLD MIGRATION REPORT, 2024

A MIGRATION THAT BEGAN BEFORE LEAVING HOME

There is a moment when fleeing home is no longer enough.

CASE • SAN SALVADOR → PANAMA • 2023

ANA*

— the name is not hers. It is part of her protection.

Ana was 17 when three gang members entered her home in San Salvador. Her brother had refused to be recruited. The gang came for the family — and she, by extension, became a target.

She fled to Panama. Changed her name. Changed her country. Changed her life.

But her cellphone had an account that still existed. And it was through that account that the aggressors found her again — **six months later, four thousand kilometers away.**

Changing countries closed one border. It did not close the other.

— SOURCE: USA FOR UNHCR • ANA* • PROTECTED NAME

— GENDER PERSECUTION • IOM DEFINITION

IOM and UNHCR classify five distinct realities under this category: **violence against women and girls, persecution based on sexual orientation and gender identity (LGBTI+), sexual violence in armed conflict, harmful practices** (genital mutilation, forced marriage, "honor crimes") e **systemic intra-family violence.**

This episode is divided into two parts. **Part One** addresses the first of these realities, cut across by the technological axis. **Part Two** will focus on LGBTI+ persecution.

IOM GLOSSARY ON MIGRATION, 8TH ED. • UNHCR GUIDELINES ON INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION N° 9

Technology did not create violence.
It removed its limits.

THE QUESTION THAT ORGANIZES THIS EPISODE

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN VIOLENCE NO LONGER DEPENDS ON **PHYSICAL FORCE?**

KUI INSTITUTE

By asking "what has technology done to us?", we distract ourselves from the real question, which is what it has allowed us to do to one another. The first summons the tool. The second forces us to look at ourselves — at the limits we no longer have, at the bridges we open without knowing it, at the short distance between the click and the body.

THE MOMENT WHEN VIOLENCE CHANGED NATURE

WHAT IS DIFFERENT NOW.

It is not the existence of violence that changed. It is its physics. Where before it required a body, now it only needs a network. Where before it had geographical limits, now it has global reach. Where before it aged with time, now it persists indefinitely.

BEFORE / AFTER • FIVE AXES

BEFORE Violence required physical proximity	AFTER A connected device is enough
BEFORE Changing cities meant safety	AFTER The aggressor follows the victim online
BEFORE Evidence was tangible	AFTER Deepfakes fabricate false evidence
BEFORE Impunity was local	AFTER Impunity is global and structural
BEFORE Laws could reach the aggressor	AFTER Platforms operate beyond jurisdictions

The house is the same.
The bed is the same.
But safety no longer lives there.



WHAT TECHNOLOGY AMPLIFIES

ONE IMAGE WORTH MILLIONS.

Before the Internet existed, an intimate image shared without consent would circulate among a dozen people — coworkers, neighbors, extended family. The harm was immense. But it was localized.

Today, the same image — real or fabricated by deepfake — can reach millions in minutes, remain on servers for decades, and reappear every time the victim tries to rebuild her life.

Violence gained industrial scale.
Protection remained artisanal.

SEXUAL DEEPPAKES • 2019–2023

+550%

GROWTH OVER FOUR YEARS • SECURITY HERO REPORT, 2023

99%

OF VICTIMS OF SEXUAL DEEPPAKES ARE WOMEN

28×

MORE INTIMATE IMAGES OF WOMEN SHARED WITHOUT CONSENT THAN OF MEN

■ CASE • AZMA BUKHARI • PAKISTAN • 2024

Provincial Minister of Information and Culture of Punjab. Practicing lawyer at the Lahore High Court. In October 2024, a sexual deepfake video was created and distributed to destroy her reputation. She publicly denounced it and turned to the FIA — the same law she practices, now used to defend herself.

It did not have to be a real image of her. Fabricating one was enough.

— SOURCE: DIGITAL RIGHTS FOUNDATION PAKISTAN • OECD AI POLICY OBSERVATORY

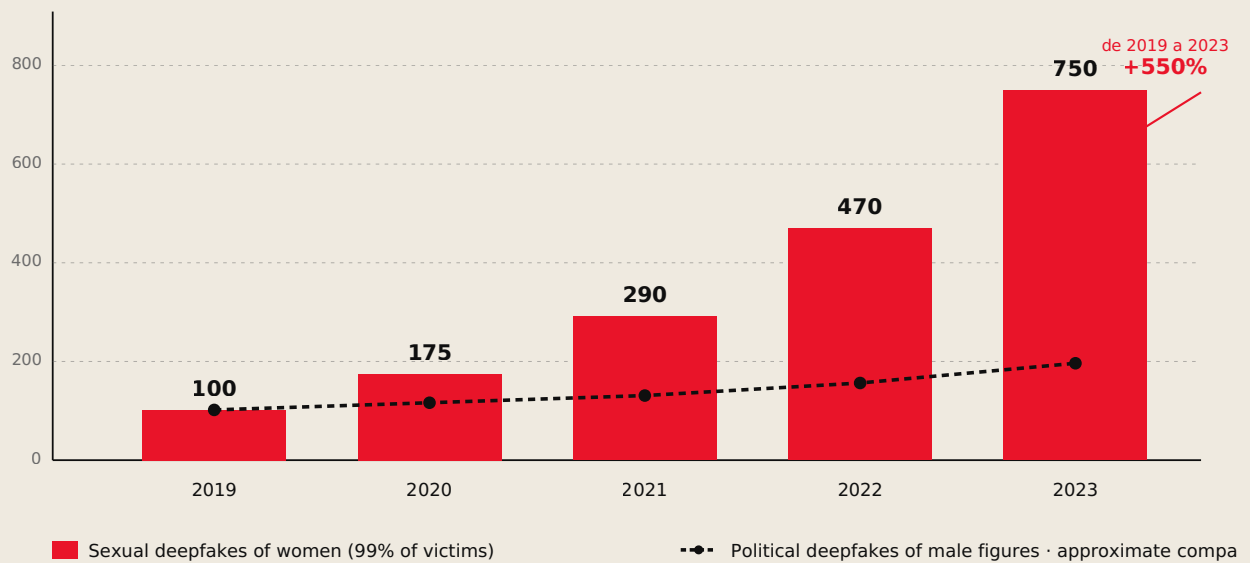
The lawyer who had to become a victim.

Technology did not remove her from office. It did not need to. It was enough that the possibility of removing her at any moment existed.

THE CURVE NOBODY WANTS TO SEE

FIVE YEARS. SEVEN AND A HALF TIMES MORE.

■ DEEPFAKE GROWTH 2019-2023 • INDEX BASE 100



SOURCES: SECURITY HERO REPORT, 2023 • SENSITY AI • UN WOMEN, 2026

The comparative reading is deliberate. In four years, deepfakes of male political figures grew roughly 2× — while sexual deepfakes of women grew 7,5×. The same technology, available to everyone, chosen primarily against some. This is not tool neutrality. It is aggressor preference.



WHEN CHANGING COUNTRY IS NO LONGER FLIGHT

THE LAW ENDS AT THE BORDER. VIOLENCE DOES NOT.

In the United Kingdom, the state witness protection service (UKPPS) placed, in 2022, a woman and her two children into a new-identity program — after 30 police calls in two years. Her ex-husband stalked her physically.

The identity change worked for the physical world. She has another name, another address, another job.

The ex-husband continues to follow her online. He doesn't know where she is. But he knows where she exists: on every social network, in every image search, on every platform she needs to use for work.

The law reached her body. It did not reach his device.

— ADAPTED • THE GUARDIAN, "A MOMENT THAT CHANGED ME" SERIES, OCT/2022

JOURNALISTS • TARGET

73%

OF WOMEN JOURNALISTS WORLDWIDE HAVE
SUFFERED ONLINE VIOLENCE
UNESCO • "THE CHILLING", 2021

PARLIAMENTARIANS

82%

OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS REPORT
PSYCHOLOGICAL VIOLENCE IN THE EXERCISE
OF THEIR MANDATE
IPU • 2016 / ATUALIZADO 2025

3×

ITALIAN FEMALE MAYORS RECEIVE THREE
TIMES MORE POLITICAL ATTACKS THAN MALE
COLLEAGUES
BOCCONI UNIVERSITY

■ EXPERT VOICE • INTERNATIONAL LAW

"Women around the world have unequal and asymmetric protection: national laws are developed and interpreted differently by each competent body over each case."

MARCELLA FERNANDEZ FERRAZ • LL.M., ERASMUS UNIVERSITY ROTTERDAM
Pesquisa: Technology-Facilitated Violence Against Women and Girls • 2026

THE TRANSNATIONAL LEGAL GAP

INSUFFICIENT. FRAGMENTED. REACTIVE.

Throughout my master's research on technology-facilitated gender-based violence, I identified three central characteristics of national laws that address this phenomenon.

Insufficient. With very rare exceptions, domestic norms cover only a fraction of the multiple forms of digital violence — deepfakes, stalking, doxxing, harassment, non-consensual dissemination of intimate content.

Fragmented. Each State regulates the matter autonomously. The result is a deep divergence in the scope of covered conduct and in the actors considered responsible — direct aggressor, replicator, platform, AI provider.

Reactive. Most laws focus on criminalizing the consummated act, without properly attributing responsibility to digital platforms and AI providers that allow content to reach transnational scale.

PRACTICAL CONSEQUENCE

Victims face obstacles in accessing effective protection and reparation, especially in transnational cases — in which the aggressor or the platform is in a different jurisdiction from the victim, and applicable laws diverge from each other.

Technology is transnational.
Legal protection is not.

— EDITORIAL SYNTHESIS • KIN, BASED ON
FERNANDEZ FERRAZ, 2026

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COLLABORATION • MARCELLA FERNANDEZ FERRAZ • LL.M., ERASMUS UNIVERSITY ROTTERDAM • 2026

The network cable
is still plugged in.

IV

WHAT CAN NO LONGER BE FORGOTTEN

VIOLENCE THAT
LASTS FOREVER.

Time was, historically, on the victim's side. Memories faded. Witnesses moved. Bodies healed. Life could continue elsewhere, in another routine, under another name.

The digital image does not fade. The copy of the copy of the copy remains sharp. Once published, it enters servers across five continents at once — and is virtually impossible to retrieve.

The victim ages. The crime does not.

REVENGE PORN HELPLINE • UK •
2024

306K

IMAGES REMOVED FROM THE WEB
BY THE END OF 2024

Each removed image was replicated across an unknown number of other places before removal. There is no public metric for what continues to circulate.

SEXTORTION • USA

50%

OF SEXTORTION VICTIMS IN THE USA
CONSIDERED SUICIDE



THE COUNTERARGUMENT AS METHOD

EVIDENCE HAS NO SIDE.

Science progresses when competing hypotheses can be tested. We believe the same must happen with public debate. If someone claims that digital violence affects men and women equivalently, that hypothesis deserves to be examined. After all, every hypothesis deserves to be confronted with evidence.

SOME SURVIVE. OTHERS DO NOT.

KIN does not legitimize initiatives. **Legitima perguntas.**

The same question can be asked in any direction. The answer cannot.

It follows the evidence.

Acknowledging the counterargument does not invert the hierarchy of numbers. It only protects those who read them from the accusation of ideology.

■ DOCUMENTED CASES

The cases below were not selected for their political or ideological positions. They were chosen because they resulted in **banimentos por grandes plataformas** e/ou **processos judiciais amplamente documentados**. The goal is not to personalize a structural problem. It is to show how certain narratives gained scale in the digital environment.

When confronted with the evidence, the hypothesis today meets this scenario:

99% of victims of online sexual deepfakes are women.

28× more intimate images of women are shared without consent.

82% of women parliamentarians report psychological violence in the exercise of their office.

73% of women journalists have already suffered online violence.

01

ANDREW TATE

Former kickboxer · digital influencer

Banned by **Meta, YouTube and TikTok** (2022).

Ongoing proceedings in **Romania** and the **United Kingdom** involving charges of human trafficking, rape, and organized crime.

SOURCES: BBC · CPS UK · DIICOT

02

ROOSH V (DARYUSH VALIZADEH)

Blogger · founder of Return of Kings

Books and platforms removed by **Amazon, DreamHost, PayPal and YouTube** (2018).

SOURCES: AMAZON · YOUTUBE · DREAMHOST

VIII

WHAT THE LAW REACHES VERSUS WHAT VIOLENCE REACHES

THE STRUCTURAL
ASYMMETRY.

ON THE SIDE OF VIOLENCE

- **Global.** Um clique cruza todos os continentes.
- **Instant.** Seconds between creation and propagation.
- **Permanent.** Copies on anonymous servers indefinitely.
- **Anonymous.** Camadas de VPN, proxies, contas falsas.
- **Scalable.** The same tool serves ten or ten million targets.

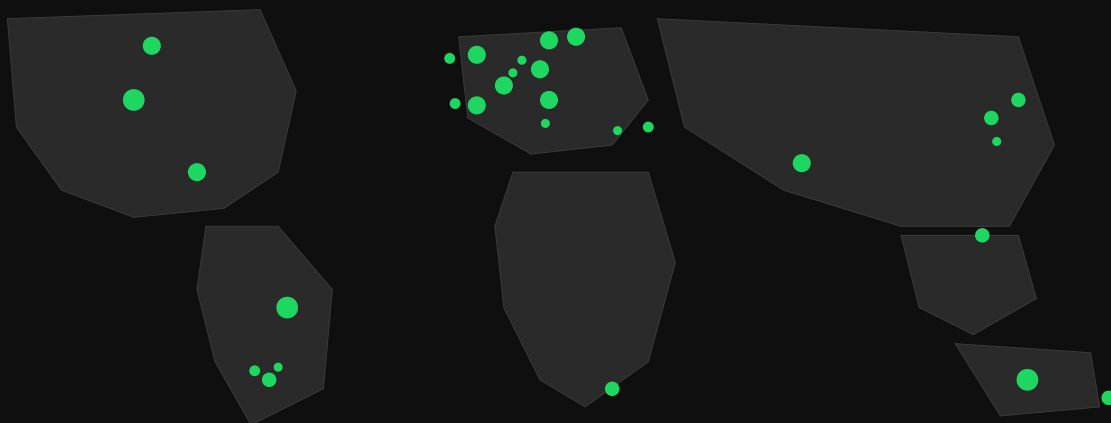
ON THE SIDE OF PROTECTION

- **Nacional.** Ends at the country's legal border.
- **Slow.** Judicial processes over months or years.
- **Temporary.** Restraining orders have expiration dates.
- **Identifiable.** Depends on name, address, physical contact.
- **Individual.** Each victim opens a new case.

■ WHO DOES THEIR JOB • SPECIFIC ANTI-TFVAWG LAWS • 2024

45 countries have specific NCII law

148 countries without specific anti-TFVAWG law



VI

THE PATH SHORTER THAN IT SEEMS

FROM DIGITAL VULNERABILITY TO PHYSICAL EXPLOITATION.

Digital violence rarely ends digital. It is often the first step in a chain that runs through job loss, isolation, forced displacement, and — at the extreme — trafficking and sexual exploitation.

THE CHAIN • FIVE DOCUMENTED LINKS

01

GROOMING

Slow approach via social networks and dating apps.

02

EMPLOYMENT

Fake offers on LinkedIn, WhatsApp, channels abroad.

03

ROMANCE

Relationship built online, broken only after economic dependence.

04

SEXTORTION

Use of images (real or fabricated) as an instrument of control.

05

TRAFFICKING

Recruitment in forums, forced displacement, sexual exploitation.

72% of identified victims of human trafficking are women and girls.

— UNODC GLOBAL REPORT ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, 2024

■ DOCUMENTED SCALE • THE CHAIN THAT BEGINS DIGITAL

220K+

People trapped in scam compounds across Southeast Asia — recruited through job ads on social media.

+43%

Global increase in identified trafficking victims between 2019 and 2022, the largest jump in two decades.

61%

of female victims in 2022 were trafficked for sexual exploitation — many recruited online.

SOURCES: UNODC GLOBAL REPORT ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, 2024 • UN OHCHR REPORT ON SCAM COMPOUNDS, 2023 • INTERPOL, 2024

— THE QUESTION THE LAW STILL CANNOT ANSWER

IF THE HOME IS NO LONGER SAFE, AND THE INTERNET IS NO LONGER SAFE, WHERE DOES SAFETY BEGIN?

For a growing percentage of women, leaving the country is no longer a choice. It is the only border that can still be closed — at least in part. This episode is **Parte 1** of the fifth chapter of Why People Migrate, the KIN Institute series that follows the eight classical causes of forced displacement recognized by IOM. Each episode starts from a category — war, famine, politics, crime, climate, religion, sexual orientation, gender — and searches, behind the numbers, for what happened before someone picked up a suitcase.

In this Part 1 we follow the women. Part 2, still in preparation, will focus on LGBTI+ persecution.

THREE FLIGHTS THAT WERE NOT CHOICES

THE ONLY BORDER THAT COULD STILL BE CLOSED.

01 • SAUDI ARABIA →
CANADA

RAHAF MOHAMMED

18 YEARS OLD • 2019

She fled her family during a Kuwait vacation. Barricaded herself in a hotel room at Bangkok airport. Used **Twitter** to avoid deportation. Obtained asylum in 48h.

— HRW • UNHCR • ABC
NEWS02 • AFGHANISTAN →
UNITED KINGDOM

ZAHRA JOYA

29 YEARS OLD • 2021

She grew up dressing as a boy to be able to study. Founded Rukhshana Media in Kabul. Fled with the return of the Taliban. Continues to operate journalism in **anonimato** from London.

— THOMSON FOUNDATION •
AMNESTY

03 • SOMALIA → USA

IFRAH AHMED

17 YEARS OLD • 2006 •
UPDATED 2024

Subjected to female genital mutilation at age 8. At 17 she fled Mogadishu. Recognized as a refugee. Founded the Ifrah Foundation — today she brings cases to the European Parliament.

— IFRAH FOUNDATION • UN
WOMEN

■ WHAT CUTS ACROSS ALL CATEGORIES

80% of people displaced by climate change are women (UNHCR, 2020). Gender cuts across all other categories in this series. It is not one cause among eight. It is a background condition that multiplies the effect of all the others.

There is a second border,
less visible, that most
women never cross.
The ceiling of their own work.

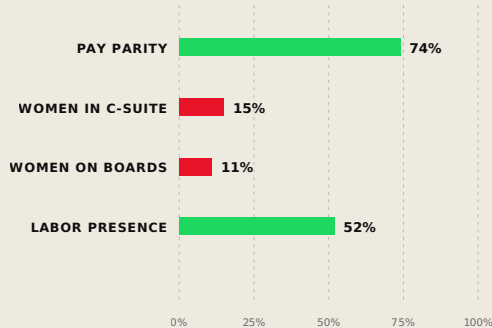
IX

ECONOMIC PARITY • TWO REGIONS THAT EXPORT EXECUTIVES

TURNING THE TABLES.

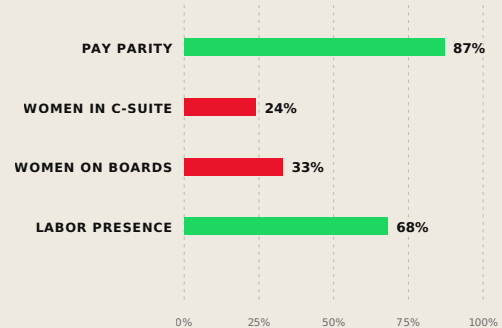
Digital violence is the visible extreme of a continuum. The silent extreme is what happens every day in the corporate environment — the lower salary, the postponed promotion, the invitation to the decision-making room that never arrives. Data measured by WEF/ILO shows this difference in two regions that export executives. The blurred reflection between opportunities in decision-making positions drives many social melanomas that directly affect women. It is a cause of invisible displacement, because it generates a consequence of etheric, non-measurable progression. The advance of fair inclusion policies is still too discreet in the face of these consequences.

■ SOUTH AMERICA • 2024



SOURCES: WEF GGG 2024 • ILO 2024 • CORPORATE WOMEN DIRECTORS INTERNATIONAL

■ EUROPE • 2024



SOURCES: WEF GGG 2024 • EUROSTAT 2024 • EU WOMEN ON BOARDS DIRECTIVE

At the current pace, gender economic parity will only be reached in 2154.

— WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM • GLOBAL GENDER GAP REPORT, 2024



■ INTERLUDE • MALAWI • 1958 - 2025

THERESA KACHINDAMOTO.

She was the **Inkosi** (supreme chief) of the Dedza district in central Malawi, traditional authority over more than **900,000 people**. She took office in 2003, succeeding her brother. She wore the red vestments, the ceremonial beads, the leopard-print sash — and used that power for one thing only: to dissolve child marriages.

In a region where more than half of girls were married before age 18, Kachindamoto **annulled more than 3,500 unions**. She dismissed four sub-chiefs who refused to comply — and reinstated them only after they confirmed the marriages had been dissolved. She changed the customary code of the territory to ban the practice. She returned **thousands of girls to school**.

She died at Kamuzu Hospital in Lilongwe on **August 13, 2025**.

Educate a girl and you educate the whole region. You educate the world.

— THERESA KACHINDAMOTO • QUOTED IN AL JAZEERA, 2016



OBJETOS CERIMONIAIS DA AUTORIDADE INKOSI • AI IMAGE

■ SOURCES

Al Jazeera • UNICEF Malawi • UN Women • Vital Voices Global Partnership • KU Leuven / UCLouvain • Scotland Malawi Partnership • African Genius Awards 2024

— A PHRASE FOR THE KIN COLLECTION

**NO GREAT RUPTURES
RUPTURES ARE NEEDED
ARE NEEDED FOR
TRANSFORMATION.
COURAGE IS NEEDED
TO ADMIT WHAT IS
WRONG AND CHANGE.**

**THAT IS ALREADY
GREAT ENOUGH.**

KIN EDITORIAL • ON THERESA KACHINDAMOTO

TECHNOLOGY IS NOT THE PROBLEM.

WHAT IT ALLOWED US TO DO TO ONE ANOTHER IS THE PROBLEM.

— 01

Violence has always existed. For a long time, it needed proximity to manifest. Today, it travels. Crosses borders. Languages. Continents.

— 03
And often, it arrives before the victim himself.

The questions in this article can be asked in any direction.

As long as the answers accept the same commitment to facts.

— 02

Those who migrate already know their reasons. Those who receive them have the opportunity to know them.

It is in the receiving society that empathy stops being a feeling and can become public policy, protection e justice.

AGAINST REALITY THERE ARE NO NARRATIVES.

EDITORIAL ORIGIN

This episode was inspired by the thesis of **Marcella Fernandez Ferraz** sobre Technology-Facilitated Violence Against Women and Girls (TFVAWG), presented at Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam · July 2026.



That seat had an owner.
The light is still on, waiting for her
to return.

— KIN EDITORIAL · EPISODE V · PART 1

WHAT SUPPORTS THIS TEXT

SOURCES.

PRIMARY SOURCES INCORPORATED

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Al Jazeera • UNICEF Malawi • Vital Voices • KU Leuven / UCLouvain — Theresa Kachindamoto.

The Guardian • HRW • ABC News • PBS • CBS • NYT • Reuters • USA for UNHCR • Ifrah Foundation — verified individual cases.

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