

25 November 2025

A safer life online for women and girls

To online service providers operating in the United Kingdom,

I am writing to urge all tech firms to take the recommended actions in [Ofcom's Guidance: A safer life online for women and girls](#), published today.

It is clear that the digital world is not serving women and girls the way it should. In fact, it is actively harming their participation and even facilitating abuse. Women in sport, in politics or in any part of public life face significant and widespread abuse online every day. Nearly 70% of boys aged 11-14 have been exposed to online content that promotes misogyny. And it is shocking, but perhaps not surprising, that deepfake technology has mostly been used to create and share intimate images of women without their consent.

There is an urgent need for industry-wide action.

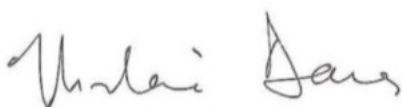
Today, Ofcom has set out the actions that services can take to create a safer life online for women and girls. In addition to the codes and guidance that relate to your legal duties under the Online Safety Act, our Guidance sets out practical ways you can go further. These include:

- Abusability testing before you bring new products to market
- Nudges and prompts to deter users from sharing harmful content such as misogynistic abuse
- Strong, customisable default settings, and bundling safety and privacy options to make it easier for users, including victims of coercive control and stalking, to control who sees their accounts
- Rate limiting to prevent accounts mass posting abuse during a pile on
- Nudity detection and blurring to address cyber flashing
- Hash matching technology to detect and remove intimate images shared without consent

We strongly encourage you to review this Guidance and take action without delay. We will be following up to understand how you are applying this Guidance. In May 2027, we will publish a report looking at how tech firms have engaged with and applied this good practice and the progress made toward reducing online gender-based harms.

Together, we can make meaningful progress toward ending online harms that disproportionately affect women and girls.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Melanie Dawes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Melanie" and last name "Dawes" clearly distinguishable.

Melanie Dawes