

Call for Papers

International Congress on Digital Violence (ICDV 2026)

Dates: October 13–14, 2026

Location: Hybrid — Faculty of Law, University of Valencia (Campus dels Tarongers, Valencia, Spain) / Virtual Attendance Available

Submission Deadline: September 20, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. CET

Web page: https://preventingandfightingdigitalviolence.blogspot.com/2026/07/international-congress-on-digital_01842940958.html.

About the Congress

Digital violence in all its forms represents one of the most pressing **societal challenges** of the digital age. It encompasses a wide spectrum of harmful behaviours, such as cyberbullying, hate speech, harassment, disinformation, and gender-based cyber violence, that affect individuals' rights, dignity, and psychological well-being. The anonymity, virality, and algorithmic amplification characteristic of digital environments exacerbate these phenomena.

Besides, **digital violence certainly creates both visible and invisible borders**. In **cyberbullying**, for instance, physical and psychological violence could go beyond the digital environment and could become visible in the real world. However, physical and psychological harms are often not evident. Indeed, **gender-based cyber violence** seems invisible for most people and remains concealed until there are episodes of fierce violence.

Additionally, **hate speech is visible online and offline**, and the virtual world hypes real-world radicalism, sexism, misogyny, racism, xenophobia, and homophobia. Hate speech virtual communities, nevertheless, are invisible to most, being unknown to almost everyone except their members, thanks to the anonymity typical of the internet.

AI-driven troll campaigns and disinformation are increasingly prevalent. Social media algorithms and AI systems function as invisible forces that shape the digital environment by leveraging personal data to manipulate and misinform users, ultimately eroding individual autonomy and awareness.

Definitely, young victims, including university students, often face significant challenges in establishing boundaries with bullies or perpetrators of gender-based violence.

On the other hand, it is a daunting task to help young, marginalised students who fall into the trap of these toxic virtual communities. The only way to do so is to educate them about respect for human rights while also creating a social media counter-narrative.

Hosted by the **Faculty of Law at the University of Valencia**, the **ICDV 2026** provides a dedicated cross-disciplinary space for legal scholars, computer scientists, criminologists, psychologists, social workers, and policy advocates. The goal of this year's congress is to interrogate the legal and social parameters of digital harms, address failures in platform regulation and global judicial frameworks, and advance victim-centred pathways to digital justice.

Core Thematic Tracks

Track 1: Digital Violence: Legal Frameworks, Jurisdictional Issues, and Policy Approaches

- Assessing the effectiveness and limitations of the existing legal framework at the national, European, and international levels.
- Examining the prosecution of digital violence and the application of relevant legal provisions within judicial practice, with particular attention to national courts, the European Court of Human Rights, and the Court of Justice of the European Union.
- Investigating the challenges and opportunities associated with cross-border law enforcement, the collection and admissibility of electronic evidence, and mechanisms of international judicial cooperation in addressing digital violence.

Track 2: Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV)

- The continuum of violence: connecting offline patriarchal norms and structural discrimination to online hate narratives. Empirical studies on the prevalence, impact, and forms of gender-based cyber violence (GBCV) among marginalised populations
- Targeted online misogyny, radicalisation, and the "chilling effect" on women's participation in public, professional, and political digital spaces.

Track 3: Emerging Technologies, Surveillance, and Coercive Control

- The weaponisation of smart home devices, location-tracking tags, and stalkerware in domestic violence and human trafficking networks
- Generative AI, synthetic media, and the rapid scale of non-consensual deepfake pornography.
- The dual role of tech: balancing digital surveillance vectors against the necessity of digital autonomy and safety for at-risk users

Track 4: Digital Equity, Human Security, and Support Systems

- Digital access and digital literacy as primary determinants of human security among vulnerable groups
- Evaluating digital and tech-delivered intervention tools, shelter hotlines, and remote resources for survivors

- Developing critical media-educational strategies and gender-transformative digital literacy pathways

Track 5: Algorithmic Bias, Platform Governance, and Content Moderation

- Evaluating platform responsibility and the architecture of algorithms that amplify toxic behaviours or radicalised echo chambers.
- Automated detection models for hate speech, harassment, and explicit content: technical limitations and systemic biases.
- Corporate governance, content moderation workforce challenges, and alternative decentralised social media safety models.

Track 6: Intimate Partner Control, Image Abuse, and Online Misogyny Communities Technology-Facilitated Intimate Partner Coercive Control:

- The tactical use of spyware, shared account ecosystem access, smart home automation, and real-time location tracking to restrict autonomy, enforce isolation, and perpetuate domestic abuse.
- Non-Consensual Intimate Image Abuse ("Revenge Porn"): Legal, psychological, and algorithmic approaches to the unauthorised distribution of explicit media; evaluating the effectiveness of digital takedown protocols and automated image hash-matching platforms.
- Digital Gender-Based Bullying and Harassment: Targeted trolling, doxxing, structural outing campaigns, and cyberstalking directed at women, girls, and marginalised genders within academic, professional, and social communication hubs.
- Sexist Ideologies and Misogynist Online Communities: Sociological, linguistic, and computational analyses of the "manosphere," incel forums, and radicalised digital spaces; mapping how these subcultures weaponise algorithms for recruitment and the mainstreaming of hate speech.
- A gender equality counternarrative to fight the misogyny, sexist culture and digital gender-based violence

Track 7: Hate Speech, Disinformation, and Polarisation in the Digital Age

- Islamophobia and Anti-Religious Fanaticism: Analysing the structural, institutional, and discursive manifestations of anti-Muslim bigotry and its digital proliferation.
- Xenophobia, Racism, and Ethno-Nationalism: Investigating systemic racial prejudice, anti-immigrant rhetoric, and the border-crossing networks that sustain ethno-nationalist ideologies.
- Marginalisation and Discrimination of Ethnic Minorities: Examining the socio-political exclusion of minority populations, indigenous groups, and diasporic communities within mainstream and digital media ecosystems.
- Homophobia, Transphobia, and LGBTQ+ Discrimination: Exploring gender- and sexuality-based hate speech, the targeting of LGBTQ+ communities, and the legislative or social impacts of hostile rhetoric.
- Political Polarisation and Ideological Extremism: Assessing the fragmentation of the public sphere, the mechanics of echo chambers, and the erosion of democratic deliberation.
- The Nexus of Disinformation, Malinformation, and Hate Speech: Unpacking how false narratives and coordinated inauthentic behaviour are weaponised to dehumanise marginalised groups and deepen societal divides.
- Counter-Narratives, Digital Activism, and Mitigation Strategies: Evaluating the efficacy of alternative narratives, community-led digital resistance, policy interventions, and algorithmic moderation in preventing and combating online hate.

Track 8: Youth, Vulnerability, and Digital Violence

- Social Media Ecosystems and Youth Well-being: Investigating the impact of platform architectures, algorithmic engagement loops, and peer dynamics on the psychological and social development of children and adolescents.
- Digital Literacy, Pedagogy, and Critical Education: Evaluating educational frameworks designed to empower minors, promote digital citizenship, and cultivate resilience against online harms.
- Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technological Risks: Analysing the ethical, cognitive, and behavioural implications of minors interacting with generative AI, automated decision-making systems, and immersive technologies.
- Minor Data Protection, Platform Surveillance, and Children's Rights

- Cyberbullying: Challenges, Prevention, and Legal Responses; Cyberbullying: Legal, Ethical, and Regulatory Challenges; Cyberbullying, Digital Rights, and Platform Responsibility; Cyberbullying Among Children and Adolescents: Prevention and Intervention; Cyberbullying in the Era of Artificial Intelligence and Social Media.
- Online Abuse, Victimization, and Exploitation: Addressing critical vectors of digital violence, including cyberbullying, image-based sexual abuse (IBSA), grooming, and harassment among young people.

Submission

We welcome submissions addressing, but not limited to, the above-mentioned tracks from the legal, sociological, psychological, pedagogical, philological standpoints or a multidisciplinary approach.

Submission Instructions

All proposals must be submitted by email to **violenciadigitalvlc@gmail.com**. Submissions should be sent as a single PDF attachment, and the subject line of the email must read: **"ICDV 2026 Submission."**

The abstract should not exceed **500 words**.

The submission must include a **Title Page** containing the following information:

- Title of the paper;
- Author(s)' full name(s);
- Institutional affiliation(s);
- Contact email address(es);
- Selected track number;
- Four keywords.

Deadline: September 20, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. CET.

Organising Institution and Project Framework

The activity has been organised by Manon Eleonora Laganà under the supervision of the Scientific Committee as a follow-up initiative to the **FORTH** Student-Driven Project, *Preventing and Fighting University Digital Violence through Awareness, Student-Led Strategies and Academic Outreach Initiatives*. This congress is supported by the *Fora de Classe* funding programme of the University of Valencia, Office of the Vice-Rector for

Students, Educational Transformation and Lifelong Learning, Information and Student Engagement Office.

Congress Format and participation

The Congress will be held in a hybrid format on 13–14 October. Nevertheless, participants are strongly encouraged to attend in person in Valencia, as on-site participation will provide valuable opportunities for academic exchange, networking, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Participants wishing to attend the Congress or present a paper are kindly requested to complete the registration form below:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfae1TYxxKZDu2h8pLMYh6CVvIDB0E2CsSIQ-9GGGCA_6sXCw/viewform?usp=publish-editor.

Erasmus + Training Grant

Researchers and academic staff holding an employment contract or a permanent position at one of the member universities of the FORTHEM Alliance are eligible to apply for a FORTHEM Training Grant or the Erasmus Plus Higher Education (staff training) to support travel and accommodation expenses related to their participation. For further information regarding eligibility requirements and the application procedure, prospective applicants are invited to contact their respective local FORTHEM Office.

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