



DEEPPFAKE & DIGITAL GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Roundtable Discussion

This project, titled 'Strengthening Employer Response to Gender Based Violence', led by The Malta Chamber Foundation, is funded by the Commission on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence through the Together We Empower programme.

In collaboration with



This roundtable discussion, organised by The Malta Chamber on deepfake technologies and gender-based violence as part of its initiative, is funded by the Commission on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence through the 'Together We Empower-A Future without Violence' programme.

The aim is to discuss the rapid rise of deepfakes and digital GBV, which disproportionately affect women and often manifest as harassment, blackmail, and non-consensual deepfake content.

The widespread availability of AI tools and online anonymity has made such abuses more common and harder to control. These issues harm victims personally and professionally, affect their participation in the workforce and public life, and undermine efforts towards equality and inclusion.

The event seeks to bring together key stakeholders from business, government, civil society, and technical fields to establish a structured, evidence-based platform for dialogue, promote national legislation on deepfakes, and encourage coordinated sectoral responses.

AGENDA

09:00 – Registration

09:30 – Welcome Speech by Mrs Rachel Bondi Attard, Head of Media & Comms. Strategy, The Malta Chamber

09:40 – Welcome Speech by the Commission on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence

09:45 – Positive Obligations of States and risk assessment for the protection of victims of gender-based violence under the ECHR - Madam Justice Lorraine Schembri Orland, Maltese judge at the European Court of Human Rights

10:15 – Effects of AI-enabled disinformation on women leaders – Ms Naja Bentzen, Disinformation Analyst and author of the policy brief ‘Women in the age of AI-enabled disinformation’

10:45 – Coffee Break

11:00 – Is Law the Answer? – Dr Antonio Ghio, Partner at Fenech & Fenech Advocates and Head, TMT & IP Law Departments

11:30 – Non-consensual intimate image (NCII) abuse: examining harms, stigmatisation, and tech platforms’ role in distribution – Dr Sophie Nightingale, Senior Lecturer in Psychology, Lancaster University

12:00 – Networking Lunch



Rachel Bondi
Attard, Head of
Media & Comms
Strategist, The
Malta Chamber

Rachel Attard holds an Honours degree in Sociology from the University of Malta. She began her career in journalism with RTK and Gensna, later becoming executive producer of Bondiplus and Editor-in-Chief of The Malta Independent, where she also presented Indepth.

In 2019, she transitioned into PR, strategy, and communications, working with MFSA and the Commissioner for Standards. Today, she is Head of Media and Communication Strategist at The Malta Chamber of Commerce.



Judge Lorraine
Schembri Orland

Lorraine Schembri Orland, LL.D., M.Jur. (Eur.Law), is a Judge of the European Court of Human Rights elected for Malta since 2019 and currently Vice president of Section IV of the Court. She previously served as a Judge of the superior courts in Malta between 2012-19.

Former posts included Member of the Executive Committee of the Malta Chamber of Advocates, President of the National Council of Women, Member of the Executive of the Conseil International des Femmes (CIF), Vice-Chairperson of the Commission for the Advancement of Women, Chairperson Action Committee on Violence Against Women, Expert Advisor to the Commonwealth Secretariat entrusted with the drafting of a Plan of Action on Women and Development for the Commonwealth, Member of the National Consultative Committee on Bioethics.

Prior to her appointment to the Bench, Judge Schembri Orland was an experienced litigator specialising in the field of family law and was also a member of reform commissions on the Civil Code, Family Law, Domestic Violence and on Gender Equality.



Naja Bentzen,
Policy Analyst in
the Members'
Research
Service of the
EPRS

Naja Bentzen is a policy analyst in the Members' Research Service of the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS). She works on information manipulation, information integrity and the European Democracy Shield.

Between 2020 and 2024, Naja worked in the European Parliament Liaison Office in Washington DC, focusing on democracy and disinformation. While in Washington, she also held a fellowship at the German Marshall Fund US and George Mason University.

Prior to joining the European Parliament, Naja worked as an open source analyst in Vienna, Austria. Previously, she has worked as a foreign correspondent for Scandinavia's leading weekly, Weekendavisen, covering Central and south-eastern Europe.



Dr. Antonio Ghio,
Partner at
Fenech & Fenech
Advocates

Dr. Antonio Ghio a partner at Fenech & Fenech Advocates and heads its TMT Law Department. He destroyed his first computer at the age of seven. For the past 25 years his work has exclusively revolved around technology and law, both inside and outside the courtroom.

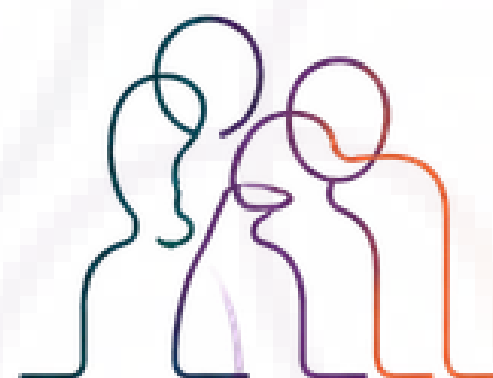
Ghio is a founding member and current President of the Malta Information Technology Law Association – MITLA and a Fellow of the European Law Institute. Ghio lectures ICT law, Cyber Crime and DLT Law at the University of Malta and held the position of Chairman of the Malta Communications Authority where he also served as EU Digital Champion for Malta.



Dr Sophie
Nightingale,
Senior Lecturer
in Psychology,
Lancaster
University

Deepfake technology can be used to create fake content of anyone doing anything. Although this technology can have positive uses, it inevitably invites nefarious exploitation with harms including political disinformation, financial fraud, and the creation of non-consensual intimate imagery (NCII)—which disproportionately affects women and girls. I will discuss three main areas of my research on NCII abuse examining: 1) victim-survivors' experience of harm and their interactions with police and support services; 2) victim blame and perceived harm towards those targeted in AI-generated NCII; 3) the proliferation of AI-generated NCII online and the role of internet infrastructure in facilitating its sharing.

Sophie is a Senior Lecturer in Psychology at Lancaster University. Her research interests focus on the intersection of technology with human cognition and behaviour, particularly in security, legal, and forensic contexts. She currently holds a UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship which involves a programme of work to investigate tech-facilitated gender-based violence—specifically the creation and sharing of non-consensual intimate imagery.



Strengthening
Employer Response
— to —
Gender Based Violence



THE MALTA CHAMBER

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