

CONCEPT NOTE

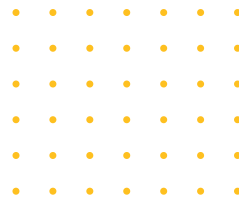
National Dialogue on Technology Facilitated Violence and Violence against Women in Election



Women in Law & Development in Africa



Venue: TBD, Dar es Salaam
Date: October 03, 2025



Background

Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF Tanzania) stands at the forefront of the feminist struggle for justice using the law as a powerful tool to dismantle patriarchy and empower women in all their diversities. For over three decades, WiLDAF has championed gender-responsive laws, reshaped policies, and driven reforms that place women's voices and rights at the heart of national agendas. From rural villages to parliamentary halls, our conviction is clear: legal empowerment is not merely about access to justice: it is about transforming systems, shifting power relations, and changing lived realities.

Notably, Tanzania became the first African country to legally recognize and address gender-based violence in elections a milestone achieved through advocacy in which WiLDAF played a central role. This groundbreaking success reaffirmed the organization's role as a key actor in ensuring that political participation is free from violence and intimidation.

Anchored in feminist principles, WiLDAF employs strategic litigation, public hearings, grassroots mobilization, and coalition building to challenge systemic inequalities. By intentionally engaging young women, women with disabilities, and other marginalized groups, the organization ensures that movements for justice and equality are inclusive and intersectional.

Today, as political engagement increasingly shifts to digital platforms, women are confronted with new forms of violence that threaten to erode hard-won gains in participation and leadership. Technology-facilitated violence including online harassment, cyberstalking, disinformation, and coordinated digital attacks has emerged as a barrier to women's full and equal participation in public and political life. This evolution underscores the urgency of safeguarding women's rights, protecting democratic spaces, and strengthening inclusive governance.

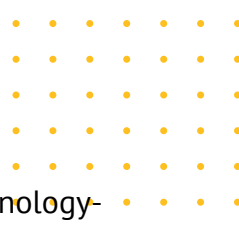


Data highlights illustrate the scale of the problem:

- Globally, one in three women experiences some form of online harassment.
- A 2023 Violence Against Women survey revealed that 5% of women and 10% of adolescent girls have experienced Technology Facilitated GBV
- In Tanzania, media reports and anecdotal evidence show a rising trend of digital threats against women, particularly those in political spaces.

While the National Election Act, 2024 (Section 135) criminalizes electoral offenses, enforcement gaps remain especially in addressing technology-facilitated violence. This gap leaves women candidates, leaders, and activists vulnerable to online abuse and intimidation during electoral processes.

At both global and national levels, there is growing recognition of the urgency to address this issue. The 2025 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence Global Theme: “UNITE: End Digital Violence Against Women and Girls” underscores the global call to action, while the National Theme adopted by the GBV MKUKI Coalition: “End Digital and all forms of Gender Based Violence to safeguard communities” emphasizes the local relevance of tackling digital and other forms of violence to protect communities, especially during elections.



Against this backdrop, WILDAF proposes convening a National Dialogue on Technology-Facilitated Violence and Violence Against Women in Elections. The Dialogue will serve as a platform to raise awareness, strengthen enforcement mechanisms, and establish referral pathways for survivors of digital violence. It will encourage women to safely report cases, promote accountability, and foster safe and inclusive participation in democratic and political processes.

Objectives

1. Raise awareness on digital violence and other forms of GBV against women in elections, highlighting their impact on democratic participation.
2. Examine the enforcement of Section 135 of the National Election Act, 2024, focusing on technology-facilitated violence.
3. Explore and validate referral pathways and reporting mechanisms for digital and technology-facilitated GBV cases.
4. Strengthen multi-stakeholder collaboration to prevent and respond to digital and electoral-related violence against women.
5. Generate actionable recommendations for policy, enforcement, and advocacy aligned with both the global theme and the GBV MKUKI Coalition national theme.

Expected Outcome

- Shared understanding of digital violence, GBV, and barriers to women's electoral participation.
- Draft guidelines and enforcement mechanisms for Section 135 validated by stakeholders. (TBD)
- Established referral pathways for reporting digital violence and GBV cases.
- Strengthened multi-stakeholder partnerships among government, EMBs, CSOs, WROs, media, and development partners.
- Advocacy roadmap aligned with both global and national 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence Theme.

Participants

The National Dialogue will bring together 150 Participants. Participants in the National Dialogue will include government representatives from key ministries such as Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, and Law Enforcement Bodies (Tanzania Police Force, PCCB); Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs); Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Women's Rights Organizations (WROs); media houses and journalists; development partners; as well as youth and community leaders. In addition, the dialogue will bring together representatives from the Tanzania Women Judges Association, the Tanzania Female Police Network, media organizations, organizations of women with disabilities (WWDs), and the Women, Peace and Security pillar of the African Women Leaders Network.

Date and Venue

The National Dialogue is scheduled to take place in 03rd October, 2025 in Dar es salaam, Tanzania.



AGENDA

National Dialogue on Violence Against Women in Elections (VAWE)

Times	Session	Facilitator/Speaker(s)
08:00-08:30	Registration and Arrival of Participants	Secretariat
08:30-9:30	Networking and self-care	All
09:30-09:45	Opening Remarks	WiLDAF GOVERNMENT GIZ UN WOMEN
09:45-10:15	Presentation: Understanding Digital Violence and Other Forms of Electoral Violence	Expert Speaker – Professor Bernadetha Killian (UDSM)
10:15-10:30	Q&A	Moderator-Lulu Urrio/Rose Mwalongo
10:30-11:30	Panel Discussion: Legal Framework and Enforcement of Section 135	Panelists: President Boniface Mwabukusi-TLS ACP Faidha Suleiman-TPF (Police Gender Desks) Judge- TAWJA -(TBD) Office of DPP- (TBD) Moderator- Dr Victoria Lihiru (OU)
11:30 – 12:00	Q&A	All
12:00 – 12:50	Panel Discussion: Role of Media and WROs in Preventing VAWE	TAMWA TAWLA LHRC MEDIA CONVERGENCE
12:50 – 13:10	Q&A	All
13:10-14:10	Health Break	All
14:10 – 15:00	Plenary Session: Multi-stakeholder Discussion on addressing Digital and VAWE	WiLDAF
15:00-16:00	Adoption of Recommendation and Way Forward	All
16:00-16:30	Closing Remarks	UN Women WiLDAF