

## **Gendered disinformation is consolidating as a threat to democracy and security in the Americas, OAS warns**

*-The CIM/OAS launched the "Practical Guide to Responding to Gendered Disinformation" and announced a virtual course to be launched soon on the Educational Portal of the Americas, with the support of the Governments of Canada and Latvia.*

*-Authorities and specialists underscored that these campaigns seek to silence women's leadership, discourage their participation and normalize violence, pointing to an urgent need to strengthen institutional and citizen capacities to respond with method and coordination.*

Washington, D.C., December 8, 2025. On Monday, the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organization of American States (OAS) held the seminar "Responding to gendered disinformation: recommendations and practical tools," a high-level event aimed at deepening the analysis of the phenomenon and presenting concrete tools to address it.

In the framework of the meeting, the CIM launched the Responding to Gendered Disinformation: A Practical Guide , developed with the support of the governments of Canada and Latvia, and announced a new virtual course that will soon be launched on the OAS Educational Portal of the Americas.

During his opening remarks, OAS Secretary General Albert R. Ramdin underscored that gendered disinformation deepens harmful stereotypes, increases the risk of violence and weakens democratic integrity by delegitimizing leadership and reducing the diversity of voices. He also emphasized the strategic importance of partnerships with the governments of Canada and Latvia to strengthen the work of the CIM on key issues such as science, technology, peace and security.

Congresswoman Irma Kalniņa, vice president of the Saeima Committee on Foreign Affairs, noted that the rise of digital sensationalism calls for greater resilience and media literacy. She also stressed that the defense of truth and quality information are essential for democratic societies.

Ambassador Stuart Savage, Permanent Representative of Canada to the OAS, stressed that gendered disinformation erodes public trust and discourages women's civic participation, which directly affects equality in decision-making.

In the first block of the panel on the evolution and impacts of gender disinformation, the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Opinion, Irene Khan, warned that the business models of digital platforms facilitate the propagation of harmful content and that the lack of security policies, together with the accelerated advance of artificial intelligence,

aggravate gendered disinformation. She also expressed the need for States to invest in women's empowerment and autonomy as a central part of the response.

The Executive Secretary of the CIM, Alejandra Mora Mora, emphasized that gendered disinformation directly impacts the leadership of women politicians and defenders, and weakens the agenda for equality. She warned that these campaigns can hollow out reforms, intimidate and silence voices that should participate in public deliberation, which constitutes a threat to democracy and governance. He recalled that while this is not a new phenomenon, its reach and speed have been amplified by the internet and social media.

The event included a panel moderated by Hilary Anderson, CIM Senior Specialist, which brought together Cristóbal Fernández, Chief of the Electoral Technical Cooperation Section of the OAS; Lauren Van Metre, President of Women in International Security (WIIS); Karla Velasco, of the Association for Progressive Communications; and Sandra Chaher, President of Communication for Equality. During the dialogue, different aspects of gendered disinformation were analyzed and discussed in depth, including its effects on electoral processes, security, journalism, social participation and activism, multilateral agendas, and digital and political violence against women.

The panelists closed with a series of concrete recommendations aimed at strengthening feminist journalism, a more active role for the media in moderating content, the OAS as a coordinating body for multisectoral dialogue on this issue, the role of political parties in supporting women politicians facing gendered disinformation, and the positive role of legislation in fostering information and media literacy.

CIM launched Responding to Gendered Disinformation: A Practical Guide , a knowledge and media literacy tool to identify this phenomenon and apply practical strategies to respond safely and effectively. It also announced that a specialized virtual course will soon be available, aimed at strengthening the technical and strategic capacities of civil society organizations, institutions and citizens in general to face this challenge in the region.

[Download Responding to Gendered Disinformation: A Practical Guide](#) .  
[Relive the event here](#).

#### **\*INFORMATION FOR JOURNALISTS**

##### **About the CIM/OAS**

*The Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organization of American States (OAS) is the principal hemispheric forum dedicated to the promotion and protection of women's human rights and to gender equality. Founded in 1928, the CIM has been a pioneer in identifying the barriers faced by women in the social, economic and political spheres, and in formulating policies and programs to overcome them. CIM works in collaboration with OAS Member States, civil society organizations and other key actors to advance the gender equality agenda in the Americas.*

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