

Chronically Misogynistic: The Impact of Technology on Gendered Violence

Elliot Rodger, a self-proclaimed “incel” (involuntary celibate), killed 6 people and injured 14 others on May 23, 2014, calling it his “Day of Retribution.”¹ In his manifesto, he wrote about women, stating, “They denied me a happy life, and in return I will take away all of their lives,” a sentiment often echoed by his peers within the “manosphere.”²

The “manosphere” is a loosely defined online community encompassing forums, blogs, social media apps, and websites promoting misogyny, gender violence, and conservative masculinity. Its origins can be traced back to male activist groups galvanized by a perceived discrimination against men and attacks on masculinity.³ These groups eventually coalesced into a network centered around masculinity, antifeminism, and misogyny. The manosphere became popularized in the early 2010s, fueled by the rise of social media. Influencers such as Andrew Tate began using shock value to leverage the algorithms of social platforms, which rewards content that receives a high number of engagements.⁴ This content is then pushed exponentially to other users, leading to increased visibility of misogynistic content on people’s feeds.

Male misogynists exploit the anonymity of mediums such as social media, surveillance tech, and artificial intelligence to prey on women. Women are still disproportionately victims of sexual harassment, stalking, doxxing (publishing private information without consent), etc.⁵ As it is easier to conceal one’s identity online, most perpetrators never get caught or face repercussions. “Manosphere” members encourage each other to inflict physical and sexual violence on women in real life. The International Committee of the Red Cross reports that acts of violence from assault to harassment “originate with technology, but inevitably shift into the physical world, resulting in shame, paranoia, stalking, rape, and in some cases honor killing.”⁶ A recent example of this is a Washington Post investigation into the misuse of Flock Safety Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) devices; at least 50 police officers have already been charged or accused of using ALPRs to stalk women. In California, former deputy Alexander Vanny was convicted by a jury after it was found he used Flock cameras to fuel “a months-long

¹ Elisabeth Ponsot, “Student suspect posted video rant, wrote manifesto before rampage,” *PBS News*, May 25, 2014, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/student-suspect-posted-video-wrote-manifesto-rampage>.

² Elliot Rodger, “My Twisted World: The Story of Elliot Rodger,” *New York Times*, May 25, 2014, <https://nyti.ms/3OZmgKe>.

³ Horta Ribeiro, Manoel, Jeremy Blackburn, Barry Bradlyn, et al. 2021. “The Evolution of the Manosphere Across the Web.” *Proceedings of the International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media* 15 (1): 196–207. <https://doi.org/10.1609/icwsm.v15i1.18053>.

⁴ “Andrew Tate,” *Extremists, Groups, & Ideologies*, The Southern Poverty Law Center, <https://www.splcenter.org/resources/extremist-files/andrew-tate/>

⁵ Sen Nguyen, “What is doxxing and what can you do if you are doxxed,” *CNN*, February 4, 2023, <https://www.cnn.com/2023/02/07/world/what-is-doxxing-explainer-as-equals-intl-cmd>

⁶ Megan O’Brien, “Online violence: real life impacts on women and girls in humanitarian settings,” *International Committee of the Red Cross*, January 4, 2024, <https://blogs.icrc.org/law-and-policy/2024/01/04/online-violence-real-life-impacts-women-girls-humanitarian-settings/>

campaign of ‘stalking’ and ‘humiliating’ his former fiancée” including following her around town and installing hidden cameras.⁷

Technology-facilitated gender violence is now exacerbated as generative AI expands across the world. In late 2025, the UN found that 95% of AI deepfakes are nonconsensual pornography with 99% of the subjects being women.⁸ Additionally, as generative AI is trained on large amounts of biased data, the inherent misogyny is reflected in the responses AI gives. It reinforces harmful gender stereotypes, often impacting real-world scenarios such as hiring decisions, where men are favored.⁹ Without proper regulations of these new technologies, women across the world will have to continue to live in fear for their own safety, autonomy, and livelihoods.

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⁷ Drew Harwell et al., “How rogue officers turned a nationwide camera network into a tool for stalking,” *The Washington Post*, August 2, 2026, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2026/08/02/how-police-officers-used-vast-network-cameras-spy-their-exes/>.

⁸ Ana Carmo, “AI and anonymity fuel surge in digital violence against women,” *UN News*, November 20, 2025, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/11/1166411>.

⁹ Ho, Jerlyn Q. H., Andree Hartanto, Andrew Koh, and Nadyanna M. Majeed. 2025. “Gender Biases Within Artificial Intelligence and ChatGPT: Evidence, Sources of Biases and Solutions.” *Computers in Human Behavior: Artificial Humans* 4 (March): 100145. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chbah.2025.100145>.