

Women and cybercrime in Kenya

the dark side of ICTS

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Research team
Alice Munyua alice@apc.org
Muriuki Mureithi – mureithi@summitstrategies.co.ke
Grace Githaiga- ggithaiga@hotmail.com



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Research objectives

- Investigate the prevalence of cyber crime against women
- Explore how cyber crime affects women differently.
- Examine measures to address cyber crimes toward women (what are the measures in place or being developed by authorities, regulators, globally etc).
- Determine mechanisms of engaging stakeholders to begin to address cyber crime against women.

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Is it real?



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India

In June 2000, a man was arrested by the Delhi police for **assuming the identity of his ex-employer's wife in a chat channel** and encouraging others to telephone. The victim who was getting obscene telephone calls at night from strangers made a complaint to the police. The accused was then located "on line" in the chat room under the identity of the victim and later traced through the telephone number used by him to access the internet (Mishra, 2001).

USA

In the first successful prosecution under California's new cyber stalking law, prosecutors in the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office obtained a guilty plea from **a 50-year-old former security guard who used the Internet to solicit the rape of a woman who rejected his romantic advances.** The defendant terrorized his 28-year-old victim by **impersonating** her in various **Internet chat rooms and online bulletin boards**, where he posted, along with her telephone number and address, messages that she fantasized of being raped. On at least six occasions, sometimes in the middle of the night, men knocked on the woman's door saying they wanted to rape her. The former security guard pleaded guilty in April 1999 to one count of **stalking** and three counts of solicitation of **sexual assault.** Source; USDoJ (99)



Perpetrators world

A literature glimpse



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Defining cybercrime

- Cybercrime can broadly be defined as any activity on the internet that offends human sensibilities.
- categories ;
 - Against government - e.g. cyber warfare
 - Against property - ICT based systems, Denial of service
 - Against the person
 - child - child phonography
 - *Women - harassment, cyber stalking*

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The crime



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- Cyber harassment
 - can be sexual, racial, religious, etc.
 - results in violation of privacy which the cyberspace grants to a woman
- cyber stalking
 - online harassment using Internet, e-mail, or other electronic communications devices to stalk another person

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Tools of choice



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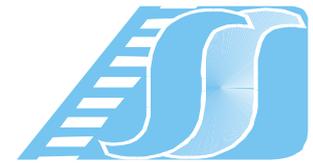
- Email Stalking: Direct communication through email.
- Internet Stalking: Global communication through the Internet
- Computer Stalking: Unauthorized control of another person's computer

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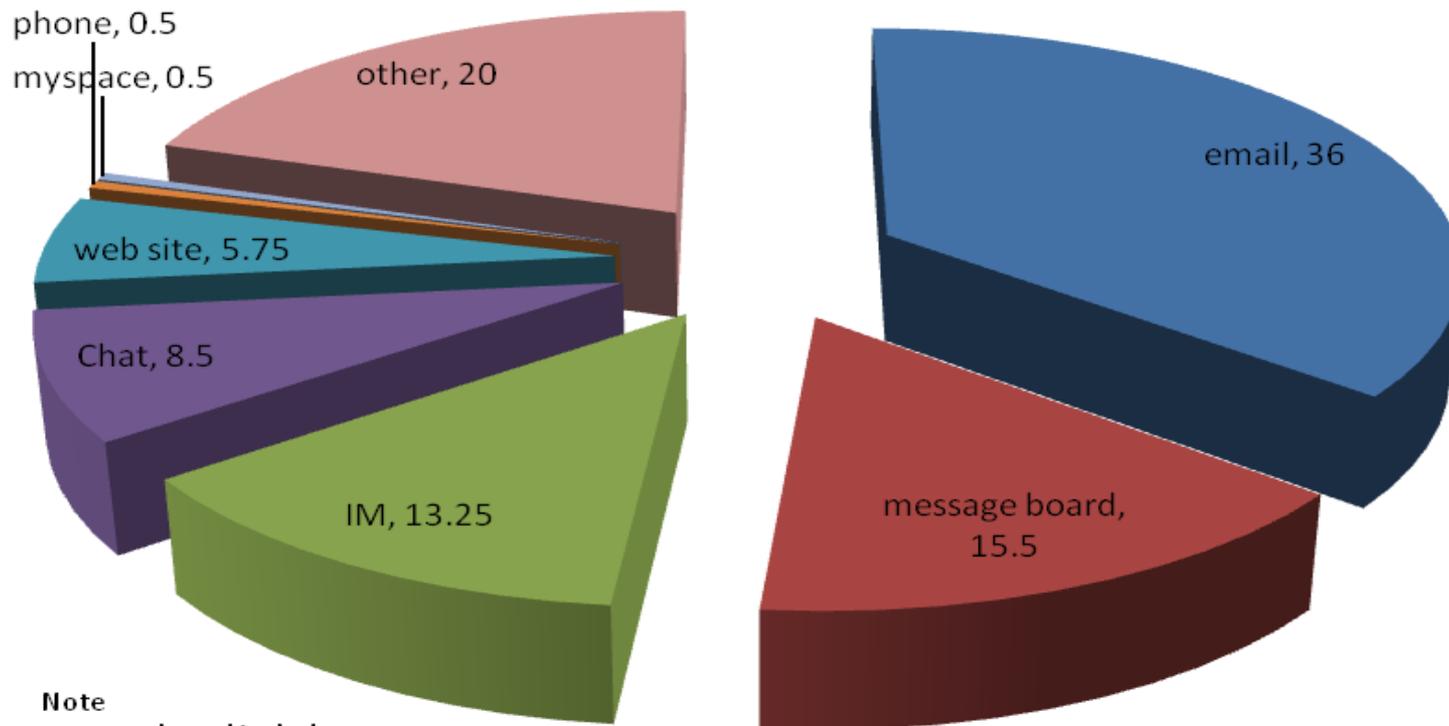
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How did it begin



Note

message board includes groups, usenets

other - include auctions, personals, online dating, virus, hacking, greeting cards, gaming, mailing list, webcam, blogs, guestbook, spyware, trojans, etc

The perpetrators



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%	Harasser	Victim
Men	49.5	22
Women	28.5	72.5
Multiple gangs	1.5	
Unknown	21.5	5.5

WHOA – 2000-2008

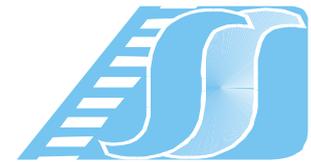
- In 49% of the cases, the victim knew the harasser who was an ex (34%), friend (14.25%) or online acquaintance (17.25%).
- *In 71% of the cases, the cyber stalking did not result in offline threats. Nevertheless the 29% offline threats is significant representing one in three cases.*

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Typology of stalkers

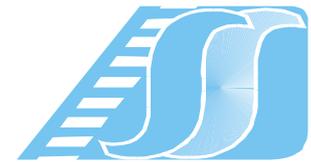
- *The rejected stalker*
 - has had an intimate relationship with the victim
 - behavior is characterized by a mixture of revenge and desire for reconciliation.
- *Intimacy seekers*
 - attempt to bring to fruition a relationship with a person who has engaged their desires, and whom they may also mistakenly perceive reciprocates that affection.
- *Incompetent suitors*
 - seek to develop relationships but they fail to abide by social rules governing courtship.
 - are usually intellectually limited and/or socially incompetent.
- *Resentful stalkers*
 - harass their victims with the specific intention of causing fear and apprehension out of a desire for retribution for some actual or supposed injury or humiliation.
- *Predatory stalkers*
 - stalk for information gathering purposes or fantasy rehearsal in preparation for a sexual attack

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Motivation of stalkers

- **Sexual Harassment:**
 - Most common and reflects offline experience
 - anonymous communications also makes it easier to be a stalker on the internet than a stalker offline;
- **Obsession for love:**
 - this could begin from an online romance, where one person halts the romance and the rejected lover cannot accept the end of the relationship.
- **Revenge and Hate:**
 - this could be an argument that has gone out of hand, leading eventually to a hate and revenge relationship.
 - stalker may be using the net to let out his/her frustrations online.
- **Ego and Power Trips:**
 - stalkers online showing off their skills to themselves and their friends.
 - have no specific grudge but rather using you to 'show-off' their power to their friends or doing it just for fun and you

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Prevalence and distribution



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- University study
 - 13% stalked
- Anecdotal evidence –
 - global phenomena
- Initial indication
 - Happening in Kenya and East Africa

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Thank you

For enquiries

Alice Munyua alice@apc.org

Muriuki Mureithi – mureithi@summitstrategies.co.ke

Grace Githaiga- ggithaiga@hotmail.com



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