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CyborgFeminista against digital violence

Basic guide to fight digital gender-based violence in Paraguay

Since 2016 at TEDIC we have been exploring the intersection of gender and technology through the CyborgFeminista program. Thanks to the support of the World Wide Web Foundation Fund, we were able to conduct an exploratory study on digital gender violence in Paraguay. In this first assessment, we identified how structural violence is transferred to virtual relationships, and how women access and use the Internet in Paraguay.

Download the research here: **https://www.tedic.org/investigacion**

With this workshop *toolbox*, we offer reflections on open-ended questions on the relationship between digital gender-based violence and technology.

The contents of this toolbox invites to play, connect, imagine and reflect on digital gender-based violence, through brief and in-depth questions.

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Take your time to enjoy the illustrations. Dwell on the details of the illustrations. When you finish looking at them, read the questions on the back and think of examples to share with your workshop group.
If you want to think seriously about digital violence, remember the following concepts:

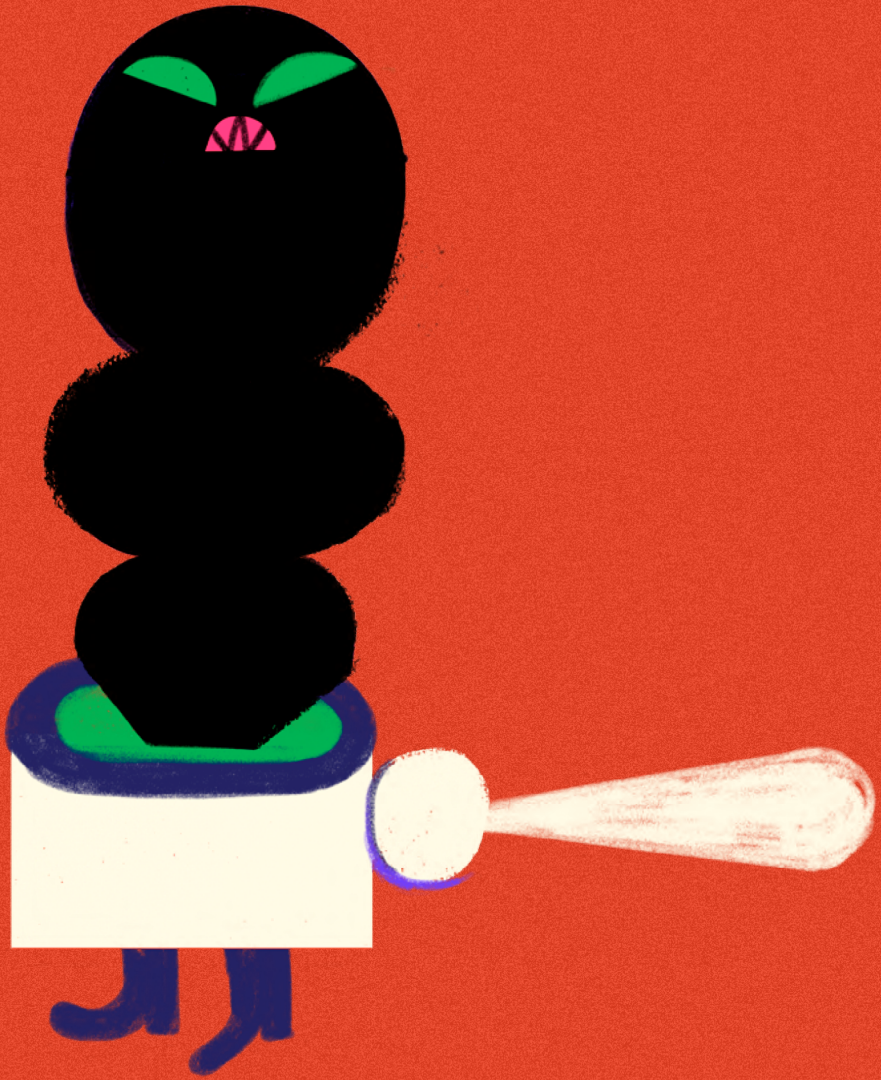
- **Gender digital gap:** refers to the inequality of access to ICTs (information and communication technologies) that exists between individuals, groups, companies or certain geographic areas. For example, the gap faced by women and minority groups are additional barriers to using the Internet and fully participating online, freely and safely.

- **Digital gender-based violence:** acts of gender-based violence that are committed, incited or aggravated, in whole or in part, through the use of ICTs.

- **Dissemination of non-consensual intimate images:** is the publication of content, generally images with explicit or suggestive sexual content, without the consent of the individual depicted and that were taken within a private environment. Images with sexual content are typically distributed in mass media such as the Internet, both by ex-partners and by strangers with unauthorized access to intimate content of the victim.

- **Sexting:** it is the act of sharing images or other intimate personal content of an erotic or sensual nature over the Internet. It is part of sexual and reproductive rights.

- **Consent:** is a legal concept that refers to the externalization of the will between 2 or more people to accept rights and obligations. Consent plays a fundamental role in the framework of the autonomy of will.



Some types of digital gender-based violence:

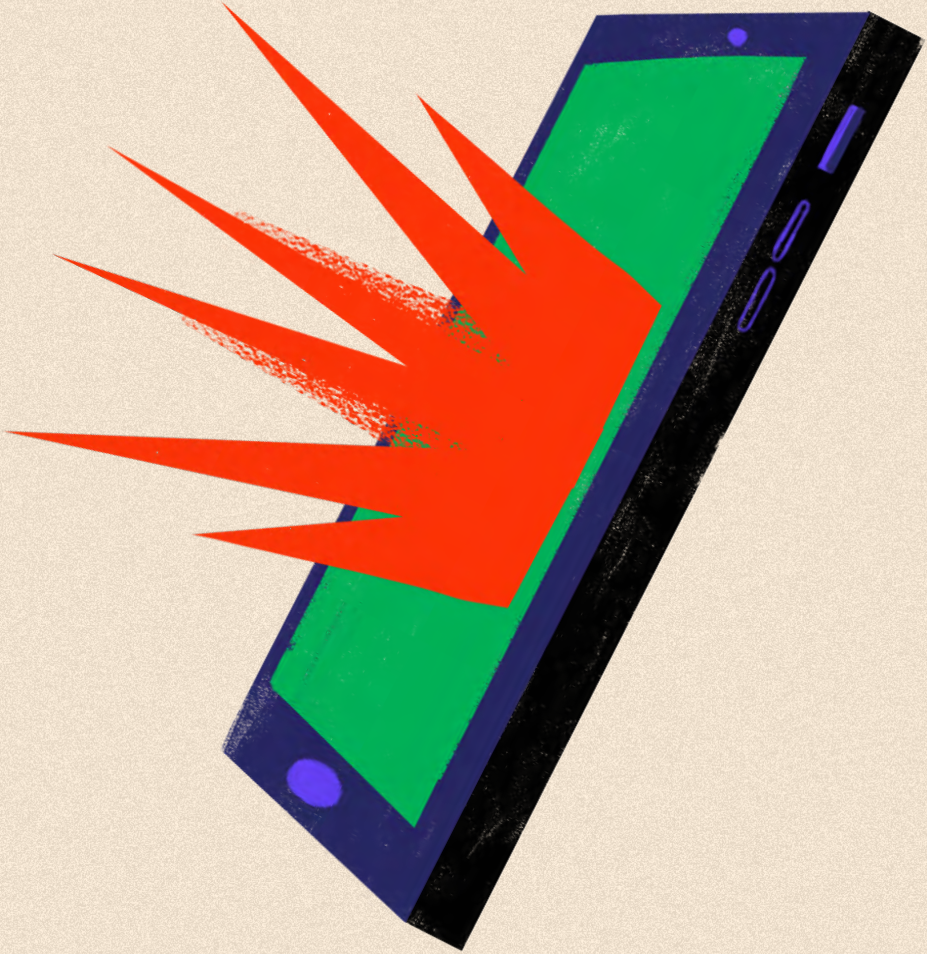
1. **Hate speech:** form of communication that reflects cultural models that incite violence, either through comments, insults, or verbal aggression.

2. **Threats:** Speech and content (verbal or written, in images, etc.) with an aggressive and/or threatening tone. Direct threats of violence of any kind.

3. **Extortion:** forcing a person to act according to the will of another person, through threats and intimidation.

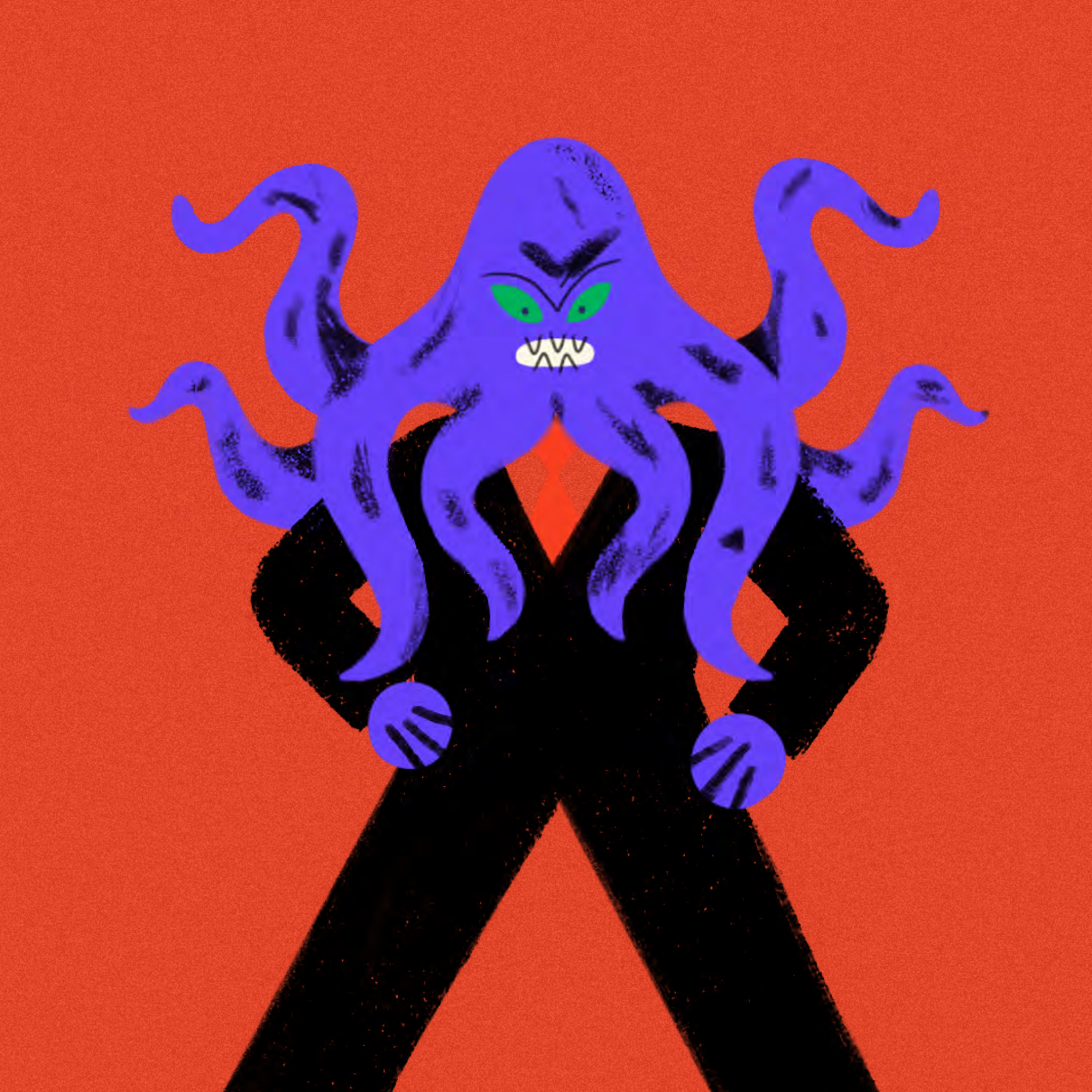
4. **Stalking:** constant monitoring of a person's online activities, daily life, or information, whether public or private.

5. **Harassment:** repeated and unsolicited acts against a person or organization that are perceived as intrusive or threatening.



Here are a few facts that may help you start the conversation about digital gender-based violence.

- **Victim** How is a victim defined? Can I be a victim and a perpetrator at the same time? In digital violence, there must always be a victim? Who are usually the victims on the Internet and why? Can anyone be a victim of gender-based violence on the Internet?
- **Aggressor** What characteristics do you think an aggressor has? Which of the illustrations of all the pictures seems more violent to you? Is it an adult or an animal? Are children violent people? Why? Can you be a violent person? Can there be violence without an aggressor? Is digital gender-based violence the responsibility of natural persons exclusively or also of legal persons (State, companies)?
- **Power** Is there a power relationship between the aggressors and the victims? Do they know each other or are they strangers? Does one person have power over another? Does one person have power over his or her own body? If a girl were your daughter, would you have power over her and her body? Can she sext? What rights do you have over her and what rights do you not have?
- **Purpose** Does violence serve a purpose? Are feminist protests that paint walls violent? Why? Do the aggressors have any motivation to exercise violence? What is behind each violence: fun, insecurity, sanction, resistance, revenge? Is it good to be a violent person in order to do good for more people?
- **Time scale** Does the duration of digital violence matter? The scale? Examples: online harassment, doxxing, social account hacking, surveillance, data exploitation, dissemination of non-consensual intimate image, etc. Is physical violence the same as digital violence? Why?
- **Responsibility** Who is responsible for violence in a power relationship? If the aggressor acts under the orders of another person, is he or she responsible? Whose responsibility is it to take care of your life on the Internet? Is the victim responsible for punishment or control? Is a child responsible for his or her life on the Internet?
- **Consequences of digital violence** What are the consequences of digital violence? How do the consequences of digital violence differ from those of physical violence? Does the perpetrator know the consequences of digital violence?
- **Choice** Do aggressors choose to be violent? If the aggressor had no choice to act differently, can he or she be called violent?



Digital violence 1

Is digital violence different from physical violence? Why?

Did the victim of violence deserve punishment from the perpetrator?

Is digital violence understated as opposed to physical violence?

Is the duration and scale of digital violence important to identify it as violence?

Have you ever experienced a situation of digital gender-based violence? Share an example of your own or one that happened to someone else.

How do you identify digital gender-based violence? Is it easy? Why?

Does digital gender-based violence also affect men?

How many types of digital gender-based violence exist?

How to help a person who is a victim of digital violence?

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Digital gender gap 1

Do indigenous communities have the same access to and use of technology as women?

Do women have the same access to and use of technology as men?

At what age do women and men have their first mobile device? Is there a difference? Why?

Can you develop the same skills on a computer as on a mobile device? Example: programming, web design, editing a podcast, etc. Why?

Is an educational platform better for learning than in a WhatsApp group?

Can you work and learn on the Internet through your mobile device?

How do women and men connect to the Internet: prepaid, contract or limited data packages, only WIFI from work, neighbors, squares. Is there a difference?

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Non-consensual intimate image dissemination

¿Si fuera de un hombre el caso de la difusión de videos íntimos, tiene las mismas consecuencias que cuando le ocurre a una mujer?

Do you think it is the same as the violence that women receive when they wear short skirts in the street?

If the victim is from the LGBTQ+ community, will he have the same outcome as a heterosexual man?

Is this type of violence always between acquaintances, or also between strangers? Why?

Does a woman deserve to have her intimate videos broadcast as a form of punishment? Why?

Is there a power relationship between the aggressor and the victim?

Do you think he deserves to have his intimate videos disseminated without consent? Why? If it was with consent, would it be digital violence?

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Digital violence 2

Is it the same to say “fat and black people have to disappear” as “skinny and white people have to disappear”? Think about the relationship of power and hierarchies of aggressors and victims.

On social networks, when photographs of wedding parties of heterosexual couples are posted, the comments are of joy and good wishes. When photographs of wedding parties of homosexual couples are posted, many of the comments are hate speech. Why?

Is this type of violence always between acquaintances, or does it also involve strangers?

Is hate speech a form of free speech? Is it a limit or is it digital gender violence?

Can women and people from the LGBTQ+ community express their opinions on the same topics as men on the Internet? Are there differences? Why?

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Digital gender gap 2

Are there many women and diverse communities that code and build technology? Do you think it is important to include them so that there is no bias in technological solutions?

Is technology neutral? Why?

Are women afraid of technology?

Who programs technology?

Does digital violence deepen the gender digital gap?

Is self-censorship a consequence of gender digital violence? Why?

The contents on the Internet are mostly in English, does this exclude people who do not know this language? Is it a form of violence?

Why do you think there are fewer female students in computer engineering than in social sciences? Is it a conscious and voluntary choice?

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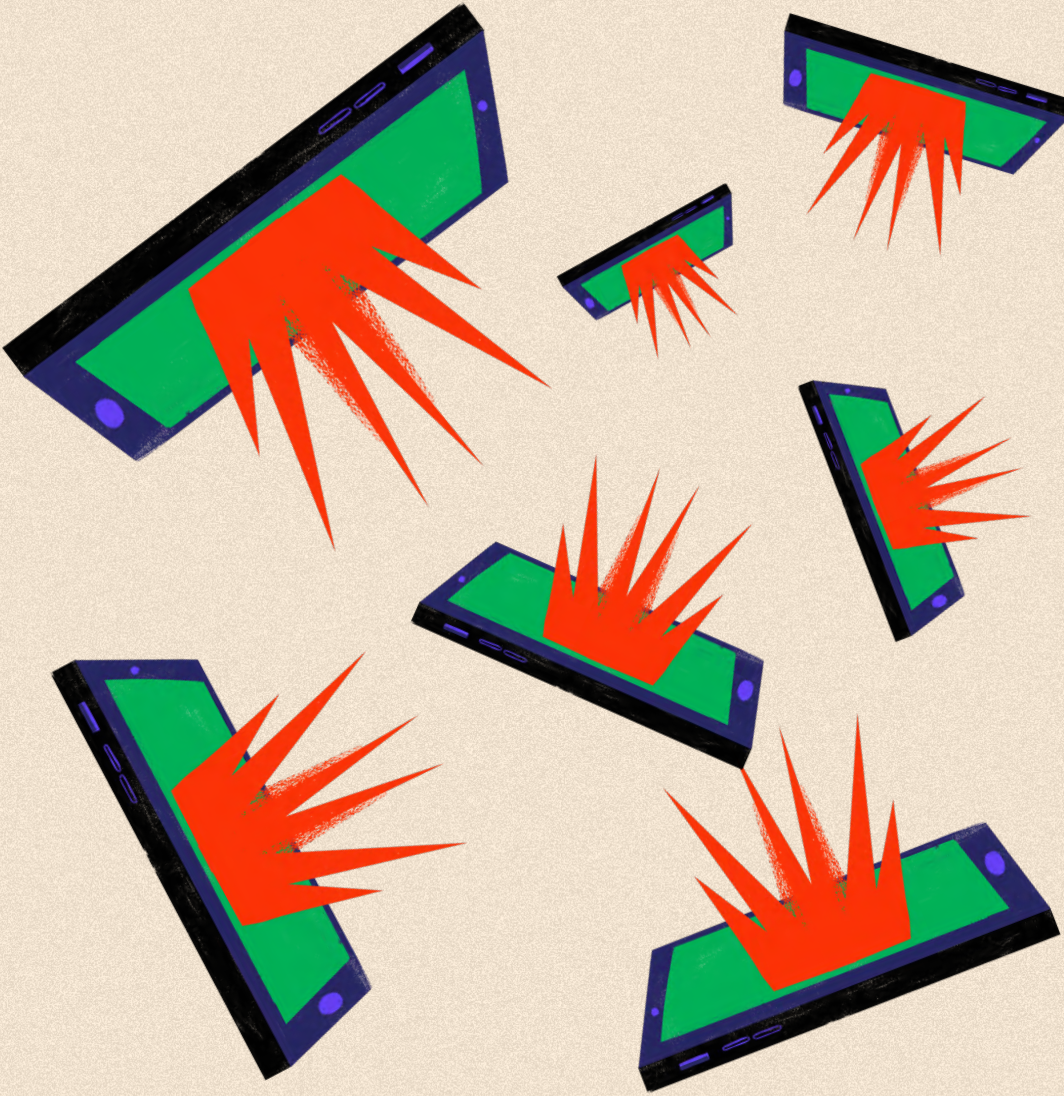

Sexting

How do you feel when you sext?

Is it your right?

Is it your fault if the other person spreads your nudes without consent?

Do you do this action under pressure, or with consent?

When you receive someone else's nudes without your consent is it harassment?

Is it violent to take intimate pictures of your body parts even when you don't feel comfortable?

Is it okay to save someone else's nudes on your mobile device without their consent?

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Regulations against digital gender violence

Why do you think there should be regulations to protect women and minority groups such as indigenous people, LGBTQ+ people, people with disabilities, people of African descent, etc.?

Are there regulations that protect women against violence? Do they include sections against gender-based digital violence?

How do you think digital violence should be fought? Whose responsibility is it: the State, individuals, companies? Why?

Are there regulations against all forms of discrimination?

What are the prevention measures that the State should take?

Should the aggressor be punished?

Do the victims of violence want the aggressors to be punished, or do they just want the aggression to stop?

What do you think about the victim's autonomy? If it is a child or adolescent, why?

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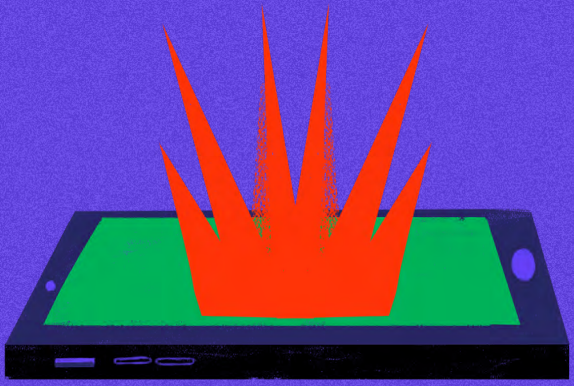

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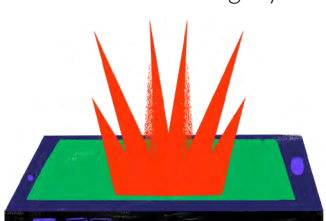

Resources

García & Sequera. TEDIC. 2021. Gender Violence on the Internet in Paraguay. https://www.tedic.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Violencia-Digital-TEDIC-WRO-2021-EN.pdf

Sequera. TEDIC. 2021. Non-consensual image in Paraguay. https://vwww.tedic.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Imagen-no-consentida-Tedic-web-1.pdf

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Tecnoresistencias
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Online Harassment (Acoso online)
https://acoso.online/es/

APC: Gender IT
https://www.apc.org/
https://www.genderit.org

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