To find out more about FIRN visit

https://www.apc.org/en/project/ firn-feminist-internet-research-network







feminist internet research network



DO YOU CARE

about access to the internet and to information, about the growth of movements led by women, black people, Dalits, transgender people, LGBTQIA groups, workers, environmentalists, activists, indigenous people and others against oppression and exclusion?

HAVE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW

faced violence and attacks online?

DO YOU BELIEVE

that the internet can enable free expression and empower people, but if used mostly by corporations and governments, it could increase all existing inequalities between people?

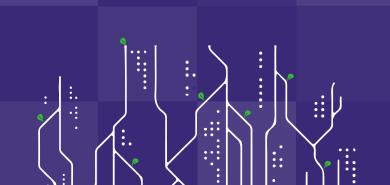
DO YOU FIND

people, community, love, solace and compassion through digital networks and connections?

DO YOU THINK

it's important to make the internet an exciting, limitless and safer space for women and people of diverse sexual orientations and gender expressions?

THEN LET'S MAKE THIS FEMINIST INTERNET REAL!



HHERE DID IT BEGINS

In 2017 APC WRP undertook a mapping study of the field of gender and digital technology, identifying gaps in knowledge and emerging areas. The findings emphasised that while there is a common understanding that gender is a critical consideration for realising an inclusive and rights-based information society, there are many vital feminist concerns that are notat all centred in the policy making, research and discourse around internet policy and rights.

This includes bodily autonomy, meaningful access to ICTs for women and other disaffected populations, analysis of gendered forms of labour and work, online violence, abuse, harassment of women, minorities, marginalised or vulnerable groups, and how datafication and algorithmic decision-making impact diverse and marginalised populations.

In October 2018, APC WRP sent out a call looking for research partners interested in doing research on the following areas: a) access (usage and infrastructure) and gender, b) big data and its impact on vulnerable populations, c) policy initiatives and movements that address online gender-based violence, and d) the precarious forms of gendered labour in the digital economy. Out of the varied and exceptional applications, eight projects were selected that form part of the first iteration of the network.

The APC Women's Rights Programme (APC WRP) is leading the project for creating a Feminist Internet Research Network (FIRN), with the support of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). This project uses research and knowledge towards the making of a feminist internet – this includes data-driven research that provides substantial evidence to drive change in policy and in discourse around internet rights, research in emerging areas and building the field of feminist

In the period 2019-2021, FIRN is engaged in research-related efforts to make the feminist internet and working towards change and transformation in gendered structures of power that exist online and onground.

internet research.

THE OVERARCHING RESEARCH QUESTIONS FOR THE NETWORK ARE:

- What forms of discrimination do women and people of diverse sexual orientations and gender expressions face because of social, political and economic changes driven by digital technology and the internet?
- What are the challenges and opportunities in policy, infrastructure and socio-cultural norms to the making of a feminist internet?