

# Transform Digital Spaces (Transform) Activity



## Overview

Transform is a three-year global pilot initiative, which will support practical approaches to preventing, mitigating, and responding to technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV), with a focus on addressing violence experienced by women in politics and public life.



## Context

Transform is being implemented during a period of increased need and opportunity to prevent, monitor, mitigate, and respond to TFGBV globally, especially against women in politics and public life (WIPPL). In addition to its harm to women who experience it, TFGBV dampens civic engagement and increases self- or externally imposed-censorship, resulting in a “chilling effect” on women’s civic participation which negatively impacts institutions, communities, and countries, and exacerbates the global trend of growing digital authoritarianism.



(image source: UNESCO World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Global Media Report 2017/2018 )

## Transform will:

- Seek to address the root causes of TFGBV.
- Strengthen capacity and collaboration between diverse local actors who monitor and analyze as well as prevent, mitigate, and respond to it.
- Create accountability mechanisms for those who enable and perpetrate TFGBV and reinforce positive incentives for those who seek to eliminate it.
- Catalyze public demand and support for equity-focused gender and digital citizenship norms and policy reform.

— Visit our website: [www.irex.org](http://www.irex.org) —

To learn more about IREX’s work and how you can partner with us contact us at [communications@irex.org](mailto:communications@irex.org)

## About IREX

IREX is a global development and education organization. We strive for a more just, prosperous, and inclusive world—where individuals reach their full potential, governments serve their people, and communities thrive. With an annual portfolio of \$100 million and 400 staff worldwide, we work with partners in more than 120 countries in four areas essential to progress: cultivating leaders, empowering youth, strengthening institutions, and increasing access to quality education and information.

## Transform's Pilot Approach

Transform will pilot its approach in three locations: Kenya, Georgia, and Guatemala.

Community Advisory Board: Transform activities will be supported and guided by a Community Advisory Board (CAB) of international and pilot-country based experts, practitioners, and survivors in the space of countering TFGBV. The purpose of the CAB is to ensure that Transform activities are sensitive to the local context, at the cutting edge of international best practices, and informed by co-creation.

### Objective 1

Increase capacity building resources (including training, education, and internal policies) and coordination between women public participation, digital democracy, anti-violence organizations, service and support organizations, and civic tech groups, advocacy coalitions and other stakeholders, to advance the safety, inclusion, participation, and leadership of women on digital platforms.

### Objective 2

Strengthen service and support organizations, relevant women public participation, digital democracy, and anti-violence organizations, and civic tech groups in delivering services to those impacted by TFGBV.

### Objective 3

Strengthen the evidence base for contextualized approaches to document, prevent, mitigate, and respond to addressing TFGBV.

## Program Partners

Transform is an Associate Award (AA) carried out under the Civil Society and Media-Strengthened Together and Advancing in New Directions (CSM-STAND) Asia EE LAC and Africa, MENA Leader with Associates Award (LWA). It is implemented by the CSM-STAND consortium, with Pact as the holder of the leader award and recipient of the AA, and IREX as implementing lead of this AA. CSM-STAND is a five-year, USAID funded LWA award that aims to foster independent civic forces; enhance civic engagement; and build vibrant, resilient, and self-reliant civil society and media sectors that cultivate more pluralistic, democratic societies.



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