

Weaponising Gender: Gendered Disinformation and Political Manipulation in Sri Lankan Social Media

About the Project

The Strengthening Resilience against Disinformation in Sri Lanka project is co-funded by the European Union and implemented by Democracy Reporting International and Factum. The project aims to reinforce Sri Lanka's democratic and electoral frameworks and protect human rights by prioritizing inclusivity and responsible political discourse on social media through monitoring and debunking online harmful content. Leveraging collaborative efforts of civil society organizations in Sri Lanka, this initiative capacitates fact-checkers and media outlets, creates counter-narratives, and strengthens the technical expertise of the Election Commission of Sri Lanka (ECSL).

Summary

Sri Lanka's online political discourse has increasingly become shaped by gendered hate speech, misogyny, homophobia, and disinformation campaigns designed to manipulate public opinion and polarize audiences. During politically sensitive periods, including elections and major policy debates, social media platforms have become spaces where political actors, supporters, influencers, and anonymous networks weaponize gender and sexuality to undermine political legitimacy, discredit opponents, and provoke emotional reactions among users.



For access to the full report, please contact Paffrel Media at

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