

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
(OHCHR)
Palais des Nations CH-1211 Geneva 10
Schweiz

WILDERS PLADS 8K
DK-1403 COPENHAGEN K
PHONE +45 3269 8888
DIRECT
CELL 4076 7473
AHK@HUMANRIGHTS.DK
HUMANRIGHTS.DK

DOC. NO. 17/00131-2

REPLY TO REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON GENDER DIGITAL DIVIDE

31 JANUARY 2017

The Danish Institute of Human Rights (DIHR) have received your request for information regarding the gender digital divide in Denmark the Danish Institute of Human Rights have following comments.

DIHR notes that there are no formal obstacles to hold back women from accessing the internet. Men and women in Denmark have equal access and use of the internet.¹ However, DIHR would like to point to a few significant differences in user patterns online.

DIHR conducted a survey in 2016 to investigate the tone in the public debate². The survey showed that people, who take part in the public debate, are often harassed. While both men and women experience offensive comments, the study shows that women are more exposed to hateful comments than men are. The survey also shows that women are more likely to experience offensive comments related to their sex. Furthermore, the study shows that hateful comments towards women are experienced as more severe than those against men are. Additionally, the study has shown that more women abstain from the public debate than men as a result of the harsh tone online.

1

<http://www.dst.dk/Site/Dst/Udgivelser/GetPubFile.aspx?id=15239&sid=it>

² The report has not yet been published. It will be available on 8 February 2017 on www.menneskeret.dk

Last year the Danish government issued an ethical code of conduct³ in relation to sharing of private pictures online to counteract sexism on the internet.

There are also noteworthy differences in behavioral use of cellphones between the sexes. A study has shown that men and women equally use traditional functions on their phones, such as SMS, MMS and Camera. However, men use their phones significantly more than women to go online, to download apps, to use GPS, to use Bluetooth and to synchronize their calendars.⁴

A study also shows that men and women have different shopping patterns online. The sexes have equal consumer patterns in the most regard; however, online shopping related to electronics, computer hardware, financial transactions and video and computer games is vastly dominated by men.⁵

Yours sincerely,

Ask Hesby Krogh

TEAMLEADER, GENDER EQUALITY

3

http://www.emu.dk/sites/default/files/UVM_Etisk_kodeks_DIGITAL2%20%282%29.pdf

4

<http://www.dst.dk/Site/Dst/Udgivelser/GetPubFile.aspx?id=15239&sid=it>

5

<http://www.dst.dk/Site/Dst/Udgivelser/GetPubFile.aspx?id=15239&sid=it>