On social networking site(s), how frequently are you a target of harassment, discrimination, or violence?

- Very frequently: 2%
- Frequently: 3%
- Occasionally: 12%
- Rarely: 14%
- Very rarely: 27%
- Never: 43%
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17% of participants
TYPES OF HARASSMENT

Threats: rape, death

Hate crimes and discrimination in physical world after trans disclosure online

Hate speech / name calling
  Often not recognized as hate speech by Facebook

In comments on news articles

Unsolicited sexual photos and messages
  Mostly received by transwomen

Content flagged/removed for being “inappropriate”

Name flagged, account suspended for being “fake”

Offensive/ignorant reactions from family, extended network

Being mocked and not taken seriously

Inappropriate questions
HARASSMENT FROM WHOM?

Strangers
Hate groups
Family and “friends”
Extended network
Trans-Exclusionary Radical Feminists (TERFs)
Other trans people in support groups for being “not trans enough”
Facebook policies
IMPLICATIONS FOR “REAL LIFE”

“I have taken steps to make sure my social profile will not intersect with my real life in almost all circumstances.”

“I have been the victim of a hate crime where they cut the word Tranny into my arm shortly after announcing on Facebook that I intend to start my transition soon.”
INTERSECTIONAL IDENTITIES

“Girls get more harassment than guys online. That's just a fact.”

“I experience sexism as a woman more than transphobic or transmisogynistic discrimination.”
NON-DISCLOSURE = NON-HARASSMENT

“I made it so that there was no timeline story when I changed my gender on Facebook… I have taken steps to ensure that it is hard to detect the change… the harassment might be bigger if Facebook did not let me limit who could see my gender.”
SELF BLAME

[-]  1 point 1 day ago

People just need to stop fanning the flames. There's some kind of new groupthink going around that if you're being bullied online the right thing to do is fight back and belittle the people bullying you. On the internet all that does is make the bullying worse. The thing that needs to change is people need to learn to walk away from internet fights and spot trolling better.

It's called trolling after all because they're trying to catch your reply.

[-]  3 points 1 day ago

Fighting back isn't the answer, but sometimes walking away leads to them following you.

[-]  1 point 21 hours ago

It's the internet. If you aren't taking the minimal precautions to keep internet bullies at bay then you have much bigger threats to worry about.

[-]  2 points 11 hours ago

The minimal precautions don't always work, either. There are occasionally determined people who will track you and actively work to get around blocking.

[-]  0 points 3 hours ago

Not untrue but you probably shouldn't be peevish off those people.
WHAT HAS TO CHANGE?

“The more I participate in trans and feminist discussions, … the greater the chance of becoming a target online.”

“It was bad enough that I felt like my only option was to leave Facebook entirely or else to use a new ‘stealth’ account. For all the benefits that come with social networking, it still wasn't worth the emotional damage of the constant harassment.”
WHAT HAS TO CHANGE?

Maintain an authentic personal account.

Facebook is a community where people share and interact using their authentic names. When everyone uses their authentic name, you always know who you’re connecting with. This not only makes it easier for you to find who you’re looking for, but it also helps keep our community safe. If you notice an account on Facebook that may be impersonating someone else or using a fake name, let us know.

If you’re trying to create an account for a business, product, pet or public figure, create a Facebook Page.
HOW CAN WE REDUCE ONLINE HARASSMENT OF TRANS PEOPLE?

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