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DATE: Thursday, November 6, 2014

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To combat the harassment of women online, Women, Action & the Media (WAM!) announces a new partnership with Twitter

Women, Action & the Media (WAM!) has announced an unprecedented collaboration with Twitter, aiming to cut down on the harassment of women on the popular social media platform.

Starting today, WAM! is running a pilot project to support all Twitter users experiencing harassment and abuse on the platform due to their gender. Users are invited to use this simple form to report it to WAM!:
https://womenactionmedia.wufoo.com/forms/wam-twitter-harassment-reporting-tool/.

WAM! will escalate validated reports to Twitter and track Twitter's responses to different kinds of gendered harassment. At the end of the pilot test period, WAM! will analyze the data collected and use it to work with Twitter to better understand how gendered harassment functions on their platform, and to improve their responses to it.

A recent Pew research study found that fully 25 percent of young women online have been sexually harassed online and 26 percent have experienced stalking. What's more, Pew found that women overall are disproportionately targeted by the most severe forms of online abuse.

Jaclyn Friedman, Executive Director of WAM!, said of the project, "We're thrilled to be working with Twitter to make their platform safer for women. The disproportionate targeting of women online results in them removing their voices from the public

conversation. We're so glad that Twitter recognizes that the best way to ensure equally free speech for all users on their platform is to ensure that all users are equally free to speak without being targeted by harassment, abuse and threats."

The easy-to-use form, created pro-bono by an experienced developer concerned about increasing harassment of women online, will let users report gendered harassment details that have never before been tracked and analyzed. Users can report the specific types of abuse they are experiencing (whether someone has made an impostor account, is sending them violent threats, is using Twitter to encourage people to harass the person offline, or any of other several defined categories), whether the abuse is happening on other social media platforms, and if the abuse is being perpetrated by a single individual or a group. This information will help identify the types of gendered harassment Twitter already handles well, and in which specific areas new solutions need to be developed.

This project grew out of WAM!'s participating in the Speech and Safety Coalition, a group of women's advocacy organizations working with social media companies to ensure that women have equal access to both free speech and safety online. WAM! was also behind last year's enormously successful #FBrape campaign, which convinced Facebook to crack down on content which promotes gender-based violence.

ABOUT WOMEN ACTION & THE MEDIA

Women, Action & the Media (WAM!) WAM! is an independent North American nonprofit dedicated to building a robust, effective, inclusive movement for gender justice in media. WAM! builds community and activism to advance women's media participation, ownership and representation. Volunteer-run local chapters operate year-round activities. Visit us online at www.womenactionmedia.org.