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ORAL STATEMENT

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN,
ITS CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES

UN Human Rights Council

Thirty Eight Session

18 June 2018 – 6 July 2018

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences on violence against women online.

Madame Rapporteur,

Amnesty International's research has highlighted the varying ways women experience violence and abuse on social media platforms such as direct or indirect threats of physical or sexual violence, targeted harassment, and privacy violations such as doxing or the sharing of sexual or intimate images of a woman without her consent. Women who face discrimination because of their different identities offline often find that violence and abuse against them will target those same identities online.

Our March 2018 report *#ToxicTwitter: Violence and Abuse against Women Online* highlights the harmful impact of violence and abuse against women on Twitter which can lead women to self-censor what they post, limit or change their interactions online, or at times drive women off the platform altogether. In some instances, the threat of violence and abuse against women on Twitter, alone, leads to a chilling effect on women speaking out. The silencing and censoring impact of violence and abuse against women online can have far-reaching and harmful repercussions on how younger women, women from marginalized communities, and future generations fully exercise their right to participate in public life and freely express themselves online.

Amnesty International welcomes that your report sets out international obligations and responsibilities in relation to violence against women online.

Madame Rapporteur, would you be able to elaborate on what you see as crucial elements of a transparent complaint mechanism for cases of violence against women online?

Thank you, Mr. President.