



50% TECH; 50% ACTIVISM.

We believe that women should have **equal access** to digital spaces.

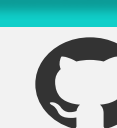
We are building tech-tools to keep ourselves **safer** on social media.

We're starting **conversations** about **women's rights** online.

We're tired of hate speech, sexual harassment and rape threats.

It's time to **Opt Out**.

[SUBMIT A REPORT](#)



WHY WE EXIST

We exist because women are disproportionately suffering threatening and abusive behaviour online - simply because they dare to voice their opinions. This sexist abuse violates human rights: including the right to security of person, the right to non-discrimination, and the right to freedom of expression and opinion.

62%

of women surveyed reported that they had experienced abuse on Twitter.

***Amnesty International, 2017**

ONLINE SEXIST HARASSMENT

Online sexual harassment, hate-speech, online VAWG (violence against women and girls), technologically mediated violence... there are many names for what we are fighting against. There are also multiple definitions. What is offensive or abusive to one woman might not be for the next. Hate speech is nuanced and what can be abuse in one context might be non-threatening in another. We're constantly evolving our models to handle these complexities.

Nowadays, the line between online and offline is becoming evermore blurred. There's a common perception that sexual harassment online isn't 'real' - it's only virtual. However, Amnesty International found that of the women who experienced abuse or harassment online, 41% of responding women felt that their physical safety was threatened. 1 in 2 women experienced lower self-esteem or loss of self-confidence as well as stress, anxiety or panic attacks. It's clear that online abuse is having effects on women's physical health, even when they're offline.



WHO WE ARE

We're an international collective of coders, data analysts, gender theorists, activists and academics. We began in April 2019, and our team of contributors has been growing since. Together, we are creating tools to help ourselves and our sisters to opt out of sexist hate speech. We want women to have full and equal access to digital spaces so that they can join political debate without fear of being silenced.

OUR VISION

TO BRING AN END TO VIOLENCE AGAINST
WOMEN ONLINE

OUR MISSION

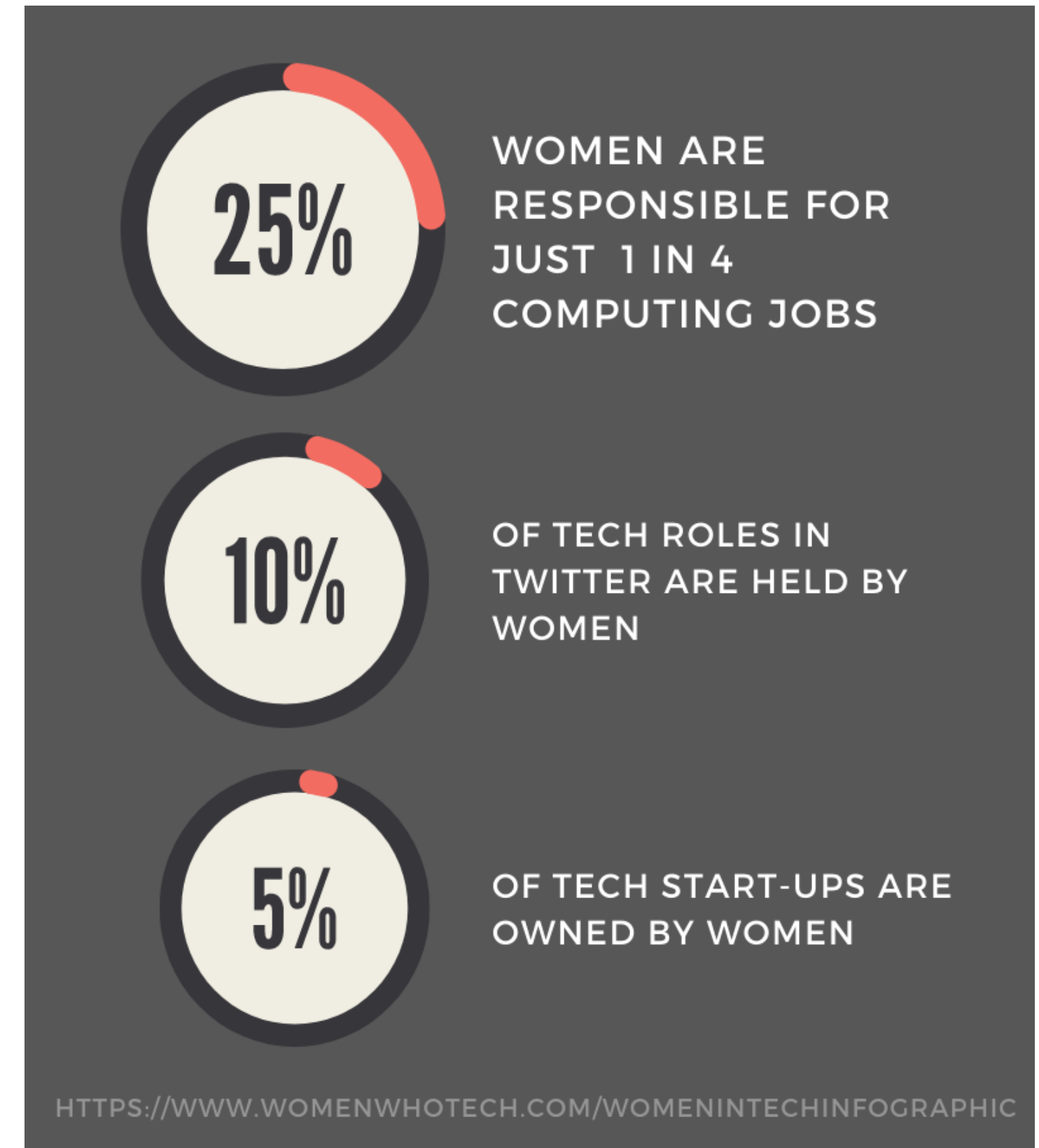
TO CREATE TOOLS THAT ENABLE
WOMEN TO TAKE BACK CONTROL



BIG TECH

The tech giants such as Twitter, Facebook and Instagram are responding... slowly! When they do respond, their solutions lack nuance and an understanding of women's lived experiences. We've found that these existing tools just don't get it right enough of the time and often misinterpret what is offensive. This is likely related to the lack of women in the tech sector.

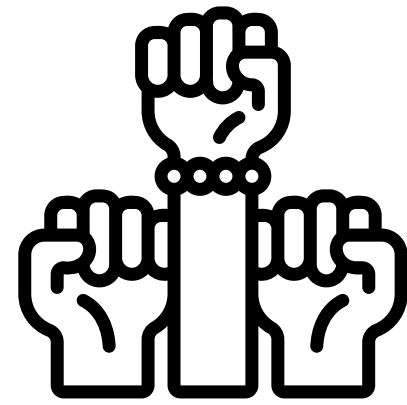
The statistics show that men occupy a disproportionate amount of the jobs in the technology sector. This means that women are not able to give input or develop the software that is supposed to be tailored to them. As a result of this, gender bias is being baked into the code because women aren't involved at this fundamental level. Opt Out is focused on women's needs, placing them at the heart of the conversation and ensuring that these needs are met.





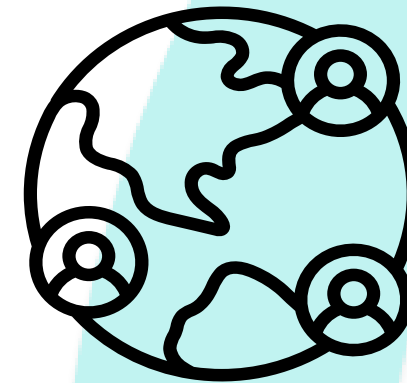
YOUR DATA





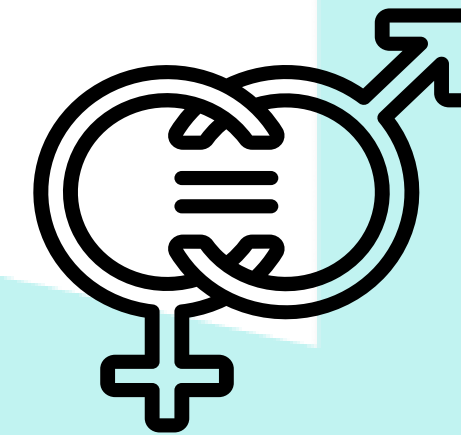
INTERSECTIONALITY

Whilst misogyny affects all women, for our BAME and LGBTQ+ sisters sexist abuse is often combined with racism, transphobia and homophobia. Our data sets are multilabeled so our tools can detect these complex instances of abuse.



COMMUNITY

We want our movement to connect women beyond borders. Our backgrounds are various, but the beauty of the online space is that we can connect through our experiences. We are also running workshops and meet-ups where we socialise and mobilise.



EQUALITY

Our belief in equality is the driving force at Opt Out. When a woman's access to the internet is compromised, they can be impacted socially, politically and economically.



ADVOCACY

Women ought to be able to exist in the virtual world without fear of threats against their bodies. We are advocating for Big Tech and governmental policy to take online harassment seriously and hold perpetrators accountable.



OUR CORE VALUES



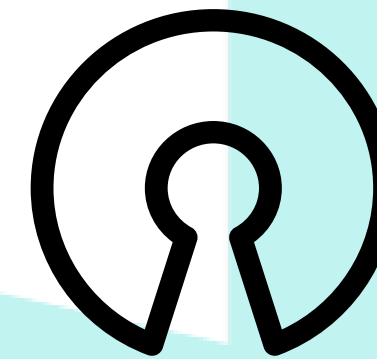
EMPOWERMENT

We encourage reporting of abuse and promote a safe space to share experiences; our focus isn't on re-victimization, but instead on communication and support. We provide the tools to enable and empower ourselves and each other.



INCLUSIVITY

All women face misogyny in some form. Unfortunately, there is a data gap when it comes to misogyny against certain groups such as queer women and women of colour. We actively encourage participation from minority groups as this helps train our models



OPEN SOURCE

Experience sharing and community support is vital to our activism, as is starting dialogues between us. Our tech is open source, and we believe in promoting growth through knowledge and skill sharing.



PRIVACY

When it comes to your data, we believe in transparency. We see ourselves as an extension of the GDPR; our models are taught through crowd sourced data, given to us freely through active participation.



OUR TOOLS

Our first tool is a browser extension. It will remove threatening, sexist and offensive material from your personal twitter feed, allowing you to cut through the noise and focus on healthy debate.

We want to lighten the load of emotional labour. Research shows that when handling abuse, especially large scale mob attacks, victims ask friends and family to help them to screen their social media to protect them from emotional distress. The Opt Out extension will hide any text it considers to be abusive, and code it in relation to a traffic light system. If you don't want to read it, you don't have to. It will archive the abuse, so there will be records to support reporting to moderators and police.

It's not quite ready yet, but **watch this space!**

If you want to get involved with development or beta testing, **get in touch with us!**

WORKSHOPS



Resources

