



RESEARCH CASE STUDY

# GENDER AND IoT

# GENDER AND IoT

**How will IoT impact on gender-based domestic violence and abuse and what socio-technical measures will need to be implemented in order to mitigate against those risks?**

Gender and IoT is an interdisciplinary project exploring the implications of IoT on gender-based domestic violence and abuse and is funded by a Social Science Plus+ award from UCL's Collaborative Social Science Domain.

Domestic violence and abuse continue to affect primarily women and girls, with more than 1.2 million females in England and Wales having reported domestic abuse cases ending in March 2017. In recent years, forms of online harassment and sexual abuse facilitated through information and communication technologies (ICT) emerged. These ICT-supported assaults range from cyberstalking to online behavioural control. The UK domestic violence charity, Refuge, has warned about the

rise of "tech abuse" and women-centred organisations have recently begun to provide guidance and training on the safe use of digital technologies.

While many of these efforts are concerned with 'conventional' cyber risks, abuses on social media platforms and restrictions to devices such as laptops and phones, emerging "Internet of Things" technologies such as 'smart' meters, locks, and cameras expand domestic violence victim's risk trajectories further.

STeAPP researchers in collaboration with UCL's Department of Computer Science are conducting a research study that analyses these evolving IoT privacy and security risks in the context of domestic

violence and abuse. The research project should provide guidance for services that engage and help victims (e.g., women's shelters, police) as well as IoT developers that have to consider the potential misuse of their devices and services. It is run in collaboration with a wide user partner group, including the London VAWG Consortium, Privacy International, and the PETRAS IoT Research Hub.

## Find out more

Principle Investigator: **Dr Leonie Tanczer**  
[l.tanczer@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:l.tanczer@ucl.ac.uk)

[www.ucl.ac.uk/steapp/research/projects/digital-policy-lab/dpl-projects/gender-and-iot](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/steapp/research/projects/digital-policy-lab/dpl-projects/gender-and-iot)



QR link to sign up to our newsletter



London  
VAWG  
Consortium

