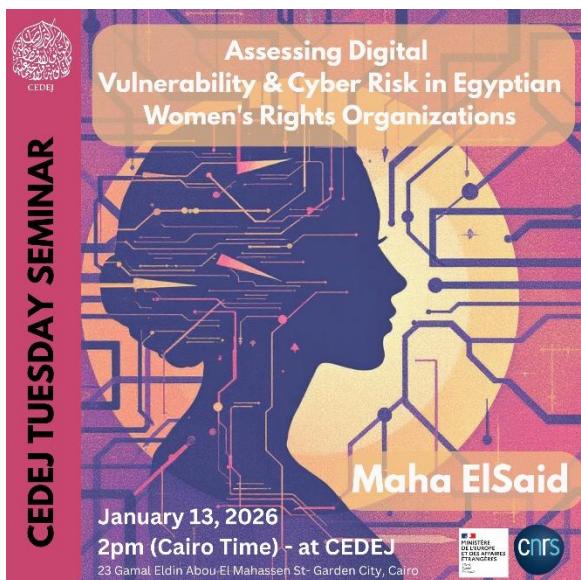


CEDEJ Tuesday Seminar
January 13, 2026 at 2pm

**Assessing Digital Vulnerability and
Cyber Risk in Egyptian Women's Rights
Organizations**

Maha ElSaid



Research confirms the rising global prevalence of Technology-Facilitated Violence Against Women (TFVAW), with Women Rights Defenders (WRDs) and activists representing a significant and frequent target. Despite this critical threat landscape, there is a distinct gap in empirical research focused on systematically measuring the digital vulnerability and cyber risk faced by the organizations supporting these women.

This study directly addresses this deficit by investigating the nature and scope of digital violence encountered by Women's Rights Organizations (WROs) operating in Egypt, specifically examining the digital risks inherent to their sensitive work. Based on a rigorous theoretical framework derived from established vulnerability indicators and risk-related impact indicators, it presents a novel and predictive assessment tool: The SecDev Foundation's Feminist Organizations' Cyber Risk Barometer (FoCRB)®. This tool offers a sophisticated, quantifiable method to gauge potential digital risks by analyzing key aspects of an organization's operational, technical, and digital security profile. The study is empirically grounded, utilizing real-world quantitative and qualitative data collected from numerous WROs across Egypt. Detailed case studies are included to validate and refine the framework, providing critical, granular insights into the specific digital threats and capacity needs of these organizations. The findings offer essential knowledge for improving the digital security resilience of feminist civil society globally.

Pro. Maha ElSaid is Professor of American studies and is the former Chair of the

Department of English language and Literature at Cairo University. Prof. Elsaid is the Chief Editor of *Cairo Studies in English* (CSE), *Journal of Research in Literature, Linguistics and Translation Studies*. She is also Professor of Gender Planning & Evaluation at the Gender & Development MA Program, Faculty of Political Science Cairo University /IDS. Prof Elsaid has written and published on Arab American writings, gender, creative writing, popular culture, decoloniality and the impact of new technologies on literature, and critical humor studies. She has a special interest and multiple publications on violence against women and TFVAW. She is the founder of the first anti-sexual harassment unit at Cairo University. She teaches and supervises multiple graduate courses and dissertations. She has represented Egypt and the University in several delegations such as New Haven Arts and Ideas Festival, the Book Case Edinburgh and UNESCO City of Literature, Going Global: Internationalizing Higher Education, Kickoff Conference of UNESCO Chair for Women and Climate Change.