

## **Collaborative Discussion 1 – Initial Post – Michael Geiger**

Grabosky (2001) points out in his article that cyber crimes are basically the same as in the offline world. However, it should be noted that due to the worldwide networking and the supposed anonymity offered by the Internet, the type of crime differs in its execution, but also in its intentions.

For example, while an insult in the offline world requires immediate physical proximity to the victim and is usually based on a previous interaction between the perpetrator and the victim, social media in particular create the opportunity to discredit people who are unknown, have no relationship to each other and do not have to fear about a reaction.

Group dynamics can play a crucial role here (Pfeffer et al., 2013). People seek confirmation and approval from others for themselves and their opinions. Group dynamics, which are aimed at individuals or groups of people, encourage those involved in the crime to insult themselves and thus commit a crime. The feeling of anonymity by the group of not having to fear criminal prosecution also contributes to the supposed feeling of anonymity on the Internet.

A general increase in such dynamics worldwide in recent years can be seen in the percentage of parents who indicated that their child was a victim of cyber bullying, see figure 1 (Cook, 2022).

It can therefore be assumed that the willingness to commit a crime through insult is increased by the factors of anonymity, international networking and the reduced inhibition threshold due to a lack of physical proximity. An increase in this trend can be observed in recent years, so there is a need to develop appropriate legal countermeasures that can help make online law enforcement more effective in this

context.

Country	2018	2016	2011
India	37	32	32
Brazil	29	19	20
United States	26	34	15
Belgium	25	13	12
South Africa	26	25	10
Malaysia	23	--	--
Sweden	23	20	14
Canada	20	17	18
Turkey	20	14	5
Saudi Arabia	19	17	18

Figure 1: Percentage of parents that report their child has been a victim of cyber bullying worldwide (Cook, 2022)

#### References:

Cook, S. (2022) Cyberbullying facts and statistics for 2018 – 2022. *Comparitech*. Available from: <https://www.comparitech.com/internet-providers/cyberbullying-statistics/> [Accessed 16 August 2022].

Grabosky, P.N. (2001) Virtual Criminality: Old Wine in New Bottles. *Social & Legal Studies*. 10(2): 243-249. Available from: <https://heinonline-org.uniessexlib.idm.oclc.org/HOL/Page?public=false&handle=hein.journals/solestu10&id=239&collection=journals> [Accessed 16 August 2022].

Pfeffer, J., Zorbach, T., Carley, K. M. (2013) Understanding online firestorms: Negative word-of-mouth dynamics in social media networks. *Journal of marketing communications*. 20(2): 117-128. Available from: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13527266.2013.797778> [Accessed 16 August 2022].