



## **Informed Consent Form for Young Adults**

Our team is working on a project called "DTCCT" which aims to combat cyberbullying among teenagers. The project involves a group of experts, including Kanishk Verma, a PhD student, and Dr. Brian Davis, Dr. Tijana Milosevic from Dublin City University, and Dr. Rebecca Umbach from Google. We received funding from the Irish Research Council (IRC) and Google, Ireland, to support our research on online content safety. We want to better understand how cyberbullying occurs on popular social media platforms like TikTok, Snapchat, and Instagram. Cyberbullying refers to online behavior that is mean, hurtful, or harmful to others, such as sending mean messages, gossiping, or excluding someone. Our research also looks into how bystanders on these platforms either support or resist bullies, as well as how users interact with social media posts related to such behavior. These platforms offer tools to report or block bullies, and we want to find out if these tools are helpful for teenagers and young adults who experience cyberbullying or witness it happening on these sites.

### **Clarification of the purpose of the research**

As part of our research, we will be conducting online surveys with teenagers and young adults aged between 13 and 21 years old.

### **Online Surveys**

The survey will be done via a series of questions that ask them the extent to which they agree or disagree as to whether or not the social media platforms (stories, direct-messaging, posts) would they view nasty or hurtful content; and whether additional engagement features (likes, shares, reactions, emoticons, etc) provide an opportunity for engaging with cyberbullying-related content. The participants will be asked the following types of questions,

- Which of the social media platforms - Snapchat, TikTok, Instagram, WhatsApp, YouTube do they most frequently use?
- What features or social media platforms do they most commonly view nasty or harmful content?
- How do they engage with nasty or harmful content related content on social media platforms

Teenagers and young adults will be asked if they have encountered something nasty or hurtful or if they witnessed it, but they will not be asked about how they felt about it nor will they be asked to divulge any details of the incident. The survey is focused only on the functional aspects of the features of these social media platforms.

### **Confidentiality, anonymity, data retention and disposal**

Contact detail of the principal investigator (researcher): [kanishk.verma@adaptcentre.ie](mailto:kanishk.verma@adaptcentre.ie)



We do not collect any personal information.

### **Destroying Data**

We do not collect any personal information and therefore do not require to destroy any data.

### **Voluntary participation**

Please know that you do **not** have to participate in this research. This is only if you would like to do this, we cannot and should not make you do this. You can also opt out at any time –please do not hesitate to do so if you feel uncomfortable or for any other reason: **this is your right**.

Thank you so much for your help ! 😊

### **Signature:**

I have read and understood the information in this form. My questions and concerns have been answered by the researchers, and I have a copy of this consent form. Therefore, I consent for my child to take part in this research project

**Participants Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_