

**DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY**  
**Plain Language Statement for Teenagers - Online Surveys**

**About this research project:**



We are working on a special project called **"Data-driven Toolkit to Combat Cyberbullying among Teens" (DTCCT)**. In our team is Kanishk Verma, a PhD student, Dr. Brian Davis, Dr. Tijana Milosevic from Dublin City University, and Dr Rebecca Umbach from Google. This project has received funding from the Irish Research Council (IRC) and Google, Ireland, under the Online Content Safety grant number ESPSG/2021/161.

When we say *"cyberbullying"* we mean when someone is being *"mean or hurting someone else"* online, like *"sending mean messages"*, *"gossiping"*, or *"leaving someone out on purpose"*.

We want to understand how cyberbullying happens on social media apps like TikTok, Snapchat, and Instagram. We know that social media apps already have some tools to help stop cyberbullying, like reporting or blocking someone, but we want to know if those tools really work for young people like you. Your thoughts and ideas are very important to us.

We would also like to know your thoughts on what else we should be thinking about. Therefore, your opinion matters, and we would like to know how to make the best possible tools of this kind to help teenagers and young adults when cyberbullying happens on social media and direct messaging.

**Taking part in this research means:**

- As part of our research, we will be asking you to fill out a short online survey.
- You will only need to answer a few questions and there are no right or wrong answers.
- We are looking for teenagers and young adults who have opinions on cyberbullying, whether they have seen it happen to others or experienced it themselves.
- We won't ask for any details about your own experiences of cyberbullying or harm online. It should take no more than an thirty minutes to complete the survey

If you have concerns about this study and wish to contact an independent person, please contact:

*The Secretary, Dublin City University Research Ethics Committee, c/o Research and Innovation Support, Dublin City University, Dublin 9. Tel 01-7008000, e-mail [rec@dcu.ie](mailto:rec@dcu.ie)*

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

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**Why online surveys?**

- Online surveys are like questionnaires that you can fill out on the internet from anywhere, without needing to go to a university.
- You can answer the questions at a time and place that suits you best.
- If you decide to take part in the survey, we will give you a link to click on that will take you to the survey. We won't ask for your name or any other personal information, only your age and gender.

**Potential risks**

- By participating in this research, you can remember some events that are related to online bullying that you may not wish to remember.
- This can make you feel sad or worried or angry. If that happens, please remember that you can opt out of the research at any point in time and no penalty will accrue from failure to participate.
- You can stop and should not feel pressured to participate.
- If you do have these feelings during or after research, the researchers will make sure to give you the help that you need and we ask you to please let us know if that happens.

**Good things about the project (benefits)**

- If you participate in this project, you can help us put together really good tools that can help children and young people who are bullied on social media and digital messenger platforms.

**Confidentiality of data and information**

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 ! 😊

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