



Plain Language Statement - Teenagers

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 or nasty to someone"* online time and again, 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 twenty minutes to complete the survey**

Why online surveys?

- Online surveys are like questionnaires that you can fill out on the internet from anywhere, without needing to be on campus.
- 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.

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

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



- 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 there will be no issues with that.
- 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 choose to participate in this research project, it can make a big difference in keeping kids safe online. You can share your experiences and opinions, and help make social media platforms a safer place for everyone
- By being a part of this project, you can also help researchers learn more about this problem and come up with better ways to stop it
- Your opinions and experiences can help researchers understand how to make sure that people behave nicely online and don't hurt others.
- This can help create better rules and guidelines that can help everyone be safe and happy online. These rules can also help people understand what kind of behavior is not okay online, and how to be respectful and kind to others.
- It's important for you to feel comfortable and safe throughout the research process
- Furthermore, by taking part in this project, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you have helped to make a positive impact on society, potentially improving the lives of countless young people who have been affected by such anti-social online behaviour. Your participation is a way of contributing to a better and safer future for young people.

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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