

## About this research project:



This project is called “Data-driven Toolkit to Combat Cyberbullying among Teens” (DTCCT). Kanishk Verma, who is a first-year PhD student at the School of Computing, DCU, is conducting this research project under the supervision of Dr Brian Davis and Dr Tijana Milosevic. Kanishk is also a Research Associate at the DCU Anti Bullying Centre and a member of the ADAPT SFI Centre. This project has received funding from the Irish Research Council (IRC) and Google, Ireland, under the Online Content Safety grant number ESPSG/2021/161.

We're attempting to understand how social media networking sites and apps contribute to cyberbullying (for example, TikTok, Snapchat, and Instagram). Cyberbullying refers to repeated online harm caused by an online user. For instance, teasing, threatening, sending hurtful texts, excluding someone from groups, etc. On these social media sites, we are also attempting to comprehend how bystanders support bullies and how they resist them. Bystanders are those who see or like social media posts where bullies make threatening or hurtful comments. We also want to know how users of the platforms share these social media posts. These websites currently let you report or block cyberbullying as well as the bullies. These websites do, however, also have resources for stopping cyberbullying. We're curious to see if these tools would be useful for teenagers and young adults who experience cyberbullying as well as for those who witness it on these sites.

Please let us know if there is anything else we should be considering. Your input is valuable because we want to create the best solutions of this kind to assist teenagers and young adults when cyberbullying occurs on social media and in direct messaging.

## Taking part in this research means:

As part of this research, we will conduct “online surveys”. Several questions merely require you to choose an answer. There are no incorrect answers, so please try to answer the questions to the best of your ability. We're looking for teenagers and young adults who may have an opinion on cyberbullying - either by seeing it among their friends or online, or maybe it happened to them somehow. Furthermore, we won't be seeking information about any instance of online harm or cyberbullying. The online survey shouldn't take longer than 60 minutes to complete.

## Why online surveys?

The best way to collect opinion information without having participants attend the campus is through online surveys. You can try them whenever it's convenient for you. You will be required to open a website link on any web browser (Google Chrome, Safari, FireFox, or Edge) and

respond to questions, if you agree to take part in the survey. We only need to know your age in numeric format (example 14, 15, etc), and gender; we won't be asking for any personal information.

### **Potential risks**

By participating in this research, you can remember some events that are related to cyberbullying 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 😊!

**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)**