

Handout 6 – Real-Life Stories of Online Harms

1. Primary 4 student in Singapore who was cyberbullied on Instagram

- Victim was subject to nasty messages about her physical appearance. Her mental health worsened, she self-harmed and was diagnosed with PTSD.

CNA Insider

More youths seeking help with mental health - but finding it isn't always easy

Cyberbullying also reared its ugly head, with people commenting on her physical appearance. Nasty messages from people who were supposedly her friends made her question whether she could trust anybody. The desire to fit in, and the stress to do well in school, caused her mental health to spiral downwards.

She was 11 the first time she self-harmed.

It made her feel slightly better as it was “the only thing” she could feel.

Source: <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/cna-insider/youth-mental-health-illness-singapore-help-treatment-2649296>

2. 32-year-old office worker in Singapore whose intimate video and photos were leaked on a Telegram group chat and Twitter by an ex-partner

- Victim's intimate video was circulated to his colleagues in the office. The incident left the victim worried about his job security and image at work.

ALEX, 32 - IBSA SURVIVOR

For some survivors, online harms occurred in their workplaces or schools or involved colleagues or schoolmates. Naturally, such harms directly impacted their professional or academic lives.

Alex's ex-girlfriend threatened to and eventually leaked a sex video and related photos featuring him and another woman from a prior relationship. His ex-girlfriend threatened to release such media to coerce him into returning into a relationship with her.

The videos and photos were circulated through a Telegram group chat and on Twitter without his consent. Although the video was removed by the perpetrator (the ex-girlfriend), his colleagues in that same Telegram group chat downloaded and circulated these videos in the office.

This incident made him worried about his job security and his image at work. It made him feel that his world was going to end. Fortunately, with the help of his company's HR, he is now sitting on a different office level, to avoid meeting colleagues who have seen or downloaded his video and images.

Source: <https://she.org.sg/resources/she-study-2025-404-help-not-found-lived-experiences-of-online-harms-survivors>

3. Death of 30-year-old Malaysian influencer after being harassed online

- Victim was subject to abuse on TikTok during a “live session”. She was also subject to death and rape threats.

Death of Malaysian influencer following alleged cyberbullying: Woman arrested as minister warns against negative ‘culture’



Source: <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/asia/malaysia-eshha-rajeswary-appahu-cyberbullying-tiktok-social-media-death-4466926>

4. Death of 29-year-old American YouTuber known for animal rescue efforts after many years of online harassment

- Prior to her death, she endured a targeted campaign of online harassment from those who were within her circles and the animal rescue community.

Husband of Mikayla Raines says she struggled with online bullying before her death: "I do hope there's accountability"

By [Adam Duxter](#)

Updated on: June 27, 2025 / 6:33 AM CDT / CBS Minnesota

Less than a week after Save A Fox rescue founder Mikayla Raines died by suicide, her husband, Ethan Frankamp, is speaking out and sharing his grief.

"I'm going to be honest, I don't have any words to describe it. It's definitely been the hardest week of my life, for sure," Frankamp said.

Frankamp says he discovered Raines Friday morning. Despite efforts to save her life with CPR, she died. Raines leaves behind a young daughter.

"It's been really difficult trying to watch [our daughter] comprehend what's going on because she doesn't know, and I can't explain it to her," Frankamp said. "I don't have the words to explain it to her. Just trying to explain it to her that mommy's gone."

Frankamp reiterated Thursday that Raines had struggled with online bullying, including from people close to her. He says that, paired with recent levels of increasing stress, could be overwhelming.

Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/minnesota/news/mikayla-raines-dead-save-a-fox-rescue-bullying-husband/>

5. Death of 15-year-old Admiralty Secondary School student who was bullied both offline and online by her classmates

- Victim was bullied in school. Her classmates also wrote malicious comments about her online.

'Bullying is real': Mum calls for greater awareness after daughter, 15, struggled with depression & took her life

"But if you could see her, before depression and after depression, you can see the mark, the difference. She used to be very joyful."

Source: <https://mothership.sg/2025/01/bullying-real-girl-took-life-admiralty/>

6. Deepfake nude photos of Singapore Sport School female students and teachers

- The deepfake nudes photos of female students were generated by male students from the school, and female teachers were also targeted.

Police investigating deepfake nude
photos of Singapore Sports School
students



According to the father of a victim, a group of boys started generating and circulating deepfake nude images of their female schoolmates in June. PHOTO: ST FILE

Source: <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/police-investigating-deepfake-nude-photos-of-singapore-sports-school-students>

7. Victim of image-based sexual abuse in Singapore whose family suffered because of the online harm

- The distress suffered extended to her family, including her husband and her 9-year-old daughter who witnessed first-hand the emotional toll on her parents.

Janet

Janet had been the victim of image-based sexual abuse and felt shame and humiliation. Beyond Janet, her husband was also distressed, possibly more so than Janet, while her 9-year-old daughter was so angry with the perpetrator for ruining the lives of her parents that she wanted to physically harm him.

Source: https://law.smu.edu.sg/sites/cdl.smu.edu.sg/files/publication/Report_of_the_Online_Harms_Symposium.pdf

8. Singaporean businessman wrongly identified as Bentley driver in Red Swastika School incident

- After being misidentified, the harassing calls and messages. The victims said that his businesses and other organisations he was affiliated with were also attacked by the internet mob.



Source: <https://mothership.sg/2022/01/wrongly-identified-bentley-driver/>

9. 16-year-old Twitch and YouTube gaming live streamer in Singapore who drew criticism for sharing his political views during a livestream

- Victim received threats of physical harm and was also doxxed, with details of his school and the area where he lived posted online.

At 16, Aidan was a YouTube and Twitch gaming livestreamer when he became the target of a cancel campaign. During one livestream, he shared his political views, prompting backlash from viewers. Though he later posted an apology video, the situation intensified thereafter.

Over four to five months, the harassment escalated through YouTube comments and in live chats. It started with comments by the same two to three people and increased to about 100 comments a day at its height. These included some comments by bots.

"I used to have a YouTube channel [and] had around 10,000 subscribers... every livestream I had [about] 500 viewers... I shared my opinions about something... a lot of people... had different views about me."

"I created [an] apology video... I expected that to all end there... But I have no idea how... it started slowly ramping up again... people keep coming to my channel... putting in their comments... One hundred plus comments."

He was initially not concerned, until his schooling details were disclosed and accompanied by threats to harm him in real life. He became anxious and fearful for his physical safety, prompting him to delete his online presence entirely. The incident affected Aidan's self-esteem the most.

Source: <https://she.org.sg/resources/she-study-2025-404-help-not-found-lived-experiences-of-online-harms-survivors>

Handout 7 – Community Guidelines of Major Online Platforms

1. Excerpts from Meta's Community Standards

(a) Bullying and Harassment:

- “Bullying and harassment happen in many places and come in many different forms, from making threats and releasing personally identifiable information to sending threatening messages and making unwanted malicious contact. **We do not tolerate this kind of behaviour because it prevents people from feeling safe and respected on Facebook, Instagram and Threads.**”
- “We recognise that bullying and harassment can have more of an **emotional impact on minors**, which is why our policies provide **heightened protection** for anyone under the age of 18, regardless of user status.”

(emphasis added in bold)

Source: <https://transparency.meta.com/en-gb/policies/community-standards/bullying-harassment/>

2. Excerpts from Google/YouTube's Community Guidelines

(a) Harassment and Cyberbullying policies:

- “We don't allow content that targets someone with prolonged insults or slurs based on their physical traits or protected group status. We also don't allow other harmful behaviors, like threats or doxxing. Keep in mind that **we take a stricter approach on content that targets minors.**”

(emphasis added in bold)

Source: <https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/2802268>

3. Excerpts from TikTok's Community Standards

(a) Youth Sexual and Physical Abuse:

- “We're committed to making TikTok a **safe and supportive space for young people**. We don't allow sharing, showing, promoting, or engaging in abuse or exploitation of youth. This includes: Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM), Grooming, Sextortion, Sexual Solicitation, Pedophilia, Physical or Psychological Harm to young people”

(emphasis added in bold)

Source: <https://www.tiktok.com/community-guidelines/en/safety-civility#4>

(b) Adult Sexual Abuse:

- “We are committed to providing a space that embraces gender equity, supports healthy relationships, and respects intimate privacy. **We don't allow content that shows or promotes the sexual abuse or exploitation of adults.** This includes: Non-Consensual Sexual Acts, Image-Based Sexual Abuse, Sextortion”

(emphasis in bold added by TikTok)

Source: <https://www.tiktok.com/community-guidelines/en/safety-civility#5>

4. Excerpts from X's Rules and Policies

(a) Abuse and Harassment:

- “**You may not target others with abuse or harassment, or encourage other people to do so.**

(emphasis in bold added by X)

...

*We recognize that if anyone, regardless of background, experiences harassment on X, it can jeopardize their ability to express themselves and cause harm. To **facilitate healthy dialogue** on the platform, and empower individuals to express **diverse opinions and beliefs**, we prohibit behavior and content that harasses, shames, or degrades others.”*

(emphasis added in bold)

Source: <https://help.x.com/en/rules-and-policies/abusive-behavior>

5. Excerpts from HardwareZone's Forums Content Policy

- “**Rule 1**

*Remember that you're interacting with other humans. HardwareZone Forums is a place for sharing and discussion, not for attacking those who may be marginalized or vulnerable. **Everyone is entitled to use our forums** without harassment, violence, or cyber-bullying. Members that incite violence or promote hate in any form or manner may be penalised in accordance with our Warning System.”*

- “**Rule 3**

Respect the privacy of others. Do not harass others or otherwise instigate harassment, including by doxxing, stalking, revealing someone's confidential information or intimate content, or threatening to do any of these actions.”

- “**Rule 5**

*Do not post or facilitate or encourage the posting of sexual or suggestive content. In particular, any intimate, suggestive or sexually explicit content **involving minors is strictly prohibited.***

(emphasis added in bold)

Source: https://forums.hardwarezone.com.sg/help/content_policy/