



Forum: General Assembly 6 (Legal)

Issue: Laws to Address Cyberbullying and Improper Use of Technology
Among Gen Z

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Overview

Internet hosts a globe-wide function of communication and social interaction that intensely connected with the community. With increasing proliferation of issues, cybercrime is as noticeable that influence the whole society. At the digital age, addressing the threat to international security should be put on the agenda. As the future of society, teenagers would most likely to have a key conservation from the cybercrime.

The Generation Z (Gen Z), typically defined as the one borns after 1996, is tightly connected to the digital age. They are the first generation to have internet and technology available in their young stage. Studies have shown that, in most developed countries, approximately more than 75% of the teenagers aged between 13 to 17 own or have access to smartphones, and 45% of their social media are nearly on a constant basis.¹ With the high accessibility and connection between Gen Z and technology, cyberbullying has always been a serious problem.

The experiences relating to cyberbully will usually result in depress emotion to the teenagers, and they would likely to respond and imitate in the same way to others. Without timely guidance and correction, other issues like the improper use of technology would appear. These bad experiences from the cyberspace can be risk factors to commit suicide, self-harm, social isolation, physically and psychologically disabilities, propensity for violence, etc.² The mental injury of cyberbully from childhood will eventually influence the value and personality development. To solve the issue, the Helpline for cyberspace violence

¹ Anderson, Monica, and Jingjing Jiang. "Teens, Social Media & Technology 2018." *Pew Research Center: Internet, Science & Tech*, Pew Research Center: Internet, Science & Tech, 19 Sept. 2018, www.pewinternet.org/2018/05/31/teens-social-media-technology-2018/.

² "Bullying and Pediatrics." *StopBullying.gov*, www.stopbullying.gov/research-resources/bullying-and-pediatricians/index.html.



and bullying, supported by the UNICEF, has been a cyberbully prevention project for aids to the children.³

Additionally, online sexual harassment of children is another kind of cybercrime that is directly against the right and the health of the youth. Being the most connected generation to modern technology, Gen Z is more likely to be the most vulnerable group. This kind of harassment will make the victim feel being threatened or degraded. The consequences of being abused through the cyberspace will lead to more intense and more traumatic effects on children that will last for a long time, bringing hardly curable injury mentally and physically. The advanced spread of the internet contributes to the huge stress that it is difficult to totally remove or trace the trails of the abuse. The society has already taken some steps to help the teenagers. A specific legislation and regulation related to the cybersecurity and child online protection have been enacted through the Sexual Offenses Act. Also, the national response plan on Online Sexual Abuse and Exploration adopted by the Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography (IACACP) includes a plan to expand the Anti-Trafficking hotline.⁴

The main aim of the topic is to try and solve the growing cyber problems for the whole internet community; so the preservation status of the Gen Z improves.

Key Terms

Generation Z

Generation Z is typically categorized as who born after the mid-1990s to the mid-2000s. Being as the first generation that has an intense connection with the technology at their young age, Gen Z spends averagely more than 3 hours per day on the internet. As a large group that accesses to the social media easily, they are more likely to be targeted. The prevention and protection of the youth from the negative impact can effectively help reduce the risk rate of mental stress and physical issue.

³ "EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF THE "FOR SAFE AND ENABLING SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT" PROJECT IN CROATIA." *UNICEF.org*, https://www.unicef.org/evaldatabase/files/UNICEF_6_12_2_final.pdf.

⁴ "A New Reality." *UNICEF.org*, [https://www.unicef.org/protection/files/LEAP_report_CHI_and_UNICEF_\(final\).pdf](https://www.unicef.org/protection/files/LEAP_report_CHI_and_UNICEF_(final).pdf)



For the Gen Z that is bullied or injured from the internet, they will more likely to have poor academic performance, difficulty to maintain social relationships, and will show up with the symptom of depression or other mental health disorders in their adulthood.⁵

Cyberbullying

Cyberbully has commonly happened via social media, gaming, SMS, and websites/apps, especially among teenagers. It includes posting, sharing, and sending negative, harsh, and false information or comments to others. Some cyberbullying will be considered as unlawful or criminal behavior.⁶ Any type of bullying, online or offline, can cause negative impacts on both mental and physical health. Bullied victims have a higher rate of having mental stress, which will potentially cause depression, anxiety, depression, and so on issues.

Cybercrime

Cybercrime is the illegal and unauthorized behavior relating to network operation. Common types of cybercrime can be classified into the against of individuals, organizations, and society at large. Examples can be harassment, defamation, indecent exposure, hacking, internet intrusion, virus transmitting, possession of unauthorized information, and trafficking.⁷

Online Sexual Harassment

It is the harassment of bullying or coercion with inappropriate and unwelcome sexual nature. It can make a person feel threatened, exploited, coerced, humiliated, upset, sexualized or discriminated against.⁸

⁵ "Short Term and Long Term Effects of Bullying: Psychological & Societal." PsyCom.net - Mental Health Treatment Resource Since 1986, www.psycom.net/effects-of-bullying.

⁶ "What Is Cyberbullying." *StopBullying.gov*, www.stopbullying.gov/cyberbullying/what-is-it/index.html.

⁷ Lunker, Manish. "Cyber Laws: A Global Perspective." <http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/apcity/unpan005846.pdf>.

⁸ Childnet. "Defining Online Sexual Harassment." Childnet, 6 Dec. 2017, www.childnet.com/our-projects/project-des shame/defining-online-sexual-harassment.



Important Events/Timelines

Date	Event
1989	The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child treaty is signed, which outlines the rights of children in areas ranging from economic and political to social and cultural rights.
1997	The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization established the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology, an advisory body which aims to formulate principles regarding the ethics of scientific and technological advancement for all people, including the younger generations.
2004	European Parliament approves the Safer Internet plus Programme for 2005-2008, which aims to promote safer use of the internet and new online technologies, especially for children.
2010	The Cybersmile Foundation was founded in 2010, a non-profit organization committed to fighting all forms of digital abuse, and online bullying and harassment especially amongst teenagers in order to promote a safer digital community.
2011	Continued focus on raising resolutions such as Economic and Social Council's resolution 2011/33, in order to emphasize the need for prevention, protection and international cooperation against the improper use of new technologies, especially regarding children.

Major Nations/Organizations

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund was initially created to help children affected by World War II. However, it currently aims to protect the rights of every child and improve their lives. It has worked on multiple campaigns for educating children on the use of technology, as well as protecting them from cyber bullying.

United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC)

The Economic and Social Council is one of the most important committees in the United Nations system, and comprises of many subsidiary bodies such as the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, which deal with topics such as dealing with improper usage of technology, cyber bullying, etc.

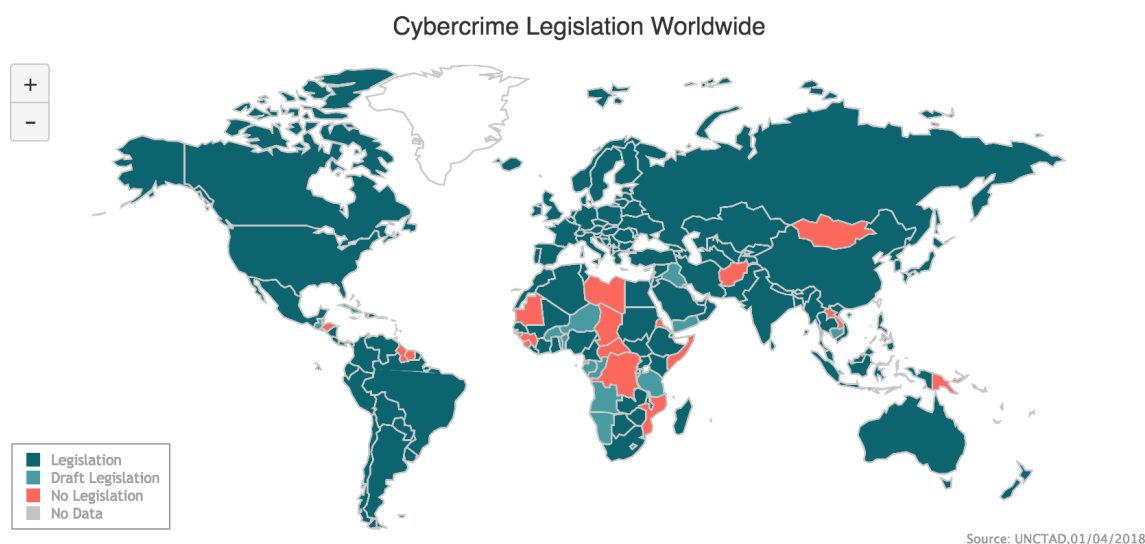
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s main goal is to build peace and improve the lives of humans through education, science, and culture. It has established many bodies which aim to promote proper and effective usage of technology, especially through education of young children, such as the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education.

European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA)

The European Union Agency for Network and Information Security aims to improve the network and information security and contributes to reducing issues such as improper usage of new online technologies, or cyber bullying etc., in the European Union.

Statistics



(figure 1: The status of cybercrime legislation globally.⁹)

⁹ "Cybercrime Legislation Worldwide." UNCTAD | Cybercrime Legislation Worldwide, unctad.org/en/Pages/DTL/STI_and_ICTs/ICT4D-Legislation/eCom-Cybercrime-Laws.aspx.

Important Documents/Passed Solutions

General Assembly:¹⁰

- Combating the criminal misuse of information technologies:

Resolution 55/63, January 2001

Resolution 56/121, January 2002

- Creation of a global culture of cybersecurity and the protection of critical information infrastructures:

Resolution 58/199, January 2004

Resolution 64/211, March 2010

Link for further information: <https://www.itu.int/en/action/cybersecurity/Pages/un-resolutions.aspx>

Possible Solutions

- Education
 - Rising awareness of cyberbullying
 - Introducing the way of help.
 - Promoting the proper use of cyberspace.
- Facilitate the healthcare for the teenagers
 - Psychotherapy/ psychological concealing
 - Physical aid
 - Guidance
- Establish the internet legislation for regulation.
- Enhance parent's attention to reduce the rate of cyberbully.
- Reinforce the cooperation online to develop a healthy cyber environment for Gen Z.

¹⁰ UN Resolutions, www.itu.int/en/action/cybersecurity/Pages/un-resolutions.aspx.



Link for Further Research

1. <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc> //UN ECOSOC
2. <https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org/news/srsg-launches-second-report-secretary-general-bullying-including-cyberbullying> //UN
3. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2017/07/560922-half-all-countries-aware-lacking-national-plan-cybersecurity-un-agency-reports> //UN
4. <http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/apcity/unpan005846.pdf> //UN
5. www.itu.int/en/action/cybersecurity/Pages/un-resolutions.aspx //UN
6. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx> //UN Human Right
7. <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/comest/> //UNESCO
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11. <https://www.un.org/disarmament/topics/informationsecurity/> //UNODA
12. https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-d/opb/str/D-STR-GCI.01-2017-PDF-E.pdf //ITU
13. <http://www.ncsl.org/research/telecommunications-and-information-technology/cybersecurity-legislation-2018.aspx> //NCSL



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