# **Building a Positive Online Community**

Online spaces can be a powerful force for good when they are built on respect and empathy. This guide is about being part of the solution, whether you are directly affected by hate speech or not.

## **Part 1: Proactive Steps to Create a Better Space**

You can actively contribute to a positive environment.

* **Amplify positive voices:** Share content from people who are promoting kindness, education, and inclusion. Use your platform to make others feel seen and heard.
* **Engage respectfully:** When you comment on posts, do so with an open mind. If you disagree with someone, focus on their ideas, not on attacking them personally.
* **Set the tone:** The way you behave online influences those around you. Be a role model for kindness and compassion.

## **Part 2: Being a Good Ally**

An ally is someone who supports and stands up for others. Being an ally is essential in combating hate speech.

* **Speak up:** If you see hate speech directed at someone, don't ignore it. Report the content and, if you feel safe to do so, leave a supportive comment for the person being targeted, such as "I'm so sorry this is happening to you" or "You are valid."
* **Listen and learn:** If a person tells you they have been targeted by hate speech, believe them. Listen to their experience without judgment and be open to learning about discrimination you may not have experienced yourself.
* **Share resources:** If you know about a helpful resource or a supportive community, share it with someone who might need it.

Building a positive online community is a shared effort. Every act of kindness, every supportive comment, and every report of hate speech makes the internet a safer place for everyone.

