**Unit 6: Cybercrime and Social Perception**

Welcome to Week 6.

This week’s learning explores public perceptions and public opinion about internet crime. Being aware of these perceptions is important because in liberal democratic states, public opinion plays an important role in shaping public policy. Therefore, public opinion can play a crucial role in influencing how legislators and policymakers choose to address cybercriminality. Also, shared opinion and perceptions can exercise a decisive influence over people’s online behavior. You will also look into the question of the fiction of cybercrime; ‘fiction’ is understood here as assumptions and social and legal construction of cybercrime.

**On completion of this unit you will be able to:**

* Explore issues concerning social perceptions concerning cybercrime.
* Assess the extent social perceptions have affected the ways the ‘crime problem’ is dealt with.
* Explore how the costs of cybercrime and its harm have affected the extent of this being dealt with effectively by the Criminal Justice System (CJS).
* Practice research skills.
* Apply critical assessment.