CYBERVIOLENCE RESOURCE

www.coe.int/cyberviolence

The Cyberviolence Resource is one of the online tools initiated through the Octopus project of the Council of Europe's Cybercrime Division, bringing together the work of colleagues from across sectors within the Organisation for the benefit of citizens and criminal justice authorities worldwide.

Protecting you and your rights in cyberspace

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What is cyberviolence?

Cyberviolence being a relatively new phenomenon that **encompasses a wide variety of crimes**, the term is still difficult to define precisely.

The Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY) Working Group on cyberbullying and other forms of violence, in its **Mapping Study on Cyberviolence** (2018), settled on defining cyberviolence as:

"The use of computer systems to cause, facilitate, or threaten violence against individuals, that results in (or is likely to result in) physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering and may include the exploitation of the individual's circumstance, characteristics or vulnerabilities."

Why is addressing it important?

Cyberviolence is often misunderstood and not taken as seriously as it should be. Yet, it is important to remember that cyberviolence may start online, but it often ends offline with devastating consequences for the victims and their families. It is important to act in order to prevent cyberviolence from happening, and to protect and bring justice to the victims. The Council of Europe is working across sectors through the mechanisms of related Conventions to ensure human rights are upheld in cyberspace as well, for all.

What is the Cyberviolence Resource?

The Cyberviolence Resource is one of the online tools initiated by the **Octopus Project** of the Council of Europe's Cybercrime Division, bringing together the work of colleagues from across sectors within the Organisation for the benefit of citizens and criminal justice authorities worldwide.

The resource was developed following the publication of the Mapping Study on Cyberviolence of the Council of Europe's Cybercrime Convention Committee in 2018.

What is the aim of the Cyberviolence Resource?

The aim of the Cyberviolence Resource is to facilitate knowledge sharing among practitioners, by providing insights into the latest developments in international and domestic legislation, policies, case-law, thematic studies, and other relevant materials.

Whereas the Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention, ETS No. 185) was the catalyst of the Cyberviolence Resource, given the impact that cyberviolence has on various target groups and the particularities this entails, the resource also aims at creating synergies with other Council of Europe instruments. This includes the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention, CETS No. 201), the Convention on Action against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention, CETS No. 210) and the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (CETS No. 197), as well as the First Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime, concerning the criminalisation of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed through computer systems (ETS No. 189), the Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists, Council of Europe resolutions and recommendations on hate speech and hate crime, as well as other related standards and initiatives.

Structure of the resource

The resource is divided into 5 main themes: cyberviolence against women, cyberviolence against children, online hate speech and hate crime, cyberviolence against journalists, and online and technology-facilitated trafficking in human beings along dedicated sections on international and domestic legislation, initiatives, policies and strategies, and relevant resources.

The Cybercrime Programme Office (C-PROC) and capacity building to tackle cyberviolence

As a part of the capacity building work undertaken by the **Cybercrime Programme Office of the Council of Europe (C-PROC),** in cooperation with colleagues from various CoE Divisions a series of activities for tackling cyberviolence have been organised in partnership with national authorities in charge of the cybercrime response around the world.

Such activities include studies, training workshops and webinars for countering online child sexual exploitation and abuse, cyberbullying and hate speech, as well as initiatives on gender mainstreaming in cybercrime.

Sharing is caring!

If you came across an interesting study or resource, you are more than welcome to **share it with us!**