



Cyber-bullying: trends, prevention strategies and the role of law enforcement

09 March 2021





Bullying Defined

- any repetitive, intentional action which hurts somebody physically, psychologically or emotionally





Cyber-Bullying Defined

- takes place 'virtually' via mobile devices like phones and tablets
- takes place through online social networks and on gaming sites





Cyber-Bullying Can Include

- inappropriate text messaging
- e-mailing or blogging
- sending offensive or degrading images
- excluding individuals from group chat
- posting content on social media
- creating false personas to mock or humiliate others





JRC TECHNICAL REPORTS

How children (10-18) experienced online risks during the Covid-19 lockdown - Spring 2020

*Key findings from
surveying families
in 11 European
countries*

Lobe, B., Velicu, A., Staksrud, E.,
Chaudron S., Di Gioia, R.



Helpline Statistics

Better Internet for Kids [Discover](#) [Policy](#) [Practice](#) [Resources](#) [Guide to apps](#) [Events](#) [SID](#) [BIK Youth](#) [Positive content](#)

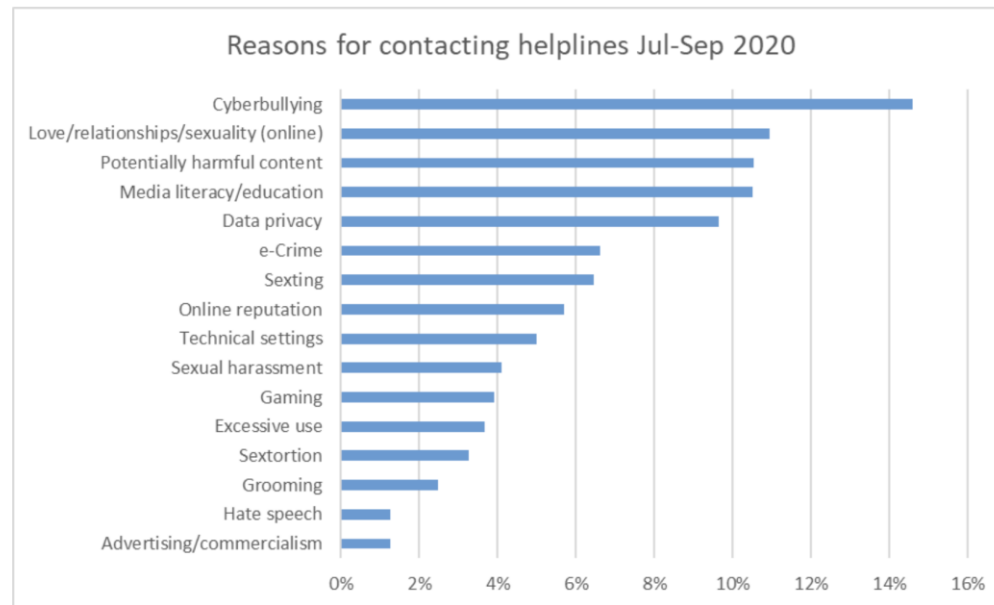


Illustration: Main reasons for contacting the helplines from July to September 2020



Microsoft Digital Civility Index

5th

Edition

**CIVILITY, SAFETY
& INTERACTION
ONLINE**

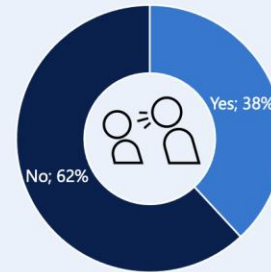
February 2021



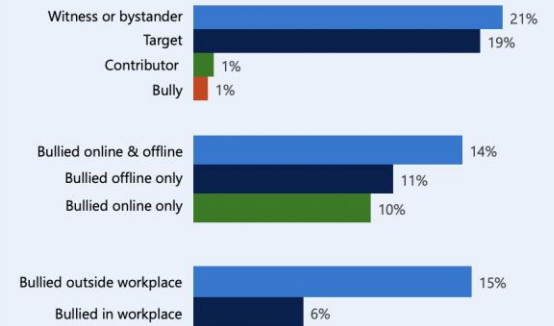
Microsoft TRG

38% involved in bullying incident

Involved in bullying incident
Base: total sample, n=16,051



19% said they were the target of bullying





When cyber-bullying meets OCSEA

OCSEA

=

Online **C**hild **S**exual **E**xploitation and **A**buse

Encompasses all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse of a child – either committed directly online or facilitated by the digital environment



When cyber-bullying meets OCSEA

Links between cyber-bullying and
(unwanted) sexual behaviour

Sexting

Sexual
identity

Sexual
connotations



When cyber-bullying meets OCSEA

Links between cyber-bullying and
(unwanted) sexual behaviour

Cyber-bullying as a STARTING POINT for OCSEA

Targeting a cyber-bullying victim in a sexualised manner
→ Sexual harassment

Luring, pressuring, coercing for sexual images/videos
→ Sexual extortion



When cyber-bullying meets OCSEA

Links between cyber-bullying and
(unwanted) sexual behaviour

Cyber-bullying as an END POINT for OCSEA

A victim of
grooming/sexual
extortion gets
cyber-bullied

Re-victimization
through cyber-
bullying



When cyber-bullying meets OCSEA

Links between cyber-bullying and
(unwanted) sexual behaviour

Blurring the line between non criminalized behaviour and sexual offences

Norwegian study on OCSEA caselaw:

Offenders target
children
victims of cyber-
bullying

Immense impact on
cyber-bullying
victims

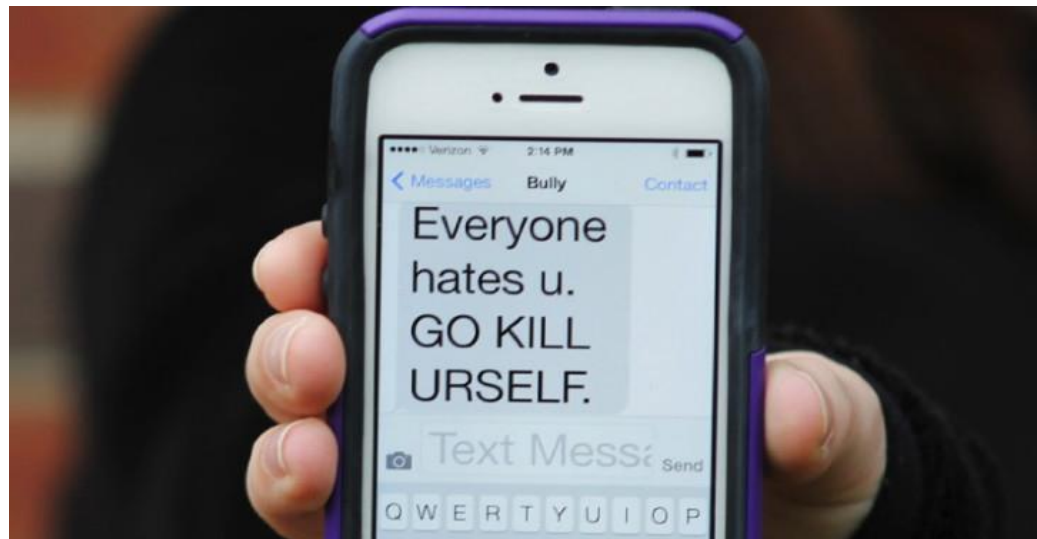


Cyberbullying as Offences Leading to Criminal Investigations



Challenges to Law Enforcement

- Is *Cyberbullying* a crime?
- Identifying the Cyberbully





Is Cyberbullying Illegal?

In some countries it is:

- **Canada**- Under the Education Act, individuals who engage in cyberbullying face suspension from school. Repeat bullies may also face expulsion and possible jail time.
- **United Kingdom**- Under the Malicious Communications Act, cyberbullying could result in six months or more in prison and a hefty fine.
- **Philippines**- Under Republic Act 10627, it is up to the schools to implement policies to address cyberbullying. If school administrators do not comply with the Republic Act, they face sanctions.



- **Australia-** Under the Federal Nature of Law, cyberbullying laws vary from territory to territory. The laws in each territory take three forms: Actions by state, lawsuit by the victim, and "Articulate of Industry Codes."
- **United States-** Varies from state to state all have some form of legislation or policy – mainly to be handled by the school.



What can the Police do?

- Enforce the Law.

If the law doesn't exist –then what?

- To Serve and Protect.

In many cases the 'cyberbully' will be a victim of peer pressure – should they be treated as a criminal?



Use alternative legislation....

- Harassment
- Malicious Communication
- Threats of harm/Death
- Offences against Public Decency
- Sexting
- Sextortion, which is sexual exploitation
- OCSEA (Child pornography)
- Stalking
- Hate crimes/ discrimination
- Invasion of Privacy
- Extortion
- Incitement to Commit Physical Injury/Suicide



Investigative options

- Victim/Representative
- Social Media
- ISPs
- Telecom suppliers
- Peers
- Teachers/Parents
- OSINT
- International Cooperation



The Challenge on a Global Scale



Blue Whale

- First identified in Russia
- 2016/2017
- 130 suicides (children/teens)





Fire Fairy

- First Identified in Russia
- 2017
- unknown number of victims





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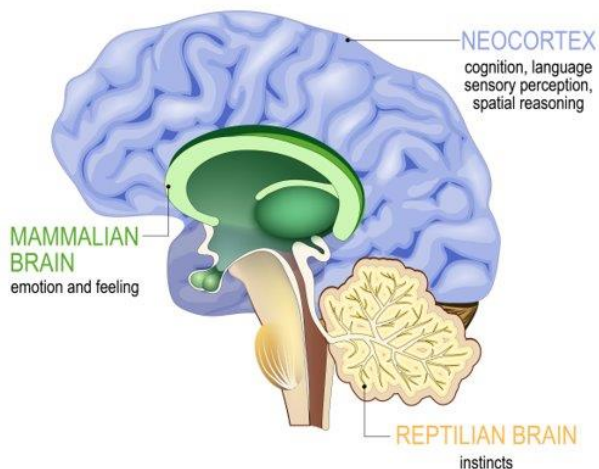
Mechanisms to support victims, Nina Vaaranen-Valkonen, Council of Europe expert



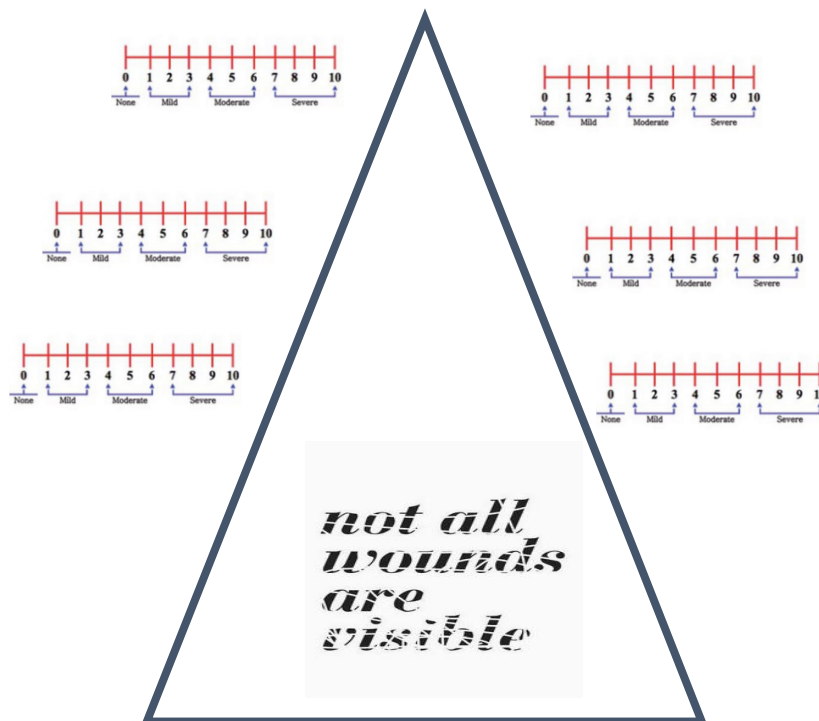


Evolution Hasn't Made a "Digital Leap"

Brain evolution



“Flight – Fight and Freeze” response





The World in the Hands of Every Child



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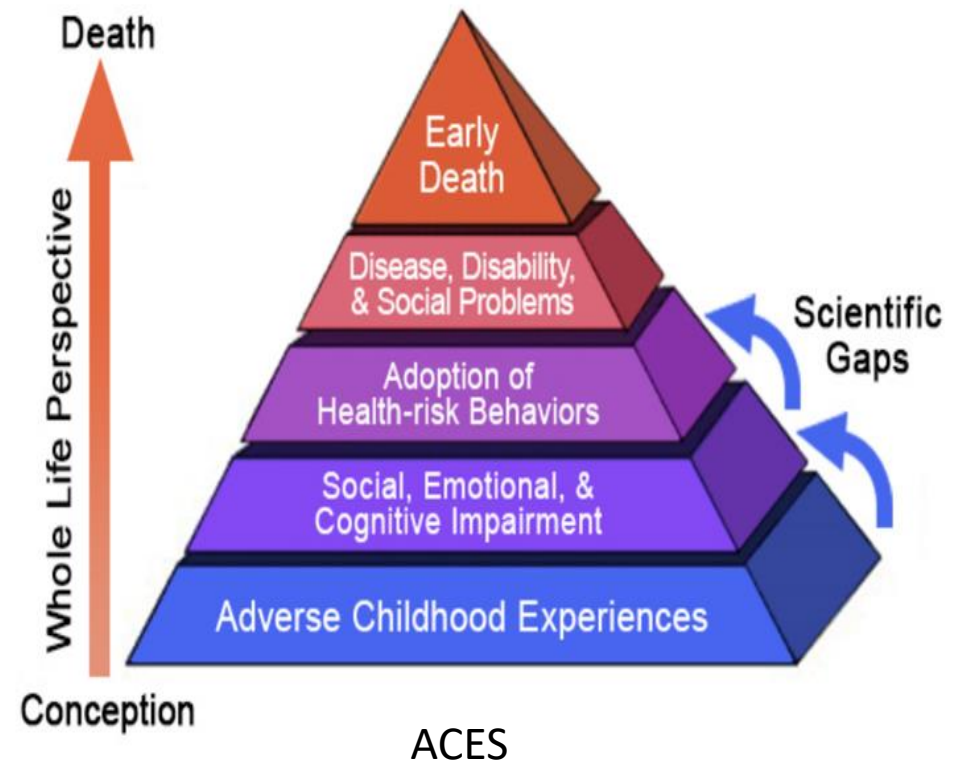
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Child Exploitation and Abuse Have Consequences

- **PTSD symptoms**
- **Substance abuse**
- Poorer adjustment, lifestyle instability
- Sexual dysfunction
- Depression
- Suicide attempts
- Multiple diagnosis





Guilt, Shame and Self-blame

P: I hadn't even grown a lot in the past year but somehow, I felt that I was a little older, that I should've already understood.

P: Mmm, I'm wondering or, well, I might have also thought it was my own fault (--)

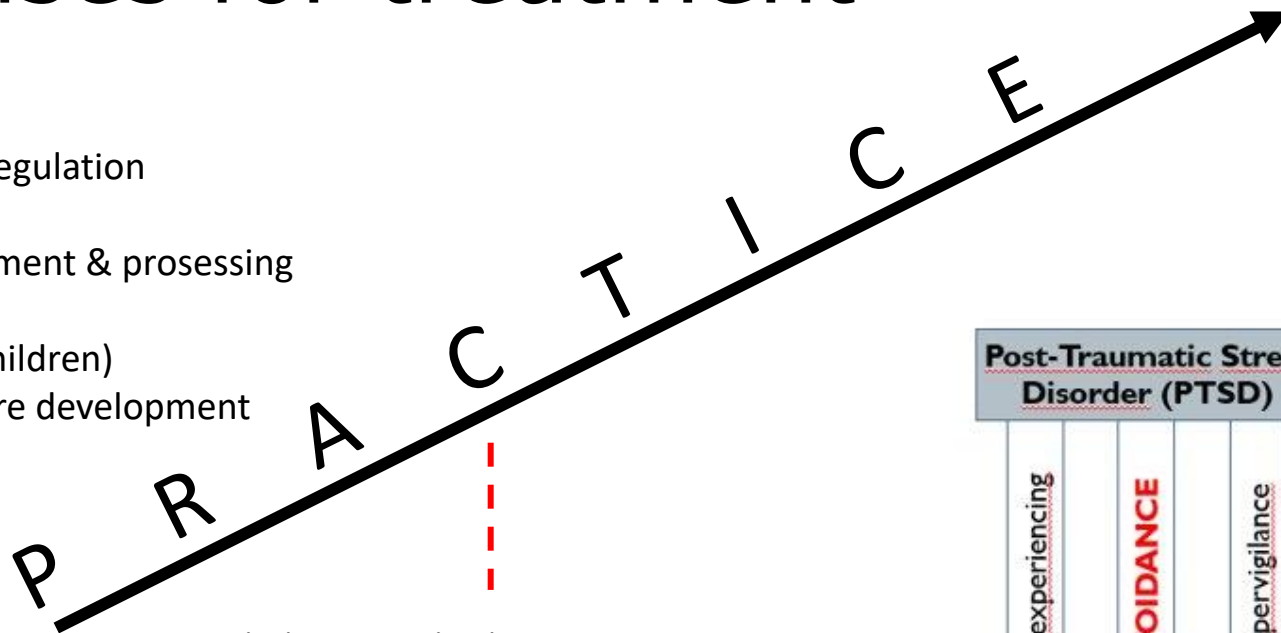
T: What would you want to say now, as an adult to that child, or what would you have wanted to say?

P: Behave more intelligently!

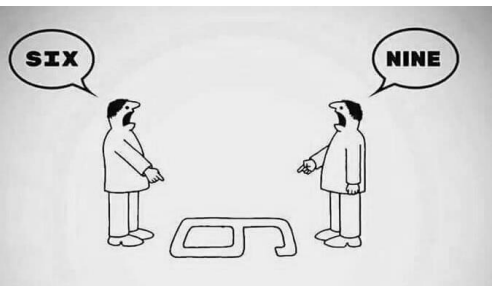
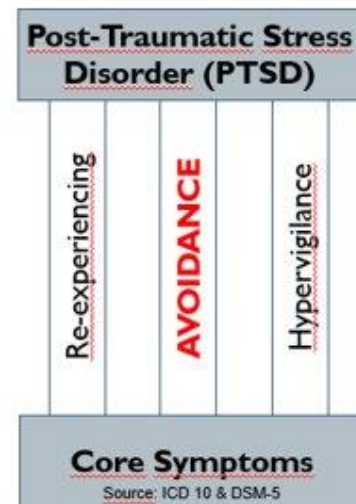


Trauma-informed care – Best practises for treatment

- Psychoeducation
- Relaxation
- Affective expression and regulation
- Cognitive coping
- Trauma narrative development & processing
- In vivo gradual exposure
- (Cojoint parent sessions children)
- Enhancing safety and future development



Gradual exposure develops through PRACTICE components and it is's part of each component



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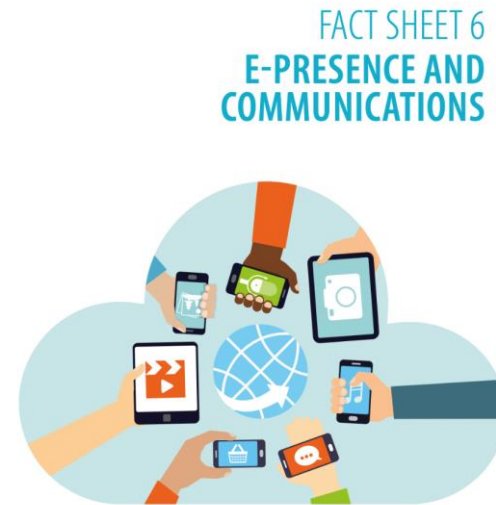
- SESSION 2



Council of Europe resources



Being online
Well-being online
Rights online





Council of Europe resources



Building a Europe
for and with children
www.coe.int/children



Fact sheet 21

Online harassment: bullying, stalking and trolling





Let's stop
bullying
together!



Finnish program against bullying

KiVa is an antibullying program that has been developed in the University of Turku, Finland, with funding from the Ministry of Education and Culture. The program is evidence-based which means that the effectiveness of KiVa has been proven scientifically. KiVa offers a wide range of concrete tools and materials for schools to tackle bullying.

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Technical Tools





empower children. eliminate bullying.



HOME

ABOUT

THINK TANK

PARTNERS

RESEARCH & ASSESSMENT

AMBASSADORS

RESOURCES

Search



THE ENABLE RESOURCE PACK FOR STUDENTS, TEACHERS, PARENTS AND CAMPAIGNERS



FIND OUT MORE >

Empowering young people, eliminating bullying

Check the ENABLE webinars

READ ABOUT THE ENABLE PROJECT IN:

[Nederlands](#)

[Français](#)

[Hrvatski](#)

[Ελληνικά](#)

#ENABLEEU TWEETS

#EnableEU Tweets

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BULLYING

and your child

What every parent needs to know ... and do

Whether parent, carer, teacher or young person, everyone has a part to play in ensuring a safe, happy and empowering environment for children and young people in which they are free from the threat of bullying or discrimination. Research shows that social and emotional skill development is fundamental in achieving this, and that without these skills, children are more at risk of bullying, and of cyber-bullying.



Welcome to the ENABLE anti-bullying pack for parents and carers. Your child's school is taking part in this exciting project and this handbook will help you to understand what bullying is and be able to discuss it with your child.

The pack:

- ▶ Gives an overview of the ENABLE project
- ▶ Explains what bullying is
- ▶ Helps you to spot signs that might mean your child is involved in bullying
- ▶ Provides tips about what to do if your child is being bullied
- ▶ Offers tips about how to help your child stay safe online
- ▶ Includes some great ideas about building your child's social and emotional skills
- ▶ Advises how you can get involved in the ENABLE project in your child's school





Une initiative de

MINISTÈRE DE L'INTÉRIEUR

Gendarmerie nationale

En partenariat avec

AXA Prévention

Le Permis Internet pour les enfants

Le "Permis Internet pour les enfants" est un programme national de prévention pour un usage d'Internet vigilant, sûr et responsable à l'attention des enfants de CM2 et de leurs parents. Déjà 2 millions d'enfants sensibilisés !

[EN SAVOIR PLUS](#)



En partenariat avec :



AXA
Prévention

COMMANDER DES KITS

LE KIT PÉDAGOGIQUE INTERNET POUR LES ENFANTS

PROGRAMME NATIONAL DE PRÉVENTION POUR UN BON USAGE D'INTERNET
À L' ATTENTION DES ENFANTS DE CM2.

**OBJECTIF : RESPONSABILISER LES ENFANTS POUR UN USAGE VIGILANT,
SÛR ET RESPONSABLE D'INTERNET ET DES ÉCRANS EN GÉNÉRAL.**

PROGRAMME ENTIÈREMENT GRATUIT, MIS À
DISPOSITION DES ENSEIGNANTS VOLONTAIRES.



Un kit contient :

- 30 permis internet
- 30 codes de bonne conduite
- 1 fiche d'examen
- 1 DVD-rom
- 1 affiche

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Role of the Police in Preventing Cyberbullying



What can the Police do?





Learn to recognise the signs.



Understand the potential outcomes

- Self harm
- Suicide
- Harm to others
- Repeat offending



Collaborate with Schools

- Devise policies
- Deliver training sessions
- Establish a rapport with children
- Deter negative online behaviour
- Break down reporting boundaries



Engage with Service Providers

- ISP
- Telecom providers
- Social Media



Encouraging victim disclosure

- Confidential help lines
- Anonymous tip lines

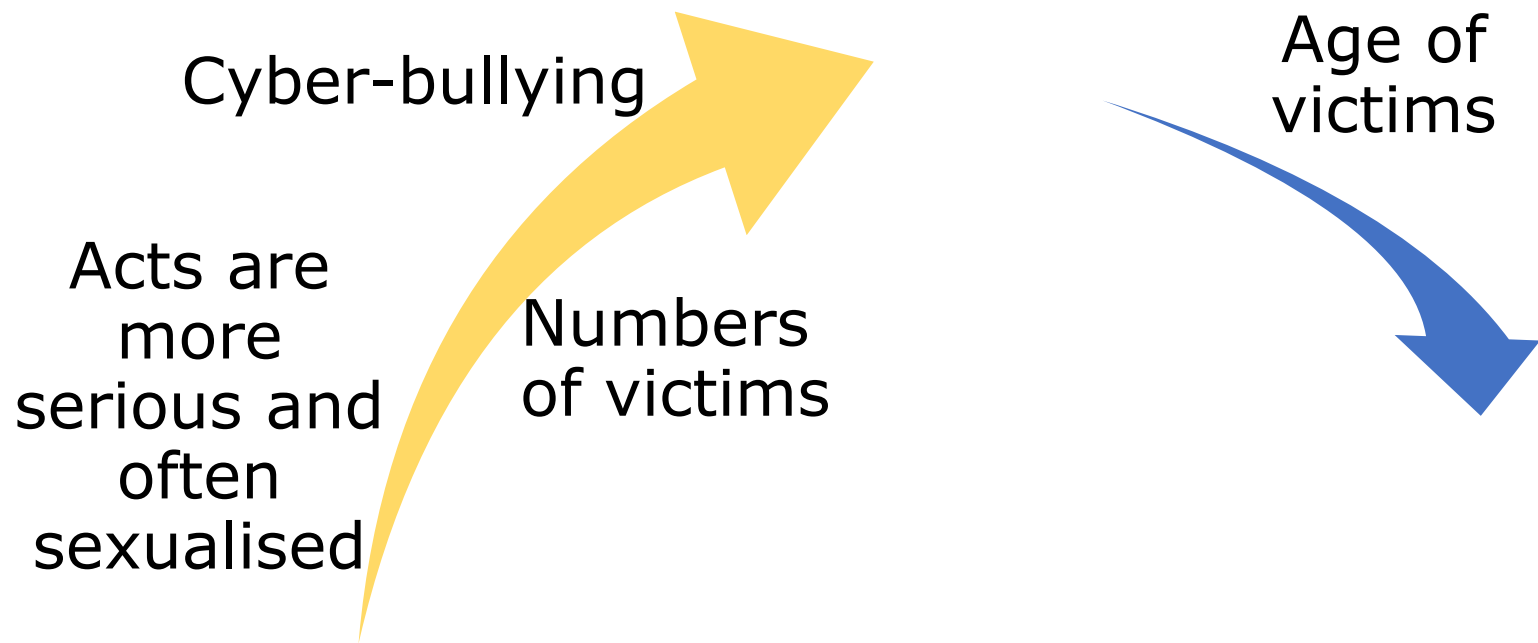


Safeguard, protect and support

- Victim
- AND Cyberbully



Protection measures for children who are victims of cyber-bullying





Protection measures for children who are victims of cyber-bullying

NON AU HARCÈLEMENT

Protocole de traitement
des situations de harcèlement
dans les écoles



MINISTÈRE
DE L'ÉDUCATION
NATIONALE, DE
L'ENSEIGNEMENT
SUPÉRIEUR ET DE
LA RECHERCHE

NATIONAL

UNE MÉTHODE : AGIR SUR LE HARCÈLEMENT ET LES CYBERVIOLENCES
PAR LE CLIMAT SCOLAIRE

SENSIBILISER - PRÉVENIR - FORMER - PRENDRE EN CHARGE

Coordination :
Mission ministérielle
de prévention et de lutte
contre les violences
en milieu scolaire

STRATÉGIE D'ÉQUIPE

- Sensibiliser le grand public, les acteurs académiques et départementaux
- Mettre à disposition des ressources (vidéos, guides,...)
- Animer le réseau des référents « harcèlement »
- Former les cadres au Plan national de formation (PNF)
- Accompagner les formations de formateurs en académies
- Former les jeunes ambassadeurs lycéens contre le harcèlement
- Animer la page Facebook : facebook.com/nonauharcèlement et le site : education.gouv.fr/nonauharcèlement

COÉDUCATION

- Faire participer les fédérations de parents aux groupes de travail, et au jury du prix « Non au harcèlement »
- Diffuser les fiches conseil pour les parents
- Communiquer en direction du grand public sur Facebook : facebook.com/nonauharcèlement et sur le site : education.gouv.fr/nonauharcèlement
- Faire connaître le n° vert : 30 20
- Favoriser la coéducation : « Mallette des parents » et autres outils

DES ÉLÈVES ACTEURS DE LA PRÉVENTION

- Former les ambassadeurs lycéens pour les académies volontaires
- Mettre à disposition des ressources réalisées pour et par les élèves
- Reconduire le prix : « Non au harcèlement », 4^e édition
- Valoriser les actions des élèves sur le site : education.gouv.fr/nonauharcèlement et la page Facebook : facebook.com/nonauharcèlement
- Faire participer les représentants d'élèves dans les groupes de travail nationaux et en tant que jury du prix « Non au harcèlement »

POLITIQUE NATIONALE SUR LE HARCÈLEMENT

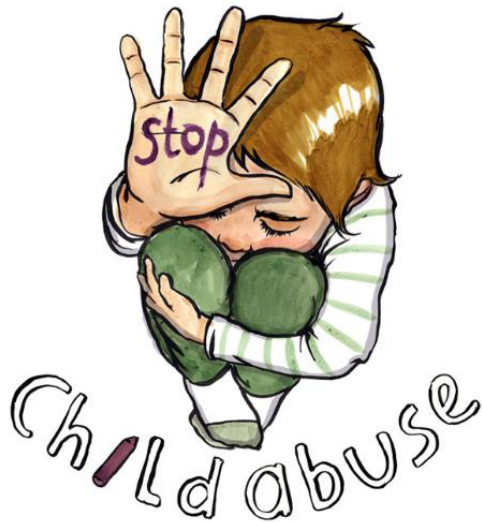
What is lacking? IMPLEMENTATION



Protection measures for children who are victims of cyber-bullying

Legal instruments

The Budapest Convention



The Lanzarote Convention

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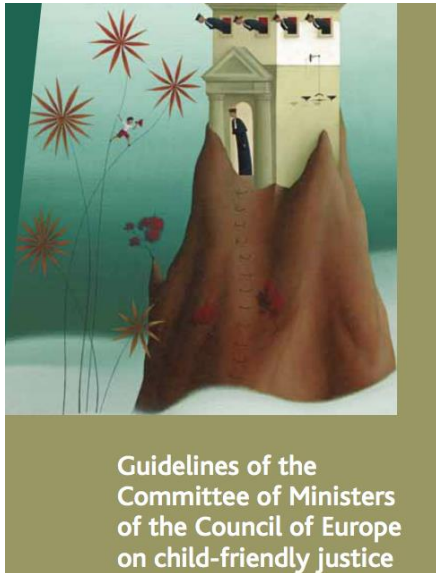
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Protection measures for children who are victims of cyber-bullying

Other relevant instruments



Child-friendly responses & Applicability to online acts

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The impact on child victims and bullies and the need for psychological support, Nina Vaaranen-Valkonen, Council of Europe expert

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Children are now spending even
more time on the internet

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Prevention is the key!



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Humans crave social connections
and Love

In its absence

Admiration

In its absence

Fear

In its absence

Disgust and contempt

Humans crave social connection
and response

Crave being touched at any price.

- Hjalmar Söderberg: *Doktor Glas* (1905)

Translation M. Guilliano



Every trauma has three stories



The thoughts about what happened



The emotions we experience



The story our body tries to tell us

To heal we need to listen
all to three



Suojellaan Lapsia
Protect Children



Thank you!