

Committee/Council: Youth Assembly

Issue: Action Paper I on the dangers of the internet world

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Position: Head, Co-head

Introduction

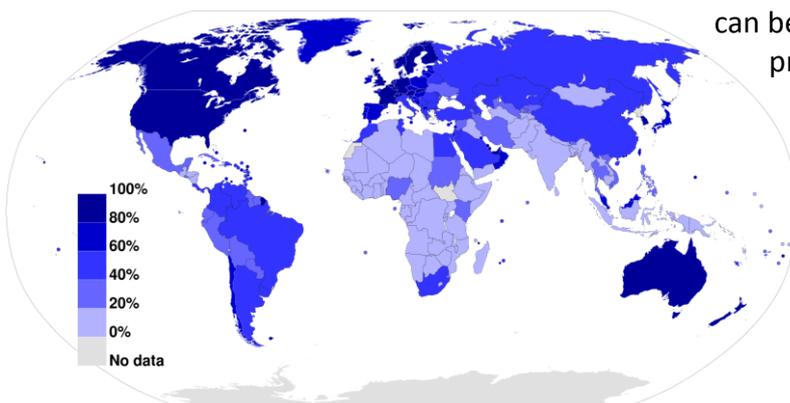
Today, modern technology has completely revolutionised our modern lives. Modern advancements have allowed us to the whole world in our fingertips. Despite the fact these technological advancements have not reached each and every society, a majority of the world uses internet in some way or form. We now have the capability to contact people thousands of miles away, to trade and to purchase, to get informed instantly, to communicate ideas and to have our voice heard, to have an alternative means of entertainment and to understand the world around us.



What many people tend to forget, however is that what goes on the web, stays on the web. Constant access to the Internet might leave someone exposed and vulnerable, rather than more social. All of our online footprint can be used to aim advertisements directly at us and many companies are trying to make a profit off of us. We must understand what the consequences of sharing personal details could be as our personal data is not always safe and what goes on the web, stays on the web. Our data is only a few clicks away from anyone with the knowledge to acquire this data. Some have gone as far as saying that digital privacy is no more than an illusion

Another danger presented on the Internet is cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is a relatively new phenomenon, which makes it more dangerous as not everyone fully understands its dangers. Given that we are connected 24 hours per day, we are susceptible to being attacked anytime, anywhere. Not everyone on the Internet is who they say they are or have the intentions they describe. There are people who want to cause harm, and one must be cautious in order to evade these perils.

Internet users in 2012 as a percentage of a country's population



The Internet provides a platform in which everyone can be anonymous. This can be used to evade prosecution. Many people go to the Internet to reveal their 'dark side' knowing very well that there are no consequences to their actions. It is a criminal's safe heaven due to the lack of traceability which can exist. This makes the police job ever so difficult. Activities which are strictly prohibited in real life are

performed in the virtual world.

Whilst the internet has given us so many advantages, there are dangers we must manoeuvre around in order to safely navigate the web. Therefore, understanding the environment of the internet is imperative in order for us to be able to successfully use it. The incidents which occur in this digital world can seriously alter what happens in the real world. The phrase “knowledge is power” (“scientia potentia est”) was first introduced in 1668 by Thomas Hobbes, but in this ‘information era’ it can be more relevant than ever before.

Definition of Key Terms

Child

As defined by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child “A child means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier. (<http://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx>)

Child pornography

According to the UN Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, “Child pornography means any representation, by whatever means, of a child engaged in real or simulated explicit sexual activities or any representation of the sexual parts of a child for primarily sexual purposes. Which also furthermore states that all member states should make illegal the “Producing, distributing, disseminating, importing, exporting, offering, selling or possessing child pornography” (<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/OPSCCRC.aspx>)

Cyber-bullying

Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place using electronic technology, such as cell phones, computers, and tablets as well as communication tools including social media sites, text messages, chat, and websites. (<https://www.stopbullying.gov/cyberbullying/what-is-it/index.htmlData>)

Data

Information, statistics or facts. (<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/data>)

Privacy

The freedom from secret surveillance, public scrutiny or damaging publicity. (<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/privacy>)

Propaganda

Ideas or statements that are often false or exaggerated and that are spread in order to help a cause, a political leader, a government, etc. (<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/propaganda>)

Regulation

A law or order prescribed and enforced by the state. (<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/regulation>)

Background Information

Privacy

Everything we do on the Internet can be recorded and stored. The Internet is a public space, not a private one. This means that once something is on the web, it can be very difficult, sometimes impossible to remove it. This is why we need to pay close attention to what we do and do not share on social media, such as Facebook and Twitter. Everything you do can be linked back at us.

There are two reasons someone might want information about you. The first reason is money. Companies such as Google are paid in order to advertise another company's goods or services to you. In order to maximise their profits, they find out about what potentially might interest you, and then advertise these products to you. If, for example, you search for bicycles and bicycle gear, there is a very big possibility that, over the following days, you will be constantly and repeatedly advertised to, in an attempt for them to sell you their products and for you to part with your money. You only become a target for their advertisements. Furthermore, all of this happens without you knowing about it.



The second reason is much darker. There are people who want to hurt you and who will do anything to find damaging information about you. People with the expertise and the know-how can dig up things you have posted, liked or shared in an attempt to destroy your reputation. It is of utmost importance, in order to avoid this risk, to be extremely cautious of what they share online but also with whom they share this with. A tweet from a few years back could be more easily found than a personal email you sent to a trusted person. There is also a need to control what rights you give to strangers. It is probably a good idea not to allow random people to access what you have shared online and to control and verify who you add as a 'friend' and who you can trust. People might use this information to intimidate you and make you feel bad by bullying you. Everything you share can also be seen by future employers, sometimes discouraging them from hiring you.



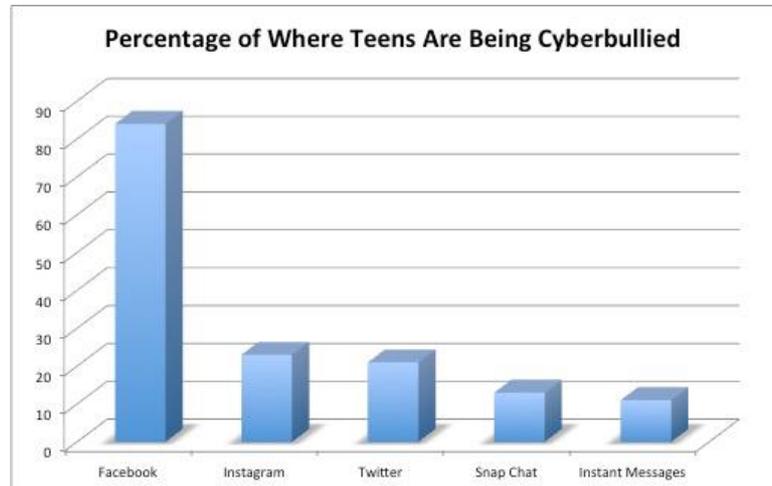
Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is a relatively new phenomenon, which makes it all the more dangerous. Due to the fact that it has been relatively new, combating cyber-bullying has often troubled teachers and

parents alike. During the past few years, cyber-bullying has been on the rise, particularly among teenagers.

In 2010 the suicide of Tyler Clementi shocked the world and spread awareness of cyberbullying. Tyler Clementi was recorded from a webcam in his dorm without his knowledge kissing another man. The person recording was his dorm mate, who shared the video online. There was an attempt to record him again, though it ultimately failed. This lack of privacy coupled with the mocking he received proved too much for Tyler, who jumped off the George Washington Bridge. This incident caused outrage. People started understanding the problem and debate on how to combat the issue was sparked. The dorm mate was indicted, but on charges not related to the suicide.

Cyberbullying can be one of the worst types of bullying due to the fact that someone with the expertise could hide their identity, the bully may never have to confront and face the consequences of his actions. A study performed by Ipsos-enfance in 2009 shows that 6% of French teenagers aged between 9 and 16 have experienced cyberbullying and two-thirds of them claim to have been deeply affected by the incident. Whilst this study was performed in France, the findings apply to the majority of the western countries. It is recommended that when someone experiences cyberbullying, one immediately tells a parent, a teacher or a trusted person, and that one understands that it's not one's fault.



A German study performed by Bündnis gegen Cybermobbing showed that cyberbullying was not only common in schools, but also in the workplace. 28% of the people surveyed said that they had been targeted by cyberbullying and bullying, and that nearly half of them experienced depression or personality disorders. The study also made revealed that women were more susceptible to these attacks than their male counterparts.

The bullies also tend to dehumanise the victim, thus allowing themselves to become more vulgar, even more rude and offensive. They also tend to show less pity towards the victim.

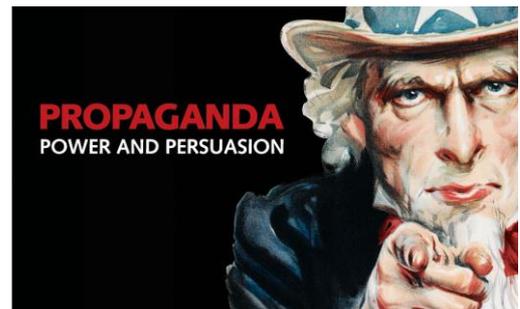
Another aspect of cyber-bullying which makes it so terrifying is that it follows the victim everywhere. Research has shown that, cyberbullying can be more emotionally difficult to deal with than traditional bullying because it is ever present. Contrary to bullying performed in school or in the workplace, cyberbullying follows you in your house and everywhere else you go. Cyberbullying can also encourage bullying in school and in the workplace. If someone breaches your privacy and steals information which could harm you and posts them on the web, there is no escaping. These things will follow you everywhere and, if possible, would be incredibly difficult to take down.

One of the reasons cyberbullying has been so devastating is because the victims tend not to communicate the events which occurred and explain the situation to a parent, teacher or trusted person due to shame.

The effects of cyberbullying are similar to traditional bullying, but often more serious. Numerous research reports also show that teenagers are more affected than adults. Victims tend to have lower self-esteem and confidence, which impact their ability to be social and to thrive in the workplace and can impact growth and the transition into adulthood. Victims also tend to face depression more than average people. This leads to them facing extreme anxiety, not being able to make friends or feel well and in extreme cases to suicide.

Propaganda

Propaganda on the Internet seems harmless and often is, in the cases of propaganda aimed at promoting corporations or political parties. However there are also aspects of propaganda, which are dangerous to society as a whole. The most infamous use of propaganda is as a means of spreading ideologies, which can lead to extreme actions. A fitting example of this type of propaganda would be ISIS' effort to recruit new members as well as using it to spread terror. It is estimated that more than 27000 foreign fighters have joined ISIS since 2011 mostly due to ISIS being able to persuade people via videos on the internet and videos promoting joining ISIS are still being circulated even by means as simple as a twitter post or YouTube video. Similarly propaganda is also being used as a countermeasure to those posts by governments and other parties. Continuing, propaganda, being a method to shape the opinion of the masses is also a means to incite violence towards other by means such as discrimination. The Internet is now a place where all individuals are able to freely express themselves. Unfortunately this often promotes discrimination against certain groups of people for racial, religious or similar reasons causing a lot of trouble to such people, which can take forms of violence or inability to find a workplace. Websites promoting propaganda are unfortunately easy to access and are accessed many times by people not aware of their propagandist and often misleading nature, which is why people are so susceptible to them. Consequently it is necessary that users of the Internet are aware of the existence of propaganda and should be able to avoid it so as to not be influenced by it.



ISIS recruitment video → <https://youtu.be/jdgzCbrPqzQ>

Child Pornography

Combating the issue of child pornography is of vital importance as child pornography has severely detrimental effects to the mental health to the minors featured in it. The symptoms vary from overwhelming feelings of guilt, shame and embarrassment, difficulty with relationships, increased possibility to become victims of sexual abuse, psychological distress and physical injuries whether they



knowingly participated in its creation or not. “I’ll never be done dealing with this, it’s like PTSD — it stays with you forever.” are the words of a victim, now 39 years old. Imagine the worst most humiliating moments of your life captured for everyone to see forever. Then imagine that as a child you didn’t even really know what was happening to you and you didn’t want it to happen but you couldn’t stop it. You were abused, raped, and hurt and this is something that other people want. It’s your life and your pain that they are enjoying. And it never stops and you are helpless to do anything ever to stop it. “That’s horror.” and “I am being exploited and used every day and every night somewhere in the world by someone.” are the words of another victim which serve to capture the absolute horror that the victims feel. It is estimated that there are over 5 million unique images of child pornography and over 57 million images and videos totally (duplicates included) along with 4103 identified victims who represent only a small portion of all victims about half of which are aged 12 and younger. Consequently it is of vital importance that this issue is dealt with so as to prevent the harming of more children during the creation of such material, harms, which will likely last for their whole lifetime.

Major Countries and Organisations Involved

Anonymous



Anonymous are an internet hacking group, which aside from hacking government and corporate websites are often referred to as “hacktivists” group, have twice, in 2011 and 2015 swept the dark web taking down multiple websites containing child pornography. Additionally they have multiple times helped to counter propaganda by ISIS by hacking and taking down ISIS websites and twitter accounts. It is important however to note that Anonymous is an independent group acting out of own interests which are unclear.

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)

The NCMEC was established in 1984 as a US non-profit organisation to handle issues concerning missing and sexually exploited children. It has since reviewed millions of cases of child pornography and has helped in identifying and locating victims as well as giving them psychological and legal support if necessary. It has also organised a financial coalition against child pornography (FCACP) consisting of 34 banks, credit card companies, etc., dedicated to ending commercial child pornography.



UN Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

The Special Rapporteur's mandate was created in 1990. The Special Rapporteur is mandated to analyse patterns and causes of child exploitation, finds measures to prevent it, raise awareness regarding the topic and offer advice regarding rehabilitation of victims. The Rapporteur's main

activities are filing complaints, writing reports and visiting countries.

Timeline of Events

Date	DESCRIPTION OF EVENTS
November 1943	UN Resolution A/RES/2/110 (Measures to be taken against propaganda and the inciters of a new war).
November 1989	United Nations Convention on Rights of the Child.
April 1993	Cern puts the World Wide Web software in public domain, allowing anyone to access it.
August 1996	First World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Declaration and Agenda for Action.
September 1999	International Conference on Combating Child Pornography on the Internet.
October 2001	In the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, the PATRIOT act, giving authorisation to the Government to monitor individuals online, is passed.
January 2002	United Nations Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.
August 2003	Myspace goes online.
October 2006	First reported suicide due to cyberbullying. The incident is reported by media and causes outrage, sparking debate and reform over cyber-bullying.
August 2008	California State legislature passes one of the first laws that directly address cyberbullying.
May 2013	Snowden exposes mass surveillance by the US Government.
December 2013	U.N passes resolution 68/67 addressing privacy in the digital age.

Date	DESCRIPTION OF EVENTS
May 2016	EU reformations on data protection regulations in the EU enter into force, giving the deadline of May 2018 for member states to ratify and apply the laws in their national legislature.

Relevant U.N Treaties, Resolutions and Events

UN Resolution 68/167

This resolution addresses the right to privacy at the digital age. The General Assembly affirmed that the rights of the citizen's offline continue to exist online. The General Assembly called on all procedures, practices and legislation related to communications surveillance, interception and collection of personal data by States to be examined and reviewed and asserted the need for States to guarantee the extensive and effective implementation of their obligations under international human rights law.

Commission on Human Rights Resolution 1996/85

Amongst other topics this resolution in paragraph 3 suggests providing the Special Rapporteur with the resources needed to combat child pornography. Additionally this resolutions calls for multilateral cooperation between countries to efficiently tackle trans-border problems and requests that a draft optional protocol regarding sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

United Nations Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

This Protocol was introduced on the 25th of May 2000 and entered into force on the 18th of January 2002 due to the rise of child sexual abuse and the absence of any resolution sufficiently covering the matter and as it states: "Considering that, in order further to achieve the purposes of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the implementation of its provisions, especially articles 1, 11, 21, 32, 33, 34, 35 and 36, it would be appropriate to extend the measures that States Parties should undertake in order to guarantee the protection of the child from the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography". In Article 2, a definition of child pornography is included as well as a request to all state parties to ensure that criminal law covers the topic on a domestic or transnational based upon Article 3 as well as other measures.

Resolution A/RES/2/110 Measures to be taken against Propaganda and the Inciters of a new war

This resolution was adopted soon after the Second World War and aimed to prevent propaganda "designed or likely to provoke or encourage and threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression".

Resolution A/HRC/20/L.13 The promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet

This resolution emphasises that all rights human have offline are also valid online and as such must be protected, referring to the importance of freedom of expression. Additionally this resolution affirms that the UN will continue the protection of human rights on the internet. This makes it the first resolution protecting human rights on the Internet.

Previous attempts to solve the issues

Privacy

The EU has passed a set of common rules of personal data protection. This ensures citizens that their data is safe and protected by EU law across the union, not just in their home country. Furthermore, you have the right to complain and obtain redress if your data is misused anywhere within the EU. In January 2012, the European Commission proposed a comprehensive reform of data protection rules in the EU. The regulations entered into force in May 2016 and must be ratified by May 2018 by the member states.

In the United States, the Patriot Act of 2001 expired in 2015, and was replaced by the Freedom Act. This new act put an end to bulk surveillance by the NSA and required the NSA to obtain court authorisation to gain access into personal data. This new act also allows companies such as Facebook and Google to publish any information about requests of information by the government. However, this new act still allows the phone companies to keep access of personal data and phone records.

Cyberbullying

To combat cyberbullying there have been a multitude of global initiatives. One of the goals of safer internet day, organised by the European Commission is informing people of the consequences of what they post online. The Cybersmile foundation is a global charity dedicated to tackling all forms of cyber-bullying. YouTube has also created a channel, Beatbullying, to help people face cyber-bullying.

Whilst there is no legal definition of cyberbullying in the UK, cyberbullying is covered by other laws such as the Protection from Harassment Act of 1997. There are also EU laws, such as the European framework agreement on harassment and violence at work, which protect all citizens in the EU against all sorts of attacks in the workplace, including cyberbullying. In the USA, California was one of the first states to directly put laws in place directed against cyberbullying, and most states have followed suit. Title 18 of the U.S Code also criminalises sending serious threats over the internet.



Propaganda

Unfortunately international coordinated effort aimed at combating propaganda is quite lacking and there have only been brief vague references to propaganda in a small number of resolutions such as resolution 2/110 which condemns propaganda designed or likely to provoke or encourage acts threatening to peace and acts of aggression, and 5/381, which defines what kind of propaganda resolution 2/110 includes.

Child Pornography

Regarding child pornography however there have been numerous efforts to combat it since the international community recognises the severe consequences on the mental health of children. Starting in 1989 with the Convention on the Rights of the Child a large step was taken to ensure the physical and mental health of children. Another important action was the adoption of the United Nations Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, which further protected children from becoming victims of child pornography. There are numerous organisations who have acted against child pornography including the FBI and Anonymous who have taken down multiple websites and the NCMEC which has helped in the identification of victims. Finally the International Conference on Combating Child Pornography on the Internet, held in Vienna in 1999 has requested for international cooperation between countries and called for worldwide criminalisation of child pornography.

Possible Solutions

Considering all of the above it is necessary to find solutions to the topics as soon as possible to prevent them from becoming out of control and causing more harm to individuals as well as the international community.

As to protecting our privacy, all states and corporations must have our consent or a publicly disclosed reason for which they breach our privacy and personal data. It is of utmost importance that there is a system in place which allows the public to see why the state is breaching the basic right.

In regard to cyber-bullying, the step forward would be to educate the population and offer aid not just the victims, but also the aggressors, who often has issues themselves, as such as they do not feel the urge to bully and create an atmosphere of misery in other people's lives.

In relation to propaganda it is of vital importance first of all to ensure that people are able to understand which websites are misinforming and contain propaganda and which don't. To be able to view websites without relying on them too heavily and therefore being manipulated by them in the cases of propaganda websites is also crucial. Moreover it is recommended that the task of spreading awareness regarding propaganda and combating propaganda is assigned to either an existing international organisation or to a new specially formed one due to the fact that none is specifically handling these tasks.

Regarding child pornography it is again recommended to create a task force dedicated to down websites and identifying victims. Additionally these victims should be provided rehabilitation support and any other support they may need including legal and psychological support. Furthermore it is necessary that measures be taken to prevent child pornography from happening in the first place.

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