Online Hate Speech

help line
saferinternet
210 6007686

Help-line

SaferInternet4Kids.gr
ΓΙΑ ΕΝΑ ΑΣΦΑΛΕΣΤΕΡΟ ΔΙΑΔΙΚΤΥΟ

Awareness Center

safeLine
www.safeline.gr

Hotline

Hate Speech

The internet and social media in particular have opened up new horizons to the interaction of people and consequently to communication. The global nature of the internet helps the direct interaction of people from one end of the earth to another. However, the anonymity it offers hides various risks. One of these risks is the spread of hate speech by supporters of extreme ideologies and the uncontrolled access to it by people of all ages due to inadequate IT controls.

According to the definition of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, hate speech means "any form of expression that disseminates, incites, promotes or justifies racist hatred, xenophobia, anti-Semitism or other forms of hatred based on intolerance, including that expressed through aggressive nationalism and ethnocentrism, discrimination and hostility against minorities, migrants and people from abroad." The term can be used to describe particularly abusive, even threatening behavior, as well as comments that are usually offensive.

What causes it?

Hate speech refers to content that promotes violence or hatred against individuals or groups based on certain characteristics such as race or background, religion, specific abilities, gender, age, sexual orientation, etc. **Hate speech is an attack on identity. The offender does not attack the victim for something he does but for something that he is.**

The effects of hate speech include discrimination, marginalization and alienation, while the phenomenon targets individuals or groups of individuals at a personal, team and social level. In particular, hate speech has a detrimental effect on the individual or the target person or on the group with the same characteristics. **It causes depression, despair, stress and anger, threatens the bodily integrity of the victim and generates anti-violence.**

In addition, hate speech raises community tensions and as a result, the damage is caused to the society as a whole.

The lack of recognition and respect for the difference as something equal and the insufficient education on human rights are the main causes of the birth of hate speech.

Freedom of speech

Addressing and eliminating the phenomenon is a very difficult task as it hits the right to freedom of speech. There is reflection on the basis on which a liberal society can prohibit intolerant speech in such a way that it does not restrict the right to freedom of expression at the same time.

Despite the fact that Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights states that everyone has the right to freedom of expression, **the European Court of Human Rights has accepted that it may be necessary in some democratic societies to impose sanctions or even the prevention of all forms of expression that propagate, promote or justify hatred based on intolerance** (including religious intolerance), provided that the "formalities", the "conditions" 'restrictions' or 'penalties' imposed are proportionate to the legitimate aim pursued.

EU actions

Since May 2016, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Microsoft and later Instagram and Google+ have pledged to combat the dissemination of such content across Europe through the Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct complements the legislation to combat racism and xenophobia, which requires the effective prosecution of those who commit offenses of illegal hate speech - whether online or in the physical world. Social media, according to the code, investigate user complaints in less than 24 hours in order for the content in question to be removed from the internet as soon as possible.

Protecting your children

A good opportunity to start a discussion with your children is the broadcasted news. On the occasion of a relevant event that sees the light of publicity, you can start a conversation with your children, explaining your family values and your beliefs about racism, xenophobia and other forms of hatred.

Explain to children that there are people who do not share the same opinions with you and their personal beliefs are often shared online expressing their hatred for other people based on race, religion, sexual preferences, disability and their diversity.

Educate your children and help them develop critical thinking skills and be able to distinguish right from wrong and extremist views on the internet. Underline that hateful views do not comply with your values.

Show them that there are many positive voices on the internet that are united and opposed to hatred.

Prepare your children so that they know what to do if they encounter hate speech online. If your children are young, advise them to come and talk to you in case they see such content while surfing the web. If your children are older, ask them if they know how to use the relevant tools available on social media.

Keep them informed about the choices and steps they need to follow if they come across hate speech online. Teach them how to delete or block users who upload hate speech content. Make sure your children know how to act responsibly online so that they do not share or promote opinions targeting individuals or groups.

The most important step is to **start the dialogue early** so that your children have the ability to think critically about what they see, know how to react if they see hate speech online and understand they have the power to spread a positive message. Make sure your children trust you and share with you what they see and might trouble them on the web.

✱ Reporting desturbing content:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/help

Google: https://support.google.com/legal/troubleshooter/1114905?hl=el

Instagram: https://help.instagram.com/165828726894770?helpref=faq_content

Twitter: https://help.twitter.com/en/safety-and-security/report-abusive-behavior

YouTube: https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/2801939?hl=el

Microsoft: https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/concern/hatespeech

Greek Hotline: www.safeline.gr

SaferInternet4Kids.gr

@FORTH
INSTITUTE OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

INHOPE
ins@fe

Co-financed by the European Union
Connecting Europe Facility