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## Reporting Online Bullying, Harassment, and Abuse

Aligned with Laws in Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, UK, Ireland, and Europe

Online bullying, harassment, and abuse are serious issues that can affect both children and adults. It is important to know the relevant laws and how to report such incidents in different countries. This guide will outline the steps to report online bullying, harassment, and abuse in Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, the UK, Ireland, and Europe.

### Steps to Report Online Bullying, Harassment, and Abuse

1. Take screenshots of the offensive content and note the date and time on each screenshot. Save these as evidence.
2. Block the bully or abuser on the social media platform where the incident occurred.
3. Report the offensive content to the relevant social media platform and take screenshots to document this action. You must report through this channel first.
4. If the content is not removed within 24 hours, report it to the appropriate authorities in your country.

### Country-Specific Information

#### Australia

- Relevant Law: s.474.17 of the Criminal Code
- Reporting Authority: Office of the eSafety Commissioner, via the complaints section at [www.esafety.gov.au](http://www.esafety.gov.au)
- For life-threatening situations or image-based abuse, contact your local police station or Crimestoppers at 1800 333 000.

#### New Zealand

- Relevant Law: Harmful Digital Communications Act 2015
- Reporting Authority: Netsafe, at [www.netsafe.org.nz/report](http://www.netsafe.org.nz/report)
- For life-threatening situations, contact your local police station or dial 111 for emergency services.

## Hong Kong

- Relevant Law: Prevention of Harassment Ordinance (Cap. 212)
- Reporting Authority: Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data, at [www.pcpd.org.hk](http://www.pcpd.org.hk)
- For life-threatening situations, contact your local police station or dial 999 for emergency services.

## United Kingdom

- Relevant Law: Malicious Communications Act 1988, Communications Act 2003
- Reporting Authority: Report to local police through their website, or visit [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)
- For life-threatening situations, contact your local police station or dial 999 for emergency services.

## Ireland

- Relevant Law: Non-Fatal Offences Against the Person Act 1997, Harassment, Harmful Communications and Related Offences Act 2020
- Reporting Authority: An Garda Síochána, report at your local Garda station or online at [www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie)
- For life-threatening situations, contact your local Garda station or dial 112 or 999 for emergency services.

## Europe

- Relevant Law: Varies depending on the country, generally falls under laws addressing cyberbullying, harassment, and hate speech.
- Reporting Authority: Contact your local law enforcement agency or the relevant authorities in your specific country.
- For life-threatening situations, dial the Europe-wide emergency number 112.

Remember, it is essential to take online bullying, harassment, and abuse seriously and report it to the appropriate authorities. By doing so, you can help make the internet a safer place for everyone.

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