



**THE CYBERSMILE FOUNDATION**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

# **The Cybersmile Foundation release findings of major international online abuse survey On Stop Cyberbullying Day**

**PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA, JUNE 16, 2017** - The Cybersmile Foundation have released the findings of a major international survey with 50,000 participants in the U.S. and U.K. focused on cyberbullying, online abuse and harassment.

Internet users aged 18-65+ in the U.S. and the U.K. were targeted through Google Surveys with questions related to their exposure to online toxicity including homophobic, racist and religion based abuse in its various forms. The survey also asked respondents in the U.S. and the U.K. which media platforms they had seen the most abuse on, with findings revealing that Facebook accounted for more than 50% of all reported online abuse when compared with Instagram, Twitter, Youtube and Snapchat.

“Regardless of the intended target, online abuse can be equally as damaging for bystanders as it is for the intended victims. This is not a problem just for those who are being targeted or only young people, but also for a much wider online audience. This survey really highlights the prevalence of online abuse and how it affects all internet users,” - Dan Raisbeck, Co-Founder, The Cybersmile Foundation.

The findings reflect an accurate measurement of the population’s exposure to toxicity online in both countries with a margin of error less than 4.5%.

“As Cybersmile’s Official Diversity Ambassador and also as somebody who has been personally affected by abuse online, I am very proud to be part of this international survey. We must always remember that abusive material such as racism, religious based and homophobic content online hurt and affect huge numbers of people, regardless of who the

actual offensive material was intended for,” - Normani Kordei, Diversity Ambassador, The Cybersmile Foundation.

The survey is [available for download on the Cybersmile website](#).

### **Notable findings of the Survey**

- 54.5% of all respondents in the U.S. had seen the most online abuse on Facebook
- 45.2% of respondents in the U.S. aged 18-24 had seen racist abuse online
- 39.8% of respondents in the U.S. aged 25-34 had seen homophobic abuse online
- 35.7% of respondents in the U.S. aged 18-24 had seen religion based abuse online

### **ABOUT THE CYBERSMILE FOUNDATION**

The Cybersmile Foundation is a multi award winning non-profit organization committed to tackling all forms of digital abuse and bullying online. They work to promote diversity and inclusion by building a safer, more positive digital community and encouraging people to realize their full potential.

Through education and the promotion of positive digital citizenship, The Cybersmile Foundation reduces incidents of cyberbullying and provides professional help along with support services to children and adults.

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The Cybersmile Foundation is an international non profit organization registered as a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization in the U.S. and as a registered charity in the U.K. (No.1147576)