

# NOT OK

Help fight online hate and threats





Statens medieråd

## **Protection against harassment online**

Freedom of expression is a fundamental part of the Swedish constitution. It means that everyone is entitled to think, believe and say whatever they want – in speech or in writing – as long as it is lawful. This is the basis of a democracy.

Hatred and threats can be illegal. The same laws apply online as in real life. It is up to the police and prosecutors to determine if a crime has been committed.

"It's never OK to spread hate. Not on social media or anywhere else"

"Having different opinions is important in society. I have the right to my own opinion"



## **Examples of**

## hate and threat crimes online

#### Slander

Slander, also known as defamation, means spreading information about someone to other people in order to damage that person's reputation.

#### Insult

Insulting someone is to mock, humiliate or ridicule a person with the intention to injure a person's self-esteem or dignity.

#### Abuse

Abuse means to repeatedly and deliberately disturb or bother someone severely.

#### Sexual molestation

Sexual molestation is doing something sexually to a person against her or his will.

#### Unlawful threat

Unlawfully threating someone is to communicate an intention to harm or hurt that person in order to intimidate him or her.

#### Infringing photography

Infringing photography is to unlawfully and secretly photograph or film someone indoors, e.g. in a shower or bathroom.

#### Unlawful violation of integrity

Unlawfully infringing someone's integrity is to spread images or information about a person, with the intention to seriously harm that person.

#### Agitation against an ethnic group

Agitation against an ethnic group is the criminal offence of publicly voicing statements which threatens or are derogatory towards a group of individuals, alluding to race, colour of skin, national or ethnic origin, belief system or sexual orientation.

**Source:** The Swedish Prosecution Authority, The Police, Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society, The Swedish Penal Code.

# Have you been harassed online?

- Tell someone what happened and confide in someone you trust. Teachers and other school staff have an obligation to help when a student is the subject of hate.
- Report to the police. And do it immediately. In some cases the police rapidly need to inform internet providers so that they can can save images, comments and posts during a limited time. You can report a crime by calling 114 14.
- Report to the website. You can find the domain owners contact information at whois.com.
- Save evidence. Take screenshots of photos, comments or posts. Ask someone near you to look at the evidence as you save it. If it comes to a trial that person can testify that the evidence has not been tampered with. Both print and keep the evidence digitally. Ask a friend to save it for you if you do not want to do it yourself.

"When my friend was bullied online we reported it"





### Here you can get

## information, support and advice:

#### Barnombudsmannen.se

The Ombudsman for Children in Sweden is a government agency. Here you will find knowledge and information about children's and young people's human rights. The Ombudsman for Children holds regular dialogues with children to obtain knowledge of their conditions and their opinions on relevant issues. Parts of the site are available in several languages.

#### Bris.se

Is an organisation that supports and helps vulnerable children and young people. Here you can talk anonymously to a curator by phone, chat or mail. The site has information in other languages via Google translate.

#### Brottsoffermyndigheten.se

The Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority works to improve the conditions of people who have been subjected to crime.

On jagvillveta.se/sprakversioner there is information in several languages about what is criminal and where you can get help. tystnainte.se contains information and advice for persons exposed to hatred and threats for expressing their opinions openly. For example journalists, influencers and politicians.

#### Juridikinstitutet.se

Legal organisation that helps persons exposed to hatred and threats online. Here you can ask questions about hate and threats, crime and punishment. Parts of the site are available in English.

#### Mucf.se

A government agency that spreads knowledge about young people's living conditions. The site is available in Swedish and English.

#### Rfslungdom.se

The League of Youth for homosexual, bisexual, transgender and queer rights. Here you find support and advice for young LGBTQ people. The site is available in Swedish.

#### Raddabarnen.se

An organisation that works for the right of all children to survive, evolve and grow up in safety. Here's knowledge and advice for you who are young, a parent or working with or for children. The site is available in Swedish.

#### Skolverket.se

The National Agency for Education is the central administrative authority for the public school system, publicly organised preschooling, school-age childcare and for adult education. Here you can find comprehensive information about hate and bullying online. Parts of the site are available in several languages.



#### Statensmedierad.se

The Swedish Media Council is a government agency whose primary task is to promote the empowering of minors as conscious media users and to protect them from harmful media influences. Parts of the site are available in several languages.

#### Tänk till

Young people's stories about topics such as body ideal, prejudice and anxiety. Tänk till is available on social media and is produced by UR which is part of the Swedish public service. The site is available in Swedish.

#### Ungdomar.se

A site where young people can talk to each other, read articles and ask questions anonymously to adult professionals. The site is available in Swedish.

#### Youmo.se

A site for young persons from 13 to 20 years of age. Here you will find information about violence and injustice, mental health, your body and sex. You can also read about equality, your rights and how you can find help to improve your well-being. The site is available in Arabic, Dari, English, Somali, Swedish and Tigrinya.

### Here you can

## report hate and get information:

#### Polisen.se

An authority that is working to stop crime and protect people from crime. Protecting children and young people online is part of that work. The site is available in several languages.

#### Beo.skolinspektionen.se

The Child and Student Ombudsman (BEO) works to protect the rights of children and pupils. BEO investigates notifications about abuse of children and pupils and can represent children and students in court. The site is available in several languages.

#### Do.se

The Equality Ombudsman (DO) is a government agency that works to promote equal rights and opportunities and to combat discrimination. If someone breaches the Discrimination Act you can make a complaint to the DO. The site is available in several languages.

Make the internet a better place





WWW.STATENSMEDIERAD.SE