

# Cyber Bullying

AWARENESS SESSION

2023-2024



Look at each picture below and tell me what you think.



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## How do you feel if someone,

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- a. Spreads secrets or rumors about you online.
- b. Hacks your account and uses it in an improper way.
- c. Pranks you through cell phone.

# What Is Cyberbullying

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Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place over digital devices like cell phones, computers, and tablets.

Cyberbullying can occur through SMS, Text, and apps, or online in social media, forums, or gaming where people can view, participate in, or share content.

Cyberbullying includes sending, posting, or sharing negative, harmful, false, or mean content about someone else.

It can include sharing personal or private information about someone else causing embarrassment or humiliation.

Some cyberbullying crosses the line into unlawful or criminal behavior.



## The most common places where cyberbullying occurs are:

- a. Social Media, such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and Tik Tok
- b. Text messaging and messaging apps on mobile or tablet devices
- c. Instant messaging, direct messaging, and online chatting over the internet
- d. Online forums, chat rooms, and message boards, such as Reddit
- e. Email
- f. Online gaming communities

## Cybercrime Law and Penalties:

Defamation, which is often at the core of cyberbullying, is potentially a criminal offence in the UAE. Not only does the UAE have extensive provisions within its Penal Code (Federal Law No. 3 of 1987), but it also has the benefit of the Cyber Crimes Law (Federal Decree No. 5 of 2012 on Cyber Crimes). For example, Article 138 of the Penal Code stipulates that a punishment of jail and a fine (determined at the discretion of the judge) “*shall be inflicted on any person who publishes through any means of publicity news, pictures or comments pertaining to the secrets of people’s private or familial lives even if the same is true.*” The UAE has traditionally considered defamation to be a serious criminal offence.

Cyber Crimes Law provides the most practical recourse for victims of crimes involving technology. Article 20, for example, deals with slander in the broadest of terms:

*Without prejudice to the provisions of slander crime prescribed in Islamic Sharia,* any person who insults a third party or has attributed to him an incident that may make him subject to punishment or contempt by a third party by using an Information Network or an Information Technology Tool shall be punished by imprisonment and a fine not less than (AED 250,000) and not exceeding (AED 500,000) or by any of these punishments.

**Article 16 of the Cyber Crimes Law states that** a perpetrator of an action that could be considered to be extortion ‘*shall be punished by imprisonment for a period of two years at most and a fine not less than AED 250,000 and not in excess of AED 500,000, or either of these two penalties*’. Accordingly, threatening to bully someone unless money is received may lead to severe penalties – the act of bullying does not have to eventuate, it can simply be threatened. If the extortioner uses the threat of bullying (e.g. “I’ll tell everyone that you...” ) in order to extract money or something of value from the victim, they may be found guilty under this law.



## Activity:

Discuss with your group members a case that is considered as “cyber bullying”, write it down and explain the best way a person can deal with this issue.