ONTARIO DIGITAL LITERACY AND ACCESS NETWORK

MODULE ONE   ⟶

Anti-2SLGBTQIA+ Online Hate:

Key Terms

A-Z

KEY LEARNING OUTCOMES

✓ Learn definitions of different forms of online hate

✓ Gain an understanding of how these forms of online hate have been used against 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals and organizations in the colonial state of Canada

CONTENT WARNING

This module includes explicit discussion of online hate targeting 2SLGBTQIA+ people in the so-called Canada, with a focus on trans women who have been targeted. The discussion includes references to misgendering, deadnaming, self-harm, sexual assault, and police violence.

We encourage you to move on to the next module if engaging with this material doesn't feel like the right thing for you.

If you decide to continue with the module and need support, you can find resources in our resources section at the end of this module.

Online Hate

Definition: Content that is posted and shared on the internet that is rooted in hatred of a marginalized group.

Online hate targets marginalized groups based on any combination of:

- Racism
- Xenophobia/Discrimination based on immigration status
- Transphobia
- Misogyny
- Queerphobia
- Ableism
- Ageism
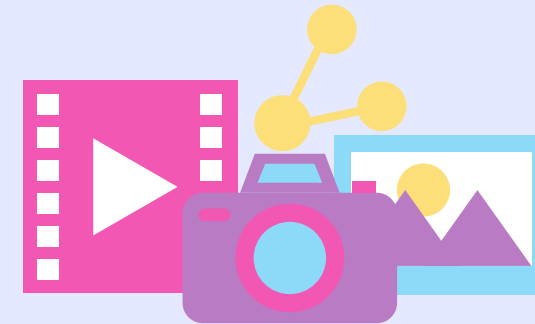- Other forms of marginalization

Online Hate

Text-based

- comments
- posts
- direct messages

Media-based

- images
- videos
- animations
- voice recordings

Online Harassment

Definition: An individual's or group's use of technology to harass, intimidate, or harm another person.

Online Harassment

In early 2023, trans activist Fae Johnstone was subjected to an online harassment campaign after being featured in Hershey Canada's International Women's Day campaign "HER for SHE." Johnstone was one of five women chosen to participate in the campaign but, because she is trans, right-wing activists called for a boycott of Hershey's.

Johnstone described some of the hate she experienced: "I've had my deadname outed by Matt Walsh on his show. I've been called a pedophile, groomer, t****y and f*g too many times to count. I feel violated and traumatised by this experience."

Doxxing

Definition: Publicly sharing an individual's personal information (e.g., photos, address, phone number, job information, IP address, etc.) online to intimidate someone and pressure them to stop doing what they're doing, such as attending protests or creating inclusive spaces for 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

Doxxing

Example:

In 2020, the Edmonton-based nonprofit LGBTQ+ gym QueerFlex was forced to permanently close after the far-right group Patriot Pride Canada Wide doxxed the gym's staff and clients.

Swatting

Definition: When an individual contacts emergency services with a false claim of an emergency, such as a hostage situation, death threat, or bomb threat. The intention is to have the targeted person(s) or organization(s) harassed, harmed, and/or humiliated by the police.

Swatting

In 2022, trans activist Clara Sorrenti was swatted by harassers who sent threats to London, ON city councillors saying Sorrenti was going to kill them, resulting in police arresting her at gunpoint. The harm of the event was compounded by police transphobia.

Misinformation/Disinformation: Definitions

Misinformation: Untrue information that is spread

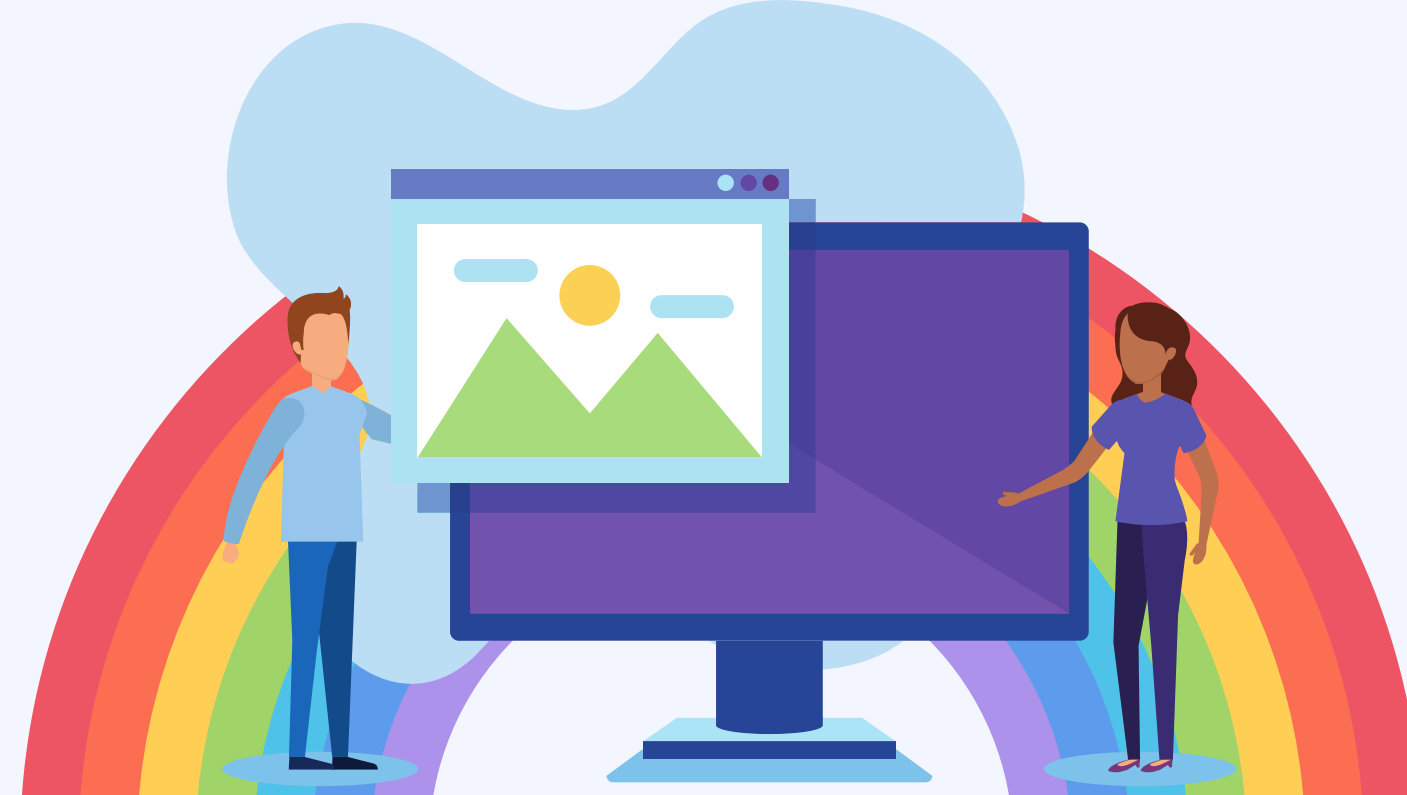**Disinformation:**   Untrue information that is spread ***intentionally*** to cause harm

Misinformation/Disinformation: Example

- Misinformation/disinformation has been spread about Bill 94, *Keeping 2SLGBTQI+ Communities Safe Act, 2023*, which is currently being considered by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

- The bill proposes the creation of "2SLGBTQI+ community safety zones" in which acts of intimidation are prohibited within 100 meters of the safety zone, with a $25,000 penalty for anyone who commits an act of intimidation within the safety zone.

- Right-wing social media accounts have spread the misinformation/disinformation that the bill would impose a $25,000 fine on anyone who misgenders someone or participates in anti-2SLGBTQ+ protests.

Activity

To test if you can identify online misinformation or disinformation, we encourage you to try CIVIX's News Literacy "FakeOut" Game, which you can find in our resources section at the end of this module.

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