



MODULE TWO



## Anti-2SLGBTQIA+ Online Hate

Facts and Figures



## KEY LEARNING OUTCOMES

-  Learn about existing research on anti-2SLGBTQIA+ online hate
-  Learn about the effects of anti-2SLGBTQIA+ online hate
-  Learn about how racism, white settler colonialism, and ableism influence anti-2SLGBTQIA+ online hate

# NOTE ON IDENTITY-FIRST LANGUAGE

We recognize that there is debate within disability justice communities and organizations about whether to use identity-first language (disabled people) or person-first language (people with disabilities).

We will be using identity-first language as our values are rooted in community-based practices that understand the personal as political.

Further reading (linked in resources section):

Callahan, M. (2018, July 12). Unpacking the debate over person-first vs. identity-first language in the autism community. Northeastern Global News.

<https://news.northeastern.edu/2018/07/12/unpacking-the-debate-over-person-first-vs-identity-first-language-in-the-autism-community/>

# CONTENT WARNING

This module includes discussion of the mental health challenges that can result from online hate, including PTSD, depression, and suicide. We also discuss the role of racism, white settler colonialism, ableism, and misogyny in anti-2SLGBTQIA+ online hate. Finally, there is discussion of in-person violence against 2SLGBTQIA+ people, including gun 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.

# Limitations of Existing Research

There are limitations to the scholarship that exists on anti-2SLGBTQIA+ online hate, including:

- Focus on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and queer people (excluding Two Spirit, trans, and non-binary people)
- Use of binary understandings of gender
- Lack of attention to unique experiences of Black, Indigenous, and racialized 2SLGBTQIA+ people

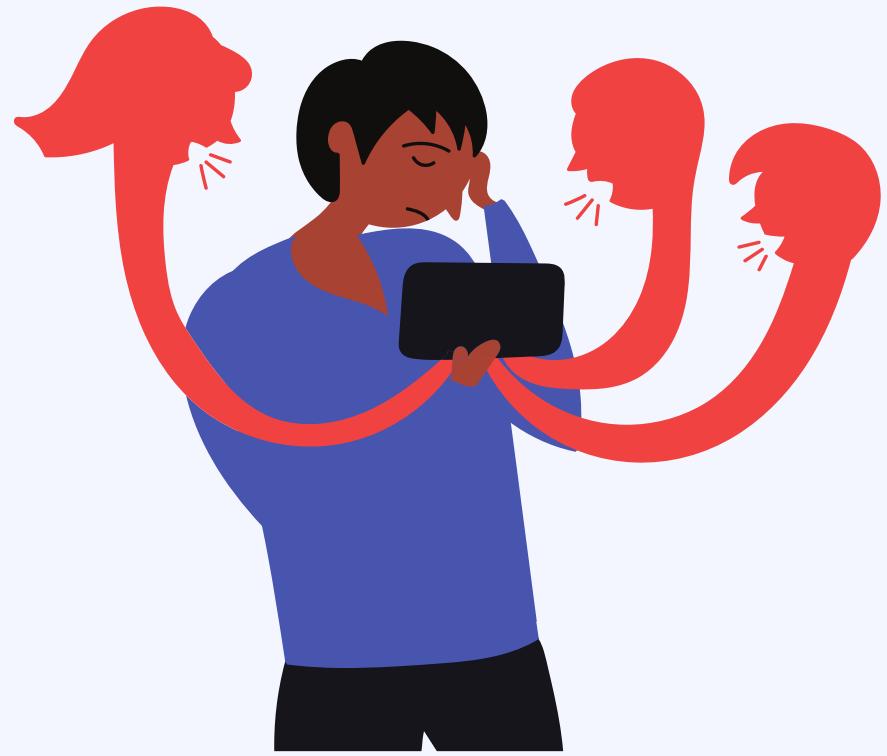
# Online Hate: Effects

Online hate can have serious effects on health and wellbeing, including:

- Mood swings
- Depression
- Anger
- Loneliness and isolation
- Stress
- Anxiety
- Fear
- Sleep disturbances
- Panic attacks
- Post-traumatic stress disorder



# Cyberbullying



## Definition:

The use of technology (e.g., text messages, defamatory websites, email, direct messages) by individuals or groups to harass, intimidate, or harm another person



# Cyberbullying

- Research shows that 2SLGBTQIA+ people are more likely to be subjected to cyberbullying than their straight cisgender peers.
- 75% of 2SLGBTQIA+ youth have been subjected to cyberbullying (Abreu & Kenny, 2017)
- Cyberbullying has serious negative impacts on the health and wellbeing of 2SLGBTQIA+ people, including depression, anxiety, loneliness, low self-esteem, suicidal thoughts, and suicide (Duggan, 2017; Hawdon et al., 2014; Nyman & Provozin, 2019; Oana Ștefăniță, 2021)

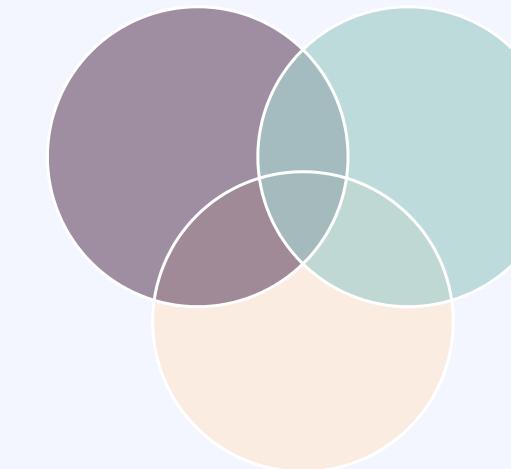


## Reflection

What resources does your organization have access to that can support staff who encounter online hate?

What resources do you think your organization should have in order to better support staff encountering online hate?

# Intersectionality



- Intersectionality describes how different forms of oppression—like racism, sexism, classism, queerphobia, and transphobia—are connected and impact one another
- Anti-2SLGBTQIA+ ideologies are based in white supremacy, settler colonialism, ableism, transphobia, and misogyny.
- This means that racialized, Indigenous, trans, femme, and disabled 2SLGBTQIA+ people experience anti-2SLGBTQIA+ online hate at the highest rates.

# Canadian Race Relations Foundation

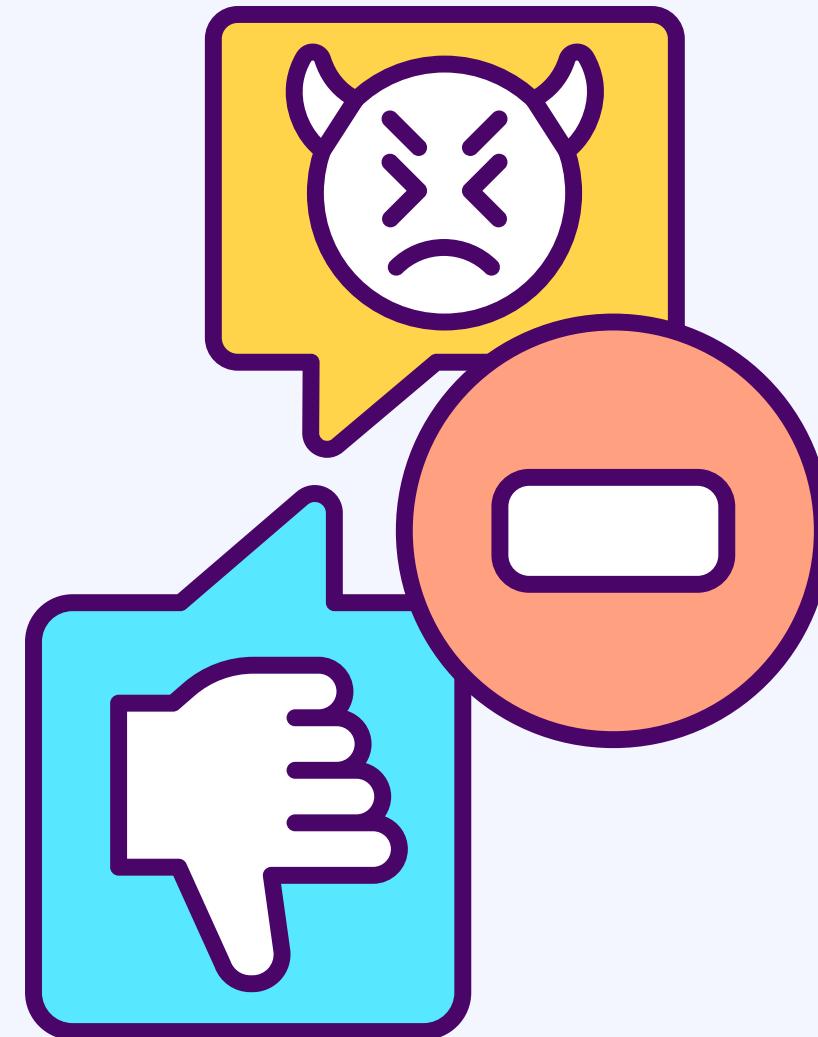
## Findings on Anti-2SLGBTQIA+ Online Hate



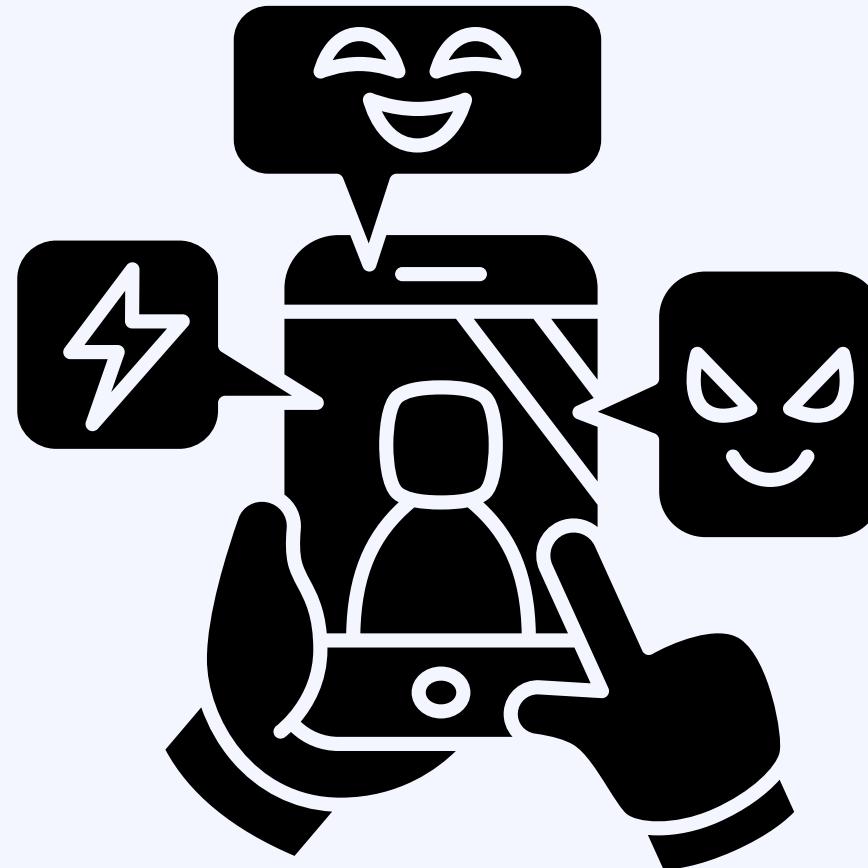
Due to the intersections of racism, sexism, and homophobia, racialized Canadians are almost three times more likely than white Canadians to be targeted by hateful comments or content online.

# Statistics Canada Findings on Anti-2SLGBTQIA+ Online Hate

**62%** of Indigenous sexual minorities experienced “inappropriate behaviours online” compared to **35%** of non-Indigenous sexual minorities.



# Statistics Canada Findings on Anti-2SLGBTQIA+ Online Hate



**46%** of sexual minority Canadians with disabilities experienced “inappropriate behaviour” online compared to **25%** of sexual minority Canadians without a disability.



## Reflection

Are there ways that your organization uses an intersectional lens when working to address anti-2SLGBTQIA+ online hate?

If not, how do you think your organization could apply an intersectional lens to its response to anti-2SLGBTQIA+ online hate?

**NOTE:** If you're unsure, we'd suggest reading “5 Ways the LGBTQIA+ Movement Fails at Intersectionality” by Alan Pelaez Lopez, linked in our resources section, and then trying again to answer the question.

# Effects of Anti-2SLGBTQIA+ Online Hate

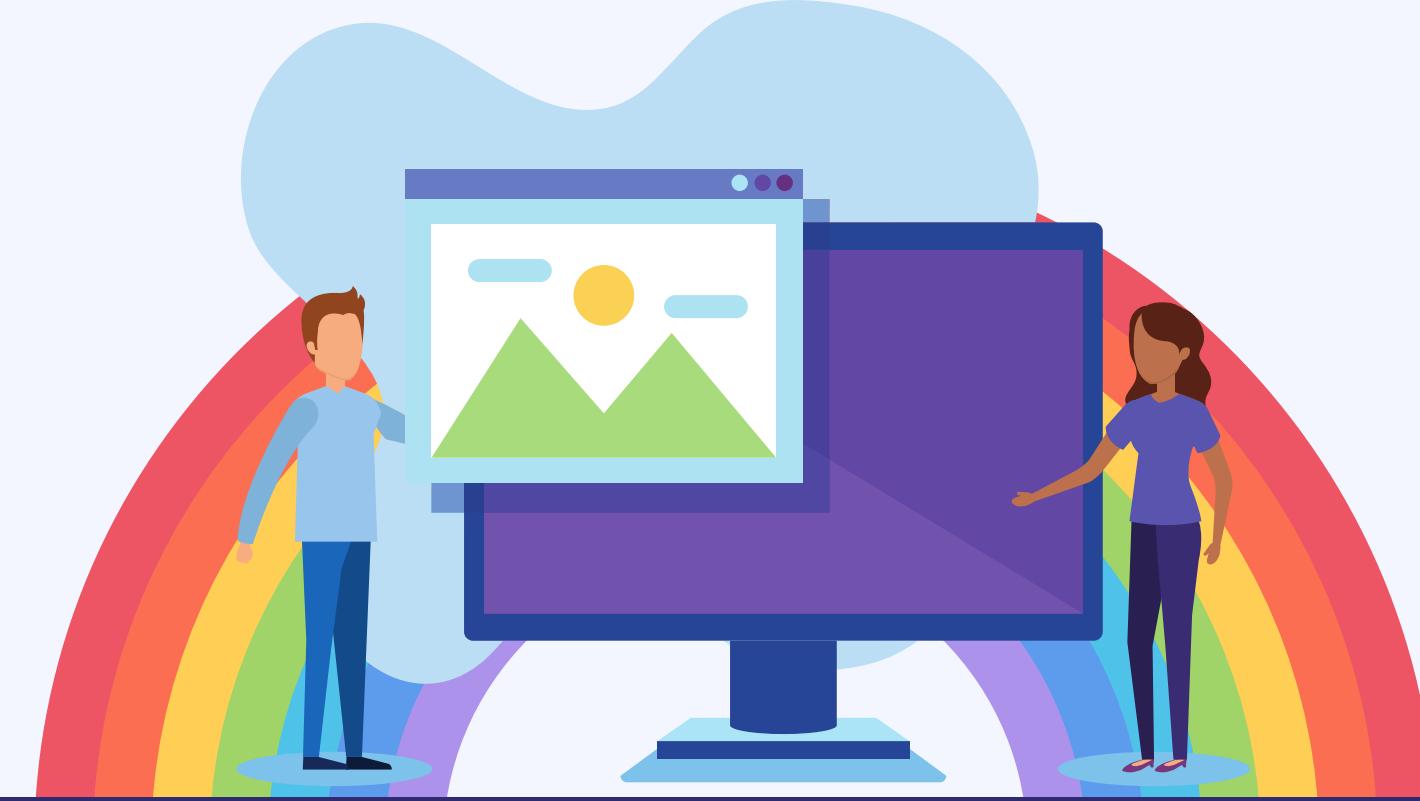
In addition to the serious negative health and wellbeing effects of online hate, which disproportionately harm Indigenous, racialized, disabled, and trans 2SLGBTQIA+ people, **online hate can fuel offline violence.**



# Online Hate Can Fuel Offline Violence

## Example:

- 2022 Colorado Springs shooting at Club Q
- Targeting of Drag Queen Story Hours across Canada and the US



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