

# Voices for Digital Civility

The following individuals and organizations have voiced their support for the need for civility in all online interactions.

"The International Bullying Prevention Association endorses and fully supports Microsoft's Digital Civility Campaign. IBPA seeks a future where each of us can purposefully engage in an online culture where we are free to communicate and share ideas without the threat of abuse and harassment. We greatly appreciate Microsoft's leadership in encouraging all stakeholders to make the internet a safer place where we can fully participate in the opportunities of the digital world."

— **Dr. Patti Agatston**

*President, International Bullying Prevention Association*

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"Being safe, civil and respectful online is everyone's responsibility. Be the change you want to see on the internet — today on Safer Internet Day — and every day."

— **Stephen Balkam**

*Founder & CEO, Family Online Safety Institute*

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"I'm so glad that Microsoft is igniting a campaign for digital civility and the end of hate online. Let's make the internet a place where everyone feels respected and safe."

— **Nicholas Carlisle**

*Founder and CEO, nobully.org*

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"Civility is the twin of kindness and the world certainly needs a lot more of that, both generally but also very specifically on the internet. We urgently need to develop a culture of digital civility to counter and repulse the barbarians who are gathering at the gates."

— **John Carr**

*Secretary, UK Children's Charities' Coalition of Internet Safety and Executive Board Member, UK Council for Child Internet Safety*

"The internet allows us to create, to share, to connect like never before. The beautiful side of this is awe-inspiring and can be life-changing, in all the best ways. But, when used the wrong way, it can be life-changing in absolutely the wrong way. The power of the internet lies simply in the hands of who is using it. Use your power wisely."

— **Julie Cordua**

*CEO, Thorn*

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"We are proud to support Safer Internet Day and contribute to all efforts that raise online safety awareness among youth. We encourage a digital culture of empathy, with the understanding that actions online affect people in their real lives as well. Young people should strive to support each other by always reporting, and never ignoring content that is offensive, abusive, or illegal."

— **Verónica Donoso**

*Executive Director, INHOPE*

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"The internet should be a place where all young people can express and be themselves without facing bullying or abuse. This Safer Internet Day we hope everyone will join us to be part of the change for a better internet. Whether it is by showing support to others, being kind and respectful or reporting online abuse, there are plenty of ways that we can all take small actions to make a big impact overall. As the organisers of Safer Internet Day in the UK, we know that children and young people can be at the forefront of this change and this 7th February it is inspiring to see young people uniting around the world to help make the internet a better place for all."

— **Will Gardner**

*CEO of Childnet, Director of the UK Safer Internet Centre, organisers of Safer Internet Day in the UK*

"For our young people, there is no longer a line between the online and offline, that's why efforts like Microsoft's 'digital civility initiative' are so vital. Born This Way Foundation is committed to fostering safer, more inclusive digital communities, from our work with the #KindMonsters Pledge to Hack Harassment. We believe that when we all work together, we can make the internet a positive environment that enables our young people's creativity, learning, and communication."

— **Cynthia Germanotta**

*President and CoFounder, Born This Way Foundation*

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"To create trusted, digital environments, consumers need to know how to mitigate online risks. Microsoft's *Civility, Safety, and Interaction Online* research provide critical insight and context to these risks enabling education initiatives to prevent better and prepare consumers, particularly youth."

— **Marsali Hancock**

*Commissioner, Global Information Infrastructure Commission*

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"Respect and digital civility are the key to a safer internet. We at the IWF work day in, day out to make the web a safer place for everyone in the world, and supporting Microsoft's initiative on SID 2017 is crucial to this. Be respectful, be thoughtful, be tolerant — unite for a better internet and stay safe online."

— **Susie Hargreaves OBE**

*CEO, Internet Watch Foundation*

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"Microsoft's new research study gives us hope. Through it, we see that we are not alone in encountering online hate. This innovative work emphasizes that we all must work together to create a kinder, safer, and better internet — and we can start with the Digital Civility Challenge."

— **Brittan Heller**

*Director of Technology and Society, Anti-Defamation League*

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"The internet has transformed our lives - but we are still in the infancy of our online world. With the incredible global connectivity, opportunity and freedom it offers up, we are also experiencing its potential for harm. In my work, I watch that harm daily in the form of online extremism, terrorism and hate speech. We need a social pact for this new global space and I see the Digital Civility Challenge as an exciting step in that direction. No one industry, sector or group can do this alone. All of us have a role in fostering responsibility, empathy and respect - online just as we do offline. The Digital Civility Initiative is bringing us together to build practices and a road map for an open, safe and humane internet society. This has to be our shared, long term goal."

— **Sasha Havlicek**

*CEO and Co-Founder, Institute for Strategic Dialogue*

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"As a mobile-first marketplace that takes the integrity of its community very seriously, OfferUp is proud to support efforts to increase digital civility. The internet is the most powerful forum for ideas and open exchange, and like any resource of that significance, it calls on our shared energies to protect it."

— **Nick Huzar**

*CEO, OfferUp*

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"How we treat each other — by what we say, post or share — has real consequences. The findings released by Microsoft indicate trust in the internet is corroded when people are exposed to uncivil behavior and risk. Trust is the backbone of a robust internet. Being a respectful digital citizen is a shared responsibility and critical for building a safer, more secure and more trusted internet."

— **Michael Kaiser**

*Executive Director, National Cyber Security Alliance*

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"We could eradicate most cruelty, bullying and humiliation that occurs online if every bystander became an 'upstander'. We can interrupt harassment, report it and reach out to the affected person. We behave at a keyboard in ways we would never behave face to face, because the empathy isn't naturally there online. We can insist on digital civility by redoubling our commitment to being kind, and resisting the impulse to behave flippantly online towards others."

— **Sean Kosofsky**

*Executive Director, Tyler Clementi Foundation*

"No one says that everyone must agree, or even like each other, but mutual respect and the willingness to listen are the foundations of a civil society. Whether offline or on, it's more important than ever to treat everyone with respect and dignity."

— **Larry Magid**

*CEO, ConnectSafely.org*

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"We have seen the rise of new digital social worlds that are incredibly important to us; but the morals and norms on how to be respectful, responsible and decent to one another online are often badly missing. Digital Civility is a crucial concept to ensure that we build digital worlds we actually want to live in."

— **Carl Miller**

*Research Director, Centre for the Analysis of Social Media, Demos*

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"We, at the Marie Collins Foundation, work with children and their families for whom abuse online is an issue. We hear from the children about how they communicate with others and how others communicate with them. They report that they feel they can say anything they want to online and rarely think about the consequences for both themselves and those with whom they engage. The dignity, empathy and respect that they would show when communicating face to face with someone is not always mirrored in their online activities. The fact that the Digital Civility campaign is targeted at all generations is key - children learn from the adults around them and by example. This is a unique and timely initiative on the part of Microsoft and one that the Marie Collins Foundation aims to support in the years to come."

— **Tink Palmer**

*Chief Executive, Marie Collins Foundation*

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"Given the scarcity of multinational data about the online behaviors of individuals and their exposure to cyber risks, Microsoft's *Civility, Safety, and Interaction Online* research provides a critical resource to build a healthy, safe and secure digital culture, especially for youth, families, and educators

The research finding of high cyber risks among youth across different countries emphasizes the importance of digital intelligence (DQ) education for children worldwide so that they can maximize the benefit of technology while mitigating the risks. Just like one needs to learn how to drive safely before taking the wheel on their own, children need digital education before they can safely navigate the online world."

— **Yuhyun Park**

*Founder & Chief Citizenship Officer, DQ Institute, [www.projectDQ.org](http://www.projectDQ.org)*

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"Extremists are increasingly exploiting young people online. In counter-extremism, we don't just want to challenge extremists, we want to build the resilience of young people and this can come through promoting Digital Civility. Armed with these skills, young people can help ensure that extremism becomes a single generation issue!"

— **Jonathan Russell**

*Head of Policy at Quilliam, A Counter-Extremism Organisation*

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"An internet that isn't safe for everyone is not only harmful to the individual victims of harassment. It is also a threat to democracy and freedom. Only when the internet is free of harassment that targets people for who they are can marginalized and dissident voices make themselves heard. Already, too many of our most important voices have been forced to silence themselves after being attacked by the likes of Gamergate and anti-Semitic, homophobic, xenophobic, and misogynistic mobs. It has to stop. One of the many ways we can do that is start at the top. Platforms and technology designers have a responsibility to include protection and reporting mechanisms for victims of harassment, and they have to employ qualified individuals who can respond to incidents of harassment as soon as possible."

— **Ari Waldman**

*Director, Innovation Center for Law and Technology, New York Law School*