

Voices for Digital Civility

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



Safety and civility must be prioritized just as highly as innovation in tech culture. The

more we strive to make kindness a cornerstone of the online experience, the more that users of all ages can benefit from all that digital life has to offer. This effort takes a village, and we are proud to support Safer Internet Day each year alongside our online safety colleagues.

Stephen Balkam Founder & CEO
[Family Online Safety Institute >](#)



The Canada Centre for Community Engagement and Prevention of Violence encourages civility in the online space as part of its efforts to prevent and counter violent extremist and terrorist use of the internet. Our work is guided by a duty to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as a commitment to diversity and the social and political inclusion of all Canadians. It is important that governments work with technology companies to effectively address violent extremist and terrorist use of the internet, and online harm more generally. That is why the Canada Centre is supportive of Microsoft's Digital Civility Campaign. A strong and resilient society promotes civil discourse and respect for differences and diverse perspectives on- and off-line.

Ritu Banerjee Senior Director
[Canada Centre for Community Engagement and Prevention of Violence \(Government of Canada\)](#)
The Government of Canada's National Strategy on Countering Radicalization to Violence >

particularly ISPs, and encryption services, as well as content providers such as social media companies, is essential for protecting children. Initiatives like Microsoft's PhotoDNA, which detects inappropriate content, show us how the industry can take the lead in tackling online child sexual abuse material. However, efforts by the private sector are not enough on their own. For example, while some governments have taken up the mantle of protecting children online, there are still many countries around the world that do not even have specific legislation in place outlawing online child sexual abuse or requiring companies to detect and report this kind of material. Other related sectors also need to play a part. For example, the financial sector, especially 'disruptors' like crypto-currency companies remain recalcitrant when asked to take responsibility for detecting and reporting online transactions related to crimes like live-streaming child sexual exploitation. At the same time, the growing misuse of legitimate anonymity and encryption services for illegal purposes poses a serious impediment to detection, investigation and prosecution.

It is encouraging to see that Microsoft is working to improve civility on the Internet. Self-regulation by tech companies,

The private sector needs clear guidance from governments to address these concerns. NGOs and organizations like ECPAT



International also have a role – especially in training and providing expertise and advice. All groups have much to teach each other. But to protect children we need the political will and courage to act.

Robbert van den Berg Executive Director
ECPAT International >

The word ‘civility’ derives from the Latin *civitas*, which means the city, where *cives* (citizens) live. The notion of ‘digital civility,’ to which Microsoft is admirably dedicated, has a twofold importance: it is normative and aspirational. It is normative, inasmuch as we are invited to ‘be civil’ to each other on the Internet as we would be in our non-digital environments, where we know too well that our actions have consequences; but it is also aspirational because the digital world, more and more meshed with the physical one, could become a golden sandbox where we can learn civility again: that is because online, action and reactions are usually written down, literally linked together, and so civility and incivility stand out, are less nuanced, and can be better apprehended. Maybe one day we will get to the point when, assessing the appropriateness of a physical behavior, we will wonder: ‘Would that be civil *online*?’

Tommaso Wayne Bertolotti PhD
University of Pavia, Italy / USC Dornsife, Los Angeles / myPhilosopher Consulting



We are proud to support Safer Internet Day. As a global platform where over 80 million kids and teens come together through play

each month, we have the ability to offer the tools necessary for our users to create positive experiences both online and offline. In addition, we are fostering new behaviors and skills that young people need in this rapidly changing world. It is our hope that we can empower a new, digital savvy generation of users who confidently protect themselves, communicate with respect, and create an internet that is welcoming for all.

Tami Bhaumik Vice President, Marketing & Digital Civility
Roblox



Children are now online from their earliest years but rarely are taught the compassion, inclusivity and voice that they will need to navigate a connected world. **Power of Zero** is a collaborative global campaign to provide families and early educators with the books and learning materials they need to teach young children to use their power well, online and offline, from age zero.



Nicholas Carlisle Campaign Director
Power of Zero

Kindness is the first cousin of civility and the world needs a lot more of both.

John Carr > OBE



The internet continues to shape our lives, connecting friends and family and giving a voice to those who seek to empower others and change

the world. At the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, we will continue to educate children to be safer online, inspiring future generations of responsible digital citizens and creating a better internet for all.

John F. Clark President and CEO
NCMEC >

The digital cyber world is the new frontier of our generation, and



like all things new we must learn how to engage within that space in a safe and harmless manner. Technology is a good and useful tool that speeds up communication and helps to keep us informed and connected with friends and family. But technology is only as good as how people choose to use it. It can be the useful tool it was designed to be or a weapon of great harm and destruction, as in the case of so many young people today, including my son Tyler. So, let’s tame the Wild West of this generation and choose to be Upstanders in the digital world; choosing words and phrases that are kind, civil,

and respectful to everyone. Consider slowing down, focusing on one activity at a time, maybe even taking a breath, and rereading before pushing send. If words destroy and tear someone down, consider rewriting or maybe even deleting them all together. We must always remember to use our words to encourage and build others up!

Jane Clementi CEO & Co-founder

Tyler Clementi Foundation >

The Council for Digital Good (CDG) is a group dedicated to better understanding the impacts of both the internet and social media on people across the globe. Brought together by our passion for improving the online atmosphere, the CDG is made up of 15 teens with different—but at the same time shared—experiences. Each of us brings something new to the table, and we are grateful to have had this platform to work with other youth on the European Council and within our own local communities. Our generation is unique in the way that the internet constantly contributes to our lives, so it's up to us to hold ourselves and one another accountable for our online actions. Young people want their voices to be heard, and we will continue to amplify this invaluable message of Digital Civility, navigate both the good and the bad of the internet, and advocate mindfulness in our online actions and their 'offline' repercussions. We look forward to creating a lasting global movement with you.



Microsoft's inaugural Council for Digital Good >

January 2017 – July 2018

We are a group of young people from all over Europe between the ages of 13 and 20, and we're eager to make the digital world a better place for teenagers. As young people born in a world in which internet plays a significant role in our everyday lives, we feel the need to express that it should be used wisely and safely: this is why we fight for it. We had the opportunity to meet in person and to discuss the themes that concern us as young people; we talked about some of the most important issues concerning

digital civility. As a result, we came up with the 'Have Your Say' campaign in order to motivate young people from all around Europe to state their opinion about the Internet and its current problems. We were very pleased to see that our campaign was successful. Looking to the future, we strive to grow our team of 'young experts' and make the internet a better and safer place. Safety starts with awareness and that starts with you!

European Council for Digital Good

From protecting children to **combating fake news**, extremism, and the illegal sale of drugs, we can and must do more to **protect our online communities**. We, as technologists, must develop new technologies to combat these illegal and dangerous activities. Platforms, small and large, must deploy these technologies. And we as users, must act more thoughtfully, responsibly, and respectfully online.

Hany Farid Albert Bradley 1915 Third Century Professor of Computer Science

Dartmouth College

We want the internet to be a place where all young people can express and be themselves without the fear of bullying or abuse. This Safer Internet Day we hope everyone will join us to be part of the change for a better internet and play their part in empowering young people to take control of their digital lives. This year we are working with young people across the UK to explore how they ask for, give and receive consent online. This could be in their friendships or relationships, how they take and share images and videos or how they manage their privacy and data. As the organizers of Safer Internet Day in the UK, we know that children and young people can be at the forefront of online change and, this 5th February, we can't wait to see young people uniting around the world to help make the internet a better place for all.

Will Gardner CEO

Childnet International >

Director

UK Safer Internet Centre

BORN THIS WAY FOUNDATION

EMPOWERING YOUTH
INSPIRING BRAVERY

Now, more than ever, young people from all over the world are accessing resources, building communities, and exchanging information online. That's why it's essential to make sure that our digital communities are safe, inclusive, vibrant places and that's why it's so vital to teach and foster civility online as well as offline. We applaud Microsoft's commitment to this issue and look forward to seeing the positive changes we can collectively make. Together we can all make the internet a kinder place that supports, connects, and empowers young people worldwide.

Cynthia Germanotta President and Co-Founder
Born This Way Foundation >

Hate online is a serious societal concern that has real consequences on individuals and communities across



the world. We saw this most recently in Pittsburgh, where the person who committed the most violent Anti-Semitic attack in American history was radicalized online. At ADL, our **Center for Technology and Society** is focused on the problem of hate online, and how to secure justice and fair treatment for all people in a digital environment. The problem of hate online is not an easy one that will be solved by a single app, a few paragraphs in a law, or any other silver bullet. Reclaiming the promise of technology and mitigating its problems requires an iterative and interdisciplinary approach: Technical skills, legal and advocacy skills and educational experience are needed to approach the problem, along with key partnerships ranging from civil rights groups to industry, all to ensure that every perspective is brought to the table. ADL is glad to count Microsoft among its partners in this fight, including their ongoing participation in our Cyberhate Problem Solving Lab and their important work on digital civility.

Jonathan Greenblatt CEO
ADL

Child Helpline International and the International Centre for

Missing & Exploited Children (ICMEC) are proud to support Safer Internet Day. We are committed to building a safer digital world for everybody, but in particular we are working together and combining our expertise to help organizations and agencies around the world to support survivors of online child sexual abuse and exploitation. We believe that collaboration is essential to achieve meaningful, sustainable and lasting change that will enhance and protect the rights of children and young people everywhere.

Ambassador Maura Harty President & CEO
ICMEC

Sheila Donovan Executive Director a.i
Child Helpline International

The world we live in is becoming increasingly polarized. New communications technology has given us the opportunity to connect in ways which were previously impossible but has also been instrumentalized by individuals and groups seeking to sew hate and division. Building an online culture of shared values, civility and active citizenship is essential to mitigating polarizing trends. The Digital Civility Initiative is crucial in helping us realize these goals.

Sasha Havlicek CEO
Institute for Strategic Dialogue

Digital Civility continues to matter so much as we work with students, educators, and parents around the nation and world. The best thing is that the solutions are not technological, but individual and social. We're trying to raise up a generation of decent human beings who know wrong from right, who are guided and constrained by an ethical code of acceptable behavior, who are compelled to speak up in some way when they see injustice, and who understand the power of social media and devices to make their lives better – and the lives of those around them. We look forward to more progress this year; feel free to follow the research and best practices we share, and avail yourself of the identification, prevention, and response strategies we post at **cyberbullying.org**. We are all in this together!

Dr. Sameer Hinduja > Co-Director
Cyberbullying Research Center >
Professor of Criminology Florida Atlantic University

The theme of SID 2019 is
'Together for a better internet.'

To work together, there needs

to be a basic level of common respect for all. Without respectful exchanges, there can be no foundation for even the most basic level of trust. In online communication, it is vital everyone learns the basic tenets of civility so that they can grow and develop their communication skills and styles. So, as we all work 'together for a better internet,' we can all learn from the mantra used by many team sports coaches around the world: 'Give respect – get respect!'

Denton Howard Executive Director

[INHOPE >](#)

The internet is a powerful force that provides amazing opportunities but protecting one another from risks we might face online or on our phones, remains absolutely vital. OfferUp's mission is to build the simplest and most trustworthy mobile marketplace for people to buy and sell their items and, as such, we're committed to creating positive connections online and offline. Safer Internet Day is a wonderful reminder that we all have a part to play in making the online world a better place to discover, explore, and enjoy, but we must participate and support not only today, but every day.

Nick Huzar CEO

[OfferUp](#)

If each of us commits to play our role and work together, we can truly effect a lasting paradigm shift where kindness and civility prevail in the online environment. As the official Committee for Safer Internet Day in Australia, the Office of the eSafety Commissioner is encouraging everyone to help create a better internet by developing four critical skills for the digital age: Respect, Responsibility, Reasoning and Resilience. By developing these skills – and with the global online safety community collectively harnessing its resources and expertise – we can take greater strides toward a safer, more civil and better online environment for all the world's citizens.

Julie Inman Grant eSafety Commissioner

[Australia \(Government of Australia\)](#)

Remaining civil in our interactions online is foundational in building a trusted, safer, and robust connected world. Everyone must take responsibility for their own actions online and teach others to be respectful and civil digital citizens. We need to move forward with a common understanding that how we treat each other and engage in public discourse has consequences online and offline.

Michael Kaiser Cybersecurity and Online Safety Expert,
former Executive Director

[National Cyber Security Alliance](#)



**INTERNATIONAL BULLYING
PREVENTION ASSOCIATION**

Our vision is a 'world without bullying,' and thus we strongly support Microsoft's efforts

to promote Digital Civility. We believe in the value of an online culture where we can freely communicate and share ideas without the threat of abuse and harassment, and we appreciate Microsoft's leadership in this area.

Lynn Lonsway Executive Director

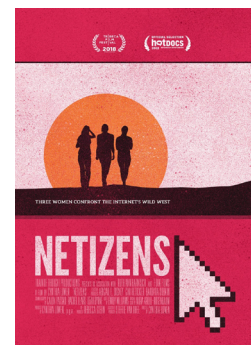
[International Bullying Prevention Association >](#)

The internet is one of the most dynamic, creative and important dimensions of our communities. It's where we learn, where we work, and even where we find love. But digital abuse and cyber-harassment are preventing many people from accessing all that this powerful tool has to offer. We're inspired

by Microsoft's leadership in fostering digital civility, and creating online spaces that are constructive, engaging and inclusive. This important work is empowering internet users to stand up to cyber-harassment and is creating stronger communities, both online and offline. This Safer Internet Day, we're proud to be a Voice for Digital Civility!

Cynthia Lowen Director

["Netizens" | www.netizensfilm.com >](#)





ConnectSafely
 applauds Microsoft's
 longstanding work

on Digital Civility. Through research, community education and by example, Microsoft has been a leader when it comes to helping us all remember that the people we encounter online are real people, with real feelings, something that some online folks occasionally forget. We are especially pleased about **Microsoft's outreach to young people**, who are not only populating, but helping to build the internet of the future. Together companies, organizations, governments, parents, educators and youth – we can all make a difference by being respectful and kind and helping others be the best they can be. ConnectSafely is proud to partner with Microsoft on our mutual efforts to help create a better internet for all.

Larry Magid CEO

ConnectSafely.org >
official sponsor of Safer Internet Day, U.S.

As coordinators of the
 annual global celebration
 of Safer **Internet Day**



(SID), on behalf of the European Commission, we welcome initiatives such as Microsoft's Digital Civility Campaign. Awareness of digital civility concepts – and the development of digital and media literacy skills to protect and empower children and young people – underpins the work we deliver daily through **Better Internet for Kids (BIK)**, the **Insafe network of Safer Internet Centres in Europe**, and European Schoolnet's digital citizenship agenda more widely. With this campaign, Microsoft helps to amplify the importance of a multi-stakeholder approach, as embedded within the SID slogan of 'Together for a better internet.'

Hans Martens Digital Citizenship Programme Manager
European Schoolnet and Coordinator of the Insafe network

Our work at the Marie Collins Foundation brings us into contact with children who tell us about how they and those they know communicate with others and how others communicate with them; that they might say, do and share things online that they wouldn't do in 'real life,' and that they



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 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 unique and influential initiative by Microsoft is one that we will continue to support and share since a more civil digital world is one from which we all benefit.

Tink Palmer CEO

[Marie Collins Foundation](#) >

Children and young people are often the earliest adopters of new technology, at a time when they are still developing their values and attitudes, and the resilience that will help them overcome challenges throughout their life. Since 2004, the goal of Safer Internet Day has been to provide them opportunities to engage in making the internet a healthier, more friendly place, and digital civility is one of the cornerstones for this. Microsoft's work in this area is proving invaluable.

Janice Richardson

[Insight](#) >

As parents, we have the incredible opportunity to intentionally train our children in wisdom and respect, both offline and online. This often means slowing the pace of their technology access to ensure they are on track with character formation, maturity, and resilience. We believe a sure way to guarantee the growth of digital civility in the next generation is to raise kids who understand how empathy and kindness revive human connection.

Jesse & Sarah Siegand Co-Founders

[Parents Who Fight](#) >