

SUBJECT MATTER: CONSCIENCE AFRICAINE ADVOCATES FOR A DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT WHERE RESPECT, ACCOUNTABILITY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND HUMAN DIGNITY PREVAIL

The digital revolution has transformed communication, commerce, education, and social interaction in Cameroon. While the internet has created numerous opportunities for development and innovation, it has also become a platform for various forms of cybercriminality, particularly CYBER BULLYING. The increasing incidence of online harassment, threats, defamation, impersonation, and the unauthorized dissemination of personal information calls for greater awareness and strict compliance with the laws governing cyberspace.

CYBER BULLYING refers to the deliberate and repeated use of digital technologies, including social media platforms, messaging applications, websites, emails, and other online communication tools, to harass, intimidate, threaten, humiliate, ridicule, or harm another person. It may take the form of insulting messages, dissemination of false information, publication of embarrassing photographs or videos, cyberstalking, identity theft, hate speech, or persistent online harassment. Unlike traditional bullying, CYBER BULLYING can occur at any time, reach a wider audience instantly, and leave lasting emotional, psychological, social, and professional consequences for victims.

In Cameroon, CYBER BULLYING is not merely unethical behavior; it may constitute a criminal offense punishable under various laws. The principal legislation governing cyber offenses is Law No. 2010/012 of 21 December 2010 Relating to Cybersecurity and Cybercriminality in Cameroon. This law criminalizes several acts commonly associated with cyber bullying, including unauthorized access to systems, identity theft, electronic fraud, invasion of privacy, dissemination of false information through electronic communications, and other unlawful activities carried out through digital means.

Furthermore, the Penal Code of Cameroon contains provisions relating to defamation, insults, threats, harassment, invasion of privacy, and other offenses that may be committed through electronic communication platforms. The Criminal Procedure Code provides the legal framework for investigation, prosecution, and punishment of persons responsible for such offenses. Perpetrators may face fines, imprisonment, civil liability, and other legal consequences depending on the nature and gravity of the offense committed.

CYBER BULLYING undermines fundamental human rights, including the right to dignity, privacy, security, reputation, and mental well being. Every individual, regardless of age, gender, social status, ethnicity, religion, or political opinion, deserves to be treated with respect both offline and online. The protection of human rights in cyberspace is essential to fostering an inclusive, peaceful, and secure digital environment where citizens can freely express themselves without fear of intimidation, abuse, or persecution.

CONSCIENCE AFRICAINE strongly condemns all forms of CYBER BULLYING and online abuse. The organization believes that digital platforms should be used as tools for education, innovation, social development, and constructive engagement rather than instruments of harassment, humiliation, and hatred. Promoting respect, tolerance, and accountability online is a collective responsibility shared by governments, institutions, civil society organizations, technology companies, parents, educators, and internet users.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO PERPETRATORS OF CYBER BULLYING

1. Immediately cease all forms of online harassment, threats, intimidation, and abusive conduct.



2. Understand that actions committed online are traceable and may result in criminal prosecution.
3. Respect the privacy, reputation, and dignity of others in all online interactions.
4. Delete offensive content and refrain from sharing harmful or misleading information.
5. Seek guidance, counseling, or education on responsible digital citizenship and ethical internet use.
6. Use digital platforms to promote positive engagement, constructive dialogue, and social cohesion.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CAMEROON

1. Strengthen the enforcement of Law No. 2010/012 Relating to Cybersecurity and Cybercriminality.
2. Intensify nationwide awareness campaigns on cyber bullying, cybercrime, and digital rights.
3. Incorporate digital citizenship, cyber ethics, and online safety education into school curricula.
4. Enhance the technical and operational capacity of law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute cyber offenses effectively.
5. Establish accessible reporting and support mechanisms for victims of cyber bullying and online abuse.
6. Foster collaboration among government institutions, internet service providers, educational institutions, civil society organizations, and technology companies in combating cybercriminality.
7. Promote policies that safeguard human rights, privacy, and dignity within the digital space.

ADVICE TO INTERNET USERS IN CAMEROON

1. Think carefully before posting, commenting, sharing, or forwarding information online.
2. Respect the rights, dignity, and privacy of other internet users.
3. Avoid engaging in online arguments that may escalate into harassment or abuse.
4. Preserve evidence such as screenshots, messages, emails, and links whenever cyber bullying occurs.
5. Report abusive content and cybercriminal activities to relevant authorities and platform administrators.
6. Protect personal information through appropriate privacy and security measures.
7. Educate children and young people on safe and responsible internet use.
8. Promote a culture of respect, tolerance, and responsible communication in all digital interactions.

CONCLUSION

A safe, inclusive, and rights respecting digital environment can only be achieved when human dignity is protected and the rule of law is upheld. CYBER BULLYING is a serious threat to individual well being and social harmony and





*Réseau Africain
Pour la Démocratie à la Base*

Fondée à New-York en 1994

*African Network
Of Grassroots Democracy*

SECRETARIAT GENERAL

REF N°68-CA/SG/23

must not be tolerated in any form. Through strict enforcement of Cameroon's cybersecurity and cybercriminality laws, increased public awareness, responsible internet use, and collective commitment to protecting human rights, Cameroon can build a safer online community where every individual is treated with respect and dignity.

CONSCIENCE AFRICAINE CALLS ON ALL STAKEHOLDERS TO STAND AGAINST CYBER BULLYING, PROMOTE DIGITAL RESPONSIBILITY, DEFEND HUMAN RIGHTS, AND WORK TOWARDS A CYBERSPACE THAT IS SAFE, SECURE, INCLUSIVE, AND RESPECTFUL FOR ALL.

Amadu TARNTEH

Executive Secretary



Autorisé par les autorités Camerounaises sous le numéro N° 471/RDDA/C19/BAPP

Tél. : (237) 654 041 054 / 676 477 383//

Email: conscienceafricainew@yahoo.com / Site Web: conscienceafricaine.org

