

#LIVREBLANC

IT'S **NOT**  
YOUR  
FAULT!

OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIGHT  
AGAINST CYBERHARASSMENT :

IT'S **NOT**  
YOUR  
FAULT!

WE HAVE TO TALK ABOUT IT  
DON'T SUFFER IN SILENCE

**MUÑ REK DOYUL**

In Senegal, cyberharassment is an **important problem** that we  
**don't talk about enough**

## **THE WORDS OF...**

**Mariétou DIENG**, Honorable Deputy of the 14th legislature

Most likely, the young harassers are victims themselves : victims of the ignorance of adolescence, unable to understand the outcomes of their actions. We certainly don't excuse their behavior. However, it is important to understand that the phenomenon we are facing is complex, insidious, and devastating. This official report is an innovative contribution to the understanding of cyberviolence. It is a pioneering effort toward the struggle against cyberharassment of and among our youth.

I am convinced that we must push this issue in Parliament, as it is the political institution that best represents the nation in this matter. This white paper proposes a legislative framework that would allow for greater protection of victims, and especially young girls, online.

We join Polaris Asso and organizations that share this commitment to political advocacy. As representatives, we will contribute to the establishment of effective initiatives for the protection of girls online.

## FOREWORD

Today, across different screens, our youth socialize—without control, without guidance, and without instruction. This increasingly open “digital” world presents new risks and dangers that can impact the futures of our youth, and, in turn, our collective and social trajectories. We cannot go back—digital technology has entered all spheres of our life. We must address this reality and see together how we can protect our children.

——— **Sandrine LEMARE, Executive Director of the Soft Skills Academy of ISM Group**

Made by young people, for young people, this book is a major contribution towards combating violence against youth and women.

In Senegal, the use of digital technology is not only intense but begins at an early age. This white paper explores concrete solutions formulated by private and public actors, NGOs, international institutions, and, most importantly, young people. Nowadays, young people are often the first to demand protection from the risks of its use, and are ready to be part of the solution. This is the case for our network of 100 girl volunteers across fourteen regions of Senegal, who, on a daily basis, raise awareness among their peers of the dangers of the internet.

Their work toward better use of digital technologies accelerates the sustainable and inclusive development of our country.

This volunteer network, and the creation of this book, are examples of dynamic and impactful projects. They should inspire and generate public, private, and youth partnerships in service of the agenda against violence against girls and women.

——— **Ousseynou GUEYE, Executive Director of Polaris Asso**

## OUR APPROACH

Polaris Asso and the ISM Group’s Soft Skills Academy act on behalf of youth as part of The Consortium for the Digital Education of Youth in Senegal. We believe that there is an urgent need to protect and support young people as they evolve in a virtual space. We must bring this issue, which concerns us all, to the forefront of discussion.

For three years, the two organizations have been working together on digital education issues. This partnership led to the publication of “Raconte ton Digital” (Tell Your Digital Story), a guidebook that encourages informed use of digital technology, on February 9th, 2022.

This official report, “[It’s Not Your Fault](#)”, is another step on the journey to a secure digital environment for young people.

This report presents the results of a two-month field study conducted between September 2nd and October 30th 2022.

- The qualitative and quantitative data come from a survey on cyberharassment conducted by the coaches of both Polaris Asso and Soft Skills Academy among 424 people in the municipality of Yoff.

——— **Survey conducted in September 2022**

- The quotes are extracts from consultations held with cyberharassment and youth specialists.

——— **First Name(s) Last Name, Organization**

- Two focus groups organized in October 2022 allowed us to understand the youth perspective

——— **Testimony of a young woman, focus group**

We hope that this modest contribution will inspire a collective commitment to address this issue. This white paper is a plea to those who have the power to make change. It is crucial they understand the urgency of this issue—there are lives at stake.

# SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

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RAISING AWARENESS OF  
CYBERHARASSMENT AND  
ITS CONSEQUENCES

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A SECURE AND  
REWARDING DIGITAL  
SPACE FOR ALL



## INTRODUCTION

Digital technology has revolutionized our way of life and continues to do so. It offers many opportunities, but also poses great dangers. Potential digital risks include threats to dignity, individual freedom, health, and security. For its unfortunate victims, digital violence can be life-threatening.

Unfortunately, methods of protecting oneself from digital risks are generally unknown. There are various initiatives that encourage informed use of digital technology. These allow individuals to further their careers and participate in the economic growth and development of their country. However, these projects, which advocate for a safer and more advantageous use of digital technology, are not well-supported. We can no longer stay silent when 8 million Senegalese internet users are at risk. In this cyberspace, where we spend 40% of our life (an average of 7 hours per day), no one is safe.

“ Like every revolution, there are consequences that we are unable to control. Cyberharassment is one of the negative effects of the digital revolution ”, says Rokhaya Solange Mbengue Ndir of the Department of Corporate Social Responsibility in partnership with Sonatel Group.\*

\*cf pg.35 : glossary of organizations cited in this report

The movement for digital transformation has already garnered investment and raised hope across the country. Its supporters understand that now more than ever it is necessary to prevent risks to young people and children. At the same time, we acknowledge that prevention of these risks must not come at the sacrifice of young people’s rights to freedom of speech and civic engagement.

We are convinced that in order to prevent cyberharassment, we must first define it and understand its various forms (Section One). Next, we must analyze initiatives taken by various actors (Section Two). Finally, following our observations, we must provide recommendations for—and discuss the responsibilities of—each social sector (Section Three).

## SECTION 1 : RAISING AWARENESS OF CYBERHARASSMENT AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

## BECAUSE THE DEFINITION OF CYBERHARASSMENT ITSELF IS UNCLEAR, ADDRESSING IT BECOMES AN EVEN MORE DIFFICULT CHALLENGE

### First of all, what is harassment ?

Harassment is a type of persecution in which repetitive and hostile words and actions are used to demoralize and undermine a victim. The harasser's sole intention is to cause harm to another person.

### So, cyberharassment is...

An intentional, repetitive, and aggressive act perpetrated by an individual or group of individuals in cyberspace, toward a victim who cannot easily defend him or herself.

### How to identify it...

**Intention :** deliberate and intentional behavior ; the harasser acts with full knowledge and awareness of what he or she is doing.

**Desire to harm :** the harasser's actions prompt feelings of humiliation, fear and suffering.

**Repetition :** repeated attacks for a significant period of time or involving multiple people.

**Cyberspace :** the internet, virtual space ; accessed using computers, mobile phones or any other form of digital technology.

“Harassment is an attack made via a social media platform. It calls into question the moral and religious integrity, racial identity, ethnicity, and social affiliations of a person or group of people.”

Cheikh Tidiane SY Al Amine,  
President of the Unitary  
Framework of Islam of Senegal  
(CUDIS).

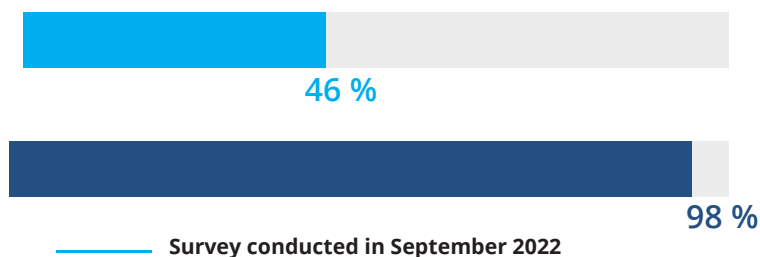
“ Cyberharassment is a form of violence that often leads to devastating consequences for school stakeholders (teachers, parents, and especially, students). It is harassment using digital technology.”

Amadou Diégane SARR, Digital  
Education Manager of the National  
Education Information and Man-  
agement System (SIMEN)

“ People have difficulty understanding [cyberharassment]. They don't necessarily realize what it is. It's a broad phenomenon. It's necessary to return to its definition each time we discuss it.”

Testimony of a young woman, focus group

46 % of people interviewed agreed that it is difficult to define cyberbullying. But when provided with different elements that make up its definition, 98% chose the correct ones.



Survey conducted in September 2022



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT WITH  
KNOWLEDGE AND TACT

## THE TORMENTOR HIDDEN BEHIND THE SCREEN

The way we connect to others changes in the digital world and evolves with technological progress and new modes of communication. The digital sphere allows individuals and communities to behave in a way they never would in the “real” world.

**A feeling of invisibility and impunity** allows cyberharassers to act outside of normal social codes.

### **A total absence of empathy renders them indifferent to the reactions of others.**

“The cyberharasser behind the screen of the computer is not conscious of the emotional reaction of his or her victim. This allows him or her to feel no pity when faced with the person aggressed.”<sup>2</sup>

### **Real and virtual identities converge and combine**

Angelique Gozlan maintains that “The arrival of the internet and the possibility to become someone else on these virtual interfaces goes beyond the harasser or victim. A cyberharasser on the internet can become anyone.”

“It’s easier to harass when hidden behind a screen. The harasser has greater impact and his or her attack spreads more rapidly.”

Testimony of a young woman, focus group

“The phenomenon of cyberharassment exists also in groups. It’s easier for a cyberharasser to reach his or her goal on social media because he or she can hide behind the comments of others.”

Testimony of a young woman from a focus group; October 25th, 2022

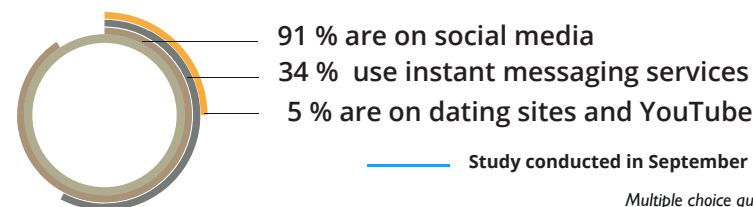
“The permanent nature of the internet can intensify the pain that victims feel.”

Bamba Bathily, President of Cyber 221

“We are faced today with a new generation of ‘digital citizens’ who socialize and interact virtually. This generation is just as capable of carrying out good actions as they are bad actions.”

Sandrine Lemare, Director of the Soft Skills Academy, part of the ISM Group

### Senegalese internet users are exposed to dangers on social media



CULTIVATE EMPATHY ON THE INTERNET

## TYPES OF CYBERHARASSMENT

The digital sphere is the new scene of violence. There is unquestionably a continual, causal link between physical and digital violence. Online, violence can be easily enacted and swiftly escalated. Contrary to popular belief, cyberharassment is not solely sexual in nature.

### In Senegal, forms of cyberharassment include:

- Publication of a person's photo on Facebook, YouTube, and other social media without his or her consent
- Blackmail
- Identity theft
- Bullying or intimidation
- Insulting
- Child pornography
- Breaching privacy on social media
- Sextortion (blackmail and/or threatening to share intimate photos)

Quarterly notice from the Commission for Protection of Personal Data (CDP, 2015-2022)

" Digital technology initiates and/or supports violence. Therefore, it is inextricable from violence. "

Ousseynou GUEYE, Executiv  
Director of Polaris Asso

" It feels like everywhere you go, the cyberharasser is following you. "

Study conducted in September 2022

## A STORY OF VICTIMS OF CYBERBULLYING

The victims were first contacted through Facebook, then on WhatsApp, by an individual pretending to be a rich man. He claimed that he would pay them considerable amounts of money for obscene images. Once he had possession of these images, he pressured these young girls—the majority of whom were adolescents and/or minors—into performing sexual acts for him. If they refused, he threatened to post their videos to social media. Some preferred to comply in order to preserve their dignity. As revenge against those who did not satisfy his sexual requests, the victims' photos were posted on an online pornography site. No sums of money were ever sent or received.

Extract from the Report of Annual Activity from The Special Division of Cybersecurity (DSC), 2021



73% of people surveyed believed that the consequences of online harassment are just as serious as those of physical harassment.

Study conducted in September 2022



IF WE LET GO OF SHAME, WE CAN TALK ABOUT IT FREELY

## SENEGALESE SOCIETY CONFRONTS CYBERHARASSMENT

In Senegal, education on digital wellbeing is often not part of a child's upbringing. Among families, digital technology is frequently the subject of warnings or bans. **Unequipped to talk about cyberharassment with their children**, some parents instead remain silent. Awareness of an issue depends on the resources at our disposal to define and understand it.

There is limited freedom to speak on cyberharassment when certain Senegalese values (*kersa*: restraint or reticence, *maslaa*: talk around [something], *sütüra*: turn a blind eye, and *muñ*: turn the other cheek) govern social response. As a consequence, **blame is often attributed to the very person who is harassed**. It is the female population that tends to suffer the most from this injustice. Women face distinct pressure in a society where all eyes are on them.

The taboo surrounding cyberharassment leaves victims feeling ashamed. **It stifles the voices of victims and gives harassers free rein**. Female victims are subjected to judgment from others, the most common being, **"What have you done?"** Guilt and shame become their only companions as they face a society that criticizes them, refuses to support them, and excuses the actions of their harassers. It is for this reason that a victim may choose to keep her secret for as long as possible. She is afraid she will be asked, **"What did you do to get harassed?"**

"The practice of saying 'Don't air our dirty laundry in public' prevents us from talking about these issues." \_\_\_\_\_ Testimony of a young woman, focus group

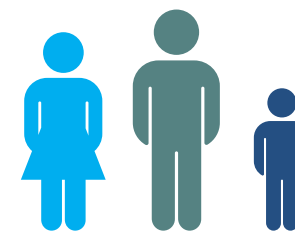
"To talk about harassment is to accept a certain social weakness that society does not want to acknowledge." \_\_\_\_\_ Testimony of a young woman, focus group

"Before condemning someone, there must be some form of mediation. Senegalese society is not one of denunciation. When one is harassed on social media, one must first and foremost speak with the people involved before seeking blame." \_\_\_\_\_ Arame Gueye Sené, Executive Director of Social Change Factory

The majority of people interviewed believed that women were the most at risk of being cyberharassed.

Women	85 %
Men	11 %
Children	15 %

Multiple choice questions



1 in 5 people is a victim of cyberharassment.



Study conducted in September 2022



LET'S ADDRESS THE TOPIC WITH SOCIOCULTURAL MODALITIES

## CYBERHARASSMENT PREVENTION STARTS AT SCHOOL AND AT HOME

Schooling plays an important role in the well-being and development of young people and children. School serves as a place of learning and development. Unfortunately, many forms of violence and abuse are still prevalent in schools in Senegal, as revealed by the recent report on “[The phenomenon of violence in schools](#)” by the Coalition of Organizations in SYnergy for the Defense of Public Education (COSYDEP), published in January 2022.

Cyberharassment is a relatively new phenomenon that is still not being talked about enough. It has, however, alerted the attention of education stakeholders, who are alarmed by the scope of its influence in schools and institutions.

With digital technology, and in particular mobile phones, the harassment that used to be just between classmates on the playground has moved to cyberspace. Whether it is at school, within the family, or beyond, the repercussions of this phenomenon on young people and children must be addressed.

In addition, the rapid evolution of digital technology has widened the generation gap. Parents are often not well-prepared to discuss or answer questions on this topic with their children.

As digital tools become more and more commonplace in education, it is important that young people and children are warned of possible dangers and learn to protect themselves.

“The school is a place of value-building, a framework that is meant to produce model citizens. Therefore, when a child is brought before the court, it is a failure of the school system.”

Mamadou Ndiaye, Head of Research and Archival, COSYDEP

“In school computer rooms, students have access only to the limited Wikipedia search engine, and not to YouTube or other platforms. But this control is lost at home, where students have their own cell phones or computers. The responsibility then falls on the parent to surveil his or her child.”

Thierno Mody Ndiaye, Digital Specialist, Education and Training Inspectorate (IEF)

“In Senegal, cyberharassment is the biggest disaster facing our education sector.”

Adama Sow, Director of Child Protection, Commission for the Protection of Personal Data in Senegal (CDP)

“Students have mobile phones at their disposal without any prior training in the proper use of social media.”

Khady Ndiaye, Communication and Partnership Officer, Dakar Education Authority

“The difficulty is that not even parents have full access to their children's phones. Thus, their children must often deal with this issue by themselves.”

Thierno Haby Ba, Inspectorate of Education and Training Dakar Plateau (IEF)



ONLINE SAFETY AT SCHOOL AND HOME IS A RIGHT FOR ALL CHILDREN

## LET'S SPEAK ON THIS WRONGDOING

“ The stakeholders that met during the process of consultations unanimously understood the phenomenon [of cyberharassment] to be relatively unknown. [It] can not only affect the dignity of a person, but also serve as an obstacle to his or her development.”

——— Ousmane Ngom, Academy Inspection (IA) of Dakar

Because of the relentless nature of cyberharassment, victims face stress, anxiety, depression, loneliness, isolation, marginalization, low self-esteem, and all sorts of psychosocial afflictions. For students, their academic performance declines as most are unable to continue their studies satisfactorily.

According to Aboubacar Diakhaté, psychologist-advisor at the Mental Health Division, “ The practice of online violence has psychological and emotional consequences for the victims. They are often neglected in our society and this can be the root of various psychological illness. There are always consequences. If victims are not well monitored, they risk having conflict within or being isolated by their families, and could even abandon their studies.”

——— Extract from the Sud Quotidien newspaper, April 11th, 2022

■ “ [The] lack of respect [from the cyberharasser] causes the victim to pass through different phases : a drop in self-confidence, depression, stress, anxiety, hatred, revenge, and even suicide in the most serious of cases.”

——— Testimony of a young woman, focus group

■ “ Due to the unrelenting nature of cyberharassment, students may also experience many negative effects, including anxiety, depression, decreased school performance, feelings of isolation, changes in eating and sleeping habits, lowered self-esteem, etc.”

——— Bamba Bathily, President of Cyber 221

■ “ Violence on the internet can cause serious physical violence.”

——— Sandrine Lemare, Director of Soft Skills Academy, ISM Group

■ “ Cyber harassment on social networks is very dangerous because a person’s reputation can quite quickly be called into question.”

——— Pr. Mamadou Dramé, FASTEF, UCAD

■ “ The harasser...impacts one’s reality, way of being, and behavior.”

——— Testimony of a young woman, focus group

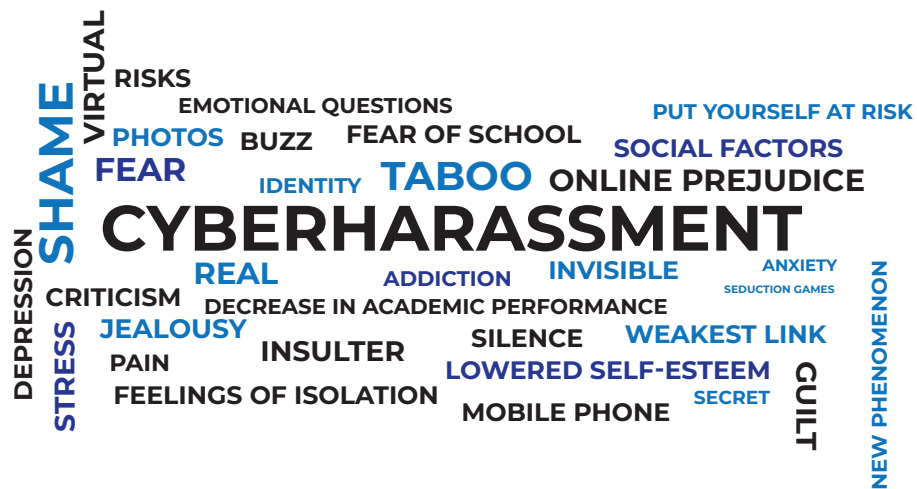
**When the victims expressed their feelings, they often used emotionally charged language.**

Rage	33 %
Helplessness	16 %
Anguish	8 %
Vulnerability	13 %
Sadness	6 %
Cannot be put into words	40 %

Multiple choice question



WE MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECT OF THIS PHENOMENON



## SECTION 2 : ACTIONS TAKEN BY VARIOUS ACTORS, WITH LIMITED EFFECTS

## A FRAMEWORK PUT IN PLACE BY THE STATE

### The Senegalese Commission for the Protection of Personal Data (CDP)

has been in charge of the protection of Senegalese people's personal data on the internet since 2010. This institution raises awareness, provides guidance, receives complaints, processes requests for permission to use personal data, and ensures the respect of the national " Law for the Protection of Personal Data."

In 2016, the " Law for the Protection of Personal Data " was reinforced to crack down on offenses such as identity theft, clandestine recordings, and the publication of personal data without permission or prior consent of the person(s) concerned.

The Special Division on Cybersecurity (DSC) was created in 2017. It is responsible for combating digital crime. It conducts investigations related to cases of cyberharassment.

In 2017, members of the Committee for the Protection of Children (CAPE), the Ministry of Digital Economy and Telecommunications (MENT), and UNICEF met in a workshop which led to the validation of a National Action Plan for Children's Online Protection. This contribution has been integrated into the MENT's " Digital Senegal 2025 " strategy. The strategy detailed more than 15 actions to take in terms of policy, governance, judicialization, improved communication, support of victims, and engagement of internet service suppliers.

The updated MENT strategy in 2020 called on the government to implement necessary actions, strengthen human capital, and to secure the support and trust of Senegalese citizens. The strategy introduced digital training for school curricula and aimed to reinforce the importance of the protection of children online.

" [Cyberharassment] shall be punishable by a term of imprisonment of one to five years and a fine of 500,000 XAF (€755.28) to 5,000,000 XAF (€7,552.77) of anyone who, by any means, willfully violates another person's privacy, including :

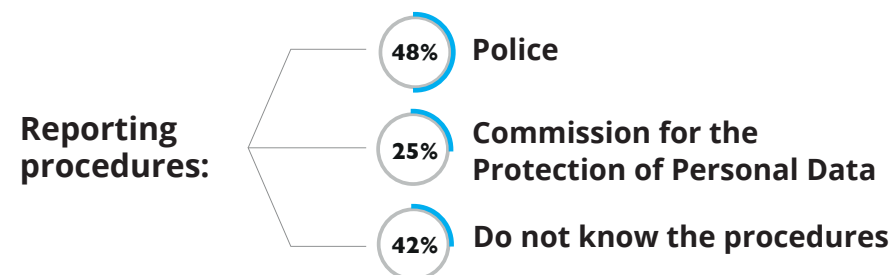
1. Capturing, recording, transmitting or disseminating, without the consent of the author, words spoken in private or confidentially.
2. Capturing, recording, transmitting or disseminating an image of a person in a private place without his or her consent."

CDP's quarterly report

" The number of complaints recorded and followed-up by the DSC has increased by 7% between 2021 and 2022."

The Special Division on Cybersecurity's (DSC) annual report, 2021

One in two people says that they know the reporting procedures for cyberviolence and would be most likely to contact the police.



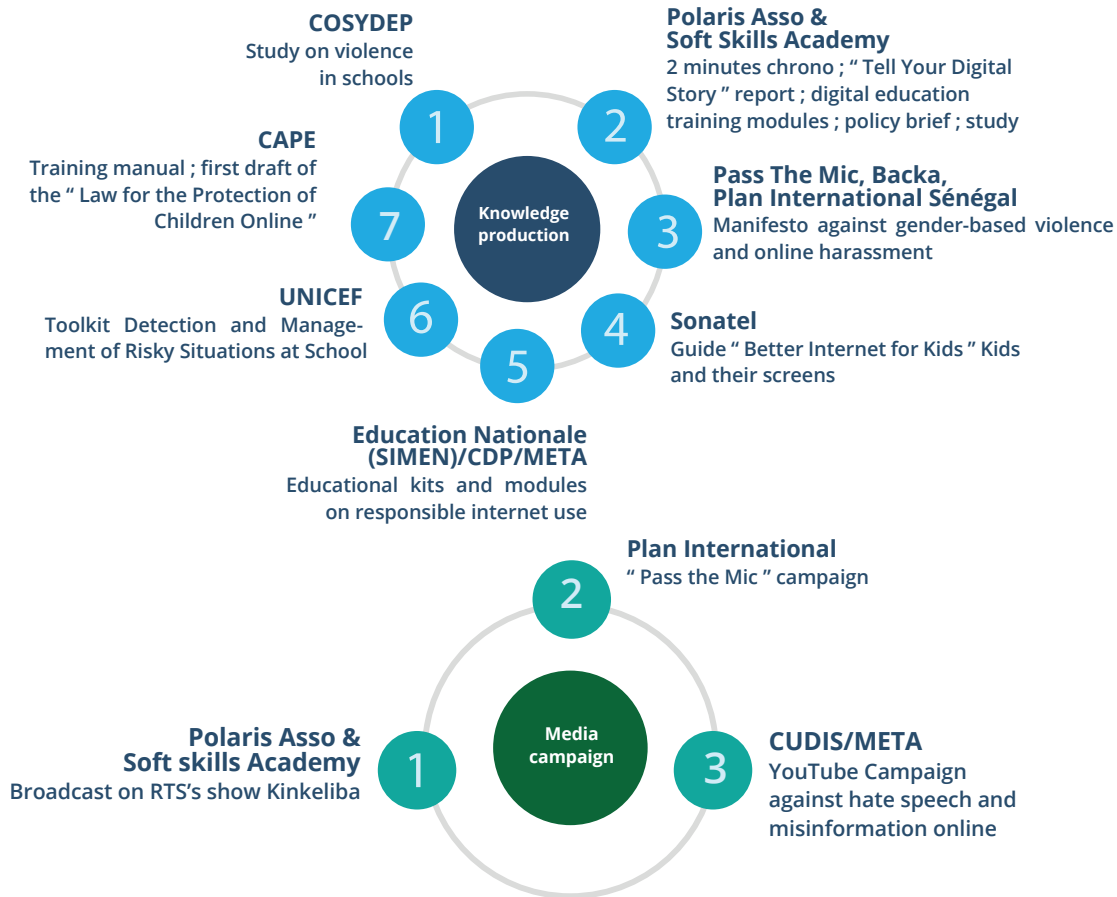
Survey conducted in September 2022

Multiple choice question



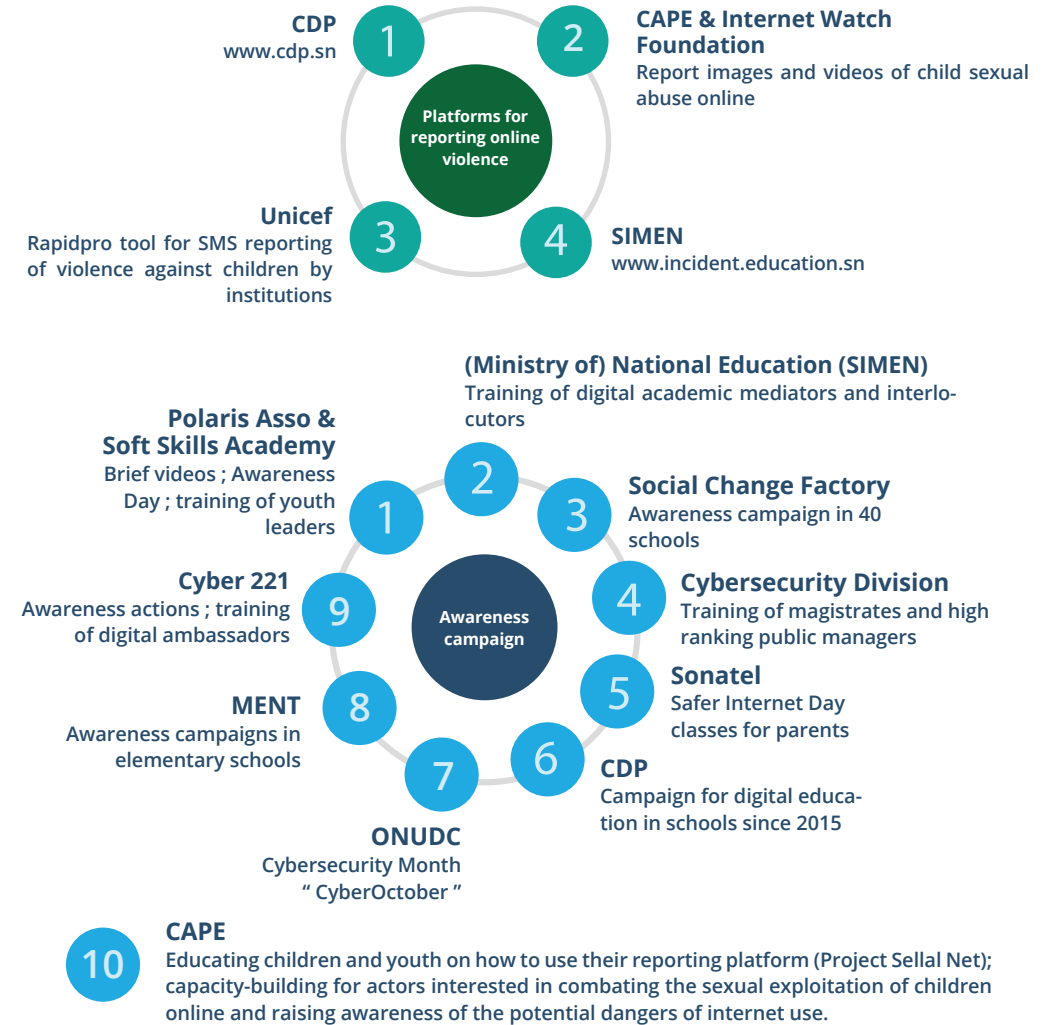
WE MUST ASSURE PREVENTION MEASURES ARE OPERATIONAL AND SUITABLE

## PIONEERING ACTIONS TAKEN BY KEY ACTORS\*



Information collected from consultations

## RESOURCES RELEVANT TO THE PROTECTION OF YOUTH ONLINE



WE MUST COORDINATE OUR EFFORTS

## THE MEANS FOR AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FIGHT AGAINST CYBERBULLYING ARE STILL LIMITED OR INSUFFICIENT

**The existing laws to punish instigators of cyberharassment do not appear to be enforced.**

**The National Action Plan for Children’s Online Protection is largely non-operational** due to a lack of resources and coordination.

**In the total absence of quantifiable** data on cyberharassment, we cannot measure its magnitude, understand its causes, or even understand its consequences.

**The reporting procedures for cases of cyberbullying in Senegal are poorly known and insufficient. They are not currently able to receive all complaints of harassed persons.**

In fact, the number of cases registered by the CDP and the cybercrime division is ridiculously low in comparison to the number of internet users in Senegal and the percentage of people who have likely been harassed. This is largely due to the lack of human and financial resources of both entities.

**The procedures for reporting and removing inappropriate content from international** digital platforms are uncertain and often ineffective. Not all platforms are able to remove inappropriate content in less than 24 hours.

Roundtable May 31st, 2022 : “ Online violence: What mechanisms can we use to stop it from escalating ? ”

“ We advocate for digital platforms to face up their responsibility. CUDIS is listed as a certified organization to request the removal of compromising photos or videos online, and yet we are unable to.”

Cheikh Tidiane Sy Al-Amine,  
Unitary Framework of Islam of Senegal (CUDIS)

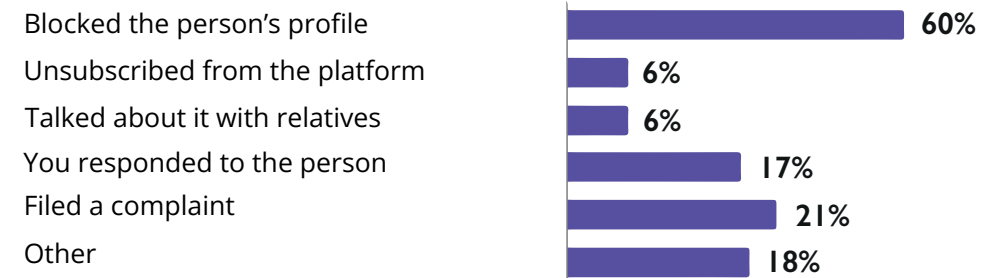
“ The extent of cyberbullying in schools is hard to measure, firstly because there is no public data, and secondly, because the reporting mechanisms are little-known and insufficient.”

Ousmane NGOM, IA Dakar

“ The MEN reporting platform needs to be improved to be more operational and responsive to user needs. Parents and children should be able to make reports in a structured manner. Today there are many reporting platforms (CAPE, JUSTICE, CDP, MEN, etc.) that all share the same goal. But it would be better to instead have one platform for all.”

Amadou Diegane SARR, SIMEN

**Less than one in two victims managed to implement a defense strategy. For others, their main action was to block the harasser’s profile**



Multiple choice question



DOING WHAT IT TAKES TO EMPOWER YOUNG PEOPLE AND HELP THEM PROTECT THEMSELVES

**In terms of awareness**, the campaigns conducted by public and private actors have not been evaluated. However, these campaigns seem insufficient and, for the most part, are conducted only in Dakar.

**The communication materials** used to raise awareness are only written in French. This excludes the large section of the population that is illiterate and/or has poor French and yet uses the internet for communication, entertainment, and exchange.

**When it comes to supporting victims**, there is no available service for listening and assistance. There is no support structure for victims of cyberbullying in Senegal. Without any help, some people commit suicide to escape their pain.

**Many actors** have a part to play in raising awareness and supporting victims and yet, they are not trained in the issue. These actors include teachers, psychologists, psychiatrists, journalists, police officers, judges, community authorities, religious leaders, and more.

**More often, the media in Senegal** treats this issue as trivial. Their goal is to create buzz and to cover cases of cyberbullying as miscellaneous news items, with no regard for education of the public.

■ *“ There are not enough competent staff : there are only 50 psychiatrists and 10 psychologists in Senegal, only 3 of whom are Senegalese. 40% of the workers are in Dakar, the rest are in Saint-Louis, Ziguinchor, and Thiès.”*

—— Roundtable May 31st 2022: “Online violence: What mechanisms can we use to stop it from escalating ?”

■ *“ Victims must be protected and supported. They must be monitored in order to prevent psychological consequences and to help them restore their dignity.”*

—— Arame Gueye Sene, Executive Director, Social Change Factory

■ *“ Awareness actions that are not long-term are merely a flash in the pan.”*

—— Adama Sow, Director in Charge of Child Protection, CDP

■ *“ Because journalists are concerned with topicality, they don't have the time to explore in depth certain topics. By nature, the daily news is dumbed down. Indeed, it conditions the listener, the reader, or the viewer to skim only the surface level of topics. As with many other subject matters, cyberharassment is not approached seriously or in-depth. Paradoxically, by dealing with these cases through the lens of 'newsworthiness' and promoting their stories, these journalists become quasi-harassers themselves. Their work thus amplifies the pain of victims.”*

—— Moussa SECK, Journalist

# LIFE STORY

M.K., a 16-year-old student, dreams of going to France. She spends most of her time on social media. In fact, she is addicted to it. One day, she meets a young woman who lives abroad on Instagram, and they start chatting. The young woman confides in M.K. She tells her that she has problems with her parents, and feels lonely. M.K. believes she is telling the truth and feels compassion for her. The two continue talking. After trust has been established between the two, they share phone numbers and arrange to meet on WhatsApp. In reality, however, the person who appeared to be a young woman abroad was in reality an impostor that hoped to blackmail M.K. " This person sent me naked photos of her, and asked me in return to do the same. And because I trust others easily, I sent her my naked photos."

Once the impostor had possession of her photos, he threatened, blackmailed, and harassed M.K : " In just a few clicks, I can post your photos on social media."

M.K., in shock, confided to her loved ones : " I panicked and told everything to my aunt, who in turn explained the situation to my mother. My mom was outraged and angry and scolded me." Her mother, very disappointed in her daughter's behavior, distanced herself from M.K.

This dilemma had consequences on her school performance . "The next day, I had a school assignment that I couldn't do properly. I was thinking about [the situation] too much."

Since then, she has decided to withdraw from social media: "I deleted my account as I have become very suspicious of social media."

Fortunately, the photos have not yet been shared on social media. Nevertheless, M.K. still lives in fear and anguish: " I am afraid that one day, these photos will appear on the web."

## SECTION 3 : A SECURE AND REWARDING DIGITAL SPACE FOR ALL

## EACH STAKEHOLDER HAS AN UNDENIABLE RESPONSIBILITY TO ADDRESS THIS MAJOR SOCIAL ISSUE

### The State

It is the duty of the state to protect children everywhere, and especially online. This matter of public interest must be addressed at the highest level of the state, as it concerns many ministries, including National Education, Family, Youth, Digital Economy, Health, Justice, and Internal Affairs. At the same time, these parties must remember that any dangers faced by Senegalese people online do not justify restrictions to their freedom in cyberspace.

### Deputies

Frame and enact laws in order to protect children and youth online. Standardize digital platform regulation of digital harassment. Hold tech giants accountable.

### Media

Determine the most effective way to educate, raise awareness, and prevent cyberharassment among all sectors of the population. **Rather than a news flash, do a deep dive !**

### The ICT industry

Share necessary information with customers, so they know how to protect themselves online. Let them know about harassment reporting systems and how to use them. Regulate hate speech. **Profit is good, but taking responsibility is better !**

### The Tech Giants (Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon, and Microsoft)

Cooperate with and be responsive to requests for removal of comments and content that do not comply with Senegalese child rights and privacy legislation. **It is high time for the stars of Silicon Valley to champion online user protection!**

### Technical and Funding Partners

Support long-term and sustainable programs.

### Civil Society

Listen to and raise awareness among Senegalese people. Acknowledge social realities and evaluate public policy. Each person must recognize the role he or she plays in addressing this issue.

### The Educational Sector

Be trained in digital technology in order to anticipate students' needs. Teachers and administrators are often the first to notice changes in children's behavior. A student's punctuality, attendance, concentration in class, attitude toward peers, and academic performance can be revealing factors.

### Community

One's community plays a complementary role to the family. It is often within a community where conflict is first mediated. Within a community, common values are built and enforced. **We must move beyond traditional roles to ensure children's protection.**

### Family

Resume conservation and provide a space to speak openly about sensitive or taboo issues. Revive the roles of Nidiayes (maternal uncles) and Badienes (paternal aunts) who are a crucial part of the family unit. The family is often the first to know when something is wrong. **The family plays a pivotal role in the fight against cyberharassment, an issue that is, in essence, social.**

### Youth

Be able to identify cyberharassment and not feed into it. Youth are often the first witnesses of cyberharassment. However, they may fail to grasp the seriousness of it or even exacerbate it through their reactions. Young people must be capable of identifying this phenomenon.

**AND EVERYONE ELSE...**

THIS CONCERNS US ALL !

WE MUST ALL BE INVOLVED !

# ACTING TOGETHER



TAKE NOTE

**UNDERSTAND, IDENTIFY AND  
MANAGE THE ISSUE AS EARLY AS  
POSSIBLE**

- » Conduct studies and research to measure its scope.
- » Set up a single reporting platform.
- » Strengthen detection, early reporting, and care systems for victims.

- » Use local languages for all communication channels.
- » Integrate training modules on digital risks into curricula.
- » Educate counselling psychologists, police officers, judges, journalists, community representatives, and religious leaders on the dangers associated with digital technology.

**PROVIDE TRAINING, RAISE  
AWARENESS AND EDUCATE  
ON THE USES OF DIGITAL  
TECHNOLOGY**



RAISE AWARENESS



HELP

**WORK TO SAVE LIVES, HELP TO  
PREVENT "SOCIAL DEATH"\***

- » Reconnect the victim with his or her community and cultural group.
- » Set up an effective system that listens to, informs, and counsels victims.
- » Form groups of trained personnel directly connected with local communities.
- » Build effective systems for psychologically and socially supporting victims.

- » Be informed of digital offenses and violations.
- » Reinforce the legal framework and ensure that sanctions put in place are effective.
- » Train legal and judicial workers on cyberviolence issues and raise public awareness of related penalties.
- » Codify regulations concerning the state and tech giants.

**FIGHT  
AGAINST  
IMPUNITY**



JUDICIALIZE

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## THIS REPORT IS BASED ON MEETINGS, CONSULTATIONS, TWO FOCUS GROUPS AND A SURVEY.

### 21 consultations

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- 08/09/2022 - Sandrine LEMARE, Soft Skills Academy du Groupe ISM
- 09/09/2022 - Christine NSONDA, Plan international Sénégal
- 12/09/2022 - Mamadou NDIAYE, Coalition des Organisations en Synergie pour la Défense de l'Education Publique (Cosydep)
- 19/09/2022 - Mamadou DRAMÉ, Faculté des Sciences et Technologies de l'Education et de la Formation (FASTEF)
- 19/09/2022 - Arame GUEYE SENE, Social Change factory
- 26/09/2022 - Massamba DIOUF, UNICEF
- 04/10/2022 - Khady NDIAYE, Inspection d'académie de Dakar
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- 13/10/2022 - Bamba BATHILY, Cyber 221
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- 19/10/2022 - Amadou Diégane SARR, Système D'Information et de Management De l'Education Nationale (SIMEN)
- 20/10/2022 - Cheikh Tidiane SY AL-AMINE, Cadre Unitaire de l'Islam au Sénégal (CUDIS)
- 21/10/2022 - Massamba BADIANE, Ministère de l'Economie Numérique Et Des Télécommunications
- 28/10/2022 - Rokhaya Solange Mbengue NDIR, Sonatel
- 07/11/2022 - Moussa SECK, Journaliste
- 08/11/2022 - Kinty NDIAYE & Aminata Sira NIANG, ONG RAES

## 20 Organisations sensibilisées

23/08/2022 - Kalista Production  
23/08/2022 - Parole aux jeunes  
24/08/2022 - Hôpital psychiatrique de Thiaroye  
30/08/2022 - Cosydep  
06/09/2022 - UNICEF  
12/09/2022 - CNRS/UCAD Anthropologue  
13/09/2022 - Mairie de Yoff  
16/09/2022 - Inspecteur Général des Forces Armées  
20/09/2022 - Système D'Information et de Management De l'Éducation Nationale (SIMEN)  
26/09/2022 - REJOTIC  
28/09/2022 - Réseaux des lycées français  
29/09/2022 - Agence Française de Développement  
30/09/2022 - Ministère de la Santé  
30/09/2022 - Sonatel  
03/10/2022 - Division Spéciale de Cybersécurité  
03/10/2022 - Groupe Futurs Médias  
07/10/2022 - Cellule d'Appui à la Protection de l'Enfance (CAPE)  
10/10/2022 - Heinrich BOLL Sénégal  
10/10/2022 - Office des Nations Unies contre les Drogues et le Crime (ONUOD)  
13/10/2022 - Cadre Unitaire de l'Islam au Sénégal (CUDIS)

## 2 Focus Groups

Held at Polaris Asso; October 15th and 25th, 2022

### 1 Study

Conducted among 424 people in the commune of Yoff in September 2022

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## GLOSSARY OF ORGANIZATIONS CITED

**AFD, Agence Française de Développement** : The French Development Agency is a French government agency. Their mission is to support projects for sustainable development worldwide

**CAPE, Cellule d'Appui à la Protection de l'Enfance** : The Child Protection Support Unit works to prevent the exploitation and sexual abuse of children. They launched a reporting service that allows users to report abuse online

**CDP, Commission de Protection des Données Personnelles au Sénégal** : The Commission for Protection of Personal Data is an independent administrative authority established by Law No. 2008-12 of January 25, 2008, for the protection of personal data

**CJS, Consortium Jeunesse Sénégal** : The Youth Consortium Senegal is an association of young social innovators, entrepreneurs, investors, decision-makers, researchers, and others that aim to empower youth in Senegal

**CNRS, Centre national français de la recherche scientifique** : The French National Center for Scientific Research

**COSYDEP, Coalition des Organisations en SYnergie pour la Défense de l'Éducation Publique** : The Coalition of Organizations in Synergy for the Defense of Public Education is a civil society collective providing a strategic framework for reflection, consultation, synergy, research, and action

**CUDIS, Le Cadre Unitaire de l'Islam au Sénégal** : The Unitary Framework of Islam in Senegal works to maintain social cohesion and religious tolerance in Senegal

**Cyber 221** is a cybersecurity startup whose objective is to raise awareness of digital security and promote a culture of cybersecurity in Senegal

**DSC, Division Spéciale de Cybersecrité**: The Special Division on Cybersecurity in Senegal is a special division of the National Police of Senegal

**FASTEF, Faculté des Sciences et Technologies de l'Éducation et de la Formation** : Faculty of Science and Technology of Education and Training of Cheikh Anta Diop University (UCAD)

**Fondation Heinrich Böll Stiftung** : The Heinrich Böll Stiftung Foundation funds projects that support democratic decision-making, sociopolitical engagement, solidarity, and non-violence.

**Groupe Futurs Média** : Future Medias Group is the leading press group in Senegal

**Hôpital psychiatrique de Thiaroye** : The Psychiatric Hospital of Thiaroye

**IA, Inspection d'Académie de Dakar** : the Dakar Education Authority

**IEF Dakar Plateau**, Inspection de l'Éducation et de la Formation : the Inspectorate of Education and Training in Dakar Plateau; decentralized services of the Dakar Academy.

**Inspecteur Général des Forces Armées** : The Inspector General of Armed Forces.

**The Internet Watch Foundation** : An independent UK organization that fights to remove child sexual abuse content from the internet.

**Kalista Production** : Kalista Production is a production company started by Khalista Sy after the success of her TV show "Maîtresse d'un homme marié". Her work focuses on the experiences and treatment of women in Senegalese society.

**DSM, Division de la Santé Mentale** : The Mental Health Division belongs to the General Directorate of Health, of the Ministry of Health and Social Action. Its mission is to ensure the prevention and management of mental disorders.

**City Council of Yoff** : Mairie de Yoff.

**MENT, Ministère de l'Economie Numérique et des Télécommunications** : the Ministry of Digital Economy and Telecommunications.

**Ministère de la Santé** : The Ministry of Health.

**ONUDC, Office des Nations Unies contre les Drogues et le Crime** : The United Nations Office On Drugs and Crime.

**Parole aux Jeunes** : Parole aux Jeunes is a Senegalese organization that aims to educate youth on their sexual and reproductive health through digital platforms. Through its various campaigns, Parole aux Jeunes aims to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and equip adolescents and young people with the tools and resources they need.

**Plan International Sénégal** : Plan International is an international NGO fighting for children's rights and equality between girls and boys. They have been working in Senegal since 1982.

**Polaris Asso**: A Senegalese association that uses digital technology and education as an anchor to meet the challenges of youth and women in Senegal. Its mission is to protect, train and educate youth and women in the context of digital society.

**REJOTIC, Réseau des journalistes Sénégalais spécialistes en technologies d'information et de la communication** : The Network of Senegalese Journalists with Expertise in Information and Communication Technologies.

**Réseau des lycées français** : The Network of French High Schools in Senegal.

**SIMEN, Système d'Information et de Management de l'Éducation Nationale** : the National Education Information and Management System supports all stakeholders in the education system with their transition to using digital technology.

**SCF, Social Change Factory** : Social Change Factory is a civic leadership center that works to engage and empower the youth of Africa.

**Soft Skills Academy** : The Soft Skills Academy is part of the ISM Dakar. The ISM Group is a private higher education group in West Africa. The Soft Skills Academy is a laboratory that prepares students for their future career and teaches community engagement through personal development activities, professional coaching and volunteer activities that service the community.

**SONATEL** : The Sonatel Group is an operator that provides telecommunications services, including landlines, mobile phones, internet, television, mobile money, and data for individuals and companies.

**UCAD** : Université Cheikh Anta Diop : Dakar's largest university

**UNICEF**: an agency of the United Nations that provides humanitarian and development aid to children worldwide.



# YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Want to commit to the protection of young people, women, and children online ? Want to talk about it ?

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