

Cyberbullying and Online Harassment: Gaps in Current Legal Protections

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Abstract: *Cyber harassment and cyberbullying are common problems in the information age that cut across all age groups globally. With growing dependency on internet-based communication tools, these issues have resulted in great psychological and emotional trauma to victims. Though there is heightened awareness, existing legislation frequently lacks adequate protection or is unable to deter perpetrators. This paper discusses the current legal safeguards against cyberbullying and online harassment and identifies major gaps in the law that make effective enforcement and victim assistance difficult. These gaps involve conflicting definitions of cyberbullying, jurisdictional issues, and lack of responsibility for online platforms. The paper also discusses the incapacities of laws like Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act and the international nature of internet-based crimes that hinder legal processes. Accordingly, this paper investigates some solutions like international legal collaboration, revisions to Section 230, and better systems of supporting victims. Furthermore, the researchers stress the requirement of technological innovations and information campaigns, as well as education campaigns to foster secure online cultures. Ultimately, the paper advocates for stronger legal frameworks that adapt to the evolving nature of online interactions, ensuring greater protection for victims and greater accountability for offenders.*

Keywords: Cyberbullying, Online Harassment, Legal Protections, Digital Communication, Victim Support

