

# Fundamental Rights Forum

## Freedom of Expression, Hate Speech and Anonymity Online



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# Freedom of Expression, Hate Speech and Anonymity Online

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- Balancing freedom of expression with need to prevent hate speech and support victims



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- Law must keep pace with technology
- When does the behaviour become criminal?
- When should the law intervene?



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- Bullying
- Cyberbullying
- Legal recourse



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- Homophobic bullying
- Serious impact on mental health
- *Supporting LGBT Lives*
  - 27% self-harmed
  - 50% thought of ending their lives
  - 20% attempted suicide



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- Anonymity
- Obstacle to identifying perpetrators and preventing victims from pursuing justice
- Principle of open justice important - outweighed in certain cases by the need to protect children's privacy and the need to protect them from cyberbullying
- Ideal solution - an agreement of co-operation

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- Child protection arguments should not be used to justify censorship
- Children and the right to be forgotten - age of the individual a key factor



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- Must not unreasonably restrict children's civil and political rights to freedom of information and expression
- Blanket filters
- Children and evolving capacities





# Freedom of Expression, Hate Speech and Anonymity Online

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- Responding
- Caution in restricting children's access to the internet
- Support children how to stay safe online

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MV5vom6pEMs>

A creative arrangement of M&M's candies on a white background. The top half features brown candies forming the letters 'THANK YOU FOR LISTENING'. The bottom half features blue candies forming the letters 'THANK YOU FOR LISTENING'. A dark grey horizontal band is superimposed over the center, containing the text 'THANK YOU FOR LISTENING' in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

**THANK YOU FOR LISTENING**