**NORWAY: Input on Human Rights Council resolution 51/10 on cyberbullying against persons with disabilities**

**Status**

We generally have little knowledge about online bullying of people with disabilities. In a survey by SSB (statistics Norway) from 2023, it was found that 47 percent of Norwegians between the ages of 16 and 79 have encountered offensive messages on the internet. The highest proportion is among the young. [[1]](#footnote-1)

The survey shows that the most common cause of online harassment is political opinions or views about society. Ethnic origin is another common cause of online harassment. Fewer people have experienced individuals with disabilities being subjected to offensive messages online. Nearly two out of ten have observed bullying of people with disabilities on the internet. [[2]](#footnote-2)

**Strategies to combat harassment.**

While we do not specifically have strategies or papers directly addressing cyberbullying against people with disabilities, our plans, strategies, and papers include provisions for people with disabilities.

* The Norwegian Strategy against hate speech (2016 to 2020) aimed to combat illegal hate speech, as well as other forms of harassing speech that should be met with for instance preventive or pedagogical measures. The efforts of the strategy are being renewed and developed further.
* The Norwegian Government has supported the Stop hate speech online movement in Norway since 2014. The campaign is part of the European No Hate Speech Movement, a movement started by the Council of Europe’s Youth Department in 2013.
* In 2021, Norway introduced new penal provisions concerning the **sharing of offensive images**. The purpose was to ensure that all unjustified sharing of offensive pictures is punishable, and that this is clearly expressed in the Penal Code.
* In December 2023, Norway launched a **strategy for computer gaming**. Problems of online harassment are addressed in the strategy. To develop national guidelines for inclusion in gaming culture and for addressing harassment and abuse, is a measure in the strategy.
* We are also preparing a **white paper on safe digital childhood**. Harmful use of internet is one of several issues the white paper will cover. In the white paper, proposals from a government committee on harmful effects of media from 2021, will be considered.

**Access to online platforms**

The Equality and Anti-Discrimination Act stipulates that both public and private institutions must have universal design for their main solutions aimed at or provided to users. This ensures that the organization’s general functions can be used by as many people as possible, regardless of any disabilities.

* In 2013 we adopted regulations on universal design of ICT solutions. According to the ICT regulation, websites, mobile applications, digital teaching aids and vending machines that are aimed at the public, such as residents or customers, must be universally designed.
* From February 1, 2023, all public institutions must have an accessibility declaration on their websites. In this declaration, it should be specified to what extent the website or app is universally designed.
* In June 2023, the Norwegian government presented an action plan for increased inclusion in a digital society.
* The action plan for universal design lasts until 2025. The action plan includes measures within spatial planning, infrastructure, construction, transport, and digitization in addition to the development of universal solutions in new areas.

1. [Halvparten har observert netthets – SSB](https://www.ssb.no/teknologi-og-innovasjon/informasjons-og-kommunikasjonsteknologi-ikt/statistikk/bruk-av-ikt-i-husholdningene/artikler/halvparten-har-observert-netthets) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [Halvparten har observert netthets – SSB](https://www.ssb.no/teknologi-og-innovasjon/informasjons-og-kommunikasjonsteknologi-ikt/statistikk/bruk-av-ikt-i-husholdningene/artikler/halvparten-har-observert-netthets) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)