

Useful Resources

www.medialiteracyireland.ie
www.bemediasmart.ie/
www.thejournal.ie/factcheck/
www.gov.ie/migration

HOW TO REPORT HARMFUL CONTENT:

- Use platform reporting tools for hate speech or false claims
- Flag dangerous misinformation to moderators or relevant organisations.

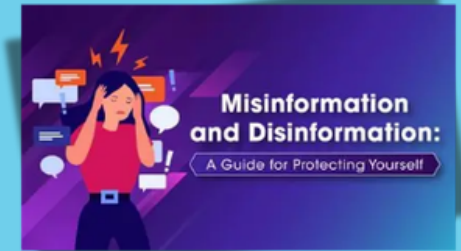
<https://www.cnam.ie/general-public/report-complain/something-i-saw-or-experienced-online/what-can-i-report/>
<https://www.garda.ie/en/reportahatecrime/>

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5 Quick Tips

1. Check the source – is it a trusted news outlet or official body?
2. Read beyond the headline – the full story often tells a different tale.
3. Check the date – old news can be shared as if it's new.
4. Look for other reports – if no one else is reporting it, be cautious.
5. Ask yourself: does this make me angry or scared? That's a red flag.



How to respond to Misinformation & Report Disinformation

**STOP.
THINK.
CHECK.**

A quick guide to protecting yourself and others from false information



An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta
Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht



What is Misinformation?

Misinformation is false or misleading information that is shared, often without the person realising it's untrue.

Misinformation can be:

- Fake news stories
- Misleading headlines
- Out-of-context images
- Unverified claims on social media
- Forwarded messages with no source

What is Disinformation?

Disinformation is false or misleading information deliberately spread to deceive, manipulate, or cause public harm.

You have the power to stop misinformation.

How Does It Spread?

Misinformation spreads quickly because:

- It triggers strong emotions like fear, anger, or outrage
- People share without reading the full article
- It looks like it comes from a trusted friend
- Social media algorithms promote content that gets reactions
- Older adults may be less familiar with how online content works

Once something is shared, it can reach hundreds of people in minutes.

Remember: If you're not sure it's true, don't share it.

What Can You Do?

Pause before you share anything online or by message

Ask: who wrote this? Is there a named source?

Check trusted fact-checking sites like factcheck.ie

Let friends know gently if they've shared something false

Report suspicious posts on social media platforms

Keep your apps and browser updated for security

Small actions, repeated consistently, help build communities that resist misinformation