

## Criminal Liability for Cyberbullying in Jordanian Legislation

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### Abstract

The issue of criminal liability for cyberbullying is of paramount importance in our contemporary era due to the widespread use of smartphones and electronic devices. This proliferation has led to a rise in various behaviors within the digital space, making the sharing of images, videos, and personal information more accessible than ever. With just the click of a button, individuals can share their entire day with a vast audience across the globe. However, this remarkable technological advancement has also given rise to numerous negative consequences, including harassment, particularly cyberbullying perpetrated by anonymous viewers behind screens. This situation necessitates the establishment of penal provisions to address these disturbances effectively. This research will explore the concept of cyberbullying as a negative phenomenon that is prevalent worldwide and distinct from traditional bullying. While bullying is a longstanding social issue present in all societies—whether industrial or developing—cyberbullying is a relatively recent concept, with limited recognition as a form of violence. There are few studies addressing this topic, making it challenging to establish a precise standard for distinguishing between behaviors that constitute bullying and those that are merely transient. The research will examine the underlying causes that have contributed to the widespread occurrence of cyberbullying across various communities and age groups. It will also review the legal and penal measures that can be implemented to combat this negative phenomenon online. Furthermore, the study will analyze the impact of cyberbullying on victims and society at large, alongside a review of the laws and regulations concerning cyberbullying and how to apply them effectively to deter individuals from engaging in such behavior.

**Keywords:** Criminal Liability, Cyberbullying, Digital Space, Emerging Crimes, Cyber Crimes.

### Introduction

A criminal confrontation is a legal procedure that entails confronting the accused with the witness or witnesses who have testified against them before the judge in court. This process aims to uncover the truth, ensure the integrity of judicial proceedings, and achieve justice (Alim, 2015). This procedure is stipulated in Article 70/(2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which states: "If a confrontation is conducted with the participation of the defendant, the provisions governing interrogation shall apply".

It is now widely recognized that the world is continuously and periodically influenced by the outcomes of modern technology. While modern technology plays a positive role in various fields of life, it has, conversely, facilitated the commission of crimes and contributed to the emergence of new types of crimes stemming from the misuse of technological means. Cybercrime is a novel form of crime that targets the infringement upon extensive technical data or employs these means to commit offenses that resemble traditional crimes

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within the virtual world. Such crimes pose significant risks and losses to modern society, supported by the ease of their covert commission and transnational reach. The internet has become a realm for committing offenses and causing harm, particularly psychological and social harm to individuals, often involving hostile attacks on reputation, defamation, falsification of history, belittlement, psychological harassment, and instigating others to defame, circulate personal photos and information, disclose private details, and impose social isolation (Barlett et al., 2016).

Some individuals perpetrate bullying under their real names, often due to ignorance and lack of awareness of the law. This suggests that bullies are typically cowardly, mentally unstable individuals who hide behind a computer or smartphone screen, often using fictitious names and withholding any true personal information. Research indicates that many children who exhibit bullying behaviors in primary schools are themselves victims of bullying by others. They tend to bully those younger or smaller than themselves, while simultaneously being victimized by older, larger peers. These children may act as bullies at school while experiencing victimization at home. Thus, dealing with a bully-victim is more complex than addressing other types of bullying behaviors; they exhibit unacceptable aggressive behavior yet are often weak and highly sensitive. Because they tend to bully mercilessly, it is challenging to empathize with them even when they are victims of bullying themselves. Bully-victims are described as more anxious, emotionally volatile, less popular, easily provoked, and prone to provoking others, thereby corroborating the notion that cyberbullying constitutes a crime that often lacks clear evidence (Dilmaç et al., 2017).

There is no doubt that the rapid advancement in the era of information technology and open data has enabled criminals to evolve their crimes and methods of committing them by mirroring the prevailing societal concepts. Criminals have increasingly relied on electronic means to carry out their offenses due to the high precision of these methods in achieving criminal objectives and the inherent challenges in proving such crimes. The nature of these offenses often precludes any physical trace that could be utilized as evidence, except through the examination of digital or electronic evidence, which can be easily concealed or altered. Moreover, this category of crimes is characterized by the distance between the perpetrator and the victim, as these crimes do not remain confined to the boundaries of the state but rather extend outside them (Nicole, 2009).

The significance of this research lies in elucidating the causes and motivations behind the commission of this crime and subsequently finding means to mitigate the spread of the phenomenon of cyberbullying. It aims to highlight this issue, as the term 'cyberbullying' is relatively new compared to traditional forms of bullying. Therefore, the importance of this study is to establish a clear criterion for distinguishing between cyberbullying and traditional bullying, and to clarify its concept to address any confusion that may arise between it and other crimes that may fall under the umbrella of bullying, in light of the provisions of the Penal Code and the Cybercrime Law in Jordan (Al-Shahrani, 2021).

The process of researching the issue of cyberbullying is of utmost precision and importance from both scientific and legal perspectives. It represents an attempt to highlight the impact of electronic means on the evolution of crime and, conversely, its effect on criminalization and punishment. Furthermore, we have chosen to write on this subject due to its significance, given the serious threat that cyberbullying poses to societal security.

In this study, we address the legal confrontation of the phenomenon of cyberbullying by identifying the legislative means to combat this criminal phenomenon after elucidating its causes and motivations. This issue has become widespread in society due to the proliferation of social media and other modern technological means, necessitating the definition of the nature of this criminal phenomenon. Subsequently, we will outline the elements of the crime of cyberbullying, the forms of legal criminalization associated with this phenomenon, and the stance of comparative legislation on this criminal issue. Additionally, we will identify the factors contributing to the existence of this criminal phenomenon related to cyberbullying by providing a scientific explanation of this phenomenon, with the aim of arriving at legal remedies, whether through preventive measures or through the criminal penalties imposed on offenders.

The problem addressed by this research lies in the fact that cyberbullying is a phenomenon and a crime that poses a clear threat to the social life of individuals within the community. This situation necessitates that the legislator confront it by taking objective and procedural measures to criminalize it. Hence, the research problem begins with clarifying the legal adaptation of the crime of cyberbullying.

### **Methodology**

This study will employ a descriptive-analytical method to examine the phenomenon of cyberbullying, clarify its concept and causes, and assess the adequacy of existing legal provisions in addressing it. This method aims to identify legislative shortcomings in the criminal regulation of cyberbullying. In addition, a comparative method based on a comparison of legal provisions will be utilized to confront this criminal phenomenon.

### **The Nature of the Cyberbullying Phenomenon**

This section examines the definition of cyberbullying and clarifies whether there exists a specific legal term for cyberbullying, as with other phenomena and crimes, or if it is a widely used term applicable to any act constituting aggression toward others through electronic means. Additionally, this section outlines the key distinctions between cyberbullying and traditional bullying, considering that the fundamental basis of cyberbullying lies in the electronic medium used to carry out the bullying behavior (Faryadi, 2011).

### **The Concept of the Cyberbullying Phenomenon**

The term 'bullying' encompasses two parties: the 'bully' and the 'victim.' The bully engages in reprehensible behavior that harms the victim by any

means, whether physically, verbally, or through other methods, solely to gain a sense of superiority and power over others. These actions may be direct or indirect. By referring to most published books and research, a connection is often established between bullying behavior and the school environment, which is considered a fertile setting and the most suitable environment for the emergence and practice of such behavior among a specific age group more than others (Salam, 2023).

### **Concepts of Cyberbullying Phenomenon**

Bullying, in its general sense, is defined as "a pattern of repeated negative behaviors intended to harm or harass, directed by an individual in a position of power against another individual who is less powerful" (Abu Ghazal, 2009).

**Definition of Cyberbullying:** Cyberbullying is defined as any behavior conducted through electronic communication methods on a repeated basis, intended to inflict harm upon others. Such behavior includes actions like sending messages containing threats, defamation, slander, or derogatory remarks through various technological means, such as phone calls, text messages, and emails, all with the aim of exercising control over another person (Al-Khasawneh, 2020).

It has been defined as a crime in which a bully attacks a person without just cause, exercising authority and control over him. There is also a growing consensus among scholars that bullying consists of three elements: aggressive behavior or intentional harm, carried out by an individual or group repeatedly, and directed at a person of lesser power (Bouzidi & Mustafawi, 2023).

Cyberbullying is characterized by cruelty towards others and is a form of abuse and harm directed by an individual or group towards an individual or group that is often physically weaker. It manifests as negative behavior and a type of harassment that may involve sending hurtful and offensive texts, derogatory statements, or sharing inappropriate images and videos by transmitting them to the victim or posting them on his page or other pages, through email, or by hacking into others' online accounts to publish images they do not wish to be shared. This may also take the form of provocative insults directed at the other party or slurs, which are then disseminated, even though they contain private information that is not allowed to be accessed by others (Al-Shahrani, 2021).

Most research has focused on the phenomenon of online bullying as the use of technological means to send hurtful, harsh, or even harmful messages to others. This is referred to as social cruelty online or electronic violence, as the bullying behavior is conducted through the application of cruelty and harm (Al-Makainin et al., 2017).

Thus, based on the preceding definitions, we conclude that cyberbullying is the use of information technology and electronic means to inflict harm upon an individual or group, whether that harm is physical, emotional, psychological, or verbal, without any direct interaction occurring between the victim and the bully (Abd Elrahman, 2018).

### **Distinguishing between cyberbullying and traditional bullying**

Cyberbullying is, in essence, a form of bullying that has recently emerged, coinciding with the rise of social media platforms (such as Snapchat, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, etc.), as previously noted. While traditional bullying was typically perceived to occur within a social environment, it has evolved and become more rapidly disseminated in the virtual realm through social media and online channels. This phenomenon has become more widespread and poses greater risks than before due to its swift propagation and the difficulty in identifying and apprehending the perpetrators (Abd Elrahman, 2018).

Traditional bullying is defined as the repeated exposure over an extended period to negative behaviors from one or more individuals, which includes harassment, reprimanding, ridicule, and threats of physical harm or theft of property directed by an individual or group towards another individual known as the victim. It encompasses a variety of different behaviors, such as verbal insults, name-calling, derogatory writings about others, and belittlement (Nicole, 2009).

Through the definitions of both traditional bullying and cyberbullying, we can deduce the differences between cyberbullying and traditional bullying, which are manifested as follows:

1. Cyberbullying is distinguished from traditional bullying by the electronic means employed by the bully to inflict harm on the victim or to exert control and dominance over them. Cyberbullying occurs through mobile phones, digital devices, instant messaging, emails, social media platforms, and other electronic means. Consequently, cyberbullying is considered a newly evolved form of traditional bullying facilitated by modern technologies and innovative systems developed by researchers.
2. Cyberbullying is often conducted impulsively and without prior planning, in contrast to traditional bullying, which is typically planned.
3. Cyberbullying differs from traditional bullying in that the bully is sometimes unknown; in many instances, the name of the bully or their connection to the victim is not identifiable. The nature of online interactions allows the bully to conceal their identity, which provides a suitable environment for bullying behavior and contributes to the increase in the number of bullies. The internet is perceived as a safe space for bullies, where they encounter minimal consequences and experience little fear of intervention from others.
4. Traditional bullying is limited to specific times and locations, whereas cyberbullying is present at all times and in all places.
5. The forms of cyberbullying differ from traditional bullying in that cyberbullying may involve uploading images, sending messages of contempt and threats, and encompasses all potential manifestations of bullying. In traditional bullying, the victim may experience some respite for a period of time, whereas in cyberbullying, the victim remains under the constant influence and pressure of the bully without a defined break. Consequently, this continuous exposure escalates the victim's feelings of harm and increases their sense of helplessness.

6. Traditional bullying often occurs when there is a disparity between the bully and the victim, whether physically or socially, with physical strength typically being the most significant difference. In contrast, cyberbullying does not rely on such physical or social distinctions. Bullying behind smart devices provides the bully with a greater sense of power and control compared to face-to-face bullying. Furthermore, the potential for anonymity in cyberbullying explains the prevalence of harassment, threats, and other forms of cyberbullying.
7. Individuals who have been bullied through mobile phones, electronic messages, or other media are often more affected than victims of traditional bullying. Victims who experience electronic bullying tend to remember every detail, unlike those who are bullied face-to-face, as traditional bullying does not leave the victim with a recollection of every word. In contrast, electronic bullying involves messages that remain accessible for an extended period unless deleted, and images that persist if not reported for removal. Consequently, cyberbullying has a more profound impact than traditional bullying due to the difficulty of forgetting the experience, both individually and collectively.
8. The phenomenon of bullying, whether traditional or cyberbullying, has negative consequences that can intensify over time, including isolation, anxiety, loss of friendships due to bullying and rumor-spreading, inability to form new relationships, a sense of insecurity, and low self-esteem. These negative outcomes may escalate to include suicide, psychological disorders, and violent behaviors, which can lead victims to substance abuse, alcohol use, and other criminal acts (Walrave & Heirman, 2010).

In practice, with traditional bullying, the victim often knows when, by whom, and where the bullying will occur. In contrast, in cyberbullying, the victim is unaware of when or where the bullying might happen. In traditional bullying, the victim may experience a small reprieve upon returning home; however, in cyberbullying, there is no relief from the stress, as it can resume as soon as the victim accesses their electronic device. Victims of bullying are often disliked, isolated, rejected, anxious, and unwilling to seek revenge, and they are aware of the identity and motivation of the bully, which leads to increased psychological pressure on the victim. Most online bullying involves trolling intended to provoke a reaction, which is often countered by the victim with no response at all, thereby frustrating the perpetrator (Alim, 2015).

After presenting the differences between cyberbullying and traditional bullying, we observe that while cyberbullying is a form of traditional bullying, it is more advanced and is not simply an extension of traditional bullying. Each form has its own distinct manifestations and is not carried out in the same way or through the same means (Menesini, 2012).

### **Reasons for the Prevalence of Cyberbullying**

There are several interrelated reasons that lead individuals to engage in cyberbullying through social media. Some of these reasons stem from internal factors, such as family disintegration experienced by the bully. More specifically, the internal factors of the bully include a lack of empathy, a personality characterized by violence, an inability to feel the pain of others, and

deriving pleasure from causing psychological and emotional harm to others. Additionally, improper upbringing may encourage individuals to commit behaviors that violate societal norms and public decency. Psychological motivations also play a role; even if the bully has access to all the necessities of life and has grown up in a stable family, they may suffer from psychological disorders that drive them to commit harmful behaviors against others from behind screens. Furthermore, the media plays a significant role in altering societal behaviors and disseminating harmful habits among community members, particularly among younger age groups (Al-Shalabi & Al-Azzawi, 2023).

The phenomenon of bullying is prevalent in various societies, and with the advancement of technology and the emergence of social media, a new form of bullying has emerged: cyberbullying. The world has witnessed significant expansion in many fields, making it easier and more advanced, particularly in visual and auditory communication. Communication is no longer limited to individuals; it now encompasses entire families, young and old alike. The youth are considered a crucial age group in the developmental stages of a person's life, as they grow physically, muscularly, and psychologically. This group is characterized by activity and vitality, and it possesses unique biological, psychological, and social traits that distinguish it from other social groups, enabling it to fulfill various roles effectively (Faryadi, 2011).

### **The reasons that may lead an individual to engage in cyberbullying against others**

First: Psychological Reasons:

The psychological reasons refer to the internal state within the bully that drives them to be aggressive and impulsive towards others, often accompanied by a sense of satisfaction derived from causing harm to others. These psychological factors may stem from an attempt to mask vulnerabilities in the bully's character or may be a reaction from the bully resulting from having been bullied by others in the past (Abu Ghazal, 2009).

Second: Familial Reasons:

This is the primary and fertile environment in which the bully is raised. Bullying behavior may stem from the family's failure to properly nurture children and instill destructive and misguided ideas in their minds. Consequently, such behavior manifests as bullying when they enter the external or virtual world, exercising their power over others and taking pleasure in harming their feelings (Faryadi, 2011).

Third: Cognitive Reasons:

Cognitive reasons refer to the existence of certain cognitive distortions in the thought patterns of bullies, leading them to mistakenly believe that others harbor aggressive intentions and motives toward them. This is manifested in the form of bullying behavior directed at victims on social media platforms or the internet (Al-Shahrani, 2021).

Fourth: External Reasons:

There are several external reasons responsible for this phenomenon, including the fact that bullies do not perceive the negative effects and severe

consequences inflicted on the victims as a result of their bullying, since their behavior occurs behind screens. However, these effects will manifest in the real world on the victims, both psychologically and socially, and may lead them to replicate similar behavior in retaliation for the bullying they experienced. Additionally, the lack of awareness among some technology users may contribute to the spread of cyberbullying. While technology is accessible to everyone, individuals interacting with it should possess sufficient knowledge about how to use it and the reasons for its use. Moreover, the absence of restrictions on technology users may be another factor leading to the rapid proliferation of cyberbullying (Sangsoo Lim, 2013).

**Fifth: Social Causes:**

There is a direct correlation between the misuse of the internet and social behavior disorders, as well as an escape from reality. The primary objective of these individuals is to form friendships, which often occurs through the joining of bullies in groups that engage in cyberbullying against others. This behavior can foster a sense of power, particularly among adolescents, who may feel jealousy towards others' appearance or social status (Abu Ghazal, 2009).

**The Legal Regulation of the Crime of Cyberbullying in Jordanian Law**

For the establishment of criminal liability as a legal responsibility, the crime must be proven against the person who committed an unlawful act, thereby rendering him deserving of the penalty prescribed by legislation. Criminal liability applies to both natural and legal persons who commit the crime themselves or with the assistance of others. Law enforcement authorities must respond appropriately; however, it is prudent to invest in preventive efforts before any harm occurs. For this reason, anti-bullying programs aim to set more young people on a path that leads them towards success in school, strong social relationships, and a productive life. This path also elevates them above failure, violence, and, ultimately, incarceration (Bouzidi & Mustafawi, 2023).

The criminal legislation in Jordan has established penalties for perpetrators of cyberbullying offenses, whether within the general provisions of the Penal Code or through specific legislation that provides protection and imposes sanctions on actions that degrade the dignity of others or infringe on their privacy. In this section, we will outline the prescribed penalties for this offense (Alim, 2015).

Some critics believe that certain provisions of the Jordanian Penal Code relating to offenses of defamation and insult are sufficient, and that there was no need to introduce a specific provision regarding the same offenses when committed through electronic means, as the method of commission is not an element of the crime and electronic means are simply a form of public expression. The absence of a clear policy or law addressing bullying issues is seen as a significant drawback, as there is no legal framework effectively deterring this phenomenon (Al-Khasawneh, 2020).

Moreover, the Cybercrime Law itself, under Article (15), states: "Anyone who commits an offense punishable under any applicable legislation by using the information network, any information system, or website, or who participates, intervenes, or incites its commission, shall be punished by the



penalty provided for in that legislation." This means that anyone who commits an offense through electronic means, for which there is no specific penalty in the Cybercrime Law, will be subject to the penalty provided in the relevant legislation governing the same offense in its traditional form. The same applies to any instigator, accomplice, or participant in committing this offense, as referenced in Article (15) of the Cybercrime Law.

Additionally, the penalty is doubled in cases of recurrence, as stipulated in Article (16) of the Cybercrime Law.

Accordingly, we find that the phenomenon of cyberbullying is closely related to crimes against life. Although the legislation does not provide a specific definition of punishment, it is defined within criminal legal jurisprudence as a penalty imposed by the legislator and enforced by the competent criminal courts on any individual who has committed a crime or contributed to it, provided that their responsibility is established. This penalty is determined by the legislator based on the nature of the crime, which essentially consists of depriving the convicted individual of their life, liberty, or property (Salam, 2023).

Thus, original punishments are classified as either corporal, deprivation of liberty, or financial. A corporal punishment, such as the death penalty, affects the individual's body, while a punishment that deprives liberty, such as imprisonment or detention, restricts personal freedom. Financial penalties may be imposed in cases where the convicted individual's assets are subject to criminal sanctions (Al-Shalabi et al., 2023).

The Jordanian legislator has imposed penalties for the crime of violating electronic privacy through imprisonment. Article (415) of the Jordanian Penal Code states:

"Anyone who threatens a person with the exposure of a matter or its disclosure, which may harm the dignity of that person or the honor of him or his relatives, shall be punished with imprisonment for a period of three months to two years and a fine of fifty to two hundred dinars.

Anyone who extorts a person to induce them to obtain an illegal benefit for themselves or others shall be punished with imprisonment for no less than three months and a fine of no less than fifty dinars and no more than two hundred dinars. The penalty shall be two years of imprisonment and a fine of fifty dinars if the alleged matter pertains to a traffic incident, even if it does not involve a threat or is not intended to harm the dignity of that person or the honor of their relatives (Al-Mazem, 2023).

Additionally, Article (348) (repeated) of the Penal Code, which addresses forms of electronic privacy violations, states: "Whoever infringes upon the private life of others by eavesdropping or spying by any means, including audio recording, photography, or the use of binoculars, shall be punished, upon the complaint of the affected party, with imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months. The penalty shall be doubled in the case of repetition.

If cyberbullying falls under crimes of defamation and insult, the penalty, according to Article (358) of the Jordanian Penal Code, is imprisonment, as it states: "Anyone who defames another in any of the forms specified in Article (188) shall be punished with imprisonment for a period of two months to one

year." Moreover, Article (191) of the same law stipulates that defamation shall be punished with imprisonment for a period of three months to two years if directed at the National Assembly or any of its members while performing their duties, or because of actions taken in the course of their duties, or directed at any official entity, court, public administration, military, or any employee while performing their duties or due to actions taken in the course of their duties.

The penalty for insult is outlined in Article (193) of the Penal Code, which states: "Insult shall be punishable by imprisonment for a period of one to six months, or a fine ranging from ten to fifty dinars, if directed at those mentioned in Article (191)." Additionally, Article (359) of the same law provides that anyone who directs an insult at individuals not mentioned above shall be punished by imprisonment for a period of one week to three months, or a fine ranging from five to twenty-five dinars.

Based on the above, cyberbullying in the form of electronic disparagement or insult may involve simply spreading rumors about a person online with the intent to create hatred in the minds of others, convince others to dislike them, or participate in tarnishing the victim's reputation on the internet (Walrave & Heirman, 2010).

The Cybercrime Law No. (27) of (2015) does not explicitly address the crime of cyber extortion with specific criminalization and penalties. However, this law does refer to other legislation that criminalizes certain acts when committed through electronic means. Nonetheless, cyber extortion could fall under the category of disclosure of secrets as outlined in Article ( 4 ) of the Cybercrime Law, which states: "Anyone who intentionally inserts, publishes, or uses a program through the information network or information system to cancel, delete, add, destroy, disclose, damage, block, modify, alter, transfer, copy, capture, or enable others to access data or information; or who obstructs, confuses, stops, or disables the operation or access of an information system, changes a website, cancels, damages, alters its contents, occupies it, impersonates it, or impersonates the owner without authorization or exceeding or violating the authorization, shall be punished with imprisonment for no less than three months and no more than one year, and a fine of no less than two hundred dinars and no more than one thousand dinars.

Regarding cybercrimes in general, including the crime of cyberbullying, the Jordanian legislator permits the court to order confiscation under Article ( 13), (b) and (c) of the Cybercrime Law, which states: "(b) Subject to paragraph (a) of this Article and the rights of other good-faith parties, and excluding licensed parties under the provisions of the Telecommunications Law who are not involved in any crime stipulated in this law, judicial officers may seize devices, tools, programs, operating systems, information networks, and means used in the commission of any crime covered by this law, as well as the funds obtained from such crimes, and retain information and data related to the commission of any such crimes. (c) The competent court may order the confiscation of devices, tools, means, and materials used, and may suspend or disable any information system or website used in the commission of any crime covered by this law, confiscate funds obtained from such crimes, and order the removal of the violation at the offender's expense.

It is evident from the previous text that the legislator has granted the court the authority to impose confiscation penalties. The court is authorized to confiscate devices, tools, means, and materials used in the commission of the crime, as well as to seize funds obtained from the crime, while taking into account the rights of other good-faith parties. Furthermore, it is clear that the legislator has provided the court with the discretionary power to order the suspension or disabling of any information system, information network, or website used in the commission of any of the crimes stipulated in the Cybercrime Law. Additionally, the court is empowered to order the removal of the violation at the offender's expense (Sangsoo Lim, 2013).

The researcher believes it is essential for the Jordanian legislator to be aware of the seriousness of cyberbullying, especially given the proliferation of this phenomenon and the advancement of various means that facilitate its commission. Additionally, the negative psychological effects on the victims require the legislator not only to address this issue in the law but also to impose stricter penalties, as it has become more dangerous than the crimes of defamation, insult, and invasion of privacy. It is evident that the provisions of the Cybercrime Law and the Jordanian Penal Code are insufficient to adequately address the issue of cyberbullying, as there is a lack of explicit legal texts that thoroughly tackle this phenomenon. Therefore, the honorable Jordanian legislator should take this issue more seriously, focusing on it with greater attention and dedicating specific legal provisions in the Cybercrime Law and the Penal Code to address this phenomenon, in order to eradicate it and protect society from its dangers and prevent its spread (Menesini, 2012).

## **Conclusions**

In this research, we addressed the phenomenon of cyberbullying, which is one of the most significant issues associated with modern forms of bullying. Although technology was developed to serve humanity, its misuse has resulted in undesirable individual behaviors in the digital world. While the Internet has revolutionized communication, some individuals have abused this tool. Despite the Internet significantly transforming lifestyles, there is a dark side to its use, as it has become a platform for crime, violence, harm, and oppression.

With technological advancement and the advent of the Internet, bullying has become more widespread than before. Initially, the Internet was used only by specialists and professionals in the field. However, with the tremendous technological evolution, technology has become accessible to everyone across all age groups, leading to an increase in harmful behaviors online, including cyberbullying. Controlling this phenomenon has become a pressing issue in light of the absence of laws that regulate Internet use and prevent harmful behaviors and bullying of others. The legislator's neglect of this point allows bullying to become a common behavior without deterrents.

In reality, there are no direct provisions imposing penalties for violations of privacy explicitly, as the law only references eavesdropping on communications, disclosing such communications, and infringing on privacy, as stated in Article 384 of the Jordanian Penal Code. It also criminalizes the disclosure of official or professional secrets due to one's official position, as

outlined in Article 355 of the aforementioned law. Respecting privacy and protecting the right to private life is a responsibility that falls on the government, which must take further necessary measures to reduce the incidence of this crime against its victims.

Cyberbullying is distinguished from traditional bullying by the electronic means employed by the bully to harm the victim or exert control and dominance over them. This form of bullying occurs through mobile phones, electronic devices, instant messaging, email, social media, and other electronic platforms. Therefore, cyberbullying can be seen as a modern adaptation of traditional bullying, facilitated by advanced technologies. Therefore, it is essential for the Jordanian legislator to recognize the severity of cyberbullying and to allocate specific legal provisions that address this phenomenon in a detailed and clear manner, especially given the rise of this issue and its negative consequences, which have often led to suicide. Such provisions should be explicitly stated in the Cybercrime Law, with enhanced penalties, as cyberbullying poses a greater threat than the offenses of defamation, insult, and invasion of privacy.

Finally, it is imperative to establish a specialized committee under the Cybercrime Unit to intensify oversight of social media platforms and to set age restrictions for the use of certain applications and programs. The lack of oversight and the absence of legal provisions criminalizing or addressing this phenomenon contribute to its increasing prevalence over time, ultimately leading to a gradual loss of control as the number of users of electronic means continues to rise.

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