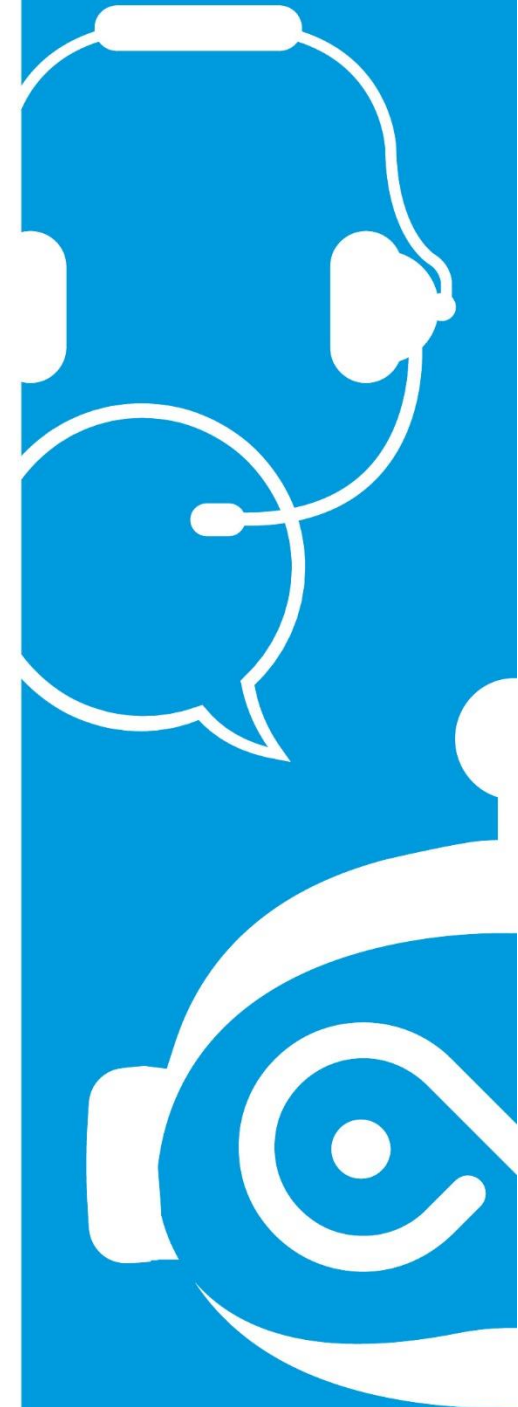




## PRIVACY: ONLINE ANONYMITY

### What is it?

Online anonymity is a **digital phenomenon** that refers to the right to confidentiality of a person's private life which, within the Internet, is defined as the user's right to have information concerning him/her treated in compliance with the online safety rules that govern them. Online anonymity is a choice made by users in order to conceal or protect their identities and personal data.

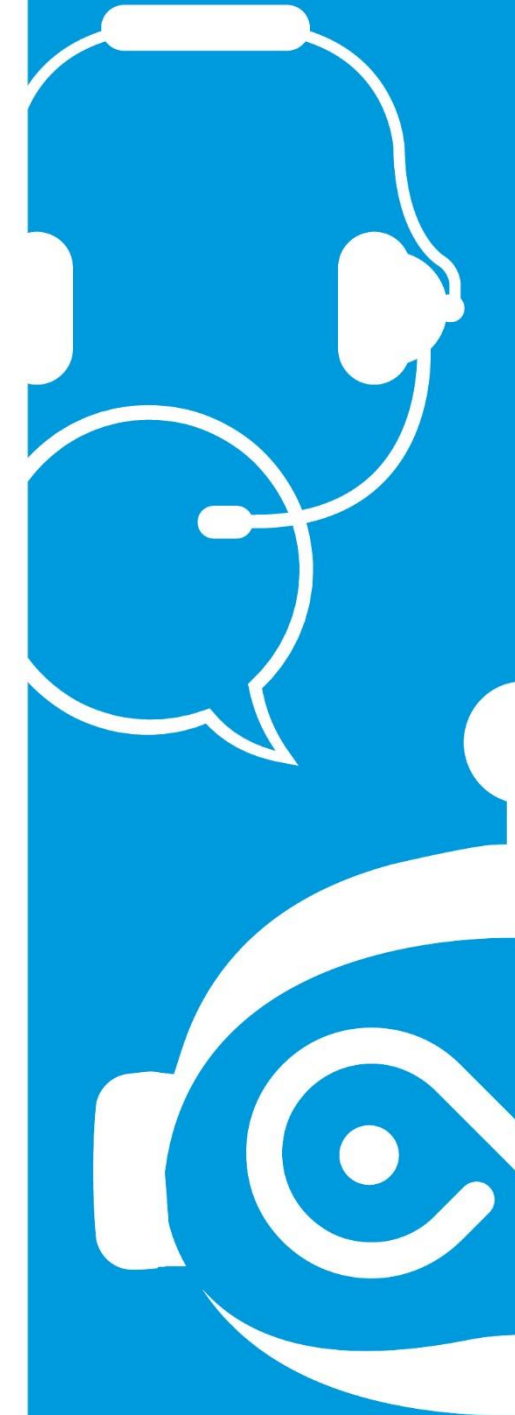


### How can it impact the sexual and reproductive health of youth?

What is the difference between privacy and anonymity? Anonymity refers to the status of a person whose identity is not known. Hiding one's identity can be a choice, due to legitimate privacy reasons, but it can also be due to the intention of expressing one's opinion to the detriment of another person.

Furthermore, anonymity allows a user to carry out fundamental activities in the digital age, such as journalists who use pseudonyms to infiltrate online groups where child pornography is exchanged; teenagers who seek advice and support in groups dedicated to those suffering from depression; people who want to discuss their sexual or gender identity without being recognised, and much more. On the other hand, offering the right to anonymity to users online can foster opportunities to engage in criminal activity, such as commit illegal activities on the dark web.

Anonymity can oftentimes be essential for youth participating in discussions regarding SRH and SRH education. An environment where users feel comfortable asking sensitive questions and sharing their concerns is crucial in ensuring that they receive nonjudgmental information about their bodies, sexuality and relationships.



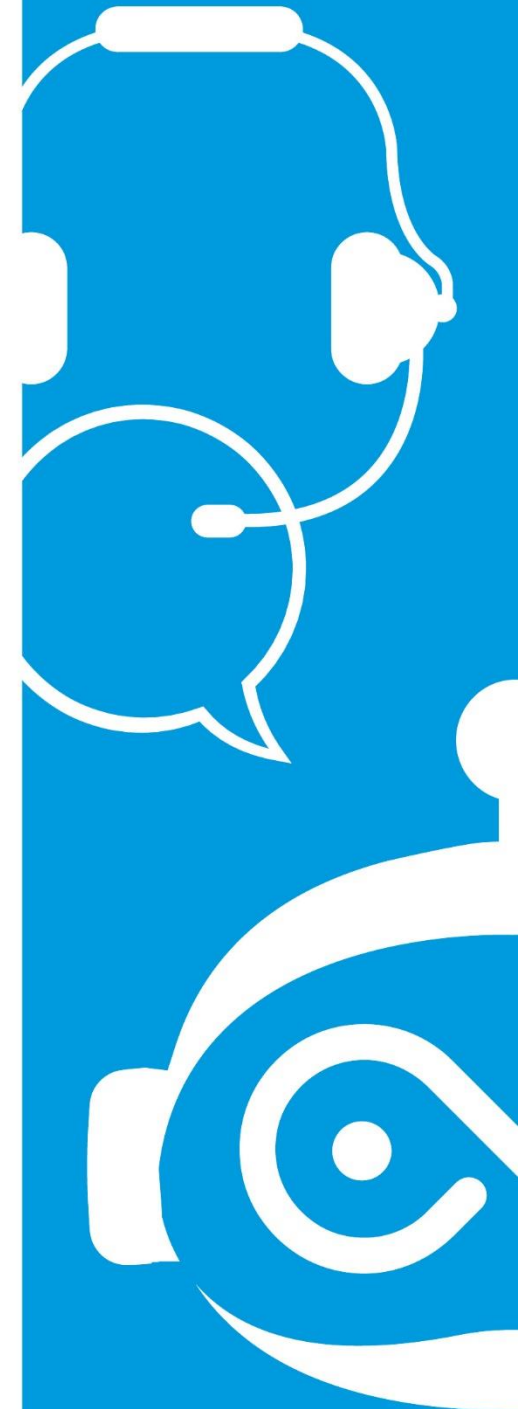
### What are some ways in which youth can be supported?

- Educate them on reading the 'fine print' when participating in online discussions. Before giving your consent, read a website's privacy conditions carefully and pay close attention to the privacy settings, because each site has different ones. In any case, regardless of its complexity, it's important to carefully read the terms of service when we surf the internet.
- Instruct youth to avoid automatic login, because it makes it very easy for web pirates to compromise a profile.
- Help them exercise their rights, such as the right to be forgotten online that allows users to request the deletion of their personal data from search engines or social networks.
- Suggest the use of pseudonyms or anonymous accounts to protect privacy.

### Related digital phenomena/tools:

See sheets:

- Know your rights: Accessibility of platforms/media
- Privacy: Setting privacy settings
- Safe spaces online for marginalised groups



### Further reading:

- Chernykh, Olena, Anca-Ruxandra Pandea, and Satu Valtere. *Bookmarks: A Manual for Combating Hate Speech Online through Human Rights Education*. Edited by Ellie Keen, Mara Georgescu, Rui Gomes, and Thorbjørn Jagland. Revised edition (2020). No Hate - No Hate Speech Movement. Strasbourg: Council of Europe Publishing, 2020.
- Giorgia, Lauro. "Setting, anonimato e privacy: gli effetti dei social media." Sipsiol, 2020. <https://www.sipsiol.it/articoli/setting-anonimato-e-privacy-gli-effetti-dei-social-media>.

