

SAFE DIGITAL SPACES

10 ways to create safe digital spaces for LGBTQI+ communities

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE






The Safe Space Alliance is a LGBTQI+ led nonprofit organisation that aims to help people identify, navigate, and create safe spaces for LGBTQI+ communities worldwide. Being part of the Safe Space Alliance is being part of a global and collaborative safe space community.

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Creating safe digital spaces for LGBTQI+ people is crucial for fostering inclusivity and protecting their well-being.

OVERVIEW

This guide covers ten ways you can create safe digital spaces for LGBTQI+ communities:

- ① Educate yourself
- ② Actively listen
- ③ Use inclusive language
- ④ Stand up against discrimination
- ⑤ Support LGBTQI+ rights
- ⑥ Amplify LGBTQI+ voices
- ⑦ Support LGBTQI+ organisations
- ⑧ Be an ally every day
- ⑨ Recognise intersectionality
- ⑩ Accept feedback and grow

1. IMPLEMENT ANTI-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Clearly state your commitment to inclusivity and make it known that any form of discrimination or hate speech will not be tolerated.

SUGGESTIONS

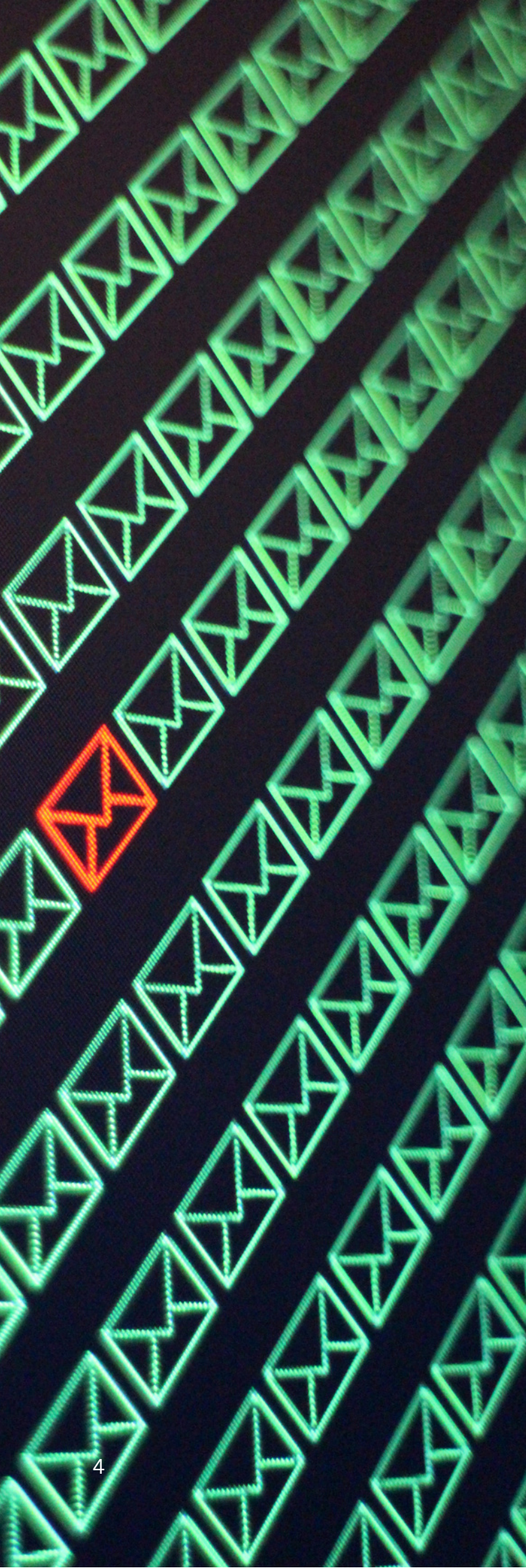


Provide specific examples of behaviour that would be considered in violation of the policy.



Plan to periodically review the policy to ensure it remains up-to-date and reflects changing legal requirements.





2. IMPLEMENT STRONG PRIVACY MEASURES

Ensure that user data and personal information are protected through encryption, secure login systems, and robust privacy policies.

SUGGESTIONS



Create a data breach response plan outlining the steps to take in the event of a security incident.



Plan to conduct regular security audits to identify vulnerabilities and address them promptly.

3. OFFER ANONYMOUS OPTIONS

Allow users to participate anonymously if they prefer, providing an extra layer of privacy and comfort for those who may not be ready to disclose their identities.

SUGGESTIONS



Provide an option for users to browse and access digital content without requiring them to create an account or provide personal information.



Offer the ability for users to create accounts without revealing their real names or personal details. Allow them to use pseudonyms or aliases as their display names.



Enable users to post content or comments without revealing their identities publicly.



Implement end-to-end encryption for private messaging or communication features, ensuring that user conversations remain private and anonymous

4. ENCOURAGE USER REPORTING



Implement easy-to-use reporting mechanisms that allow users to report any offensive or harmful content, profiles, or interactions.

Take reports seriously and respond promptly.

SUGGESTIONS



Use clear language and provide relevant categories or options to help users accurately describe the issue they are reporting.



Provide confirmation to users when they submit a report, assuring them that their concerns are received and being addressed.



5. MODERATE CONTENT

Implement effective moderation tools and human moderators to identify and remove any offensive or harmful content targeting LGBTQI+ people.

6. FOSTER SUPPORTIVE SPACES

Cultivate positive and supportive digital spaces by encouraging constructive dialogue, providing resources for education and awareness, and celebrating LGBTQI+ communities.

SUGGESTIONS



Recognise and empower people who exemplify supportive behaviour.



Seek feedback from users, measure community sentiment, and make necessary adjustments.





7. COLLABORATE WITH LGBTQI+ ORGANISATIONS

Establish partnerships with LGBTQI+ organisations to gain insights, share resources, and create a stronger support network for LGBTQI+ people using the digital space.

SUGGESTIONS



Recognise and respect the expertise of the LGBTQI+ organisations you partner with.



Look for local LGBTQI+ organisations with a strong track record of advocacy, support, and engagement.

8. EDUCATE USERS

Offer educational resources and information about LGBTQI+ topics such as terminology, issues, and challenges faced by LGBTQI+ communities. This helps promote understanding and empathy.

SUGGESTIONS



Ensure the resources are accurate, up-to-date, and come from trustworthy sources.



Collaborate on resources with experts, activists, and/or organisations working in the field of LGBTQI+ rights and inclusion.

9. HIGHLIGHT LGBTQI+ VOICES

Feature and amplify LGBTQI+ voices, stories, and experiences through interviews, guest articles, and/or dedicated content sections. This helps to increase visibility and representation.

SUGGESTIONS



Highlight and promote the work of LGBTQI+ organisations, advocacy groups, and support networks.



Actively seek out and share authentic stories from LGBTQI+ people. Feature their experiences, challenges, and successes.



10. SEEK USER FEEDBACK

Regularly collect feedback from your LGBTQI+ users to understand their needs, challenges, and suggestions for improving the digital space.

Actively engage with your users to address their concerns and implement necessary changes.

Remember, creating safe digital spaces is an ongoing commitment that requires continuous improvement, active listening, and responsiveness to the evolving needs of LGBTQI+ communities.





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