

Safer Internet Day 2021 Campaign: Key Messages



Safer Internet Day (SID) Celebration in Rwanda is organised by Rwanda SID Committee with the support of Internet Society Rwanda Chapter together with Safer Internet Day Coordination Team, which is based at the heart of the European Union in Brussels, each February to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology, especially among children and young people. Celebrated on the second day of the second week of the second month, each year on Safer Internet Day millions of people unite to inspire positive changes online, to raise awareness of online safety issues, and participate in events and activities right across the globe.

While we recognise that celebrations may look a little different this time around as we adapt to COVID-19 constraints, we hope that SID 2021 will still be a vibrant and engaging celebration, allowing us all to reflect on our increased use of technology as a result of the pandemic.

As always, Safer Internet Day aims to create both a safer and a better internet, where everyone is empowered to use technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively. The campaign aims to reach out to children and young people, parents and carers, teachers, educators and social workers, as well as industry, decision makers and politicians, to encourage everyone to play their part in creating a better internet.

By celebrating the positive power of the internet, the Safer Internet Day slogan of “**Together for a better internet**” encourages everyone to join the movement, to participate, and to make the most of the internet’s potential to bring people together.

With a global, community-led approach, Safer Internet Day encourages everyone to come together and play their part. There are many ways to do this:

Children and young people can help to create a better internet by being kind and respectful to others online, by protecting their online reputations (and those of others), and by seeking out positive opportunities to create, engage and share online.

- **Parents and carers** play a crucial role in empowering and supporting children to use technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively, whether it is by ensuring an open dialogue with their children, educating them to use technology safely and positively, or by acting as digital role models.

- **Teachers, educators and social workers** can help to create a better internet by equipping their pupils and students with digital literacy skills and by developing their critical thinking skills, which will allow them to better navigate the online world. They can empower them to create their own content, make considered choices online, and can set a personal example of positive online behaviour for their pupils and students.

- **Industry** can help to create a better internet by creating and promoting positive content and safe services online, and by empowering users to respond to any issues by providing clear safety advice, a range of easy-to-use safety tools, and quick access to support if things do go wrong.

- **Decision makers and politicians** need to provide a culture in which all of the above can function and thrive – for example, by ensuring that there are opportunities in the curriculum for children and young people to learn about online safety, ensuring that parents and carers have access to appropriate information and sources of support, and that industry is encouraged to self-regulate its content and services. They must also take the lead in governance and legislation, and ultimately ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people through effective child protection strategies for the digital world.

Everyone has a responsibility to make a positive difference online. We can all promote the positive by being kind and respectful to others and by seeking out positive opportunities to create and connect. We can all respond to the negative by reporting inappropriate or illegal content and behaviour online.

We invite you all to join Together for a better internet on the next edition of Safer Internet Day on Tuesday, 9 February 2021.

Find out more about Safer Internet Day at www.saferinternetday.rw or stay up to date via Twitter @isoc_rw, #saferinternetday, #SID2021, #RWSID2021.

Celebrations in Rwanda will include discussion forum in schools, a social media campaign.

Safer Internet Day would not be possible without the support of ISOC Rwanda Chapter, we recognize its effort of promoting the Internet as a resource to enrich people's lives and a force for good in society. Without their support, we could not celebrate this big day of preserving the next generation of Internet users.