



How to find and maintain safe spaces on social media



A definition

Safe spaces are necessary means, in real life and online, for marginalised groups to find a support system and community to help them overcome mistreatment and discrimination.



Why is this important?

As an example, in 2021, an [ADL report](#) and a [UNESCO report](#) revealed that more than half of LGBTQ+ people experience more online bullying, harassment and aggression than any other demographic. Several [American](#) and [European](#) studies have confirmed that 40% of transgender people have attempted suicide at least once, a number which drops to the global average for individuals living in an accepting environment.



Tips and tricks

- ➔ Ask, listen and learn. Be open-minded and receptive. Educate and inform yourself.
- ➔ Put yourself in others' shoes as much as possible: would you be okay with being treated the way they are based on something you cannot control or change?
- ➔ Consider that the existence of diverse identities cannot be denied nor erased by subjective viewpoints (it isn't a matter of opinion: they have always existed and always will) and that one's right to basic decency and human dignity regardless of their identity is a part of the core values of a civilised and progressive society.



Useful resources and tools

- ➔ Pam Magwaza on Commsor, "[7 ways to make your community a safe space for Black people](#)", explains how to create a safe environment for Black people.
- ➔ Keda Edwards Pierre on Forbes, "[Five key aspects of creating safe spaces online](#)", defines important elements to consider, such as inclusivity and accessibility.
- ➔ Lily Jones on Panion, "[Creating Safe Spaces within Your Online Community](#)", explains why safe spaces are important and provides 8 ways to create one online.
- ➔ [The Safe Zone Project](#) is a free online resource for educators and learners, providing courses, activities and resources to create safe spaces for diverse identities.





SAFETY RESOURCES



[Anti-Violence Project & LGBTQ+ Safe Spaces Protection Project](#) focuses on LGBTQ+ folks, helping create community spaces, businesses and centres.



The National Sexual Violence Resource Center provides data and resources, such as an infographic about [“Four Ways We Can Build Safe Online Spaces Infographic”](#).

