

Facebook marks Safer Internet Day, partnering 20+ African NGOs

Facebook has announced that it is supporting Safer Internet Day, held annually on 5 February, with a campaign spanning 15-plus African countries. The social media platform has partnered with more than 20 non-profit organisations and government agencies to raise awareness about internet safety and security concerns such as cyber bullying and cyber-crime.



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Facebook is supporting the Safer Internet Day by:

- Sponsoring the printing of online safety awareness booklets.
- Facilitating training sessions.
- Creating a family-friendly animation to help raise awareness of the [Facebook Safety Centre](#).

“We know that safety is a shared conversation, which is why we are excited to be working with so many stakeholders around the continent to make the internet a better place,” says Sherry Dzinoreva, public policy programs lead at Facebook Africa. “Together, with Safer Internet Day as a platform, we can address emerging online concerns, so that people and especially children and the youth, can get the most from their internet experience.”

The campaign covers most of Sub-Saharan Africa, including Benin, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire,

the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Facebook's highlights for the week of Safer Internet Day include:

South Africa

Facebook is partnering with the Film and Publication Board (FPB), Media Monitoring Africa (MMA), Google, Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services (DTPS) to launch the Web Rangers Programme 2019. Facebook is also supporting this effort with educational content. Facebook's Emilar Gandhi will participate in panel sessions to talk about how Facebook strives to keep its community safe.

"Together for a Better Internet is a call to action for every government agency, private company, civil society organisation and citizen of South Africa. A force for good, the digital world also holds some dangers. But these dangers are all created. In and of itself the internet can only cause harm if it is used expressly for that purpose. We all need to respect the rights of others on the internet, as much as we expect our rights to be respected," says FPB spokesperson Lynette Kamineth.

Kenya

Facebook is supporting Watoto Watch's Safer Internet Day event for students at Ngunyumu Primary School in Nairobi. The event is the launchpad for the 'A Million Campaign', which seeks to raise awareness about online safety among schoolchildren. Facebook is providing ad credits and safety booklets for the event.

"The internet enables us to connect with friends and family, access a wealth of knowledge and information, and express our thoughts and creativity," says Lillian Kariuki, executive director at Watoto Watch. "Along with these positives, children also need to understand how they can manage online risks as they make use of the internet's resources. Our aim, with the help of Facebook, is to equip children with this knowledge."

Nigeria

Paradigm Initiative Nigeria is running workshops on safer internet use as part of its LIFE program in Kano, Lagos and Aba. Facebook's Safe Online trainers will run two-hour workshops in both PIN's LIFE Centers and at schools in Kano and Lagos for this initiative.

"Working with Facebook on online safety aligns with our focus on driving digital inclusion and educating the youth about their digital rights," says Tope Ogundipe, director of programs at Paradigm Initiative Nigeria. "This programme promises to equip the children who participate with skills and knowledge that will enable them to make confident use of the Internet in their day to day lives."

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