Country: Australia

Committee: UNODC

Agenda Item: International Cooperation in Combating Cyberbullying

Name of the Delegate: Hüseyin Yavuz Bilgin

We have a population of 26 million. Our capital city is Canberra. Total surface area is 8 million km2. We are the 6th largest country in the world by area. We are a member of the United Nations, G20, Commonwealth, ANZUS, OECD, World Trade Organization, Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation and Pacific Islands Forum.

According to a 2019 Headspace survey, 53% of young Australians have experienced cyberbullying. However, our government is doing a lot of work to reduce this rate.

According to the our Government's e-Safety Commissioner, cyberbullying occurs when someone uses social media or another internet-based communication method to make a child, young person or adult feel upset or uneasy. Although this problem usually occurs on social media, it can also occur through texts, online gaming platforms, live broadcasts, and emails.

More and more children and young people are realizing that cyberbullying is both common and unacceptable and are taking the necessary steps to put an end to it.

According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, more than 80% of Australian teenagers have taken action after experiencing cyberbullying, showing that young people know that adults take this issue seriously. This is a good sign — although cyberbullying is still common in Australia, young people are feeling more comfortable reaching out to get the help they need when they encounter problems.

As Australia, we established a hotline for young people who have been cyberbullied, and we have created a website for our citizens individuals who have been exposed to cyberbullying, regardless of age. Apart from that, we gave conferences to our citizens against cyberbullying, prepared informative videos, and provided training in schools to raise awareness of children in Australia.

In order to prevent cyberbullying, we made the penalties for cyberbullies more severe. Another precaution we have taken is that we have banned individuals under the age of 16 from using social media in our country, because people under the age of 16 are the group most exposed to cyberbullying in our country.