



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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RESPONDING TO ONLINE HARASSMENT

There has been a dramatic increase in recent years in personal, online harassment that targets scholars and researchers. “Trolling” can be professionally disruptive and personally challenging.

The University is committed to defending academic freedom and is here to support you. If you experience online harassment:

- Call 9-1-1 if you or others close to you are in imminent physical danger.
- Contact your leader (e.g., dean, chair, head, director, supervisor, group leader) as soon as possible.
- In partnership with your leadership, call system University Relations, 612-624-5551 (612-293-0831 after hours).

- If there is no immediate physical threat, yet you believe the actions of the harasser are criminal, contact your U of M campus/local police department (Crookston 218-281-8530; Duluth 218-726-7000; Morris 320-589-6000; Rochester 507-328-6800; Twin Cities 612-624-3550). They will assess any ongoing threats and initiate appropriate investigative work.

IF YOU ARE THE TARGET OF ONLINE HARASSMENT

- Know that harassment can be intense but often fleeting.
- Your email, social media accounts, and contact information may be publicized. Consider suspending social accounts during the event.

- Responding to harassing messages tends to prolong incidents.
- Preserve all evidence, including emails, comments, postings, etc.
- If you receive media requests, please work with your local communicator (unit, college, campus) or University Relations, who will provide guidance.
- These incidents may affect your students and colleagues. If you believe the incident will disrupt class experiences, please discuss options with your local leader.
- An incident may involve someone who wants to record you during class. You have the right to prohibit audio/video recording in your classroom.

For additional information, visit z.umn.edu/stoponlineharassment