

# TROLLING - WE CAN'T 'HACK' IT

Most of the time, we associate trolls with the ugly small monsters living under the bridge in traditional fairytales. However, as the world becomes more technologically advanced day by day, there is now a new definition for trolls in the dictionary.

**An internet troll, can be described as a person that takes to the internet to spread hate, write hurtful comments about people in a bid to start fights and publicly humiliate people online.** These people can be extremely friendly in real life, but use the internet as a means of expressing their frustration, insecurities and resentment at other's success.

They **thrive off attention and fights**, and their actions cause an extreme amount of hurt and upset for those on the receiving end.

Here at LawEd, we want to help you **identify what a troll is**, and the way they operate online, as well as **inform you of the ways you can deal with an internet troll** if you ever happen to come across one.

## Types of Trolls:

It's hard to categorise trolls, as they can come in all shapes and sizes and do different things to release their pent-up anger inside. There can be many different online situations that trolls appear in.

## Trolls can:

- **Target famous people and public figures** – people that they have never even met! They bombard these people with messages due to their big following in the hope that they can be able to say they started a row with a celebrity.

**Send out hateful messages on their own pages** with the intention to rile other people up with their harmful communication. These messages are often associated with racism, homophobia etc.

- **Target anyone and everyone! Trolls** love the idea of causing harm to others, it is a psychological thing trait known as negative social potency, and enables them to get enjoyment from other people's emotional pain. It doesn't matter who these trolls hurt in this circumstance, as long as pain is felt by someone.

Now that we have established situations trolls can be evident in, **it is important to know what to do if you ever find yourself being trolled.**

**Most importantly, do not respond.** By reacting to the hurtful message, you give the trolls what they want – attention. You are best off to ignore them, they will realise their words do not affect you and will eventually stop.

**Block them.** Do not give them the satisfaction of allowing them to see what you post and comment mean and hurtful things underneath. Out of sight out of mind really does apply in this case!

**Contact the social media platform!** More than likely, the platform you are receiving hate on will be able to deactivate the accounts so the trolls cannot bully online anymore.

We are aware that once this blog post is released, we will not be able to stop trolling as a whole, as there are a lot of hurt people in the world that see spreading hate as the only way of releasing their frustration. However, in saying this, **we feel obliged to create awareness around this online issue, and show ways of stopping it.**



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