



News Release

TRA Releases Its First SafeSurf Newsletter on Cyber Bullying and Online Abuse

Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain - Sunday 30 January 2011

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) has released its first SafeSurf Newsletter on cyber bullying and online abuse, through which TRA encourages students, parents and teachers to report online abuse activities and to support the victims of cyberbullying.

This newsletter has been issued following the emergence of a website called "Little Gossip". This site is designed for people to write gossip about others or their schools and colleges. However it has been brought to the attention of the SafeSurf Bahrain team that this is being used maliciously with anonymous posting about people in schools in Bahrain that are abusive, contain explicit obscene sexual innuendo and extreme racial slurs.

This site has no moderation or controls in place to monitor the types of gossip posted and allows anonymous posting this increases the likelihood of extreme malicious posting which are clearly evident on the site. In order to safeguard children and schools from this abuse and to limit the incidence of cyber bullying SafeSurf Bahrain team has taken the necessary steps to have access to this site blocked from within the Kingdom of Bahrain and to have it removed by its web hosting company in the US.

Commenting on issuing this newsletter TRA Chairman Dr. Mohammed Al Amer said "We need, teachers and parents to start taking an active interest in what children are doing online. The example of Little Gossips website is just one of hundreds of similar sites. There is no justification for this use of the internet or any type of social media, we are encouraging schools throughout the Kingdom to start enforcing the school's policies and use the law to take action against those who make the lives of the defenceless a misery.

The full newsletter can be found on TRA website at www.tra.org.bh.

About TRA

Since its establishment in 2002 the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of the Kingdom of Bahrain (TRA) has been working with government, consumers, operators and investors to develop the Kingdom of Bahrain into the region's most modern communications hub and to facilitate the growth of the market. As an exemplary Regulator for the region, TRA independently carries out its duties in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner. More information about TRA can be viewed at www.tra.org.bh

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