

**Dossier “Legal implications regarding comments made on social networks and how they are used”**

ARTICLE

# Legal implications regarding comments made on social networks and how they are used

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This issue includes a specialist feature comprising several works that deal with aspects relating to the legal implications of comments made on social networks and how they are used.

The evolution of the information society and the use of social networks have led to the discovery of the existence of new platforms that are ideal for committing crime, as well as enabling numerous behaviours for which the legal implications are irrefutable.

The appearance of anonymity that conceals the use of social networks is one of the main reasons why crime has proliferated through them, as well as countless messages of dubious taste and legality. You only have to look at Twitter to see the existence of numerous comments that, whether direct or indirect, are expressions of hatred; whether they impact upon the privacy of those on whom they are expressed and affront their honour and dignity; not to mention other platforms that, via the exchange or purchase of items and services, have been chosen to commit offences against property such as fraud and receiving stolen goods.

That said, although all these behaviours, whether offences or not, have clear legal implications that are developing before our very eyes and those of everyone else, the difficulty of proof that is involved in bringing judicial proceedings that may be pressing during same, is a far cry from a simple screenshot of the comment, the attack on someone's honour, or a quoted failed business that must be proven. Therefore, how proceedings must be brought and the burden that they have on daily life merits individualised scrutiny.

Whether examining freedom of expression and hate crimes on social networks jointly or in tandem with privacy offences; while we analyse parallel trials that are being conducted on said networks, as well as their repercussions on criminal proceedings, coupled with the current uncertainties around statutory regulations and the value of sources of digital proof, through to proprietary content computer-related crimes on those same social networks, this is an opportunity, as a matter of fact, provided by this specialist feature.

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