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Resource 7
Online Safety and Security
Student Handout

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Unlocking the Potential of Female Migrants as Entrepreneurs in the Digital Age

Resource 7 Online Safety and Security

Student Handout

Resource title: Resource 7 Online Safety and Security

**Introduction to the
Activity:**

All modern businesses need to use online platforms such as social media sites to reach customers, but it is essential that the necessary protections are in place to keep businesses and their employees safe online.

This self-reflection exercise encourages you to think about your own online life and identify whether you are protecting yourself enough from potential harm. Use this exercise in conjunction with the student handbook to ensure you are as protected as you can be.

**What will you
achieve through this
self-reflection?**

- Audit of current practices relating to online security.
- Awareness and identification of gaps in your own online security arrangements.
- Develop plan to help you address the problem.

**Questions to ask
Myself:**

- Question 1:* What process do you go through when logging into your personal/business PC/Mac/laptop? Write down each of the steps you take and consider these sub-questions:
a) Do you use a password to access your account?
b) Is that password a string of random letters/numbers (don't write it down!)
c) Do you use the password anywhere else online?
- Question 2:* Once you are logged into your computer, is your operating system up to date? When is the last time you updated it or checked for an update? Are you running anti-virus software?
- Question 3:* If your computer irreparably breaks or is stolen today, could you retrieve all the information on it? Are your documents backed up to the cloud or an external hard drive?
- Question 4:* How many social media accounts do you have? Make a list of each of them and flag whether they are personal or business accounts. Do you have a separate password for each of these accounts?
- Question 5:* What kind of things do you post on these social media accounts? Do you post personal information that could be used by someone attempting to steal your identity?

Checklist

1. Think about every aspect of your online life.
2. Be honest about how vigilant you are.
3. Recognise your vulnerabilities.
4. Create an action plan to address any issues.

Follow-up Activities

- Learn to be proactive: if questions 1 and 2 reveal you are not well protected, research ways to improve the situation. Ensure you are aware of the different types of password manager and anti-virus packages available to you and choose the ones that best suit your individual situation.
- Research ways to back up all personal and business data. The cloud is the most obvious place these days but find out what different services such as iCloud or Dropbox offer.
- Review your social media posting practice: once you have assessed whether you are being too open on social media, ensure you change your approach and do not post information that could help someone trying to steal your identity.
- Test your knowledge by completing digital safety quizzes such as the ones from Barclays Bank here: <https://www.barclays.co.uk/fraud-and-scams/digitally-safe-quiz/>

Take-away Notes - Next Steps:

- If you lack motivation to resolve the problem, think about how your life would be affected if your identity was stolen. Think about the consequences of losing control of your own life and read about how identity theft has badly affected some individuals. This is a good starting point:
<https://www.buzzfeed.com/meganeliscomb/identity-theft-victims-stories>



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