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Leap helps Young People Take Action Against Cyber - Bullying

Over 100 young people from across the country came together in London yesterday to take action against the growing use of technology in bullying.

The huge popularity of mobile phones, email and the internet amongst young people has created new and even more terrifying opportunities for bullies to target their victims. But at the National PeerLink Conference yesterday, young people explored how these same technologies can be used to help tackle the problem. Following the conference an awards event celebrated the achievements of young mediators, mentors and trainers.

PeerLink is a programme run by Leap Confronting Conflict, a national charity specialising in youth conflict resolution.

Jennifer Rogers, Chief Executive of Leap Confronting Conflict added: "Every young person involved in PeerLink makes an immense contribution to their community, so choosing winners is always an impossible task for the young people who make the final decision. However, this group of individuals stood out as exceptional mediators, mentors and trainers and have been rightly singled out by their peers. "

Kevin Spacey, Artistic Director at the Old Vic theatre came along to help inspire and coach the young people to explore peer mediation and conflict skills through drama. Role-plays made on the day will be available to view on www.youtube.com.

Mr Spacey commented: "Young people are often seen as the problem, but PeerLink shows that they can actually be the solution to tackling violence and conflict in our society. PeerLink's mediation programmes in schools and local communities empowers young people to take action to reduce and prevent conflict around them. I hope the huge achievements of this year's award winners will inspire others to take up the challenge."

