

Youth for Privacy's Input to the Global Digital Compact

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About Youth for Privacy

Youth for Privacy is a youth-led and youth-centered group advocating for privacy. Our mission is to raise awareness of privacy through education, outreach, research, and advocacy work. We want to re-conceptualize what it means to have privacy in this digital world. Most of our members are students or young professionals who care deeply about privacy, responsible technologies, and data protection. We have two main initiatives: youth advocacy and education. We participated in the third and fourth session of the United Nations Open-ended Working Group on ICTs as a civil society stakeholder, where we delivered statements stressing the importance of privacy and youth participation. In partnership with the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, we have been hosting workshops in colleges & conferences teaching practical privacy technologies to students in Buenos Aires, San Jose, New York, and Seoul. We are currently working with Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data as their collaborator for the Data Values campaign. We have also worked with the South American Business Forum, the Global Futures Forum, Permanent Mission of Kiribati, and the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation.

Youth for Privacy's Stance on Global Digital Compact

(1) Discussions on digital rights should be focused on privacy

Article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states a person's right to privacy, yet it only textually states its context in family and correspondence. Yet now, that article is expanded by advocates to mean privacy in the age of digital surveillance. The framers of UDHR could not foresee the technological and societal change of the next 75 years. Yet the principles of human rights are as alive as today. Human rights is a scalable and extendable principle that can guide our conversation about digital rights.

(2) Youth must play an essential role in Global Digital Compact and further UN efforts on technology endeavors



Emerging technologies have transformed the digital landscape and significantly impacted digital privacy, particularly for youth. With the rise of social media platforms, younger generations are increasingly exposed to online risks such as cyberbullying, identity theft, and data breaches. The Pew Research Center finds that among the youth (under 30) about two-thirds of people experience harassment and one-fifths experience stalking. We want to expand the understanding of privacy and correspondence to include the digital landscape in the scope of human rights, and we want the youth to have input. As an organization, there are several things that need to be learned and implemented to achieve a safer digital future for youth regarding digital privacy. We need to understand the impact of emerging technologies on digital privacy and their consequences, recognize and define the importance of digital privacy in the context of human rights, and learn how to properly involve youth in the conversation.

Youth for Privacy proposes to incorporate youth dialogue into the Global Digital Compact by creating a Youth Digital Task Force. The dedicated task force composed of youth representatives will aim to engage with policymakers, social media platforms, and technology companies to propose and implement recommendations for improving digital privacy for the youth. Assessing the impact of emerging technologies on digital privacy and identifying areas of concern for the youth. It will also actively involve the youth in the Global Digital Compact process to encourage more youths to take part in the inputs.

(3) Global Digital Compact must incorporate capacity-building measures with a mind toward diversity and inclusion

There is a hacker attack every 39 seconds. The world needs more than 3.5 million cybersecurity and privacy professionals. Additionally, threats from artificial intelligence and quantum computing puts more need for capable cybersecurity experts. Yet the field suffers from a diversity problem. Only a quarter of cybersecurity workers are female and people from the Global South are underrepresented. The lack of a diverse, global pipeline is not only a problem of representation. Lack of diverse voices creates systematic biases and blindspots in our security and privacy practices. There needs to be a diverse, global pipeline of cybersecurity and privacy professionals.