



## IGF 2025 MESSAGES FROM THE YOUTH

*The IGF 2025 Global Youth Summit was held on 23 June 2025 in Lillestrøm, Norway, as part of the 20<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF). Through intergenerational and multistakeholder discussions, a set of key messages emerged from the Summit, focusing on the topic of social media regulation and age verification.*

*The views expressed during the Summit, as captured by rapporteurs, were published for public consultation until 14 July. The final messages have been endorsed by the multistakeholder working group of the IGF 2025 Global Youth Track and form part of the broader outcomes of the annual meeting.*



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## **IGF 2025 Messages from the Youth**

### **Social Media Regulation and Age Verification**

- Youth must be included in the design of their digital future. Young people demand meaningful inclusion in shaping the rules that govern their digital lives. This means being engaged not only as beneficiaries, but as co-designers, advisors, and decision-makers in tech and regulatory spaces at all levels.
- Design digital platforms with safety and dignity by default. Platforms must embed safety by design, including turning off addictive features like infinite scroll and defaulting teen accounts to the highest privacy settings. Safety must not come at the cost of agency or freedom of expression.
- Create global standards for age-appropriate design. Governments and platforms must collaborate to establish consistent, privacy-preserving, enforceable age verification systems while keeping minors safe, especially from targeted advertising, data exploitation, and harmful content.
- Address digital risks without excluding equity-deserving, vulnerable voices. Any restriction or regulation, such as age-based access limits, must carefully consider the unintended harm to marginalised youth who rely on social media for mental health support, identity affirmation, education, and community.
- Expand digital literacy for all, especially in underserved regions. Youth call for comprehensive, accessible, and multilingual digital literacy initiatives embedded in school systems and communities, ensuring young people everywhere understand both their rights and responsibilities online.
- Digital platforms must operate transparently and in alignment with the public interest. Current self-regulatory approaches have proven insufficient; therefore, a better governance approach is needed, ensuring transparent content moderation practices, meaningful user rights impact assessments, and mechanisms for public accountability.
- Prioritize multistakeholder and intergenerational collaboration. A safer, fairer digital future depends on joint action among youth, governments, civil society, technical community, industry, and parents. We must move from consultation to co-creation, building trust and shared ownership of the digital ecosystem.



**IGF**<sup>20</sup>  
<sup>25</sup>  
NORWAY 

### About IGF 2025 Youth Track

*The IGF Youth Track is a capacity development initiative aimed at fostering collaboration and cooperation among and with youth on matters related to Internet governance. The IGF Secretariat develops this track through cooperation with Youth IGF initiatives and several other youth-focused international initiatives.*

*The IGF 2025 Youth Track is focused on multistakeholder approach to governing the Internet and digital technologies.*

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