

## **Internet Rights and Principles Coalition Meeting**

IGF 2017 Geneva, Day 1

Monday 18 December 12.20

Room XXIV E UNOG; <https://igf2017.sched.com/event/CSD2/internet-rights-and-principles-coalition>

### **Co-Moderators/Opening Remarks :**

Marianne Franklin - (IRP Coalition Co-Chair)

Hanane Boujemi - (IRP Coalition Co-Chair)

**Format** : Open, brainstorming Session.

### **Rapporteur:**

Minda Moreira - (IRP Coalition SC Member)

**Attendees:** 40 including Technical Community, Private Sector, IGO representatives, civil society and academic.

**Gender Reporting Note:** Attendance included approximately 50% female: meeting was co-Chaired by two women. Comments from the floor were predominantly from women, as well as from a number of Global South representatives.

This year's IRPC meeting was a live, open brainstorming session on the [Educational Resource Guide](#) to the [Charter of Human Rights and Principles for the Internet](#).

Outcomes of this meeting were taken forward to the Dynamic Coalitions Main Session, Day 3: <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2017-day-3-room-xvii-dynamic-coalitions-contribute-to-the-digital-future>

### **Introduction and opening remarks from moderator Marianne Franklin, co-chair of the IRPC**

1) Brief introduction of the work of the IRP Coalition and its main outputs and achievements namely through the Charter of the Internet Rights and Principles for the Internet and its distilled 10 Principles.

- The IRPC Charter includes 21 articles and was first published in 2011, modelled on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights laws and norms. The full IRPC Charter is currently available in eight languages in booklet form. The [Ten Internet Rights and Principles](#) have been translated into 25 languages.
- This meeting launches a new IRPC project: the [Educational Resource Guide](#) to the [Charter of Human Rights and Principles for the Internet](#) that unpacks the 21 articles and develops on case studies subjects for debate, and focal points for capacity building and awareness raising around human rights and internet governance for international as well as local, community contexts.
- The Resource Guide was first developed two years ago by law students and graduates from Syracuse University. Kevin Risser a member of the Steering Committee put together this first version, which includes a lot of case study material jurisprudence from the North American region.
- The document in discussion is the [Version 2 of the Guide](#), currently available to comment on the [IGF Dynamic Coalition Review Platform](#). This paper is an abbreviated form of the full Resource Guide, which is being presented as the IRPC Project Paper during the Dynamic Coalitions Main Session on Wednesday morning.
- The aim of this meeting: to gather more ideas for cases, outreach and educational scenarios from around the world and there was an open invitation to all participants to check the document and to add comments, suggestions and case studies to illustrate issues arising from the IRPC

Charter's 21 Articles that can help develop the resource guide and transform it into a document that can be used internationally not only in classrooms, but also in judiciary, community groups, policymaking at both national and international levels.

2) Invitation to people in the room and remote participants to visit the document and to leave their comments, case studies, suggestions and to join the debate.

## **Overview of Outreach and Educational work with the Charter in the MENA region - Hanane Boujemi, IRPC Co-chair**

A brief insight into the outreach work which took place in the Middle East and north African region around the Charter and the 10 principles and how it relates to what the Resource Guide aims to achieve, which is to develop a document that is accessible to everyone and that can be used to educate, promote and raise awareness of each one of the 21 articles of the IRPC Charter of the Human Rights and Principles Coalition, a document that is well-referenced and has been used as a framework document at both national and international levels. To help push the Charter forward it is important that people join the coalition, link up the work that is already being made and support the work with concrete case studies.

## **Live brainstorm and input into the Resource Guide CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE FLOOR:**

### Protection of Human Rights online for Refugees and Migrants

- The Charter should have a separate article that ensures that the rights of refugees and migrants are protected in the online environment and that their right of access is not used for deportation (*Egypt*)
- People seeking refugee status should not face any obstacles to access materials online. How can we guarantee that people requesting a refugee status in developed countries can have legal protection to exercise their rights of access to the online environment? [The way leading to the refugee status should be a uniform process and the UN is working to regulate and implement the process possibly as early as 2018] (*Cuba - UN Permanent mission of Cuba in Geneva*)
- In the UK Asylum Seekers in detention camps have very limited access to the Internet and their access is punitively monitored (*Marianne*)
- In some refugee camps e.g. Jordan and other regions internet connection is banned so refugees are not able to actually interact with the outside world. There are organizations which are building the infrastructure and connecting people through wifi, bringing internet connection to some of these camps (*Hanane*)

### Accessibility for minorities and disadvantaged groups to fight the digital divide

- How to provide access to minority groups such as the Sen community or the Dolma who are left out of the political and socioeconomic spectrum (*Zimbabwe*)
- Indigenous peoples of Alaska have have problems with infrastructure and access (*Marianne*)
- Palau in the Pacific Ocean and the gap between connected and unconnected in the region. (*Germany & Pacific Region*)

### Right to association and right to privacy (Germany | Verdi representative)

The Charter should made it clear that:

- Part of the right of association is the right to organize in a Trade Union, and the right for the Trade Union to get access to the workers. This is especially important in the online platform world where there are still many challenges.

- Workers have right to privacy, there has to be a fair balance between the interest of the company and the interests of the worker.
- The right to privacy must not be part of a trade-off for basic services.

#### Protection from online harassment

- Many journalists, especially female journalists are subject to online abuse and misogyny (*Lebanon*)

#### The “right to disconnect”

- There have been debates around the right to disconnect and this could be relevant for the work environment and for worker’s rights (*Europe - Belgian Delegation to the UN*)

#### The right to self-defence / retaliation

- *Question: Should people whose privacy has been violated have the right to self-defence or retaliation? (Indonesia)*

*Hanane:* Retaliation would work as a barrier. What is needed is exactly the opposite: to bridge the gap between the governments and civil society

*Marianne:* Article 18 shows that the right to legal remedy exists as a fundamental right and freedom, the right to a fair trial needs to be defended at all points. This is one of the more aspirational articles of the Charter, and the more case studies we have, the more lawmakers and law students and policymakers may consider the downstream effect of any actions that may make things worse in the future.

#### Articulation between the Charter and other guides and design principles

*Hanane:* Other organizations are working on other principles that are specifically designed for the technical community can be found there.

*Marianne:* This is part of our ongoing work. People from the technical community were part of the drafting of the Charter and this has contributed to the success of the Charter.

#### Using the Charter & the 10 Principles for grassroots activism and awareness-raising as well as policy agenda-setting

- The US-based Centre for International Media Assistance which promotes media freedom and democracy has used the IRPC 10 principles to develop their own guide at <https://openinternet.global/read-principles>
- The need to promote the Charter in South East Asia where there seems to be a lack of mechanisms to promote the exercise of human rights in the online environment

#### **Concluding remarks:**

Hanane pointed out that Media and issues experienced by media practitioners in the online environment are very important and that the IRP Coalition would possibly be looking at this aspect more closely over the next few years.

Marianne thanked the attendees for the discussion and the valuable input, which the IRPC will be using to develop the Resource Guide.