



ACCESS NOW DEFENDS AND EXTENDS THE DIGITAL RIGHTS OF USERS AT RISK AROUND THE WORLD.

By combining direct technical support, comprehensive policy engagement, global advocacy, grassroots grantmaking, legal interventions, and convenings such as RightsCon, we fight for human rights in the digital age.

HOW WE WORK

We are a **global team** with staff in Accra, Berlin, Brussels, Córdoba, Lima, Bogotá, London, Manila, Melbourne, Nairobi, Delhi, New York, San José (Costa Rica), Tunis, and Washington, D.C.. We believe strongly that effective, lasting change requires a **holistic approach**, and our six programmatic arms work in coordination to achieve our mission.

TECH

Our 24/7 Digital Security Helpline provides comprehensive, real-time technical assistance to users at risk, including civil society groups, activists, journalists, and human rights defenders. Via our Helpline offices in Tunis, Manila, and Costa Rica, we work closely with global partners to empower local initiatives and strengthen coordination on threat reporting and rapid-response cases.

GRANTS

We provide flexible and grantee-driven funding to grassroots organizations and activist groups that are working with users and communities most at risk of digital rights violations. We take an intersectional approach, as we recognize that threats to digital rights are compounded when they intersect with other human rights abuses or discrimination based on ethnicity, religion, gender, sexuality, class, and other means of marginalization.

RIGHTSCon

RightsCon is our headline event convening thousands of experts from around the globe and across stakeholder lines. More than an annual conference, RightsCon is a movement that connects and mobilizes a global community between events to collaborate on the most pressing issues at the intersection of human rights and technology.

POLICY

We seek to serve, guide, and influence decision makers across sectors through human rights-focused thought leadership and innovative, evidence-based policy analysis. As a global team with staff across the world, we work with local and regional partners to strengthen human rights protections from national capitals to the grassroots, and to effect real-time policy victories and long-term systemic change.

ADVOCACY

We leverage innovative campaign tactics, bold visual advocacy, and global partnerships with civil society, journalists, technologists, and beyond. We educate, petition, and appeal to decision makers in the halls of parliaments and corporate boardrooms, deliver digital security resources to users at risk, and mobilize global internet users to pressure the powerful.

LEGAL

We strategically engage courts and legal processes to hold governments and companies accountable and to uphold fundamental rights in the digital age. This includes submitting interventions, amicus briefs, and expert opinions in state-level, regional, and international proceedings, and providing consistent, high-quality legal support to partners and Digital Security Helpline clients.

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help@accessnow.org
(24/7 digital security support)



info@accessnow.org



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WE MOBILIZE ACROSS FIVE ISSUE AREAS



PRIVACY



FREEDOM OF
EXPRESSION



DIGITAL SECURITY



BUSINESS AND
HUMAN RIGHTS



NET
DISCRIMINATION

#KEEPITON

Access Now leads a coalition of 180+ partners across 65+ countries in the global fight to end internet shutdowns. From amplifying the voices of those whose lives have been impacted by shutdowns, to impact litigation and U.N. advocacy, to prevention, monitoring, and circumvention, the #KeepItOn coalition leverages a holistic strategy against one of the most dangerous tactics for censorship and information control.

DATA PROTECTION

Access Now is at the forefront of civil society efforts to achieve strong, user-centered, rights-respecting data protection laws around the world. We have solid in-house expertise on the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and we continue to advocate for its full implementation. Our team is advising legislators globally, working to develop strong data protection laws from Bolivia to India to Tunisia.

FREE EXPRESSION AND CONTENT MODERATION

Disinformation, hate, and violence online have generated much debate around the need to remove certain content while still preserving freedom of expression. Governments are increasingly resorting to easy fixes that lay down new pathways for censorship. Companies are making decisions on content in ways that are often at odds with fundamental rights. Access Now challenges those overbearing restrictions by governments; provides guidance to major platforms on how to effectively apply human rights principles when making decisions that impact user speech; and assists journalists, activists, and human rights defenders whose content has been censored.

DIGITAL IDENTITY

Digital identity programs that create national databases of personal information — often including biometrics — are rapidly gaining traction. Yet such programs can undermine privacy, chill free movement and expression, and carry significant security risks. We work to ensure these concerns are addressed at the design stage through open, inclusive consultations and advise governments and all relevant stakeholders on rights-respecting approaches to digital identity. In doing so, we strive to prevent the implementation of programs that do not include proper human rights protections, and to mitigate the harms of such programs already in place.

GOVERNMENT AND COMMERCIAL SURVEILLANCE

Privacy is the cornerstone of human rights in the digital age. We campaign to limit the use of state-sponsored surveillance within, at, and across borders; advocate for laws that rein in the pervasive tracking and retention of users by companies; pressure producers of surveillance technologies used to target activists and journalists to account for their role in undermining human rights; celebrate global champions of privacy through our annual Heroes & Villains Awards; and more.

CYBERSECURITY AND ENCRYPTION

Access Now's team of technologists work 24/7 to improve individual security for at-risk users. At the same time, we engage on cybersecurity discussions globally and mobilize against policies that undermine the free and open nature of the internet or the integrity of security tools, like encryption, upon which we all depend to protect our communications, transactions, and other online activities. Access Now leads the Secure the Internet coalition, made up of more than 200 groups calling on world leaders to defend strong encryption.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Access Now champions human rights frameworks as the foundation for responsible, non-discriminatory use and regulation of automated decision-making processes and artificial intelligence systems. As technologies continue to evolve at an ever-quickening pace, the policies and practices in place to protect users often lag behind. We work to ensure that binding, legal norms are being adopted and enforced, to inform responsible development and deployment both in the private and public sector; and to promote diversity and inclusion throughout the design, development, and deployment cycle.

CONNECTIVITY AND NET NEUTRALITY

We believe the internet should be accessible to all, without favoring or discriminating against certain communities, websites, applications, or services. We fight for everyone's right to freely and securely connect to the unfettered and global internet at the local, national, and international level. We also work to ensure connectivity initiatives respect human rights and benefit and empower local users, and support alternative internet infrastructures modeled on decentralization and resilience.