



DigitalRightsFoundation
"KNOW YOUR RIGHTS"

DRF

ANNUAL REPORT

2019

ABOUT

Founded in 2012, Digital Rights Foundation is a registered research-based advocacy NGO focusing on ICTs to support human rights, democratic process and digital governance.

DRF envisions a place where all people, and especially women, are able to exercise their right to expression without being threatened.



DigitalRightsFoundation
"KNOW YOUR RIGHTS"

About

A note from our Executive Director

Digital Rights Foundation (DRF) turned seven years old in 2019 and when I reflect back at the journey, I am filled with immense joy to see the milestones we have achieved so far. 2019 was another challenging yet exciting year of success stories for DRF.

As new digital technologies and threats to free expression are advancing at a fearful pace, so is the need for dedicated work to fight for digital rights. We remain committed to supporting human rights, inclusiveness, democratic processes and digital governance through advocacy, research and direct services. This year, we launched a new venture, Ab Aur Nahi, in light of the #MeToo movement. The portal aims to help individuals stand up against abuse and help bring us closer to achieving our goal for creating safe spaces everywhere. In September, we went to a well-being retreat with our DRF family and it was nonetheless a celebration of our success and an amazing opportunity to unwind and relax! As activists in our individual capacities, we are always susceptible to burnout and emotional exhaustion in our struggle to make a significant impact on the world around us! The retreat was a purposeful getaway to replenish our energies to meet with the daily challenges and emotional labour involved in our work. Earlier this year, we also launched our first Residency Retreat for women journalists from across the country which provided them with an amazing opportunity to embrace sisterhood and solidarity! Our gender-sensitive and free-of-charge Cyber Harassment Helpline catered to an average of 10 calls per day dealing with cases of fake accounts and non-consensual use of personal data to financial scams. As the only dedicated helpline for cyber harassment issues, over the three years since its inception, we have received a total number of 4492 complaints of which 40% cases were reported by women.

We contributed our discourse around digital rights advocacy by conducting research and engaging with policy-makers and legislators. In 2019, we submitted recommendations to the government on data protection and privacy issues as well as the journalists' welfare and safety bill. We continued to represent Pakistan in global digital rights activism at various international conferences and forums. DRF reached out to more than ____ direct beneficiaries during the year, including students, lawyers, journalists, government representatives, academics, minority communities among others through a diverse range of

interventions. We have continued to look for opportunities to partner with other community groups to further enhance the services we are able to offer.

Our journey in 2019 was full of excitement and success stories which would not have been possible without the undeterred commitment and dedication of our amazing staff, volunteers, board members, supporters and partners who I personally want to thank! I am so proud to be in this whirlwind of awesomeness with each and every one of you! I wish you all a happy and peaceful 2020 and hope that the beginning of a new decade makes us more tolerant, empathetic and kind towards one another!

We face the future with faith, hope and lots of support!

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nighat Dad". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nighat Dad
Executive Director & Founder
Digital Rights Foundation

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
DRF Outreach 2019	2
Press Coverage of DRF	6
Timeline of Activities	9
Ab Aur Nahin	12
2019 year helpline report	13
DRF's Events	14
International Conferences	22
Researches and Submissions	35
Online Campaigns	42
Team Note	52

Introduction

DRF's annual report 2019 is a brief compilation of DRF's activity over the past year. The report is an overview of what we've achieved so far and how far we've come in terms of our work. The team now steps foot in 2020 with high hopes and energy with respect to digital rights in our country and also wishes it's well wishers and supporters a happy new year!



DRF Outreach



Number of People
Reached Out To

12660



Youth

1945



Human Rights
Defender

981



Lawyers

266



Journalists

231



General Public

9205



Law Enforcement
Agencies

32

DRF Workshops/ Activities



DRF workshops

81



DRF Conferences

29



**Districts covered
in Pakistan**

09



**Events attended
internationally**

20

DRF Workshops/ Activities

DRF Media Outreach



**Press Coverage of
DRF**

277



**Hamara Internet
Blogs**

61



Facebook Followers

50,005



**Visitors on DRF
Website**

42,266



Twitter Followers

9702



Likes on Facebook

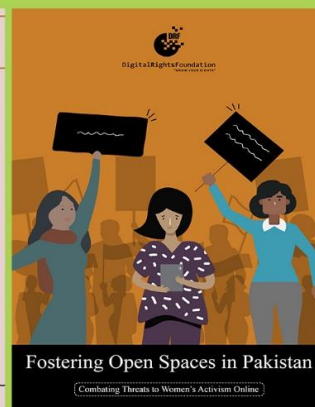
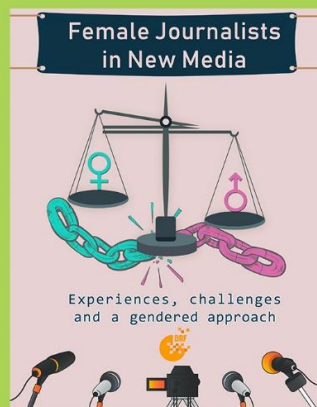
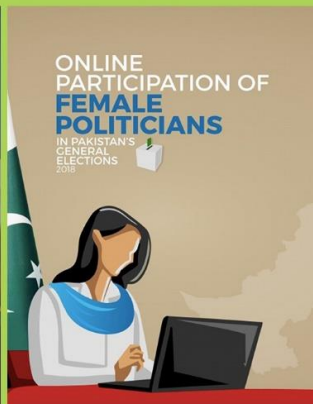
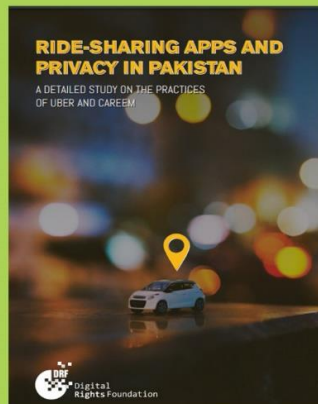
49,505

Reports Launched in 2019



Reports launched
and Submissions

06



Reports Launched in 2019

Press Coverage of DRF



Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan
2019-03

“Pakistani women are known for their resilience, intelligence, perseverance and incredibly strong will. Despite the social and economic challenges, our women have carved destinies and have shaped the future of the globe and our very nation....Our women have given birth to arts and literature, Bapsi Sidhwa, Bano Qudsia, Sheherezade Alam and Zibeida Agha are few names among many. Also, with Nighat Dad, founder of Digital Rights Foundation, Jehan Ara, President of all Pakistan Software House Association and Kalsoom Lakhani, CEO of Invest2Innovate, Pakistan women have scaled the heights in technology and entrepreneurship. As a nation, we honour their role and contribution, for our people, society and state of Pakistan....”

Ifex
2019-05

“Digital Rights Foundation (DRF) has published two reports on the online violence experienced by Pakistani women. The first highlights gendered online harassment and its impact on the career of women journalists in new media. The second report probes the prevalence of online abuse – harassment, misogyny, stalking, surveillance – targeting not just women journalists but also information practitioners such as activists and human rights defenders.”

Tech Crunch
2019-03

‘In the months ahead, Facebook says it also will build victim support toolkits with more locally and culturally relevant info by working with partners, including the Revenge Porn Helpline (U.K.), Cyber Civil Rights Initiative (U.S.), Digital Rights Foundation (Pakistan), SaferNet (Brazil) and Professor Lee Ji-yeon (South Korea).

Revenge porn is one of the many issues that results from offering the world a platform for public sharing. Facebook today is beginning to own up to the failures of social media across many fronts — which also include things like data privacy violations, the spread of misinformation and online harassment and abuse.’

Press Coverage of DRF

Dawn
2019-01

“According to DRF founder Nighat Dad: “Our callers have reached out to us from far-flung areas of the country which goes to show that the negative use of online tools has impacted lives equally. Our aim for the coming year is to increase our capacity and reach out to a wider audience so that the internet can be a safe space for all.”

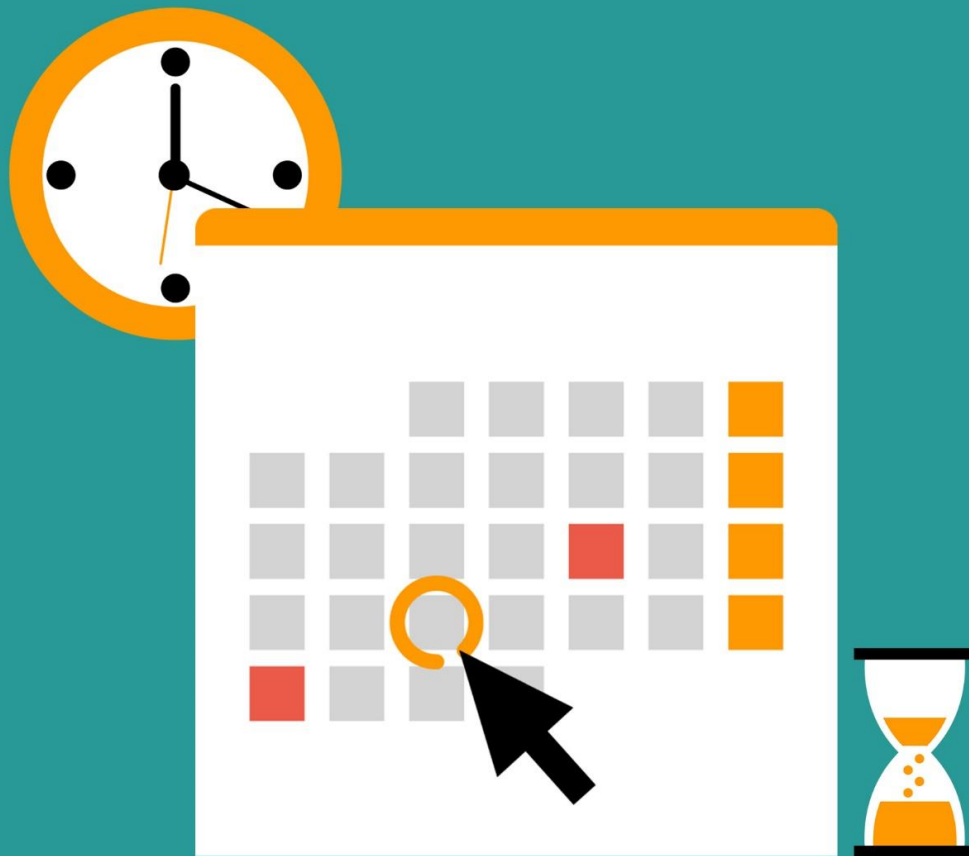
Le Monde
2019-08

"You don't suspect how subversive it was. Here, a divorced woman is a shame and she should cry. She should not be happy without the protection of an all-powerful husband. "But Nighat Dad, 38, a divorced mother of a 12-year-old boy, is no longer afraid of anything.

The Guardian
2019-05

In January, along with her small team at Lahore-based NGO the Digital Rights Foundation, Dad launched an online portal for women to access pro-bono legal support for cases of sexual harassment and violence. Dad decided the project should be self-sustaining rather than funded by foreign donors because “agencies always have their own aims and objectives”, and because “when the money ends, the initiative ends”. The site is called Ab Aur Nahin – “Time’s Up” in Urdu. “We’re telling these people that enough is enough,” said Dad. “We’re taking charge of this issue.”

Timeline of Activities



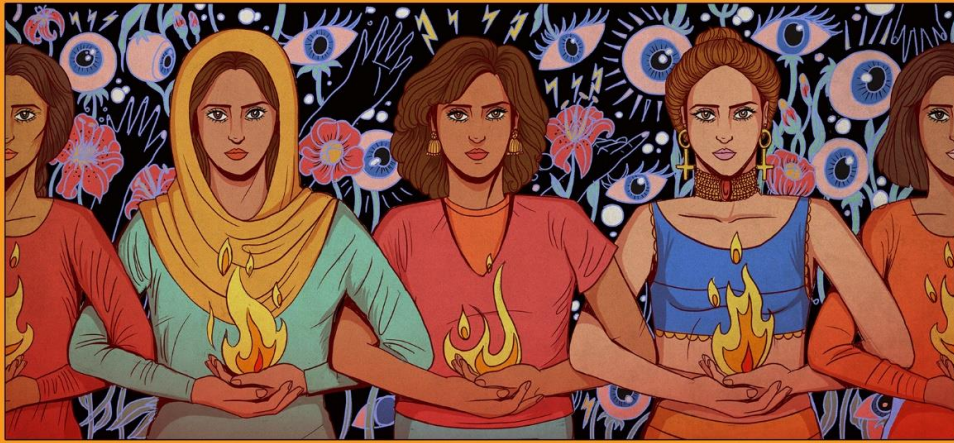


Timeline of activities



Timeline of activities

Ab Aur Nahin



DRF is proud to launch its latest venture this year titled Ab Aur Nahin which is a legal portal for survivors of harassment and abuse. The portal aims to help individuals stand up against abuse and help bring us closer to achieving our goal for creating safe spaces everywhere. The portal has a network of lawyers from across Pakistan who will be providing legal assistance to victims of abuse and harassment. The portal comes in light of the #MeToo movement in Pakistan and the growing number of cases of harassment that DRF had been receiving in the past year.

Ab Aur Nahin

2019 year helpline report

DRF set up the Cyber Harassment Helpline in 2016. Since then, the Helpline team has received a continuous stream of calls, and has aided victims of cyber harassment in the country. Over the span of three years, the helpline has received 4492 complaints, 40% of which were from women and 32% from men.

In 2019 alone, the helpline got a total of 2023 complaints, and now receives an average of 146 calls per month. The Cyber Harassment Helpline provides three basic services to victims of cyber harassment which are digital security assistance, psychological aid and legal assistance. The helpline operated from Monday till Friday, 9 am to 5 pm.

To review the statistics from the previous helpline reports the links are provided below:

<https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Booklet-Booklet-Helpline.pdf>

<https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Helpline-Annual-Report.pdf>



2019 year helpline report

DRF's Events



Journalists Residency Training

DRF's prime work has been with women and for women, and this year we took the work that we do, one step further and tried to give back to our network of women journalists through a retreat. DRF with the support of Freedom Press Unlimited (FPU) hosted a three day residency retreat in Nathia Gali for women journalists across Pakistan. The retreat focused on fun team building exercises, gender sensitisation and expert support in multiple areas such as mindfulness and stress management. We see how journalism as a field has the reputation of involving high-pressure and stressful work which in turn can cause work-related stress, anxiety and depression. These risks are often not treated in a serious manner and can pose a threat to an individual's well being if not treated properly. The retreat gave women journalists the opportunity to unwind and share their experiences with another. In the three days the women journalists discussed in detail the challenges that women faced in the field and how to cope with these challenges and become a supporting network for one another. There were sessions related to stress management which included various relaxation exercises, yoga and trust circles. The retreat also aimed at strengthening the DRF network of women journalists for digital rights.



DRF Team Retreat

Human Rights Defenders are usually at the forefront of handling and tackling serious human rights violations which is why the work that they do becomes all the more difficult. HRD's usually become extremely overwhelmed because of their work which is why it is necessary to take a break and strike a proper balance. Keeping alive its tradition of being a feminist organization and the well being of it's team, DRF's team decided to go for a 5 day retreat which included team building session and excercises to rejuvenate. The team team visited Naran to unwind and relax from the hectic schedule that they usually have with regular yoga sessions at different locations in Naran.



DRF collaborates with UNESCO to mark International Day for the Universal Access to Information in Pakistan

DRF in partnership with UNESCO Islamabad commemorated the International Day for the Universal Access to Information (IDUAI) 2019 at ICS, University of Punjab on 26th September 2019. The event was organized in partnership with the European Union, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Embassy of Sweden in Pakistan, United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and civil society partner Digital Rights Foundation (DRF). At the event, the Ambassador of Sweden, H.E. Ms. Ingrid Johansson, gave the opening remarks along with the Ambassador of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, H.E. Mr. Wouter Plomp. Speakers at the event included Mr. Zahid Abdullah, the Federal Information Commissioner; Mr. Mahboob Qadir Shah; the Chief Punjab Information Commissioner; Anoosha Shaigan from Courting the Law; Mr. Nabeel Qadeer and Usama Khilji from Bolo Bhi. UNESCO Representative Pakistan, Ms. Vibeke Jensen gave closing remarks. The Deputy Head of mission at European Union Delegation to Pakistan, Ms. Anne Marchal also attended the event.



DRF at Wiki Gender Gap Editathon

DRF, along with the Swedish Embassy, UN Women and Media Matters for Democracy, hosted the Wiki Gender Gap editathon on 11th and 12th October 2019. In the event 35 volunteers gathered to add content on Wikipedia about Pakistani women and gender-related issues in the country. DRF was able to post over 50 articles during the two-day Editathon. This was done in order to bridge the gender gap that is prevalent on the internet especially on information sites like Wikipedia regarding feminist heroes and topics related to women.



Two Day event on Combating Online and Offline Sexual Harassment in Pakistan

DRF conducted a two-day event in Islamabad on October 22nd and 23rd 2019 on issues around harassment and their legal frameworks in the country. The first day involved a closed-door consultation on, “Combating Online and Offline Sexual Harassment in Pakistan: Rethinking Legal Interventions”, with journalists, lawyers and civil society organizations to draft recommendations regarding the existing laws and procedures regarding harassment.

The conference on 23rd October titled, “Combating Online and Offline Harassment in Pakistan”, included a keynote address from Kashmala Tariq, the Federal Ombudsperson for Protection Against Harassment. The first panel titled, “Tackling the criticisms of the Law- Is the legal system a tool for silencing or resistance?”, was moderated by Nighat Dad. The panelists included Syed Fareed Ali (Director training at Federal Investigative Agency), Tooba Syed (Lecturer at Quaid-e-Azam University, Awami Workers Party, Women Democratic Front), Khawar Mumtaz (Chairperson National Commission on the Status of Women), Tanzeela Mazhar (Journalist), Zoya Rehman (Researcher), Aslam Chohan (Consultant at Punjab Ombudsperson for Protection Against Harassment), Fauzia Viqar (Ex-chairperson of Punjab Commission on the Status of Women) and Nuzhat Shirin (Chairperson, Sindh Commission on the Status of Women).

The second panel titled, “Reforming the law- A way forward”, included Maleeka Bokhari (Member of National Assembly), Kashmala Tariq (Federal Ombudsperson for Protection Against Harassment), Barrister Jannat Ali Kalyar (DRF), Dania Mukhtar (Lawyer), Rukshanda Naz (KPK Ombudsperson for Protection Against Harassment), Aisha Sarwari (Co-founder of Women’s advancement hub, author and journalist).

The recommendations made at the conference and the consultation are available in Urdu and English on our website.



Sixth National Conference on Privacy #PrivacyIsARight

Digital Rights Foundation (DRF) conducted its Sixth National Conference on “Privacy: #PrivacyIsARight” on December 7th 2019 in Islamabad to discuss issues relating to artificial intelligence, and algorithmic decision-making in the context of privacy rights. The event was supported by one of our key partners Privacy International and Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF). The keynote address was delivered by former senator Faratullah Babar. The conference featured the Glass Room Exhibit which featured interactive installations such as “The Zuckerberg House”, “The Empire”, “A Data-Day”, “Fake or Real” and “The Real Life of Your Selfie” which were supported by the Tactical Tech as part of its global exhibit.

A panel discussion on the topic “The Future of Tech: AI and Algorithms in the Context of the Criminal Justice System & Social Justice” was conducted to tackle the issue of emerging technology such as artificial intelligence and algorithmic decision-making from a human rights perspective. The panelists included Dr. Maryam Mustafa, Dr. Muhammad Nadeem, Rahma M Mian and Aleena Alavi.

The event also included a vibrant debate on the proposition “This House Believes That (THBT): Sentencing by judges should be delegated to algorithms”. Over Anwar (RSIL), Mujtaba Hussain (KPITP) and Usama Khilji (Bolo Bhi) spoke in favour of the motion. A team of Malaika Raza, Aniq Arshad and Zoya Rehmad argued against the proposition.



DRF's Events

International Conferences



CPDP Conference

DRF's Executive Director Nighat Dad was part of a panel - "Islamic Legal Conceptions of Privacy " at the CPDP conference 2019 held at Brussels, Belgium. Since many countries with either a large majority Muslim population or an explicitly Islamic Legal system have or are considering the adoption of data protection legislation , the panel came together to talk about the principles of Islamic legal theory, that laws should implement. Ms. Dad talked about how Pakistani culture is heavily influenced by Islam. She said that often the laws, which protect the right to privacy, are not spoken of in terms of religious attributes to those very rights, which leads to this area of law to remain underdeveloped, for example the lack of personal data protection legislation in Pakistan. Ms. Dad laid emphasis that there is a lot of opportunity and guidance in Islam that ought to be utilized in protecting the privacy of citizens of Islamic countries and it can be done by encouraging and utilizing Islamic scholarship and research.



DRF at International Conferences

Imagine a Feminist Internet South Asia

Cyber Harassment Helpline's Program Manager Ms. Janat Fazal represented DRF at "Imagine a Feminist Internet South Asia" held in Negombo, Sri Lanka on 21st and 22nd February. The two-day regional conference brought together researchers, practitioners and policymakers from across South Asia for critical conversations seeking to answer the question: What opportunities does technology provide to question and, ultimately, start changing gender norms? The event focused on sharing research and findings around making the internet a feminist internet.



DRF at International Conferences

Asia Liberty Forum 2019

DRF's ED Ms. Nighat Dad attended a two-day conference, Asia Liberty Forum (ALF) 2019, was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 28th Feb and 1st March. The Forum brought together friends of the freedom movement across Asia to discuss the challenges faced by the region and to learn from one another on how to most effectively advance free-market reforms. Ms. Dad attended the conference and was part of the panel discussion called "Challenges to Privacy in the Digital World", where the panelists gave an overview of the legal and policy frameworks and the challenges that privacy advocates face.



DRF at International Conferences

Pakistan in the Digital Age Conference

Ms. Nighat Dad spoke at a conference held by University College London on 2nd March titled, 'Pakistan in the Digital Age'. An interesting debate took place around the context of women in the digital age, governance and policy and the economic challenges and opportunities. Ms. Dad talked about her work as an activist and the challenges she faces in the field. She also explained how she started working on issues relating to digital rights and the formation of Digital Rights Foundation. She mentioned that when she was practicing law, she started looking into policies and legislations and found that there was nothing addressing the issues of online violence and harassment, especially for marginalized groups. That is how she started advocating for the rights of people online.



DRF at International Conferences

Internet Freedom Festival 2019

DRF's Program Manager Seerat Khan attended the Internet Freedom Festival at Valencia Spain. DRF hosted two sessions titled, 'Online harassment of journalists: from ordinary haters to troll armies' and 'Social stress, impact and ways of coping and building resilience of front line defenders across the world'. The session on online harassment of journalists shed light on the backlash that journalists face when they report a news and how they're usually at the forefront of facing abuse and harassment by trolls online which in turn impacts their reporting. The second panel on social stress and ways of coping emphasized on the need of making mental health of human rights defenders a priority and the importance of a support mechanism and the need to reach out for support.



DRF at International Conferences

Global Safety Summit

Ms. Dad attended the third annual Global Safety and Well-Being Summit hosted by Facebook, where over 100 organizations from 40 countries took part. A wide range of issues including suicide prevention, raising children in the digital era and protecting the most vulnerable people online were discussed in the summit. Ms. Dad was part of the panel on combating harassment of women where she discussed coping mechanisms and digital tools to keep themselves safe in online spaces.



DRF at International Conferences

Stockholm Internet Forum 2019

Ms. Shmyla Khan from DRF was part of the Stockholm Internet Forum (SIF) 2019 hosted by Sida. SIF is a platform for advancing a free, open and secure internet as a driver of development. DRF was part of a panel discussion on 2019 Ranking Digital Rights Corporate Accountability Index where we discussed corporate responsibility and accountability for tech companies both in the Global North and the South.



DRF at International Conferences

“Standing up against online harassment of women journalists - What works?”

DRF’s Executive Director, Ms. Nighat Dad, attended the conference ‘Standing up against online harassment of women journalists- What works?’ organized by the members of Group of Friends for the Safety of Journalists in cooperation with the UNESCO Communication and Information Sector on 18th June. The event followed decisions by UNESCO 29th General Conference and the 206th Executive Board that called upon UNESCO to reinforce and prioritize activities aimed at addressing the specific threats to the safety of women journalists, both online and offline. Through the event 200 member state representatives, journalists and legal professionals were brought together to explore new ways to reinforce the safety of women journalists. Ms. Dad, while talking about the practical and legal measures to tackle online harassment of women journalists, pressed the need for more accountability from social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook, where abuse against women journalists is rampant.



DRF at International Conferences

RightsCon

Ms. Nighat Dad and Ms. Jannat Fazal attended RightsCon 2019, a leading summit on human rights in the digital age. The team was part of interesting debates around fake news, surveillance, data protection, gender and privacy. Ms. Dad. spoke on various panels and discussions highlighting the state of digital rights in the global south especially in Pakistan. She discussed the shrinking civic spaces both online and offline and explosion of data and decline of privacy in the region along with the spurring challenges due to the emergence of new tools and technologies in Pakistan.

DRF also hosted a panel titled, ‘Where there is burnout there is no innovation: Managing stressors for a better physical and mental health’. The session focused on burnout and the factors of our work and culture reinforcing them. There was a special emphasis laid on systematic dispositions in the activist community as well as in organizations to help the participants in managing their stressors.



DRF at International Conferences

Digital and Civic Solutions

Ms. Nighat Dad attended a conference in Hague, Netherlands on ‘Digital and Civic Solutions’. In the conference a discussion around state-sponsored disinformation took place. Ms. Dad spoke on a panel discussing the phenomena of state-sponsored disinformation campaigns, how they shape the contemporary information space, the use of social media platforms, the impact of false accounts and bots that have become prevalent and served as amplifiers for state-run media storylines. She also shared her experience of operating on this new digital-media battlefield and discussed the impact of inauthentic digital content.



DRF at International Conferences

IGF 2019

DRF's all female team consisting of Ms. Sehar Dad, Ms. Maryam Saeed and Ms. Zainab Durrani attended the Internet Governance Forum 2019 in Berlin. This gave the team the opportunity to interact with multiple activists, civil society groups and policy influencers working on the edge of technological advancements and developments with regards to the human rights impact of the same on the overall field of internet governance.



DRF at International Conferences

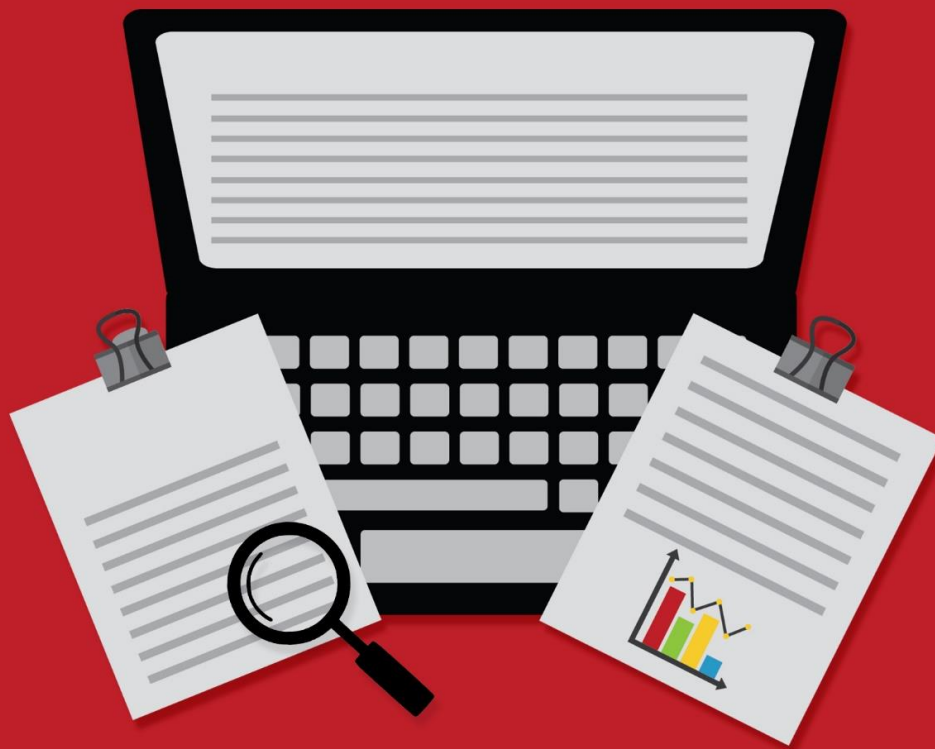
World Forum Democracy

Ms. Nighat Dad attended the world forum democracy and spoke on the panel, ‘Democracy dies in darkness: do we have the information we need’ at Strasbourg, France. She added that, ‘Vulnerable groups and minorities usually don’t find space in the offline world to exercise their right to freedom of speech’.



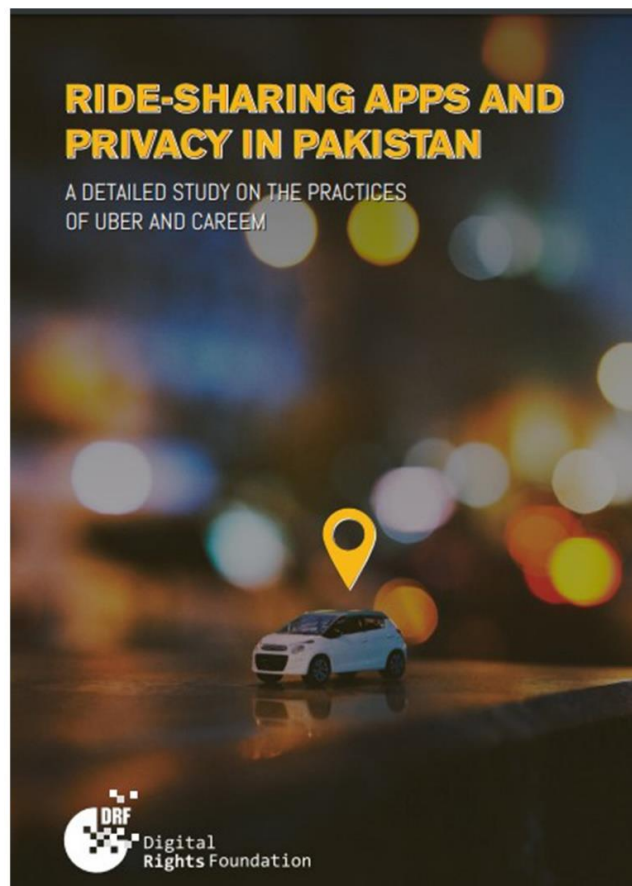
DRF at International Conferences

Researches and Submissions



Ride sharing apps and privacy in Pakistan: A detailed study on the practices of Uber and Careem

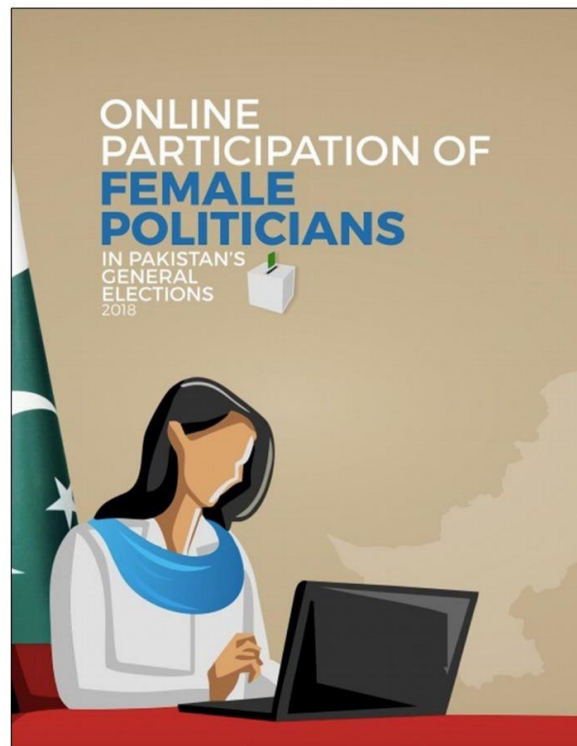
Digital Rights Foundation (DRF) launched its report on the use of ride-share applications in Pakistan which focuses on privacy concerns regarding utilising these apps. The report laid a special emphasis on the issues faced by female customers while they were using these apps. The study aims to generate a conversation regarding the use of technologies in urban commute. According to our findings, both the government and the companies themselves need to ensure the protection of users data, the physical security of drivers and customers, and the creation and maintenance of inclusive and safe spaces for females using the applications in either capacity.



Researches and Submissions

*Online Participation of Female Politicians in Pakistan's
General Election 2018 Policy Brief on Online Harassment
Helpline in Pakistan*

DRF released its report on 'Online Participation of Female Politicians in Pakistan's General Election 2018' which looks at the role of female politicians in online spaces and the gendered challenges that they face. The report, amongst other things, mapped the difference and impact of social media on the General Elections that took place last year as opposed to the term five years ago in 2013. The social media activism of different parties along with the usage of their female candidates was noted as well as the surge that mobile internet brought in, in terms of sheer numbers of traffic various social media platforms attracted. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) implemented the use of RTS (Result Transmission System) these elections which aimed to enable presiding officers at polling stations to transmit results to returning officers and the ECP in real-time, the efficacy of which the report analyses.



Researches and Submissions

Policy Brief on Online Harassment Helpline in Pakistan

In view of the increasing problem impacting all users especially women online, DRF prepared a policy brief regarding online harassment through a gendered lens. The policy brief significantly expands the discussion on legal remedies available to the victims of online harassment and the lack of awareness regarding information and communication technologies amongst the masses.



Researches and Submissions

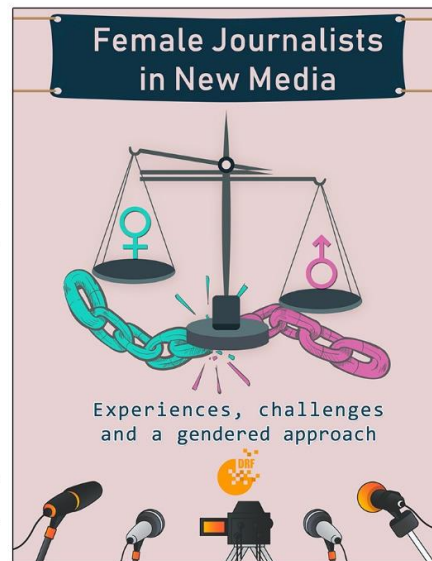
Submission to UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Speech and Expression: Surveillance Industry and Human Rights

DRF made a submission to the United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur on call for submissions of the surveillance industry and human rights on February 15, 2019. In the report DRF calls on human rights complaint national legislation on digital privacy and data protection that provides for robust safeguards against intrusion from surveillance technologies as well as international commitments from nation states for transparency around safe and transfer of surveillance technology.

Female Journalists in new media: experiences, challenges and a gendered approach

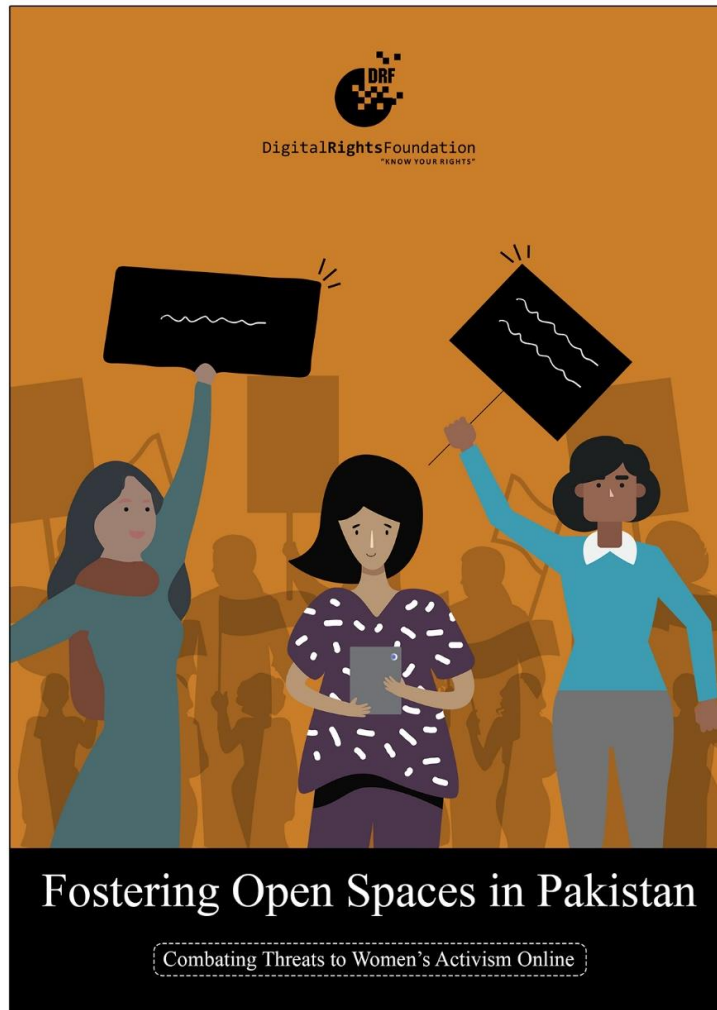
DRF launched its report on the gendered, online harassment that female journalists face in the media and how this resonates in their offline spaces in the report titled, 'Female Journalists in new media: Experiences, challenges and a gendered approach'. The aims to generate a much needed debate around the problems that women journalists face in the new media and how they often have to step back from the media due to their vulnerable position in the field.

The report records the experiences of female journalists in a qualitative manner in order to understand the kind of harassment and intimidation women face in the digital platforms due to their work. It also explains how online violence of female journalists translates into offline violence. The report talks about how there are numerous issues that women face in their field like trivialization of gendered issues by their male counterparts and limited support from media houses and institutions.



Fostering Open Spaces in Pakistan - combating gender specific threats to women's activism online

In collaboration with International Media Support (IMS), DRF undertook a project entitled, 'Fostering Open Spaces in Pakistan- Combating Gender Specific Threats to Women's Activism Online' which focused on women journalists and information practitioners experiences of existing in the online sphere and a study was put together highlighting the chasm between the permeation of online spaces by men and by women.



Researches and Submissions

Submission to United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on new technologies and their impact on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of assemblies including peaceful protests under res. 38/11

DRF submitted its comments and recommendations to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the right to freedom to assembly in light of new technologies. We highlighted the legal and social context in Pakistan while analyzing emerging technologies.

Freedom on the internet report 2019

Freedom House released its Freedom on the Net (FoTN) report for the year 2019, titled ‘The Crisis of Social Media’ to reflect the plethora of issues emerging on social media. The report finds an overall decline in global internet freedom for the ninth consecutive year in 2019. Pakistan’s ranking on the report remains ‘Not Free’ for the coverage period, with its score decreasing from 27 to 26. Internet freedom declined during this report’s coverage period due to authorities increased blocking of political, social and cultural websites. The general election environment in July 2018 saw connectivity restrictions and increased disinformation. The report for Pakistan was authored by Digital Rights Foundation (DRF) and evaluated through the methodology developed by Freedom House.



Researches and Submissions

Online Campaigns



Throughout 2019 DRF has carried out multiple campaigns online some of which can be seen below:

#DigitalResolutions2020



#PrivacyIsARight #KnowYourDigitalRights



Online Campaigns

#MahfoozSahafiMazbootSahafat



#HumanRightsDay2019 #HumanRightsDay



#PrivacyIsARight



Online Campaigns

#16daysofactivism #changethestory #violenceagainstwomen #genderequality



#Privacyawarenessweek



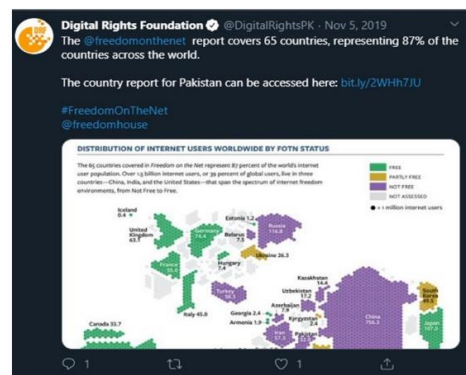
Online Campaigns



#InformationDemocracy #ParisPeaceForum2019



#FreedomOnTheNet



Online Campaigns

#CombatingHarassmentInPakistan #Metoo



#MentalHealthAwarenessMonth



Online Campaigns

#WikiGap #GenderWikiGap #Editathon



#OnlineChildSexualAbuseKoRoko



#AccessToInfoDay #RightToKnow



Online Campaigns

#EndGenderBasedBullying



#AbAurNahin #MeinBhi



#GirlsInICT #GirlsInIctDay2019



Online Campaigns

#M4W19 #Move4Women #BalanceforBetter



#LetsTalk

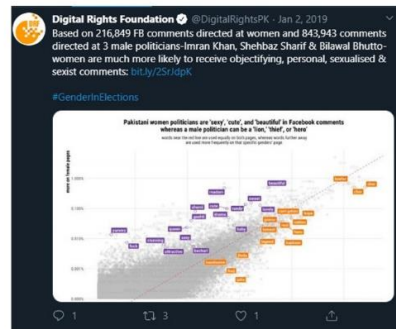


#WomensDay2019 #InternationalWomensDay



Online Campaigns

#GenderInElections #PakElections



Online Campaigns




Team Note

We, the people at DRF, would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for the organization we are a part of and the vision it seeks to fulfill. It is not by any measure, an easy task, to be privy to such harrowing tales as our Helpline staff is made aware of, on a daily basis. It takes the remembrance of why we do what we do, to collect strength enough to connect with those who place their trust in us, and for that we are grateful to those who reach out to us and in awe of the strong folks at the Helpline who do this day in and day out. It is with some dismay that we observe the change and the stillness in the status quo in the human rights landscape the world over and in our very own region, however that only serves to inspire us to pick up the mantle and move onwards.

It is our pleasure to be associated with DRF and to find ourselves in a position to impact the digital rights arena, even if it amounts to chipping away at the block.

Best,
Team DRF

Team Note

 www.digitalrightsfoundation.pk

 info@digitalrightsfoundation.pk

 DigitalRightsFoundation

 DigitalRightsFoundation

 DigitalRightsPK