



DigitalRightsFoundation
"KNOW YOUR RIGHTS"

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



ABOUT

Founded in 2012, Digital Rights Foundation is a registered NGO focusing on ICTs to support equal participation in digital spaces through direct assistance, awareness-raising, research and advocacy.

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

INTRODUCTION



This report is a compilation of DRF's work for the year 2022 specifically highlighting the milestones and achievements of the organization within the year. DRF's core mission is to make online spaces a safer, inclusive and more accessible space for all. The report reflects our mission and core values and highlights our dedication to the work that we do and our commitment to making a difference every single year. As we step foot into 2023 we hope that the coming year brings us one step closer to our mission and we hope that the year brings more room for further online discourse around key issues like digital rights and human rights in the online sphere.

A NOTE FROM DRF'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The year 2022 hasn't been an easy one for any of us in terms of the political turmoil and climate disasters in the country, it's been rough. However, as every year passed by we managed to strive and thrive by completing 10 years as an organization. We were able to strive and survive for the past 10 years working on a range of issues around data protection, privacy, online violence, net neutrality and data justice. Additionally the Cyber Harassment Helpline completed six years of operations despite all the resistance and difficulties we faced in between. I'd also like to thank my brilliant team for being at the forefront of being the support system of the organization and for continuing our work wholeheartedly despite the circumstances being otherwise.



DRF's transition into year 2022 has mostly been to amplify our work on the cyber harassment helpline and also bring forward more cases around online violence to the public so that people can witness the true brunt and consequences of a violence happening online.

We managed to make our Network of Women Journalists for Digital Rights (NWJDR) stronger with more women journalists from Pakistan and we also managed to bring them together multiple times this year through our Residency Retreat and our Digital Well-Being and Safety Fellowship. Apart from that to bring our members closer to one another and enhance their capacity as journalists working in the community, we were able to introduce new and diverse workshops around mobile journalism, content creation and mental health and well being.

DRF's women have been striving to amplify the work of the organization and I can proudly say that most of the contributions around online violence and privacy have been by women in DRF. DRF launched four issues of the feminist e-magazine Digital 50.50 showcasing the work of women journalists and writers on different themes. The theme that resonated with us the most was on the impact of climate change on women where women journalists from across Pakistan wrote about the harrowing stories of women stuck in a climate catastrophe with no help and facing increased forms of violence. The heart touching stories exhibited some of the best writings and I encourage everyone to get more involved and raise more awareness around climate change and the impact it has on women and marginalized communities in the country.

We were also fortunate to have other meaningful collaborations with the Ombudsperson Punjab, National Commission of Human Rights (NCHR) and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA).

In 2023 DRF steps into a new direction with even bigger goals than the year before. We hope the coming year is easier for all of us in many ways and that we have more meaningful and constructive dialogues around key digital rights issues in the country concerning AI, privacy, data justice, online violence and content moderation. Here's to a very happy 2023 from us to you! Happy new year!

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OUTREACH 2022

4638

People reached through Panels/Focused Group Discussions/Roundtables/Lectures

Number of Panel/Focused Group Discussions/Roundtables/Lectures

79

1247

Number of people trained through workshops and sessions

Number of Trainings/Sessions

57

31

Number of Conferences

Number of Publications

12

141

Instances of press coverage

CYBER HARASSMENT HELPLINE



14,376

CYBER HARASSMENT HELPLINE
CASES IN SIX YEARS



83

NUMBER OF CASES
THAT THE LEGAL
TEAM FOLLOW
THROUGH 2022



2,695

CYBER HARASSMENT
HELPLINE CASES IN
2022



67

TOTAL NUMBER OF
VISITS TO FIA IN 2022



290

TOTAL NUMBER OF
CONSULTATION CALLS
FOR LEGAL QUERIES
2022

DIGITAL 50-50
ARTICLES PITCHES
RECEIVED IN 2022

87

4

EDITIONS

32

ARTICLES

SOCIAL
MEDIA
REACH



Followers

57000



Followers

9521



Followers

16400

10 YEARS OF DRF

We at DRF proudly celebrates our first 10 years working on free speech, privacy, online violence and safety in Pakistan. The journey hasn't been easy, and we've witnessed many ups and downs in the digital rights landscape, but we're hopeful for a better future now where Hamara Internet is a safe and inclusive space for all. #10YearsOfDRF

Here are a few highlights we've achieved in the past 10 years:

- Six years of the Cyber Harassment Helpline
- Annual Privacy Conference which has been taking place since 2013 touching on key themes like the right to privacy, artificial intelligence (AI), digital ID and data protection amongst others with key stakeholder groups like law makers, government bodies, academia, civil society and the general public.
- Women Journalist Retreat 2019, 2021 and 2022 which is a retreat for DRF's renowned Network of Women Journalists for Digital Rights (NWJDR). Since 2019 DRF's team has been organizing a women journalists residency retreat bringing members of the group together to relax, unwind and discuss the challenges they face within journalism.
- Digital Well-being and Safety Fellowship 2021 and 2022 which is composed of key modules designed specifically to train women journalists on digital safety, legal literacy and journalists' mental health and well-being. The fellowship is a capacity-building opportunity for women journalists across Pakistan with fellows from across the country.
- Hamara Internet Conferences which explored issues of online harassment and gender-based approaches to the internet. The conferences brought together academics, activists, lawyers, journalists and mental health experts from across the country to initiate discourse around issues of online free speech, cyber harassment, the place of mental health within digital spaces and masculinities online.

DRF has also conducted a number of researches around privacy, online harassment, and misinformation and here are some of the most impactful ones that are relevant in our day-to-day life:

- **Online Participation of Female Politicians In Pakistan's General Elections 2018**
With the rise of social media as a tool for engineering and political engagement, DRF monitored the social media activities of female politicians from major political parties across Pakistan in the general elections of 2018.

Check out our research here:

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

- **Ride-Sharing Apps and Privacy in Pakistan: A detailed study on the practices of Uber and Careem (2019)**

DRF launched its report on the use of ride-sharing applications in Pakistan which focuses on privacy concerns regarding utilizing these apps.

Check out our research here:

<https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Careem-Uber-Research.pdf>

- **Fostering Open Spaces in Pakistan (2019)**

DRF released a report titled, 'Fostering Open Spaces in Pakistan - Combatting Threats to Women's Activism Online' which focused on women journalists and information practitioners' experiences of existing in the online sphere.

Check out our research here:

<https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/IMS-Study-Report.pdf>

- **Sifting Truth From Lies in the Digital Age of Fake News (2020)**

In 2020 DRF released the report 'Sifting truth from lies in the digital age of fake news' in an attempt to identify topics that are more susceptible to fake news and its common methods of dissemination.

Check out our research here:

<https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Sifting-truth-from-lies-in-the-digital-age-of-fake-news-final.pdf>

- **Young People & Privacy In Online Spaces (2021)**

DRF launched a study titled, 'Young People & Privacy' which focuses on how young Pakistani teens interact with digital spaces and understand the concept of privacy.

Check out our study here:

<https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Young-Privacy-Booklet.pdf>

- **Dissemination of Relief Packages and Welfare Activities during COVID-19 (2022)**

DRF conducted a report titled 'Dissemination of Relief Packages and Welfare Activities during COVID-19' to understand the role privacy plays in the dissemination of relief and welfare activities during the pandemic.

Check out our report here:

<https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Dissemination-of-Relief-updated.pdf>

- **Virtual Learning and Privacy Amid Covid-19 (2022)**

This study titled 'Virtual Learning and Privacy Amid COVID-19' emphasizes on the impact on students and teachers when switching to online learning during the pandemic.

Check out our study here:

<https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Virtual-Learning.pdf>

- **A Privacy Perspective: The Collection And Use of Health Data in Pakistan (2022)**

DRF released its study titled 'A Privacy Perspective: The Collection and Use of Health Data in Pakistan' highlighting the privacy perspective of health institutions particularly hospitals during the pandemic.

Check out our study here:

<https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Health-Data-Study.pdf>

- **Policy Papers: Perspectives on Gendered Disinformation (2022)**

DRF released policy papers: Perspective on Gendered Disinformation highlighting the patriarchal silencing of women in online spaces.

Check out our policy papers here:

<https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/HBS-Report-2021-U.pdf>

DRF developed a number of manuals and resources around privacy for young adults, journalists, lawyers and the general public. Here are the most impactful ones that we'd like to share with everyone:

- **Fact-Checking And Source Verification Manual In Times Of COVID19 (2020)**

This manual was developed for journalists and information practitioners, providing resources for authenticating information particularly in digital contexts.

Check out our manual here:

<https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Fake-News.pdf>

- **Data Privacy Booklet English and Urdu (2020)**

DRF released the Data Privacy Booklet in English and Urdu highlighting important concepts of privacy in an accessible and educational manner for young adults.

Check out our English booklet here:

<https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Data-Privacy-Booklet-English.pdf>

Check out our Urdu booklet here:

<https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Data-Privacy-Booklet-Urdu.pdf>

- **Hamara Internet Online Safety of Young Adults Curriculum (2021)**

DRF launched the Hamara Internet Online Safety of Young Adults Curriculum which highlights the different themes of digital rights for young adults and how they can safely navigate online spaces. This curriculum can easily be incorporated into existing coursework and classrooms.

Check out the curriculum here:

https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2020-11-11_DRF-Curriculum-1.pdf

- **Digital Detox and Self Care (2020)**

Responding to the increased use of digital devices and platforms during the pandemic, DRF developed a digital detox self-help toolkit for journalists and activists to build skills for using digital spaces in a healthy way.

Check out our toolkit here:

<https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Annex-6-Digital-Detox-Self-Care-1.pdf>

- **Model Privacy Policy Document (2022)**

DRF released the Model Privacy Policy Document as a resource for educational institutions to protect the data of their students, teachers, employees and other stakeholders. The document is open source and provides a starting point for educational institutes wishing to develop policies of their own.

Check out the document here:

<https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Model-Privacy-Policy-Document.pdf>

We've over the years DRF has been part of a number of prominent international engagements and conferences. Here are just a few that we've taken part in:

- **Nighat Dad spoke at TED Global 2017 and 2018**

DRF's Executive Director Nighat spoke at TEDx Global in 2017 and 2018 highlighting her journey as a digital rights activist in Pakistan. She also highlighted the abuse and harassment that women face online and how #HamaraInternet needs to be a safe space where anyone can express themselves freely and openly without being targeted.

- **DRF was at launch of groundbreaking Global Information and Democracy Commission (2021)**

DRF's Executive Director participating in the Information Democracy Commission launched by Reporters Without Borders along with Nobel Peace Prize Winner Shirin Ebadi, Amartya Sen and 22 global leaders from across the world.

- **DRF at Paris Peace Forum 2018, 2021 and 2022**

DRF has been a part of the Paris Peace Forum in 2018, 2021 and 2022. The International Declaration on Information and Democracy was signed by the different heads of state in 2018. DRF's ED contributed to the declaration signed by different heads of state and has been a part of the peace forum actively since 2018. Additionally, the cyber harassment helpline was selected as a featured project in the Forum in 2021.

- **The Global Future Council on Human Rights and Technology by World Economic Forum (2021)**

Nighat was part of the council meeting which focused on leveraging technology for human rights promotion and advocacy. The council meeting comprised of academics, business leaders, and civil society to identify ways to strengthen responsible use of data and promote evidence-based policy.

- **Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2017 - 2022**

DRF has been actively part of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) representing Pakistan at the UN's foremost multistakeholder conference. DRF has been attending the conference since 2016 till 2021 highlighting different internet governance issues that Pakistan faces.

- **Internet Freedom Festival (IFF) 2017-2019**

DRF attended the Internet Freedom Festival (IFF) from 2017 to 2019 representing Pakistan at the festival and highlighting the challenges on the internet in the country and the need for a global integration online.

- **RightsCon 2019-2022**

DRF has actively been a part of the RightsCon from 2019 to 2022 representing Pakistan on various panels on the forum. DRF has had the chance to sit with various stakeholders on the forum and highlight the importance of a human rights-centric approach to the internet and its systems.

We've also been recognized for the work we've been doing in the digital rights realm over the past 10 years. Here's a breakdown of a few of our favorites.

- **Winner of Tulip Award 2016**

DRF was the winner of the prestigious Tulip Award in 2016 which later led to the establishment of the Cyber Harassment Helpline. The award has been pivotal in recognizing DRF's achievements and also enhancing its work in Pakistan.

- **DRF won the I am the Change Award (IATC) 2017**

DRF received the I am the Change Award (IATC) in 2017 by the Engro Foundation in the category of social development. The award helped DRF expand its work and make a sustainable impact within the country and the internet.

- **Forbes named DRF among the Top 10 Social Entrepreneurs at the UN General Assembly 2018**

We pride ourselves on the work that we do and in 2018 DRF's work reached new heights when our Executive Director went to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) presenting the cyber harassment helpline as one of the innovative solutions addressing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Forbes also highlighted DRF's helpline in their article naming it as an entrepreneurial innovation at the UNGA.

- **Finalist in the World Justice Challenge 2021**

DRF's cyber harassment helpline was selected for the World Justice Challenge 2021, part of 8 other projects shortlisted.

Details:

<https://worldjusticeproject.org/world-justice-challenge-2021/addressing-online-violence-against-women-and-gender-minorities>.

DRF has been giving it's input on many policy recommendations and here's just a few:

- **Addressing Online Attacks On Women Journalists In Pakistan (2022)**

DRF released its policy brief which aims to discuss the increased incidence of online violence and targeted harassment against female journalists, and it's implications on freedom of speech and dissent.

Check out the policy brief here:

<https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Policy-Brief-2.pdf>

- **Cyber Harassment During the COVID-19 Pandemic In Pakistan (2021)**

DRF published a policy brief titled 'Cyber Harassment during the COVID-19 pandemic in Pakistan' which unpacks the surge in cyber-harassment during the pandemic, followed by a series of policy recommendations on dealing with these issues.

Check out our policy brief here:

<https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/UN-Policy-Brief-2.pdf>

- **DRF gave Recommendations for Anti-Harassment Laws in Pakistan (2019)**

DRF gave recommendations for Anti-Harassment Laws in Pakistan after consultations with different stakeholders on issues of harassment. Many of these recommendations were incorporated into the amendments made to the Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act in 2022.

Check out our recommendations here:

<https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/English-Version.pdf>

<https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Urdu-Version.pdf>

- **Amicus Brief on Removal and Blocking of Unlawful Online Content (Procedure, Oversight and Safeguards) Rules, 2021**

This amicus curiae brief was developed in response to the questions framed by the Honourable Islamabad High Court in the case of Muhammad Ashfaq Jutt v. Federation of Pakistan through order dated 06-01-2022. This brief addresses two central questions framed by the Honourable High Court regarding the Removal and Blocking of Unlawful Online Content (Procedure, Oversight and Safeguards) Rules, 2021.

Check it out here:

<https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Social-Media-Rules-Amicus-Brief-January-2022-1.docx.pdf>

- **Legal Analysis: Removal and Blocking of Unlawful Online Content (Procedure, Oversight and Safeguards) Rules, 2020**

The 'Removal and Blocking of Unlawful Online Content (Procedure, Oversight and Safeguards), Rules, 2020 were notified in 2020. Prior to submitting the amicus brief, DRF submitted its legal analysis on the 2020 version of the Rules put forward and subsequently withdrawn by the government.

Check out our legal analysis here:

https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Removal-and-Blocking-of-Unlawful-Online-Content-Procedure-Oversight-and-Safeguards-Rules-2020_-Legal-Analysis.pdf

- **Pakistan Media Development Authority Ordinance, 2021 - Position Paper**

DRF published a position paper critiquing the concept paper circulated by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MOIB) on the establishment of Pakistan Media Development Authority (PMDA) and the proposed Pakistan Media Authority Ordinance, 2021. The Ordinance was withdrawn a week after advocacy efforts by DRF and other civil society actors.

Check out our position paper here:

<https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/pakistan-media-development-authority-ordinance-2021-position-paper/>

- **Submission of comments to Ministry for Personal Data Protection Bill 2021**

DRF submitted comments on the Personal Data Protection Bill 2021 which has been released by the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications (MOIT) DRF also took part in several consultations arranged by the Ministry and will continue to advocate for a human-rights compliant personal data protection law.

Check out our comments here:

<https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/PDPB-2021-Submission-by-DRF.pdf>

- **POLICY BRIEF: #AttacksWontSilenceUs: 2022**

DRF released the #AttacksWontSilenceUs 2022 policy brief highlighting the online violence that women journalists face online.

Check out our policy brief here:

<https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Policy-Brief-2.pdf>

DIGITAL RIGHTS LANDSCAPE

According to the Freedom on the Net Report 2022, Pakistan has ranked the not free in terms of privacy, surveillance, digital rights, and violations of internet users. Pakistan ranks 26 out of 100 on the freedom index, which in turn makes Pakistan not free, which means regulated and controlled by state actors over the internet with internet shutdowns.¹

In January the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) received a total number of 102,356 complaints from January 1st till December 31st, 2021. Of these 102,356 cases, 80,461 went for verification, and 15,932 passed the criteria for initiating an inquiry. Only 1202 total cases were registered under relevant sections under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) and over 1300 suspects were arrested. There has been a rising trend in cybercrime cases in the country with the number of cases that the FIA received doubling in four years. The investigative authority received 4031 complaints per month in 2018 which rose to 8688 in 2021.²

In February Prime Minister Imran Khan's government tried to pass a cybercrime ordinance that gives up to five years in jail for posting 'fake news' about government officials, the military and the judiciary on social media. The Prevention of Electronic Crimes (Amendment) Ordinance 2022 was denounced as draconian in nature and critics pointed out that it was been brought forward to curb freedom of expression within the country.³ After the announcement of the ordinance many civil society and journalists protested against it and challenged it at the Islamabad High Court (IHC). The Joint Action Forum also came up with a statement rejecting these 'draconian amendments' and how the move is against media independence and freedom of speech.⁴

Due to political turmoil in the country there have also been incidents of widespread censorship and regulation of content, especially with political opponents and the now ruling government targeting the former ruling party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in the form of arbitrary arrests and detention of its party workers and social media activists. A quarterly report by TikTok also revealed how 12 million videos were removed alone from Tiktok from January to March 2022. According to the report, 12,490,309 videos were taken down from the platform with a proactive removal rate of 98.5% by Tiktok. After the US, Pakistan has the largest number of takedowns of TikTok videos which shows the growing number of censorship in the country.⁵

In April the new interim government also abolished the Digital Media Wing set up by the former party government of PTI. The decision was welcomed by civil society organizations since the wing was largely being used to take forward the former ruling party's agenda by using state resources.⁶

In April the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) announced that it has introduced a system that will block immoral content online. A Central Domain Name System (CDNS) aims to block immoral and pornographic content online under Section 37 of the Prevention of Electronics Crimes Act (PECA). It is important to note however that the PTA's definition of immoral and indecent are extremely vague and most times taking content down is an attack to freedom of expression.⁷

In May, the Director General of FIA, Dr Sanaullah Abbasi, stated that FIA had received over 60,000 complaints in 2022, most of which were reported by university students. As much as the reporting of cybercrime has increased, FIA still possesses limited resources to tackle all kinds of complaints that are reported to them. He also wants to sign an MoU with the University of Sindh to work together on cyber security.⁸

The Federal Investigative Agency (FIA) also closed 7000 complaints lodged under Section 20 after the Islamabad High Court struck down the PECA Ordinance and parts of section 20.

In July, Aljazeera English shed light on the lack of access to identification Millions still lack the Computerized National Identity Card in the National Database due to frequent database breaches and privacy violations. DRF highlighted the need for ensuring all citizens have access to identification while at the same time the need for accountability at NADRA, the national database in terms of privacy violations.⁹

In July, FIA Director addressed that only 343 cases of child pornography have been reported to FIA even though 2.1m child pornographic content has been uploaded on Facebook, according to Meta, from Pakistan alone. FIA Director urges the public to report child sexual assault cases to their department and lodge complaints against these sexual predators so that they can take immediate action.¹⁰

In August, the aftermath of floods in Pakistan left the country in a devastating and cut off regions from access to telecommunications connections. Many swindlers took over the opportunity to make fake donation collections over social media to earn money unjustly.¹¹

In August, Youtube services in parts of the country faced disruption during the speech of the former ousted Prime Minister Imran Khan, whose speeches have been banned from state television according to the media regulator within the country. NetBlocks confirmed this development on censorship and the service being restored later.¹² DRF also issued a statement regarding the matter citing the move as unconstitutional.

In September, at the 27th meeting of the Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication, PTA and FIA briefed on the increasing rates of cyber crime by 83% within the past three years. The members of the committee expressed concern on the rise of cybercrime complaints and asked FIA to present proposals in the next meeting to improve its performance. They lamented the rise in propaganda against journalists, politicians and institutions on social media is concerning. Harassment and bullying of family members of elected representative on social media are also increasing with time.¹³ DRF wants to assert that these concerns should not be used to pass further legislation to curb free speech.

In November 2022, FIA was empowered to act against anyone who intends to spread “rumours and false information against state institutions” on social media after the federal government approved an amendment to the FIA Act with the insertion of the Pakistan Penal Code’s Section 505 relating to statements conducing to public mischief in its scheduled offences. The amendments are still pending at the time publication of this report.¹⁴

2022 DEVELOPMENTS

In 2022 DRF set a new bar with its achievements and we are proud of what we've achieved so far in the year 2022

Six years of the Cyber Harassment Helpline

DRF's Cyber Harassment Helpline completed Six years of operations with a total of 14,376 complaints received. The Helpline team provides legal information and basic knowledge to the callers/survivors and, if need be, directs the case to the Legal team at DRF. Throughout the year the Helpline remained functional and expanded its operations to the weekends since May onwards, functioning every day from Monday to Sunday, 9 am to 5 pm.

In the past six years women have been consistently the largest group to face cyber harassment and they make up to 59% of the complainants on the helpline. The helpline from January to November 2022 received about a total of 2695 new cases out of which 1547 were by women, 900 by men, 29 from gender minorities and 8 callers did not provide gender-related information. Most cases that the helpline received in the year 2022 were around blackmail which were about 513 whereas 440 were around financial fraud.



DRF
Digital Rights Foundation
Your rights. Your voice.

You don't have to suffer alone
Call our Cyber Harassment Helpline at

0800-39393

Monday to Sunday (9am - 5pm)

Cyber Harassment Helpline

Ab Aur Nahin

In light of increased cases of domestic violence and harassment cases being received to DRF, we started the movement around protection of women and girls with the initiative 'Ab Aur Nahin'. DRF's legal team developed the initiative in an attempt to create an expansive and supportive community of capable lawyers across the country. These lawyers will be offering their services for free to survivors, particularly women and children, who have undergone abuse and do not have the means to fund their legal expenses. These services will hence constitute pro bono legal services and the aim of Ab Aur Nahi is to bring together like minded individuals to support those in need.

To look for pro bono legal help go to www.abaurnahin.pk and get in touch with our directory of lawyers providing legal assistance in cases of harassment and abuse.

A poster for the 'Ab Aur Nahi' initiative. The background is dark purple with faint white icons of legal symbols like scales, books, and a gavel. The title 'AB AUR NAHI' is in large, bold, white capital letters. Below it, the text 'DRF is expanding its network of Lawyers to work on gender-based violence cases, pro-bono.' is written in white, with 'gender-based violence cases' highlighted in orange. A white horizontal band contains the text 'Join us if you are a lawyer!' in dark purple. The bottom right features a large illustration of a wooden gavel resting on a stack of four books (blue, red, green, and yellow) with a pair of scales of justice behind them. The DRF logo and the text 'DigitalRightsFoundation KNOW YOUR RIGHTS' are in the bottom left corner.

AB AUR NAHI

DRF is expanding its network of Lawyers to work on **gender-based violence cases**, pro-bono.

Join us if you are a lawyer!

DRF
DigitalRightsFoundation
"KNOW YOUR RIGHTS"

Collaboration Between DRF & NCHR

NCHR, DRF and CEJ hold Consultation on Challenges faced by Women Journalists in the Media



On 29th July, Digital Rights Foundation (DRF), in collaboration with the National Commission of Human Rights (NCHR) and Centre for Excellence in Journalism (CEJ) conducted a consultation on the challenges faced by women journalists in the media in Islamabad. The consultative meeting was attended by women journalists from across Pakistan and the purpose of the meeting was to give women journalists the space to air their concerns and to collectively address the challenges they face on a day-to-day basis.

As a conclusion to the meeting DRF and NCHR announced their collaboration together to launch a complaint cell for women journalists facing online abuse to protect their right to free speech in the country.



**COLLABORATION
BETWEEN
DRF & NCHR**

DRF and NCHR have signed an LOI, and they are launching a complaint cell for the protection of women journalists and their right to freedom of expression

#ProtectWomenInJournalism



**DRF and NCHR
are launching a complaint cell
for the protection of women
journalists**

Journalists facing human rights violations may file complaints with the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR)

Swipe for Contact Information

NCHR Complaint Cell Contact Information

(This information is available on the NCHR website at:
<https://www.nchr.gov.pk/contact-us/>)

Complaints can be filed in person, via email, via telephone, or through the Pakistan Citizen's Portal.

Head Office

Email: complaints@nchr.gov.pk
Address: NCHR, 5th Floor, Evacuee Trust Complex, F-5, Islamabad Capital Territory.
Phone Number: 051-9217340

Punjab Office

Email: punjab.complaints@nchr.gov.pk
Address: 23-D/1, FCC, Syed Maratib Ali Road, Gulberg-IV, Lahore
Phone Number: 042-99332116

Sindh Office

Email: sindh.complaints@nchr.gov.pk
Address: State Life Building No. 3, Ground Floor Dr. Ziauddin Ahmed Road, Karachi
Phone Number: 021-99201638

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Office

Email: kp.complaints@nchr.gov.pk
Address: First Floor, Benevolent Fund Building, Saddar Road, Peshawar
Phone Number: 091-9211472

Balochistan Office

Email: balochistan.complaints@nchr.gov.pk
Address: Office No 404/174-B, Lane 8, Jinnah Town Quetta
Phone Number: 081-2869053

Minority Office

Email: member.minority@nchr.gov.pk
Address: 5th Floor Evacuee Trust Complex, Agha Khan Road, Islamabad
Phone Number: 051-9216833

The Fourth session of the Forum on Human Rights, Democracy & the Rule of Law at the UN General Assembly

DRF's Executive Director Nighat Dad spoke at the Fourth session of the Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law at the UN General Assembly on the accelerated digital transformation and the seismic shift that will shape the 21st century. She spoke about accelerated digital transformation and highlighted the importance of online spaces & tech that provide a global connection. She recognized that technologies have the ability to educate, unite & mobilize & widen democratic participation & discourse and also highlighted the important work of the cyber harassment helpline in providing relief to individuals online and presented it as an important resource of the upcoming diverse challenges in online spaces.



Paris Peace Forum 2022

This year DRF participated in the fifth edition of the Paris Peace Forum (PPF) from November 11 to 12 in Paris, France. The Forum brought together global leaders and innovators from across the world. DRF's Executive Director Nighat Dad participated in three panels and roundtables along with our Director for Research and Policy Shmyla Khan.



Roundtables:

Managing AI risk: perspectives from around the world | #PPF22

The roundtable focused on the potential risks associated to artificial intelligence as these technologies are growing. Nighat Dad spoke on the panel highlighting the implications of these developing technologies in the global majority or as some like to refer as the global south, who are not part of the conversations around making a regulatory framework for AI and usually end up facing the brunt of these emerging technologies in the form of surveillance and breaches.

Full access to the conversation here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=leFUxSTG1pl>

AI in International Development | #PPF22

The roundtable focused on Artificial intelligence (AI) tools to reshape the field of international development, raising questions regarding the appropriateness, efficacy, and ethics of such systems and applications. DRF's Shmyla Khan shared the organizations work especially around extractive models of inclusion by development agencies of certain communities with later agency or knowledge about where the data is being used.

Full access to the conversation here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8yaz4zK5Gqk>

Panels:

International Mobilization for the Observatory on Information and Democracy | #PPF22

DRF's Nighat Dad spoke in a high-level session with the Forum on Information and Democracy and its partners announcing the next steps in the creation of the Observatory on Information and Democracy, the "IPCC" of the information space.

Full access to the conversation here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yFwkPn3W88Y>

Framing freedom of speech in the digital age | #PPF22

Nighat Dad spoke on the panel framing freedom of speech in the digital age. The panel gathered high level representatives from the public and private sector along with the civil society to reflect on a multistakeholder path for a democratic balance between public order and free speech online.

Full access to the conversation here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EPe0opXU-7g>

DIGITAL 50.50

Digital Rights Foundation launched four editions of the Digital 50.50 in 2022. Digital 50.50 is DRF's feminist e-magazine which takes contributions from members of the Network of Women Journalists on Digital Rights (NWJDR) and other women journalists every edition showcasing a wide range of themes. The e-magazine is pivotal for creators to share their ideas, opinions and art over a wide range of issues particularly in the digital rights arena from an intersectional feminist perspective. The e-magazine takes contributions in Urdu and English and takes contributions in the form of blogs and vlogs.



The theme for the first edition was 'personal is political' which received an overwhelming number of pitches from women journalists across the country. The articles discussed various aspects of the how personal is political, a rallying slogan from the late 1960s and 1970s that still astonishes us. Some articles focused on specific matters such as domestic violence being the result of deep-rooted political structures and power dynamics that are intrinsically oppressive and patriarchal. These issues can thus not be sidelined using the pretext that they are trivial, unimportant personal matters to be discussed and resolved within the household.



Digital Rights Foundation launched its second edition of the feminist e-magazine, Digital 50.50 in 2022. The magazine focused on the threats and harms of gendered disinformation targeted towards women in public life. The magazine contained articles, vlogs and illustrations on the said theme. Contributions in the magazine discussed what gendered disinformation meant and how it is an emerging form of disinformation that relies on sex-based narratives and like most online gender-based violence is targeted at or about women and girls and other gender minorities. Gendered disinformation impacts women's access to participation in public life by silencing and threatening them. Many authoritarian regimes have resorted to targeting women politicians, activists and journalists with organized gendered disinformation campaigns to silence and restrict their participation in public life.



The third edition of this year's Digital 50.50 focused on the impact of climate change on women with writings from women journalists from all across Pakistan. The edition highlighted how climate change is a feminist issue and with the 2022 summer floods in Pakistan there was a rise in new forms of gender equality issues along with gender based violence issues in the affected areas. The edition is of particular importance because it highlights the plight of women in disaster prone areas and worsens the systemic injustices against women in the country.



Digital 50.50 released its final edition of the year on the theme of 16 days of activism highlighting instances of gender-based violence in the country and looking back at the year 2022. The pitches focused on different forms of violence against women and gendered minorities. The pitch particularly highlighted violence from an intersectional perspective and also highlighted new key forms of violence such as access to health being a form of violence against women and gendered minorities.

CAMP ON DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

DRF held the camp on digital technologies for human rights defenders from 28th till 30th May 2022 in Changla Gali. The three day residency focused on online safety and well being of human rights defenders and activists in the country. The team received around 56 applications from across the country to take part in the residency out of which 23 participants were shortlisted for the camp.

The three day Camp on Digital Technologies for Human Rights Defenders was an extensive digital safety training designed by DRF with a focus on self care and well-being. Participants were introduced to online safety tools and given a hands-on training of these tools. The camp also consisted of a session on mental health, well-being and self care. Participants were encouraged to share their experiences of burnout and daily stressors in a collective manner highlighting the space to be a safe space for them to share their experiences. As a result of the camp the participants were able to form a support network titled the DigiDefenders Network. The network focused on working together to uphold and advocate for digital freedoms and rights at a time of rising importance of digital platforms, technologies and spaces in society. The Network also started a pledge on creating a culture of care and well-being for human rights defenders across the country.

WOMEN JOURNALISTS WELL-BEING AND RESIDENCY RETREAT



DRF, in collaboration with the Free Press Unlimited, held a Well-being Residency Retreat for Women Journalists in the hills in northern Pakistan. The retreat was attended by 24 journalists from the Network of Women Journalists for Digital Rights (NWJDR). The five-day long Retreat was an opportunity for women journalists to engage in networking with other journalists from across the country and also get time to unwind from the everyday hustle and stressors of the profession. During the retreat, journalists attended two days of intensive sessions on stress management, self care and digital detox as well as skills to ensure their online safety. They built peer coaching relationships to further enhance the solidarity of the network and help each other in whatever capacity possible in their lives.

DRF's legal team was also engaged for a short session during the retreat. The session started with a quick recap of applicable laws and short animated videos were shown to the participants. These videos covered various facts and relevant laws towards journalists. Thereafter, the participants and the trainer had a dialogue about their basic understanding pertaining to the concepts behind different legal issues which they come across in their daily journalistic practices.

DIGITAL WELLBEING AND SAFETY FELLOWSHIP 2.0



DRF held the Digital Well-Being and Safety Fellowship 2.0 in Shangrila Hotel Murree from 21st to 22nd October 2022. The fellowship was attended by 10 women journalists from across Pakistan who were part of a three-month extensive program for women journalists. The program consisted of important sessions around misinformation, disinformation, gender sensitization, online safety, legal remedies, mental health and well-being of journalists along with how to pitch a story for journalists. This year was the second batch of women journalists fellows that DRF launched after last year.

9TH NATIONAL PRIVACY CONFERENCE



DRF hosted its 9th annual National Privacy Conference on the 19th of November, 2022 in Lahore. The conference brought together experts from different fields to discuss this year's theme of the conference "People & Privacy", shedding light on the all-encompassing nature of privacy rights and violations that we experience in different strands of society.

The keynote speech was delivered by Angbeen Mirza, a legal academic and an Assistant Professor at the Shaikh Ahmad Hassan School of Law (SAHSOL), LUMS. Angbeen stated that Article 14 of the Constitution guarantees our privacy, however it is important to operationalize it through a law that protects our right to privacy.

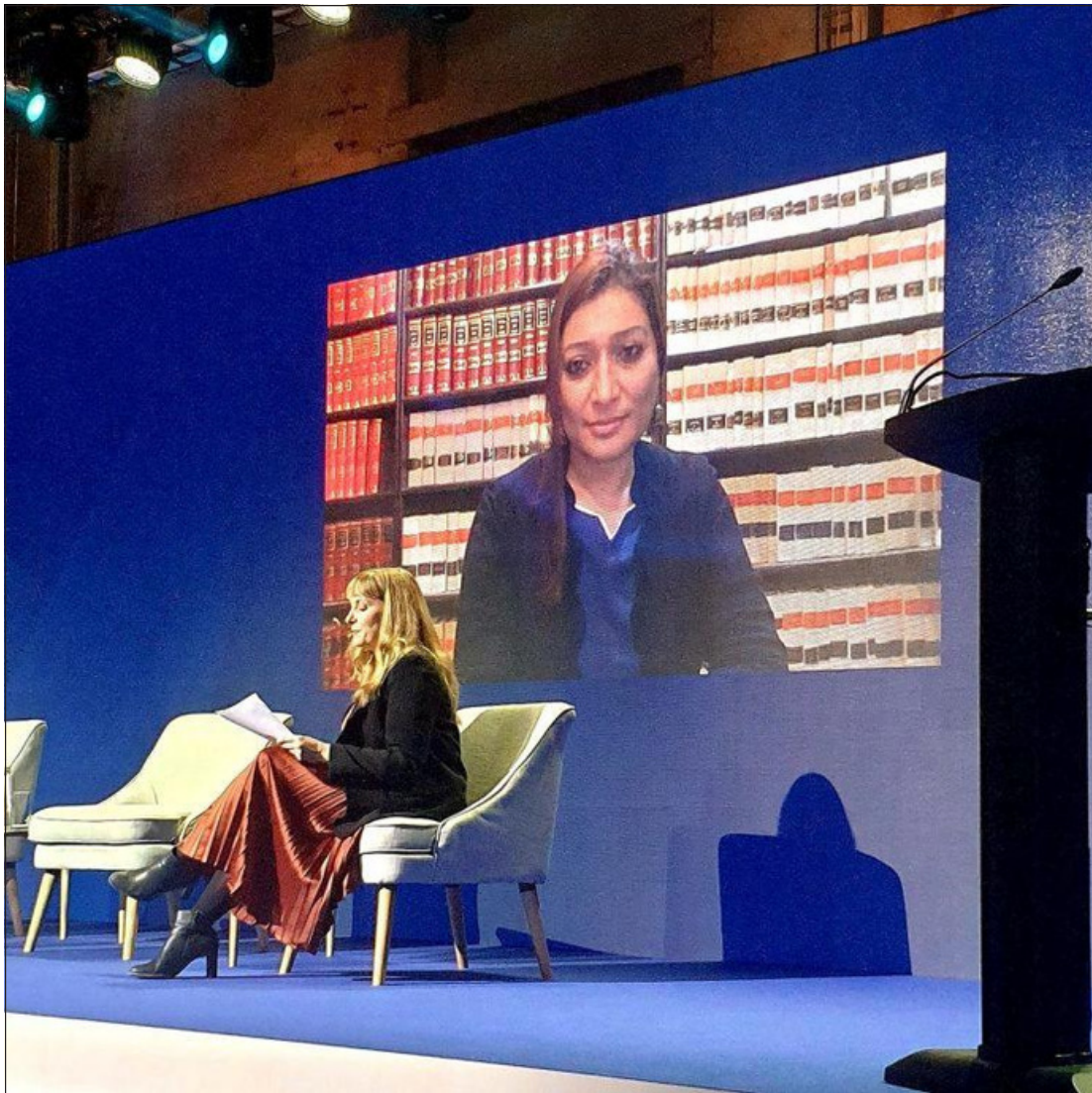
The first panel 'People on Privacy' included transgender activist Jannat Ali, journalist Amel Ghani, and Barrister Jannat Kalyar. The panel highlighted the importance of privacy in social movements from a people's perspective and the need for popularizing privacy and making it more accessible to the masses.

After the panel a debate took place on the topic: 'This house believes that privacy is a western concept'. The lively debate was led by two teams, each representing participants from DRF's legal team, Shehrzade Amin and Ms. Aqsa, as well as students from Forman Christian College (FCCU) and Government College University (GCU) Maria Waqar, Muhammad bin Munir, Muhammad Hamza Aziz, and Ali Zar.

The last panel 'Ensuring Dignity in Privacy Rights' included Bushra Mahnoor from the Mahwari Justice Campaign, Umer Rajpoot from Todd's Welfare Society, journalist Mehmali Sarfaraz and senior lawyer and activist Saroop Ijaz. The panel took a different approach and focused on dignity-based perspectives on privacy, centering privacy subjects above all else. The perspectives shared by the panelists highlighted privacy rights in the realities of marginalized populations. The guest of honor and concluding remarks were given by activist and former chairperson of NCSW Khawar Mumtaz. In her closing remarks, she emphasized the importance of art, posters, poetry, and performance in ensuring social change within the feminist movement in Pakistan, and has the potential to change attitudes regarding privacy rights. Ms. Mumtaz announced the winner of the artwork competition Maha Bint Abid who won a cash prize at the event with her artwork which was also displayed at the conference.

CONFERENCES AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS

DRF attended a range of conferences and events in the year 2022. Some of the most prominent one's where we showcased our work and discussed the varying digital rights discourse are mentioned below in the report.



Nighat Dad speaks at Information and Democracy Forum Panel

In February Nighat Dad spoke at the panel based on information and the need for a proactive democratic governance system in the Digital space. She is the Vice-Chair of Forum at Information and Democracy, and joined remotely to talk about our efforts to establish an International Observatory on information and democracy.

UNDP Panel on Gender Equality for a Sustainable Tomorrow



International Women's Day 2022 Online Deliberation: "Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow"- On 9th March DRF's Program Manager Seerat Khan took part in an online panel on Gender Equality today for a sustainable tomorrow for UNDP. The panel had Rukshanda Naz (Ombudsperson KP), Rabia Javeri (Chairperson National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR)), Seerat Khan (Senior Program Manager DRF) and Tahira Abdullah (Independent Human Rights Defender). The session was moderated by Salman Asif (Senior Human Rights and Social Protection Expert UNDP). Each panelist highlighted different themes of gender based violence in Pakistan and discussed the current discourse on it. The session was in light of the International Women's Day.

Nighat Dad Moderates Panel, “Justice, not #Hashtags”



On March 5th 2022, Nighat Dad moderated a panel titled “Justice, not #hashtags: Navigating Violence Against Women and its Digital Reflection” as part of the WOW Festival 2022. The panel included DRF’s Shmyla Khan along with Imaan Mazari and Asma Shirazi. The discussion was centered around the importance and limitations of online spaces in pursuing gender justice in Pakistan.

The panel can be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4HepVth81o&list=PLrgMMGAh-wz5geDjpuxXZQnEwO-vwNfv7Q>

DRF takes part in Report Launch by GPAI 2022



As part of its research as a pilot partner with the Alan Turing Institute UK, DRF took part in the GPAI 2022 “Report launch: advancing research and practice on data justice” panel. Shmyla Khan, the Director of Research and Policy presented DRF’s findings at the panel. This panel was held on 23rd of March, 2022.

The panel can be viewed here:







https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Li1ql2RnkhE&list=PLuD_SqLtxS-dWBBABMYafc9rV88o7yn4Lk&index=6

New Agendas for Data Justice

1:05 PM - 2:30 PM

Stage

Advancing Data Justice: Research Showcase Part 1

 <p>Thompson Chengeta Reader in Law , Liverpool John Moore's University</p>	 <p>Syed Kazi Advisor Consultant at Digital Empowerment Foundation</p>
 <p>Egbert Wits Research and Development Manager at EngageMedia</p>	 <p>Shmyla Khan Director Research and Policy at Digital Rights Foundation</p>
 <p>Gao Feng Director at Open Data China</p>	 <p>Amuku Isaac Monitoring and Evaluation Officer at Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET)</p>

DRF's Research and Policy Director Shmyla Khan took part in a panel discussion titled "New Agendas for Data Justice" hosted by the Alan Turing Institute to talk about its participation in the multi-country project on data justice.

Details of the panel can be found here:

<https://www.turing.ac.uk/events/new-agendas-for-data-justice>

Journalism Under Digital Siege: World Press Freedom Day



DRF's Nighat Dad spoke on a panel in Islamabad held by UNESCO titled, 'Journalism Under Digital Siege' on account of World Press Freedom Day. She emphasized taking a multi-stakeholder approach to any regulatory mechanism which is to be applied to the internet and social media.

Digital rights from a feminist perspective. How to create a secure digital space for women?

Fifth Session

/PDAF/
منتدى فلسطين
للنشطاء الرقمي
Palestine Digital
Activism Forum

Lamia Naamnih Cimanuka
Assiwar

Marwa Azelmat
APC

Nighat Dad
Digital Rights Foundation

Wafa' Abdel Rahman
Filastiniyat

Digital rights from a feminist perspective. How to create a secure digital space for women?

18.5.2022 | 20:15-21:15

شبكة - المركز العربي
لتطوير (أ) عالم الاجتماعي
Tamleh - The Arab Center for
the Advancement of Social Media

DRF's Nighat Dad spoke at the Palestine Digital Activism Forum on the panel 'Digital Rights from a Feminist Perspective. How to create a secure digital space for women?'. Nighat focused on the need for women to reclaim online spaces and express themselves freely without the threat of trolling online.

Computers, Privacy & Data Protection (CPDP) Conference

DRF took part in the 15th international Computers, Privacy & Data Protection (CPDP) conference. Shmyla Khan spoke at the panel titled "Datafication and Platformisation in Asia: Data-Rich and Policy-Poor or Vice Versa?" on May 24, 2022. The panel, moderated by Malavika Jayaram, unpacked the specific ways in which datafication and platformisation across Asia are both enabling and challenging, and their implications for rights, entitlements, and consumer welfare while highlighting recent legal and policy developments (in China, Pakistan, Singapore).

Details of the panel can be found here:

<https://www.cpdpcferences.org/cdp-panels/datafication-and-platformisation-in-asia-data-rich-and-policy-poor-or-vice-versa-cdpd-global>

Session on Digital Apartheid and Social Media Algorithms on Humanitarian Crisis



 **10 June | 10:00 am - 11:00 am (PST)**

Digital apartheid and social media algorithms on humanitarian crisis



Mona Shataya
Advocacy Advisor at 7amleh- The Arab Center for the Advancement of Social Media

Nighat Dad
Facebook Oversight Board Member

Tanzeel Khan
Founder Kashmir Digital Rights

Seerat Khan
Programs and Comms Lead at DRF

DRF hosted a panel on RightsCon on Digital Apartheid and Social Media Algorithms on Humanitarian Crisis in which the panel discussed how some crises are more important for big tech companies than others. The panel was an attempt to interrogate this bias. The panelists on the panel were Mona Shataya from 7amleh, Nighat Dad from the Oversight Board, Tanzeel Khan from Kashmir Digital Rights and Seerat Khan Programs and Comms Lead at DRF.

Session on “Content moderation in the Global South: a rock and hard place”



RightsCon2022



DigitalRightsFoundation
“SEND YOUR RIGHTS”



10 June | 3:15 pm - 4:15 pm (PST)

Content moderation in the Global South: a rock and hard place



Raghav Mendiratta

Legal Fellow at the Future of Free Speech Project (Justitia and Columbia University, New York)



Victoire Rio

Digital Rights Advocate, Curator of Myanmar Internet Project and Research Fellow and Chiang Mai University



Shmyla Khan

Research and Policy Director at Digital Rights Foundation.



Afia Asantewaa Asare-Kyei

Oversight Board Member, Program Manager, Open Society Initiative for West Africa,

DRF hosted a RightsCon panel to explore the complexities of content moderation in the Global South by big tech and the alternative visions of regulation that can be brought into these subjects. The panels included Victoire Rio from the Myanmar Internet Project, Raghav Mendiratta from Justitia, and Afia Asantewaa Asare-Kyei from Meta’s Oversight Board.

Democracy Game Changer: Ending Violence Against Women Online



DRF's Nighat Dad spoke on the 360/Open Summit on the panel Democracy Game Changer: Ending Violence Against Women Online on the 7th of June. The panel shed light on the experiences of women in South Asia and the need for a collective approach to tackle those issues.

LIRNEasia discussion series: “Tackling the Information Disorder in Asia”

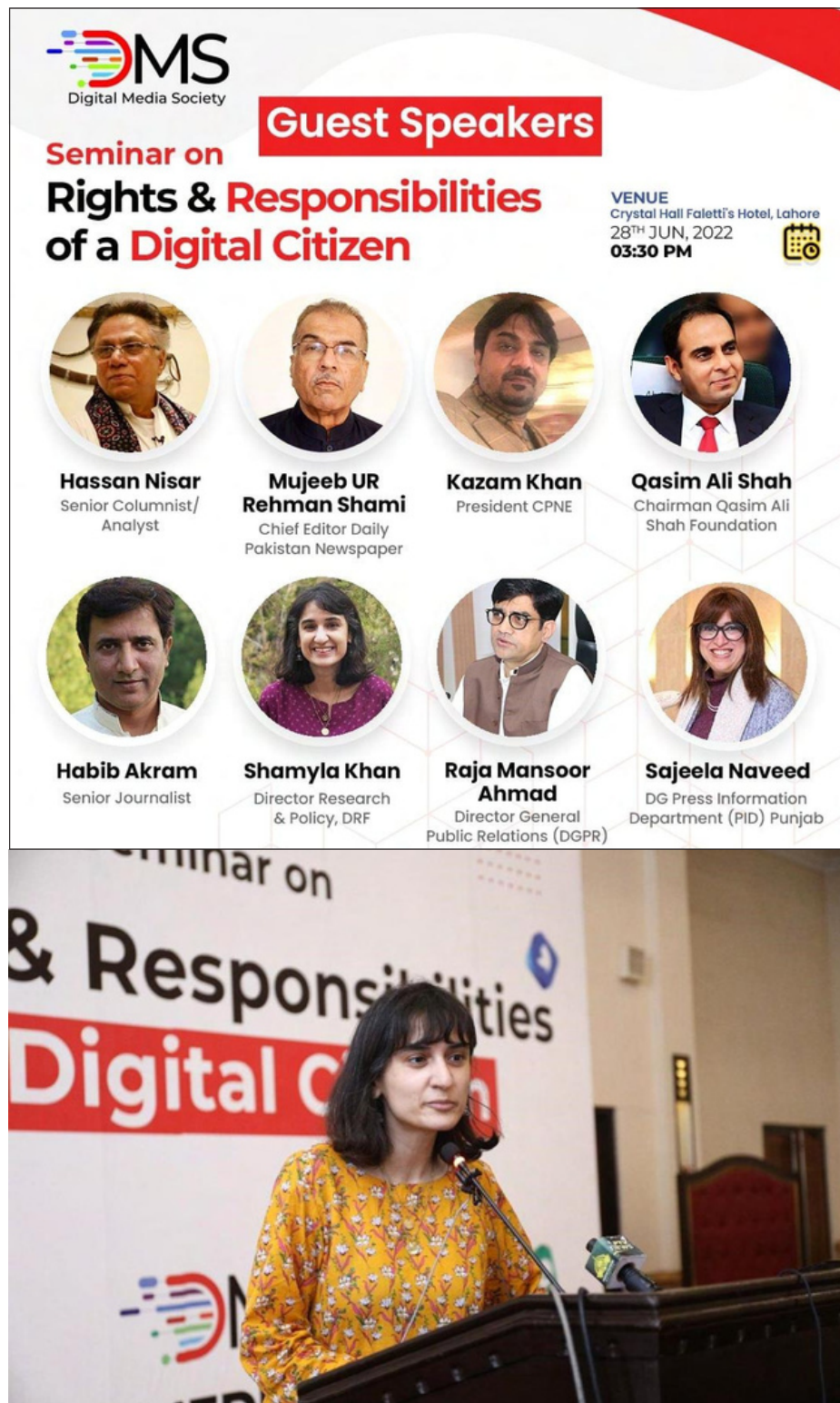


DRF's Shmyla Khan participated in the session on Laws and Regulations as part of LIRNEasia discussion series on “Tackling the Information Disorder in Asia” on June 9. The discussion, moderated by Gehan Gunatilleke and panel was attended by Jo-Ann Ding, Mong Palatino, Juni Soehardjo and DRF's Shmyla Khan to discuss cyber laws in the Asia-Pacific region.

The report launched at the event titled “Meeting the challenges of information disorder in the Global South” can be found here:

<https://idl-bnc-idrc.dspacedirect.org/handle/10625/60954>

Digital Media Society's seminar on "Rights & Responsibilities of a Digital Citizen"



The image shows a promotional poster for a seminar by Digital Media Society (DMS) and a photograph of a speaker at the event. The poster features the DMS logo, the seminar title, guest speaker portraits and names, and venue information. The photograph shows a woman speaking at a podium with the seminar banner in the background.

DMS
Digital Media Society

Seminar on
Rights & Responsibilities
of a Digital Citizen

Guest Speakers

VENUE
Crystal Hall Faletti's Hotel, Lahore
28TH JUN, 2022
03:30 PM

Hassan Nisar
Senior Columnist/
Analyst

Mujeeb UR Rehman Shami
Chief Editor Daily
Pakistan Newspaper

Kazam Khan
President CPNE

Qasim Ali Shah
Chairman Qasim Ali
Shah Foundation

Habib Akram
Senior Journalist

Shamyla Khan
Director Research
& Policy, DRF

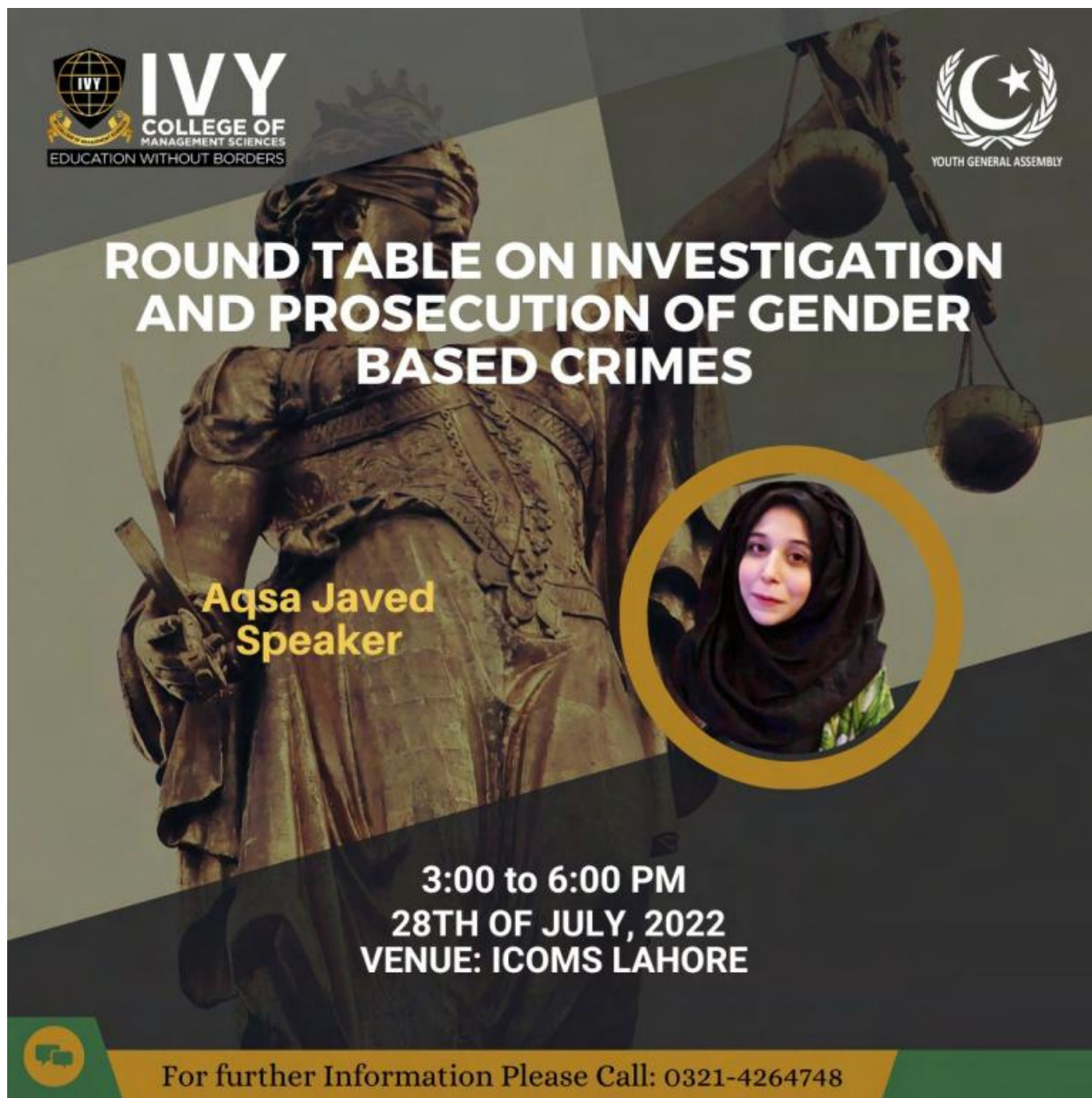
Raja Mansoor Ahmad
Director General
Public Relations (DGPR)

Sajeela Naveed
DG Press Information
Department (PID) Punjab

Seminar on
& Responsibilities
Digital Citizen

DRF spoke about the importance of digital rights and aware citizens at Digital Media Society's seminar on "Rights & Responsibilities of a Digital Citizen" on June 28. The seminar was attended by digital media journalists and experts from across the city.

Round Table on Investigation and Prosecution of Gender-Based Crimes



IVY
COLLEGE OF
MANAGEMENT SCIENCES
EDUCATION WITHOUT BORDERS

YOUTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ROUND TABLE ON INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF GENDER BASED CRIMES

Aqsa Javed
Speaker

3:00 to 6:00 PM
28TH OF JULY, 2022
VENUE: ICOMS LAHORE

For further Information Please Call: 0321-4264748

DRF's Aqsa Javed spoke at the Round Table on Investigation and Prosecution of Gender Based Crimes on the 28th of July, 2022. The conference was attended by lawyers, journalists, politicians, police officials, and experts from across the city. In this conference, the panelists discussed the causes of Gender Based Crimes and gave recommendations for eliminating this factor from society and the prevalent criminal justice system.

Young Global Leaders (YGL) Summit by World Economic Forum (WEF)



DRF's Nighat Dad spoke at the Young Global Leaders (YGL) Summit by World Economic Forum in Geneva. She gave a session on digital safety for world leaders and spoke about disinformation's impact in the digital age and how it's impacting democracies around the world.

Nighat Dad at Wilton Park on a meeting on Gender based Violence

DRF's ED Nighat Dad joined Wilton Park from 16th till 19th August focusing on evidence base for tackling gender-based harassment and abuse online. A discussion around better standards and definitions around gender based violence took place along with a need for stronger stakeholder collaboration and engagement.

Nighat Dad at the Ministerial Summit for Information and Democracy



Nighat Dad presented the new deal for Journalism as a Vice Chair of the Forum on Information and Democracy to several honorable State Ministers. The forum called on governments to commit up to 1% of their official development assistance to the sustainability of independent journalism.

Here's her speech at the forum:

https://twitter.com/nighatdad/status/1573248235107680256?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1573248235107680256%7Ctwgr%5Ece6b0c2f60502816e0c7639a4bbc6d4e097d8332%7Ctwcon%5Es1_c10&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fdigitalrightsfoundation.pk%2Fseptember-2022-newsletter-drfs-nighat-dad-at-the-ministerial-summit-for-information-and-democracy%2F

DRF's Nighat Dad spoke at the Concordia Summit 2022 on Decentralized Governance: Giving Power Away



DRF's Nighat Dad on behalf of Meta spoke at the Concordia Summit 2022 on the panel Decentralized Governance: Giving Power Away emphasizing on bringing communities at the center of the conversations.

She spoke about how decentralization also means giving away power to its users by tech giants which the Oversight Board has been doing.

DRF's Nighat Dad at the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition Event



DRF's Nighat Dad attended the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition event focusing on Forging paths to digital transformation and inclusive digital societies. The event was held at Twitter headquarters where Doreen Bogdan from the International Telecommunication Union spoke about leaving no one behind when it comes to online connectivity and inclusive digital societies.

Nighat Dad spoke on the High level panel of Legal Experts on Media Freedom

Nighat Dad spoke at the High Level Panel of Legal Experts on Media Freedom discussing the growing need to secure emergency safe refuge for journalists at risk on the sidelines.

The Edge of the Law: A regional approach to confronting legal challenges

ABA
AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
Rule of Law Initiative

Virtual Launch of the Report & Recommendations from the BHRC / ABA ROLI Series on Human Rights and the Rule of Law in Asia

WEDNESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2022 | 12:00-14:00 (UK)

BAR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE OF ENGLAND & WALES

The Edge of the Law: A regional approach to confronting key legal challenges

Nighat Dad
Founder, Digital Rights Foundation & Member, Meta Oversight Board

Surya Deva
Professor, Macquarie Law School

Dr Felicity Gerry KC
Leading International Law Practitioner & Professor of Private Practice

Desi Hanara
International Human Rights Practitioner & Academic

Stephen Cragg KC
Chair of BHRC
Session Co-Chair

Scott Carlson
Executive Director Global Programs ABA
Session Co-Chair

zoom

DRF's Nighat Dad spoke on the virtual launch of the report and recommendations from Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales and the American Bar Association Rule of Law initiative on the 'The Rule of the Law: A regional approach to confronting key legal challenges' specifically highlighting the chapter about the need for a human rights centric data protection approach in the region.



Nighat Dad on behalf of the Oversight Board discussed the recommendation and tracking the implementation of the oversight board. She emphasized on the board welcoming more inputs and being a transparent and independent body.

Hajar e Tifl (Protect the Child) panel talk arranged by The City School:



DRF participated in the City School's panel talk, Hajar e Tifl (Protect the Child) under whose banner the panelists addressed Vocabulary of Abuse and the concept of child abuse in physical and digital spaces. The panel talk took place on September 22, 2022, at TCS Paragon Campus, Lahore. The panelists thoroughly spoke on verbal abuse against children in online and offline spaces - the various concepts accounted for included cyber stalking, cyber harassment and bullying.

Democratising South Asia in the Digital Age

Democratising South Asia in the Digital Age		
Closed Borders, Open Websites	 Saimum Reza Talukder Bangladesh	 Mandira Nayar, India
 Seerat Khan, Pakistan	 Muhammad Tahseen, Pakistan	 Usama Khilji, Pakistan
3:30 pm to 04:30 pm		
		 

DRF's Seerat Khan spoke at the conference Democratising South Asia in the Digital Age on the panel Closed Borders, Open Websites. The panel discussed the importance of accessible websites in the South Asian region and the need for greater solidarity.

Listen to the conversation here:

<https://twitter.com/voicepkdotnet/status/1571144442832109569?s=20&t=fvalcsMptKYDgfOkyQmnTQ>

2022 Annual Conference of the Geneva Human Rights Platform



DRF was pleased to be a part of the upcoming Annual Conference of the Geneva Human Rights Platform "ON/OFF Implications of Digital Connectivity on Human Rights" on 18th October. In the first panel DRF's Nighat Dad spoke about the human rights implications of digital connectivity for surveillance, interception and data collection.

DRF at #AJCONF on Crisis of Constitutionalism



DRF's Executive Director Nighat Dad spoke on the onslaught on 'civil society in social asia on regulating social media: freedom but under what' on October 23rd.

Technology, Social Media and Regulation in South Asia

The poster is for an ISAS Panel Discussion (Webinar) titled "Technology, Social Media and Regulation in South Asia". It is scheduled for 13 October 2022 (Thursday) from 3.00pm to 4.30pm (SGT) via Zoom. The event is organized by NUS (National University of Singapore) and ISAS (Institute of South Asian Studies). The poster features five panelists: Dr. Anuradha Rao (Chairperson, Founder of CyberCognizanz and Non-Resident Research Fellow at ISAS), Ms. Shmyla Khan (Director, Research and Policy, Digital Rights Foundation, Lahore, Pakistan), Ms. Meg Chang (Content Regulation Policy Manager, Head of APAC, Meta (Facebook), Singapore), Ms. Shruti Shreya (Programme Manager, The Dialogue, New Delhi, India), and Mr. Shahzeb Mahmood (Research Associate, Centre for Governance Studies, Dhaka, Bangladesh). A QR code is provided for registration, with the URL tinyurl.com/TSMRS22. The poster also includes an "About the Event" section.

ISAS PANEL DISCUSSION (WEBINAR)

Technology, Social Media and Regulation in South Asia

13 October 2022 (Thursday) | 3.00pm – 4.30pm (SGT)
via Zoom

Panel Discussion

Chairperson
Dr Anuradha Rao
Founder
CyberCognizanz; and
Non-Resident Research Fellow
Institute of South Asian Studies, NUS
Singapore

Ms Shmyla Khan
Director
Research and Policy
Digital Rights Foundation
Lahore, Pakistan

Ms Meg Chang
Content Regulation Policy Manager
Head of APAC
Meta (Facebook)
Singapore

Ms Shruti Shreya
Programme Manager
The Dialogue
New Delhi, India

Mr Shahzeb Mahmood
Research Associate
Centre for Governance Studies
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Registration
Scan here or visit
tinyurl.com/TSMRS22

About the Event

Internet regulation is rising in South Asia. Fuelled by digital adoption, the internet has become a battleground for upholding and contesting democratic norms. More than ever, digital technologies and social media have great potential to propel economic growth and serve as platforms for free and open expression. However, they also generate harmful effects. This has led governments to rely on laws and measures to regulate social media, which, in turn, have implications for all stakeholders involved, including governments, technology companies, civil society organisations, and the public. Governments have also been increasingly uncomfortable with the larger role and rising influence of technology companies in their countries' domestic politics. This has resulted in the introduction or proposal of various regulations to curb the negative impacts of tech on user safety, tackling misinformation, cybersecurity, and data localisation, among others. However, excessive restrictions could compromise user privacy, restrict free speech, and stifle innovation.

This panel discussion will cover social media rules being drafted and enacted across South Asia; the political and social conditions driving these regulatory efforts; and tease out the implications of these rules on stakeholders, given the difficulties in drafting rules that tackle the root problem without generating further harm. The discussion will explore technological battles for power and accountability and their implications from the perspectives of various stakeholders. The panellists will examine the implications for tackling online harm and user rights and freedoms. Finally, the discussion will cover the best practices in the process and design of regulations.

DRF spoke at the ISAS Panel Discussion (webinar) titled "Technology, Social Media and Regulation in South Asia" on 13 October 2022. The panelists included experts from the region: Meg Chang (Content Regulation Policy Manager, Head of APAC, Meta (Facebook), Singapore), Shahzeb Mahmood (Research Associate, Center for Governance Studies, Dhaka, Bangladesh), Shmyla Khan (Director Research and Policy, Digital Rights Foundation, Lahore, Pakistan) and Shruti Shreya (Programme Manager, The Dialogue, New Delhi, India).

High-level panel on Implementation of the UN Plan of Action in the Digital Age



DRF's Nighat Dad spoke at the high-level panel "Implementation of the UN Plan of Action in the digital age – tackling new challenges" at #SoJ2022 Vienna organized by UNESCO and MFA Austria. She focused on the challenges and solutions too. The panel served as an essential touchpoint for stakeholders to continue the discussion and create new synergies in the fight to make the online sphere one that continues to be conducive to the freedom of expression.



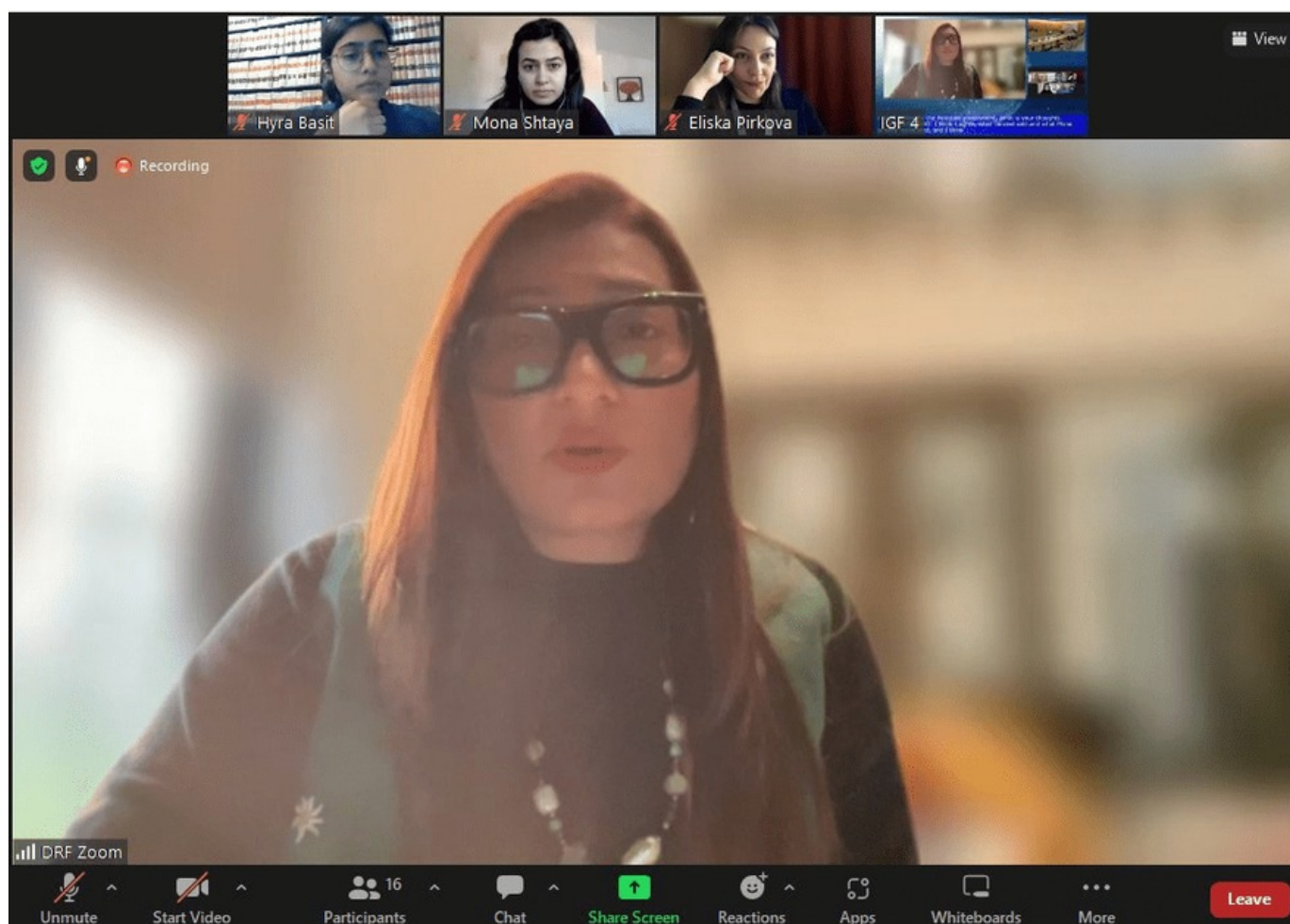
DRF's Nighat Dad spoke at the #IBAMiami on 2nd November at a panel. She represented the Oversight Board and talked about holding Meta accountable on the panel. She also focused on marginalized groups such as women & gender minorities, who are vulnerable to online violence. The panel was chaired by Baroness Helena Kennedy. Nighat shared when she started working on the issue of online violence, it was ignored but over the years we have seen this become endemic and have real-time implications for women across the world particularly women in the Global South, journalists, and human rights defenders.

IGF 2022

IGF 2022: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly; online gender violence

DRF's Nighat Dad spoke at the panel 'The Good, the Bad and the Ugly; online gender violence' at IGF 2022. Nighat Dad addressed the primary work of DRF around online gender-based violence through training, legal advice, and mental health support as well as training sessions around the world regarding online safety. It was shared that up to 70% of online harassment cases were reported by women. The main goal of the foundation's helpline is to make women and girls safer and make them more confident and educated about how to protect themselves online.

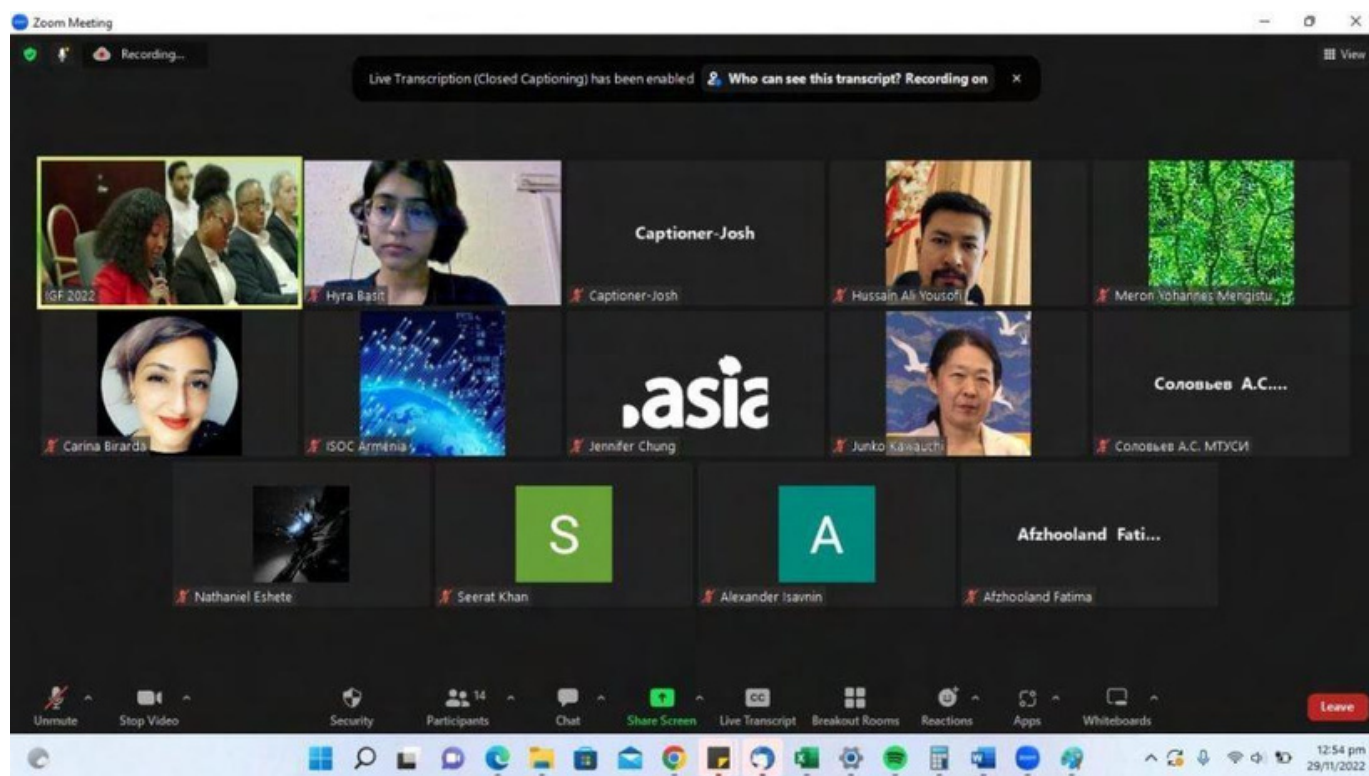
Cutting ties: Citizens caught between conflict and tech



DRF hosted two workshops at the Internet Governance Forum this year. The IGF was held in hybrid mode (28 November to 2 December), and DRF hosted the two sessions, 'Cutting ties: Citizens caught between conflict and tech' and 'Safe Internet Use for All: Helplines working with communities' virtually.

The former session aimed to start a discussion on the effect of cutting off internet access and online platforms by states and digital platform companies on the citizens of a country, particularly marginalized groups. The panel included Nighat Dad of DRF, Mona Shtaya of Zamleh, Tanzeel Khan of Kashmir Digital Rights, and Eliška Pírková of Access Now.

'Safe Internet Use for All: Helplines working with communities'



The second session was a networking session and an opportunity for IGF attendees to share their initiatives and experiences of providing direct support to victims of online harassment, and to learn from one another.

Regional Convening on Feminist Digital Rights and Justice



DRF took part in the “Regional Convening on Feminist Digital Rights and Justice” in Thailand from November 28 to 29, 2022. The convening was a coming together of feminists and digital rights organizations and activists from across Asia Pacific to chart the future of a feminist and fairer internet.

Design4Democracy (D4D) Coalition Event: Meta Consultation on Ensuring Global Access



In September, DRF was invited to be part of a global stakeholder workshop that drafted recommendations on platform data access for researchers to be presented to Meta's Data Access Team. Based on that consultation, DRF's Senior Research Associate, Noor Waheed was selected by D4D from a global cohort to be one of 6 presenters of the final draft of the recommendations to the Data Access Team which consisted of Nicole Lyons (Strategic Partner Manager, Academic Partnerships at Meta), Lindsay Hundley (Countering Influence Ops at Meta) and Olga Belogolova (Security Policy at Meta). The event held on 3rd November 2022 was hosted jointly by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), the Center for Democracy & Technology (CDT), and the National Democratic Institute (NDI).

Nighat Dad at the 10 Years of UN Plan of Action Islamabad Journalist Safety Forum



DRF's Nighat Dad spoke at the 10 years of UN Plan of Action Islamabad Journalist Safety Forum sharing about the cyber harassment helpline in 2022 and how the helpline received 55 complaints from Pakistani journalists, with women journalists facing disinformation campaigns, harassment, and abuse whereas male journalists faced inquiries under PECA and losing access to their social media accounts.

Nighat Dad speaking on 'US & International Law & Policies: A global perspective and response'



Nighat Dad spoke at UNFPA event on "U.S & International Laws & Policies: A global perspective & response" around online gender-based violence along with representatives of bumble and the National Domestic Violence Hotline amongst others.

Nighat Dad at the Danish Parliament on Free Speech

Nighat Dad spoke at the Danish Parliament on issues of free speech and where we are today in the age of disinformation.

Asia Pacific Justice Forum 2022

Digital Rights Foundation was invited to present their initiative under the 'Smart Regulations for a Healthy Information Ecosystem' interactive session at the Asia Pacific Justice Forum. The event was hosted by the World Justice Project in Jakarta, Indonesia from 8-9 December. As part of the 'best practices and innovations' segment, DRF presented the Cyber Harassment Helpline and how the initiative has helped to increase access to justice for women, minority groups, and vulnerable occupations in Pakistan.

RESEARCH AND POLICY 2022

Annual Report 2021



DRF launched its annual report 2021 which is a summation of the work we have done over the year, the people helped, and the milestones we've achieved!

Link to annual report:

<https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Annual-Report-2021.pdf>

Submission to Special Rapporteur on Right to Freedom of Expression

DRF made a submission to the Special Rapporteur on Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression for a report on "Opportunities, Challenges and Threats to Media in the Digital Age".

Here's our submission:

<https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/SR-on-Right-to-Freedom-of-Opinion-and-Expression-DRF.pdf>

Policy Papers: Perspectives on Gendered Disinformation

DRF published its anthology titled “Policy Papers: Perspectives on Gendered Disinformation” throughout March and April 2022. The research study, with contributions from 6 authors, is brings feminist perspectives from the Global South to the subject of disinformation. A must read for anyone interested in these subjects and the future of the internet.

The anthology/report can be accessed here. <https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/HBS-Report-2021-U.pdf>

Cyber Harassment Helpline Annual Report 2021



The 2021 Annual Helpline Report was launched with a weeklong social media campaign which was covered by all major press publications in the country. Videos featuring women journalists' experience with online harassment by virtue of their gender and profession were also shared, as well as videos featuring graphics of some statistics from the report.

Link to report:

<https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/helpline-annual-report-2021-1.pdf>

CYBER HARASSMENT HELPLINE: 2022 POLICY BRIEF



The Cyber Harassment Helpline: 2022 Policy Brief highlighted the risks that women journalists face in online spaces through analysis of the data and experiences collected at the Helpline.

Click here to read the full policy brief:

<https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Policy-Brief-2.pdf>

Policy Paper: Unpacking Content Moderation in Local Languages



This policy paper is on the subject of content moderation in the regional context by conducting research on content shared in local languages on Facebook. Focusing particularly on Dari and Pashto, the policy paper makes important observations regarding the challenges faced by tech companies and automated systems in moderating content from different regional contexts.

<https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Meedan-final-report-November-2022.pdf>

DRF's Comments on Meta's Oversight Board Cases

DRF's research and policy team gave comments on a number of cases taken by Meta's oversight board cases over the past year. Here's a compilation of all the comments we've given so far.

- **DRF Comments on Iran Protest Slogan**
<https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/DRF-Public-Comment-on-Iran-Protest-Slogan-case-1.pdf>
- **DRF Comments on India Sexual Harassment Video**
<https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/DRF-Public-Comment-on-India-Sexual-Harassment-Video-case-1.pdf>
- **DRF Comments on UK Drill Music**
<https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/DRF-Public-Comment-on-OSB-UK-Drill-Music-case-1.pdf>

Toolkit for Digital Content Creators in Pakistan

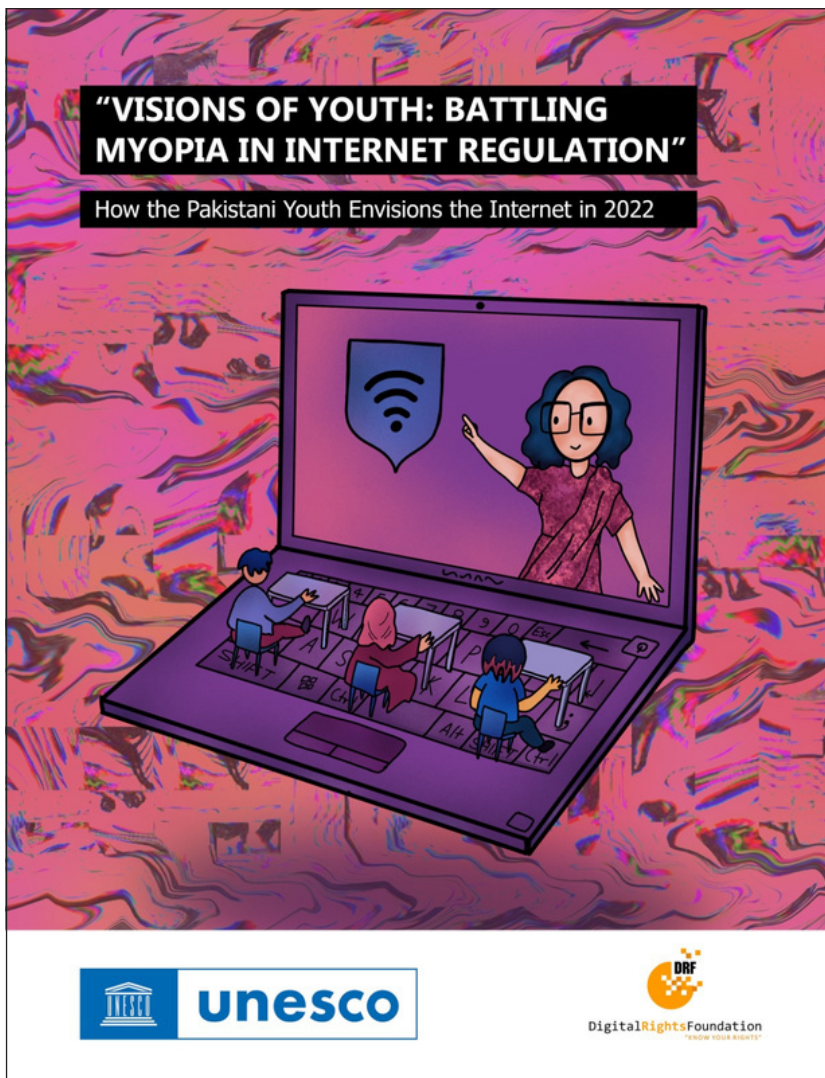


DRF developed a toolkit for content creators in Pakistan with the support of UNESCO as a resource for content creators by aiding in their digital literacy and navigate the unique challenges of being creators in online spaces.

Here's our toolkit:

<https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/UNESCO-Toolkit-Final-Version.pdf>

Visions of Youth: Battling Myopia in Internet Regulation - How the Pakistani Youth Envisions the Internet in 2022

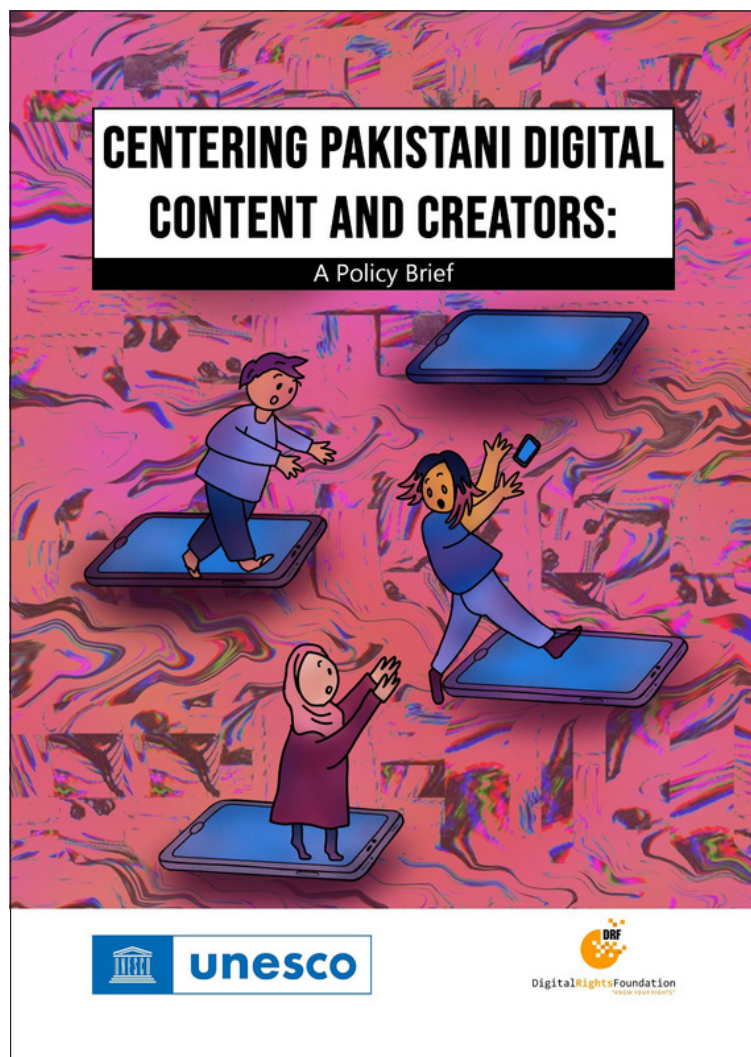


DRF with the support from UNESCO worked on the research titled Visions of Youth: Battling Myopia in Internet Regulation - How the Pakistani Youth Envisions the Internet in 2022. The research focuses on the perspective of the youth around key technological issues and how they envision the internet.

You can access our research here:

<https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/UNESCO-Research.pdf>

Policy Brief: Centering Pakistani Digital Content Creators



DRF with the support of UNESCO developed a policy brief around Centering Pakistani Digital Content Creators. This policy brief maps the various challenges faced by digital content creators – media organizations, bloggers/vloggers, journalists, filmmakers, artists, musicians, and influencers – in Pakistan

Here's our policy brief:

https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/UNESCO-Policy-Paper_FINAL-December-2022.pdf

SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS AND STATEMENTS

#DataPrivacyDay



In honor of #DataPrivacyDay being observed world over on 28th January. DRF shared important discussions held at its 8th National Data Privacy Conference in Islamabad, which occurred in November of 2021.

You can access all the panels held at the conference at the link to our YouTube channel here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cweQhKjqU4Q>

Women Making Waves: DRF celebrates Women's Day on 8th March



For Women's Day this year, DRF launched its campaign, "Women Making Waves" which highlighted the achievements of women across a diverse range of fields. The spirit, joy, resilience, and hard work of women such as Asma Jahangir, Human Rights Minister Shireen Mazari, Hina Jilani and Jehan Ara was celebrated.

DRF condemns arrests and harassment for online speech and dissent.



DigitalRightsFoundation
"KNOW YOUR RIGHTS"

DRF condemns arrests and harassment for online speech and dissent

April 14, 2022: Digital Rights Foundation is alarmed by reports of FIRs filed against PTI supporters, arrests, raids and seizure of devices on the suspicion of orchestrating trends against state institutions. It has long been our principled position that state institutions and public officials should not be insulated from criticism and should not weaponise laws and law enforcement bodies to silence their critics.

The misuse of the wide powers under laws such as the Prevention of the Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) and provisions of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) has been a long-standing issue that requires bi-partisan intervention and resistance. Previously section 20 of PECA has been used to harass journalists, political workers, activists and survivors of gender-based violence. We have seen vague laws such as criminal defamation (sections 499 and 500 PPC), sedition (section 124-A PPC), and alleged mischief against public institutions (section 505) used against anyone who speaks truth to power.

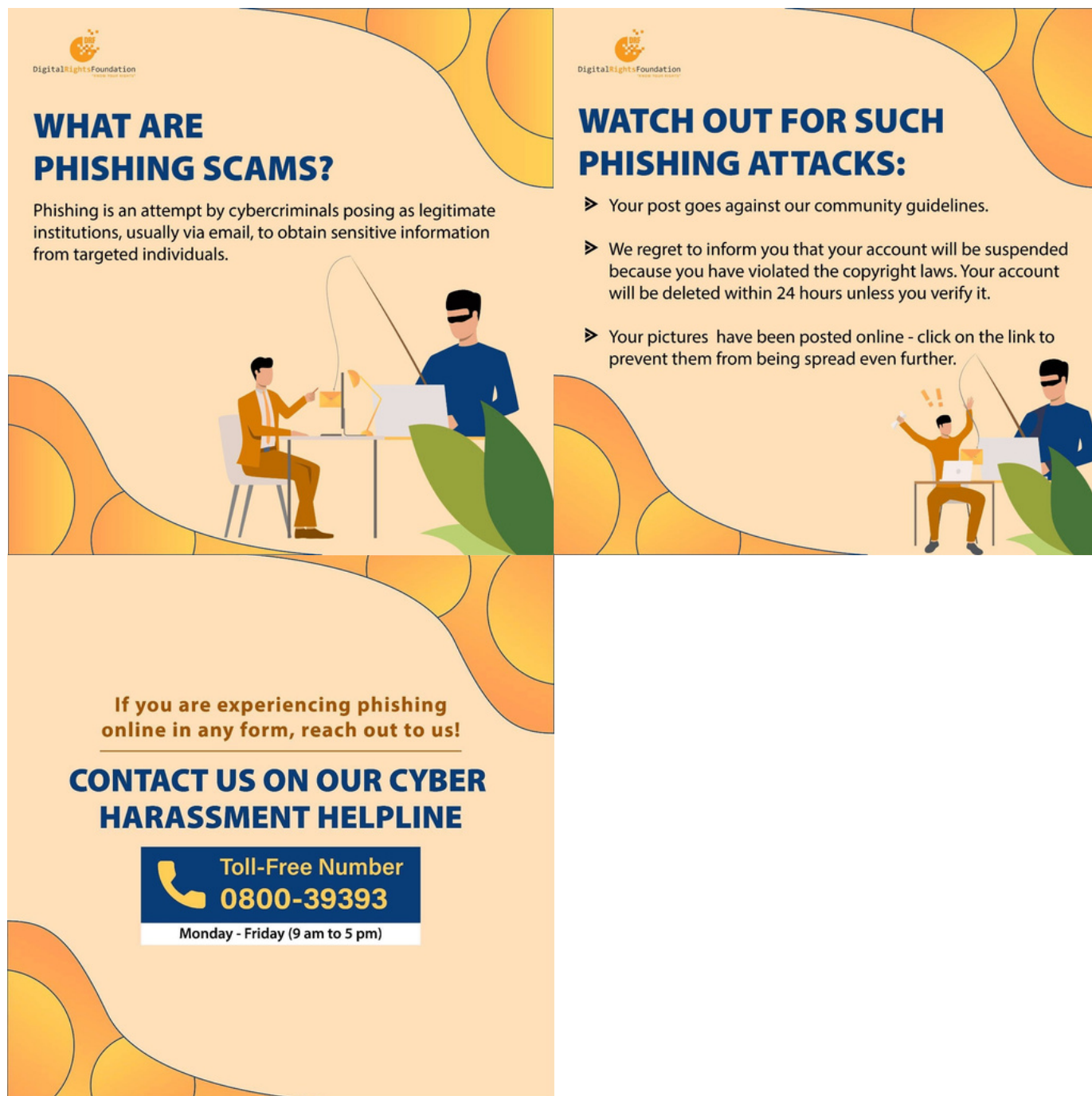
We call on the new government to set a precedent by condemning these abuses of power and taking action to ensure that such laws are repealed and guardrails are placed on institutions to ensure transparency and accountability to the general public. An investigation into the arbitrary powers and misconduct of relevant authorities has been ordered by the honorable Islamabad High Court in its latest order dated 09.04.2022 as well as through judgments in the past. We demand that this inquiry be concluded by the Ministry of Interior within 30 days as stipulated by the court. Systemic reform of institutions such as the FIA and police are needed to ensure that they do not become mere tools for those in power.

DRF released a statement condemning the arrests and harassment for online speech and dissent on political party workers.

Read our full statement here:

<https://twitter.com/DigitalRightsPK/status/1514537125240258563?s=20>

Phishing Scams



The infographic is divided into three main sections with a warm orange and yellow background and abstract circular patterns. The top left section defines phishing. The top right section lists common phishing tactics. The bottom left section provides contact information for a cyber harassment helpline. Illustrations include a person in a blue shirt with a black mask using a fishing rod to lure a person in a yellow suit, and another person in a yellow suit looking distressed at a laptop.

Digital Rights Foundation

WHAT ARE PHISHING SCAMS?

Phishing is an attempt by cybercriminals posing as legitimate institutions, usually via email, to obtain sensitive information from targeted individuals.

WATCH OUT FOR SUCH PHISHING ATTACKS:

- Your post goes against our community guidelines.
- We regret to inform you that your account will be suspended because you have violated the copyright laws. Your account will be deleted within 24 hours unless you verify it.
- Your pictures have been posted online - click on the link to prevent them from being spread even further.

If you are experiencing phishing online in any form, reach out to us!

CONTACT US ON OUR CYBER HARASSMENT HELPLINE

Toll-Free Number
0800-39393
Monday - Friday (9 am to 5 pm)

DRF shared an awareness-raising infographic on phishing scams and how they are becoming more and more common as the use of social media rises worldwide.

Twitter Space: How can the Cyber Harassment Helpline help you?

TWITTER SPACE: HOW CAN THE CYBER HARASSMENT HELP YOU?



DigitalRightsFoundation



Nighat Dad



Hyra Basit



20th May



Tehreem Azeem



Sabah Bano Malik



09:00 pm

Journalists Tehreem Azeem and Sabah Bano Malik joined Nighat Dad and Hyra Basit for a Twitter Space titled 'How can the Cyber Harassment Helpline help you?' The space was an engaging discussion of the challenges women face in digital spaces, especially with public profiles and the assistance that the Helpline can provide in these cases.


World Press Freedom Day


WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY 2022

RAPID FIRE CHAT


Digital Rights Foundation is paying tribute to all the journalists who have lost their lives to bring credible information to the public, all those who have faced discrimination and harassment for their work and all the women and trans journalists who have been silenced. We support the role of free media to bring accurate information to the public and call upon authorities to protect the rights of journalists.

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY







Nighat Dad



Munizae Jahangir




Mehmal Sarfaraz




Amber Shamsi

Date: 6th May 2022
Time: 4:00 pm



DigitalRightsFoundation
"GIVE YOUR RIGHTS"



DigitalRightsFoundation

#WorldPressFreedomDay22
#WPF22
#SahafatAurSachai
#JournalismUnderDigitalSiege

On this World Press Freedom Day DRF held a campaign on press freedom which started off with a tribute to journalists who lost their lives to bring credible information to the public. Infographics related to the ten challenges that journalists faced in the digital world were also shared. DRF also held a Twitter space on 6th May on account of World Press Freedom Day regarding press freedom with Mehmal Sarfaraz, Amber Shamsi, Munizae Jahangir and Nighat Dad. In the Twitter Space women journalists highlighted their experiences in the field and the trolling they face on the internet.



DRF held a one-week long campaign on account of #wellbeingweek from 27th June till 3rd July. In the one-week-long campaign posts around the importance of well-being and self-care were shared.

#StopCyberBullyingDay



The infographic is a red rectangular poster with white and yellow text. It features the Digital Rights Foundation logo in the top left and top right corners. The main title 'WHAT IS CYBERBULLYING?' is in large, bold, yellow letters, with a large white question mark to its right. Below the title, there are two paragraphs of white text explaining cyberbullying. The bottom left corner has the hashtag '#StopCyberBullyingDay' with a large hash symbol. The right side of the poster contains a white-bordered box with a message about seeking help, followed by the 'CYBER HARASSMENT HELPLINE' in bold white letters. Below this, there is a yellow telephone icon, the text 'TOLL FREE NUMBER', and the large yellow number '0800-39393'. An email icon and the address 'Email: helpdesk@digitalrightsfoundation.pk' are also present. The bottom of the poster features social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, each followed by their respective handles: @DigitalRightsFoundation, digitalrightsfoundation, and @DigitalRightsPK.

WHAT IS CYBERBULLYING?


Cyberbullying involves the use of information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated and hostile behavior by an individual or group, which is intended to harm others.

Cyberbullying can have a psychological impact, social impact, and academic or performance-related impact on you or your child.


#StopCyberBullyingDay

If you're experiencing cyberbullying it's important to reach out for help. You can contact our Cyber Harassment Helpline for assistance. Please remember you're never alone and can always reach out for help.

CYBER HARASSMENT HELPLINE

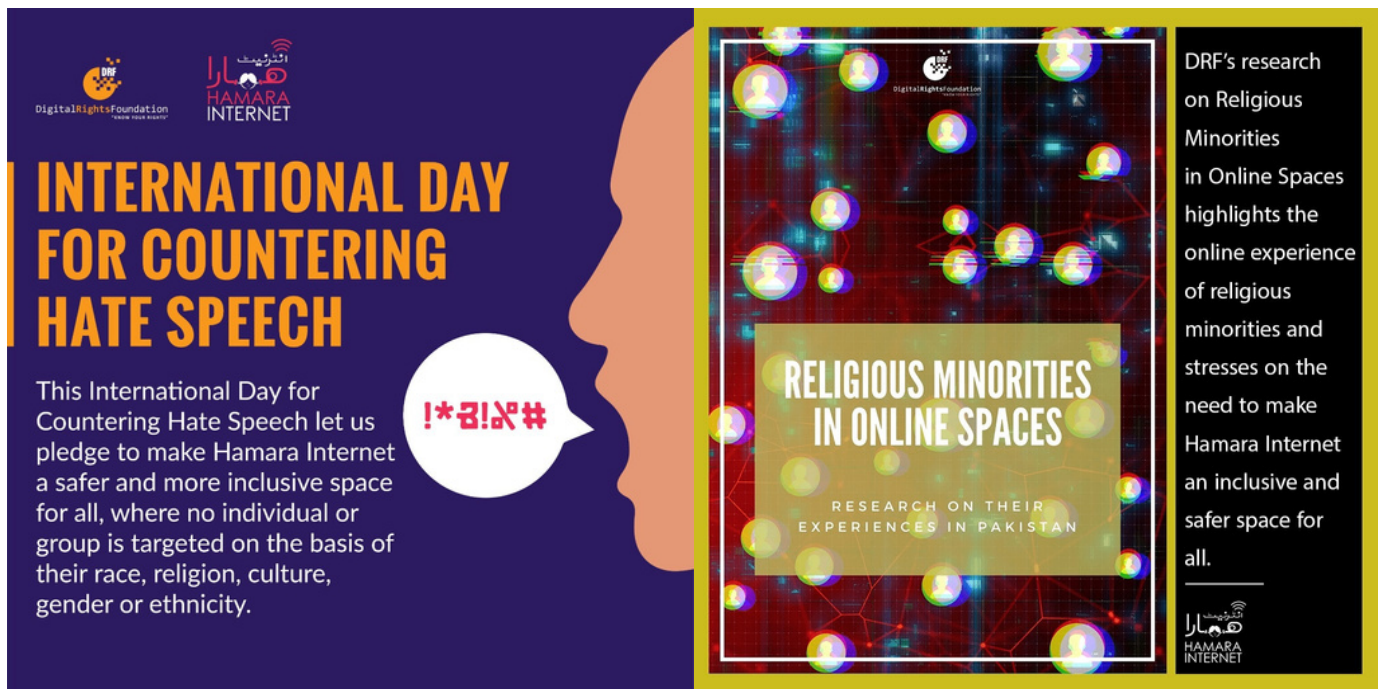
 **TOLL FREE NUMBER 0800-39393**

 **Email: helpdesk@digitalrightsfoundation.pk**

 @DigitalRightsFoundation  digitalrightsfoundation  @DigitalRightsPK

DRF shared posts on #StopCyberBullyingDay and shared the impact of cyberbullying on adults and children.

International Day for Countering Hate Speech



On this International Day for Countering Hate Speech we pledged to make Hamara Internet a safe space for all and not target anyone on the basis of their religion, race, colour, gender or ethnicity. DRF also highlighted its previous research on Religious Minorities in Online spaces highlighting the experience of religious minorities online and making Hamara Internet a safe and inclusive space for all.

Link to research:

<https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Religious-Minorities.pdf>

#NoToHate



In collaboration with Free Press Unlimited, Digital Rights Foundation started an online campaign for journalists focusing on the A-Z of online safety. During the campaign, DRF posted a tip a day on how can journalists ensure safety in online spaces.



DRF has been doing a campaign on online privacy and reviewing social media apps security and how to make it better through a few simple steps. The campaign provided simple steps average users can take to improve security on apps they use on a daily basis.

DRF Condemns the Digital Abuse and Hate Speech against Trans Folks Online

DRF CONDEMNS THE DIGITAL ABUSE AND HATE SPEECH AGAINST TRANS FOLKS

DRF has been monitoring the digital abuse, hate speech and threats that the trans community has been subjected to, particularly heightened over the past few days. As an organization that works on digital safety, we condemn the attacks that prevent the trans community from feeling safe and engaging freely in online spaces. The normalization and amplification of these harmful narratives not only includes gross misinformation about the community but also puts them under threat of facing physical harm in offline spaces - particularly in light of the epidemic of violence against trans men and women in Pakistan. We are also disappointed with the lack of action by social media platforms which have become hosts to this harmful content against the community. It is imperative that allies consider it our responsibility to make trans folks feel safe both through our actions and words. This involves shutting down harmful misinformation on gender, amplifying trans folks' voices instead, listening to them instead of racing to speak first, questioning statements presented as facts and double checking sources, and doing our own research instead of

burdening the trans community to teach us - all these to build hamara internet which is safer, inclusive and tolerant of one another's expression and views! We stand in solidarity and respect with all trans folks fighting for their identity online and offline. DRF's Cyber Harassment Helpline is available to trans folks as a resource and support mechanism in case they encounter a problem online.



We're available on **0800-39393** and on helpdesk@digitalrightsfoundation.pk for immediate support 7 days a week from 9 am till 5 pm.



DigitalRightsFoundation
"KNOW YOUR RIGHTS"

DRF has been monitoring the digital abuse, hate speech & threats that the trans community has been facing in the past few days. As an organization that works on digital safety, we condemn the attacks that prevent the community from feeling safe & engaging in online spaces.

International ID Day



DRF held an online campaign on International Identity Day, 16th September. We believe identity systems have created exclusion, insecurity, and surveillance.

To find out more about visit our website: www.digitalrightsfoundation.pk

Kidnapping Scams



The infographic is set against an orange background. At the top, the Digital Rights Foundation logo is visible on both sides. On the left, a man in a black shirt and mask stands with a thought bubble above him showing a boy in a red shirt sitting in a chair. In the center, large black Urdu text reads 'اغوا برائے تاوان فراڈ اسکینڈل'. To the right of this text is a green box with white Urdu text. Below the green box is a white box with a black border containing a cartoon of a man in a black shirt and mask talking to a man in a yellow shirt. The man in yellow has question marks above his head. At the bottom left, a green box contains the Urdu text 'اغوا کا سکینڈل کیسے ہوتا ہے؟'. The number '1' is in a white circle at the top right of the green box.

1

آپ کو ایک انجان نمبر سے کال موصول ہوگی کہ آپ کا رشتہ دار اغوا کر لیا گیا ہے۔ دھوکہ دہی کرنے والوں کی ٹیم میں کوئی ایسا بھی ہوگا جو چیخ چیخ کر آپ کے رشتہ دار کی آواز کی نقل کرے گا۔ وہ اس کی رہائی کے بدلے تاوان مانگنے کو کہیں گے۔

اغوا کا سکینڈل کیسے ہوتا ہے؟

مفت ہیلپ لائن 112

The helpline received a considerable amount of complaints about fake kidnapping cases for which the team developed infographics around how to avoid these scams and report. The campaign aimed to ensure citizens can take preemptive action to secure themselves from such scams.

The Coalition Against Online Violence

**Coalition
Against
Online
Violence**



**The Coalition Against Online Violence
strongly condemns the ongoing
attacks, abuse, and harassment of
Nighat Dad from the Digital Rights
Foundation.**

Dad, a digital rights activist and human rights lawyer, was subjected to a sustained, gendered disinformation campaign for over two years due to her work.

**We call on Pakistani authorities to take action
now against the perpetrators and guarantee
journalists, activists, and human rights
defenders' safety and security to do their jobs
and report freely.**

The Coalition Against Online Violence issued a statement to condemn the attacks abuse and harassment of Nighat Dad from the Digital Rights Foundation. The statement was further supported and shared by FPU, Freedom Network, Article 19, Women's Media Center, Women in journalism, International Women's Media Foundation, Freedom on the net, Pen America and NDI gender.

DRF Condemns the Arbitrary Youtube Shutdowns in the country as 'Unconstitutional'



DRF CONDEMNS THE ARBITRARY YOUTUBE SHUTDOWNS IN THE COUNTRY AS 'UNCONSTITUTIONAL'

7 Sept 2022: Digital Rights Foundation condemns the arbitrary Youtube shutdowns in the country by the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and reiterates that these are unconstitutional blocks.

Youtube is a source of income, information, educational tool, and entertainment for many and these blocks are a direct threat to Articles 19 and 19 A of the Constitution. Pakistan already ranks 'not free' on the freedom of the net report index according to Freedom House, and these blocks constitute blatant state censorship for citizens of the country.

It is worrying that the PTA has implemented these blocks without any notice nor justification. This lack of transparency and arbitrary procedures should worry every citizen and political party.

The YouTube shutdowns, yesterday (September 6) and on August 21, were targeted at political speeches by former Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Blocking the streaming of political speech of any party is blatant censorship. If the PTA believes that the content in speeches should not be allowed, it should make its reasons for banning public and subject to judicial review.

We would like to reiterate our stance that section 37 of PECA, which gives power to the PTA to block online content, runs afoul of human rights standards and should be repealed. Nevertheless, even section 37 does not authorize a blanket shutdown of an entire social media platform.



Digital Rights Foundation issued a statement to condemn the arbitrary Youtube shutdowns in the country by the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and reiterated that these are unconstitutional blocks.

Read the full statement here:

<https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/drif-condemns-the-arbitrary-youtube-shutdowns-in-the-country-as-unconstitutional/>

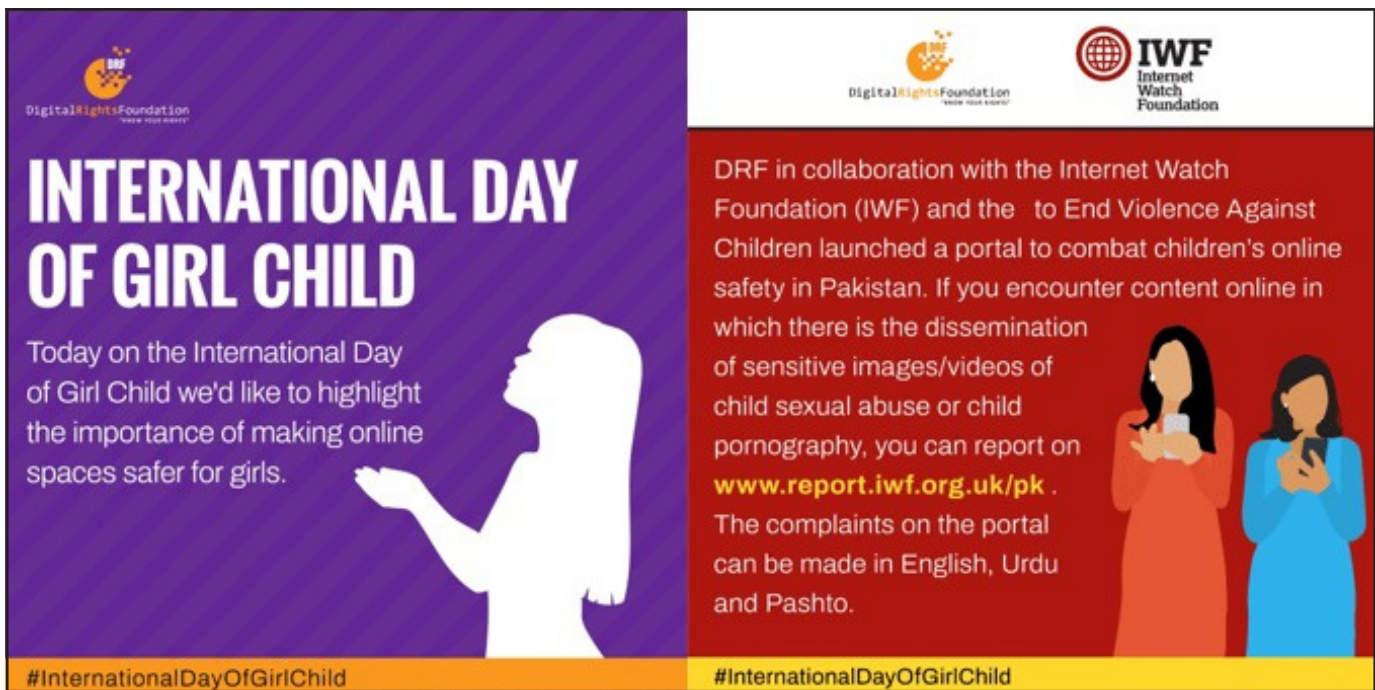
#CyberSecurityMonth



1st October commemorated Cyber Security month in which we focused on the different online threats that individuals face and what remedies one can adopt to protect themselves online.

#CyberSecurityMonth #CyberSecMonth #ThinkB4UClick

#InternationalDayOfGirlChild



On International Day of Girl Child DRF created awareness regarding the risks young girls face online and asked users to diligently report child pornography and sensitive child sexual abuse online go to <http://report.iwf.org.uk/pk> and report anonymously.

#internationaldayofthegirlchild2022

Reporting and Collecting Evidence for Domestic Violence, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault

DRF's legal team and ED shared an information breakdown of collecting evidence in cases of domestic abuse, sexual harassment and assault. The Twitter thread carefully curates the procedures and necessary evidence needed to record domestic violence abuse.

Link to thread:

<https://twitter.com/nighatdad/status/1584819490537107457?s=20&t=XyUfr1eCq97ObkCg6CCCLw>



DigitalRightsFoundation
"KNOW YOUR RIGHTS"

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS DAY

This International Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) Day let's acknowledge the strength and bravery of WHRDs across the globe and the risks they face while working in the field. We stand in solidarity and support with all WHRDs these 16 days and support them in the important work that they do.

29 NOVEMBER, 2022



#InternationalWomenHumanRightsDefendersDay

This International Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) Day let's stand in solidarity and support WHRDs across the globe and acknowledge the important work that they do in the field.
#InternationalWomenHumanRightsDefendersDay



NETWORK OF
JOURNALISTS FOR
DIGITAL RIGHTS



END IMPUNITY AGAINST JOURNALISTS

2nd November marks the International Day to End Impunity Against Journalists. Let's strive to make online and offline spaces safer for journalists and put an end to crimes against journalists.



#EndImpunity

#EndImpunityAgainstJournalists

DRF collaborated with the National Commission of Human Rights (NCHR) on 2nd November on End Impunity Against Journalists highlighting to make online and offline spaces safer for journalists. DRF and NCHR also mapped a timeline of attacks against journalists in Pakistan and those who faced violence for sharing their voices and work on the Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists.



25th November marks the beginning of the 16 days of Activism highlighting violence against women throughout these 16 days. We believe that women have the right to safe spaces online and offline and no one should be harassed, attacked, assaulted, or discriminated against due to their gender identity.

Let's join our hands together to fight violence against women and gender minorities together on this **#16daysOfActivism**.

25th November marked the beginning of the 16 days of Activism highlighting the violence against women throughout these 16 days. DRF launched its awareness campaign to fight this violence and create safe spaces for women and gender minorities. #EndViolenceAgainstWomen

#HumanRightsDay



DigitalRightsFoundation
"KNOW YOUR RIGHTS"

This human rights day we will be bringing together women human rights defenders from DRF who will be sharing their experience and challenges of working in the field along with the need to adopt the human rights principles in every walk of life.



ZAINAB DURRANI



SEERAT KHAN



SHMYLA KHAN



<https://twitter.com/digitalrightsPK>

#HUMANRIGHTSDAY #16DAYS

This human rights day DRF's women HRDs shared their experiences & challenges in the field & focusing on the importance of the human rights principal model.

REFERENCES

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- ² <https://www.dawn.com/news/1667248>
- ³ <https://www.dw.com/en/pakistan-new-cybercrime-law-threatens-to-to-stifle-social-media-dissent/a-60899561>
- ⁴ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/938141-journalists-bodies-move-ihc-against-peca-ordinance>
- ⁵ <https://www.geo.tv/latest/428557-pakistan-ranks-second-globally-for-taking-most-tiktok-videos-down>
- ⁶ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1685846>
- ⁷ <https://digitalrightsmonitor.pk/pta-unveils-system-to-block-immoral-content-online/>
- ⁸ <https://www.globalvillagespace.com/60000-cyber-crimes-reported-in-3-months-dg-fia/>
- ⁹ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/7/26/millions-in-pakistan-without-digital-id-card-rights-activists>
- ¹⁰ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1700874>
- ¹¹ <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2374101/floods-aftermath-and-way-forward>
- ¹² <https://www.dawn.com/news/1706051>
- ¹³ <https://dailytimes.com.pk/1001261/fia-cyber-crime-increases-83/>
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