

Human Rights Amid Rising Anti-LGBTQ Efforts



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Threats to the Movement are growing & evolving



Project Capture



Surveillance



Disinformation



Censorship



Toxic Behavior



Intimidation



Knowledge Inequity



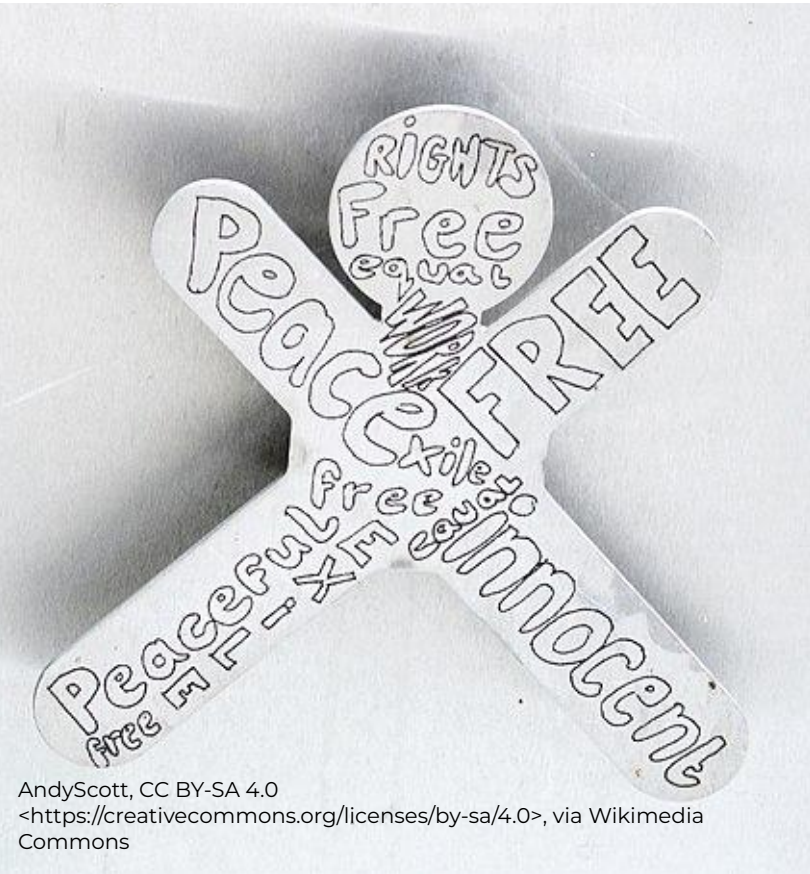
Political Arrests

- The 2020 [Human Rights Impact Assessment](#) identified numerous threats facing our movement.
- Threats to individual volunteers and communities are evolving amid growing authoritarianism globally, declining freedom online, and the proliferation of disinformation.
- Democratic governments around the world are seeking to regulate online platforms by imposing environmental, social, and governance requirements that aim to mitigate online harms, but which sometimes counterproductively introduce new threats to privacy and freedom of expression.
- These external forces pose significant threats to the long-term vitality of our communities and projects and require our attention to mount a defense.

So, what does human rights at Wikimedia do?

The Human Rights Team aims to improve the safety of individuals who are persecuted for their good faith participation in the Wikimedia Movement.

- Human Rights Support Partnerships
- Human Rights Interest Group
- Education & Training
- Assist with Human Rights Policy
- Contribute to Human Rights Due Diligence



The Changing Landscape of Global LGBTQ+ Rights



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Changing Landscape...

The global campaign to secure protections for LGBTQ+ people has made significant progress in recent decades

According to the [2021 LGBTQ+ Global Acceptance Index](#):

- 56 of 175 countries and locations experienced increases in acceptance since 1980
- 57 countries and locations experienced a decline.
- 62 countries and locations experienced no change.



Global threats against LGBTQ+ efforts globally



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In North America...



USA

In 2022, lawmakers proposed [238 bills](#) to limit the rights of LGBTQ Americans.

The annual number of [anti-LGBTQ bills filed in USA skyrocketed](#) from 41 bills in 2018 to 238 bills in 2022.



Canada

Anti-hate experts [concerned](#) about rise in online threats toward LGBTQ2S+ events in Canada

In Latin America...

[Human Rights Watch](#) interviewed LGBT people in and from the Northern Triangle who described the complex web of violence and discrimination that threatens their physical safety, limits their life choices, and in some cases leads them to flee their country.



In Asia...



A 2022 [International Commission of Jurists report](#) revealed that during the COVID-19 pandemic, online hate speech and violence against LGBTI people increased in Asia, including in Malaysia and Indonesia.

It reported that queerphobic hate speech was an everyday reality for LGBTQ individuals in Southeast Asia while navigating online spaces.

In Africa...

In Africa, Rising anti-LGBTQ activities are spreading throughout the African continent and are a threat to our users and to communities.

The LGBTQ+ community in Kenya, Ghana, Senegal, Uganda and Tanzania witnessed an increase in physical and online threats in the last 3 months.



By Nick Roux and Peter Fitzgerald, adapted by Cacahuete, Burmesedays, Joelf, Globe-trotter, LtPowers and Piet-c. Public domain.

MIDDLE EAST



In the Middle East...

Government officials [across the Middle East and North Africa region](#) are targeting the LGBTQ community based on their online activity on social media.

In Europe...

In Europe, a 2022 [BIRN report](#) revealed an increase in digital rights violations in Bosnia and Herzegovina and North Macedonia.

Social media users engaged in debates while others used the opportunity to spread hate speech.

[Disinformation campaigns](#) about LGBTI+ people in the EU were also on the increase.



How these threats manifest themselves in the movement



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The internet is ingrained into society...

Sometimes your personal information may be more accessible than you think and may open you up to harm such as harassment, cyberstalking, cyberbullying, online impersonation, swatting, hate speech and doxxing.



We do a lot online: share photos and stories, manage finances, attend classes, and contribute to the world's knowledge.

Harassment and Cyberbullying



This type of harm usually manifests itself through threats of violence, impersonations, sockpuppetry, gender insults, and racist, xenophobic, and homophobic comments.

Harassment may also happen in off-wiki forums and in closed channels such as Facebook groups, Twitter, and also apps like Telegram and WhatsApp.

Harassment and cyberbullying may fall under the following categories: harassment and stalking, outing and trickery, and denigration.

Doxxing

Doxxing is a severe breach of privacy, a form of digital abuse wherein someone collects and publishes personally identifying information about a person with the intent to cause harm.

The info could be real name, phone number, email address, social media handles, images, date of birth and home and work addresses.



Doxxing is easy to do... Anyone, including you, can be doxed...

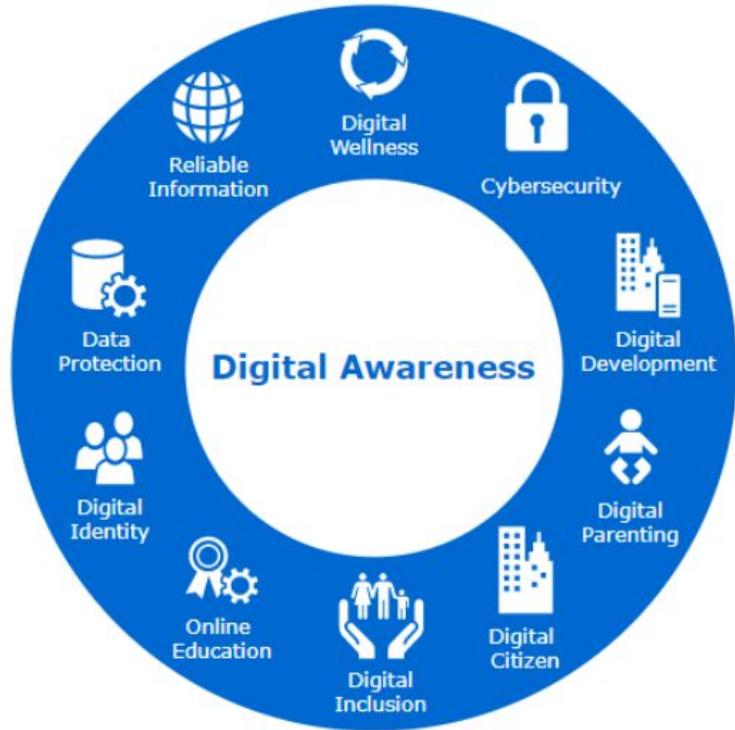
Protecting yourself in the midst of rising threats



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Digital Privacy and Human Rights



Digital technologies are powerful tools for advancing human progress.

However, the rise of bad actors and data-intensive technologies such as artificial intelligence applications contribute to creating a digital environment in which States and businesses are increasingly able to track, analyze, predict and even manipulate people's behavior.

These technological developments carry significant risks for human rights if applied without effective safeguards.

This is why it is important for everyone to keep themselves safe.

Protecting yourself against Harassment and Bullying

Stay vigilant in protecting your physical safety. If you know the person harassing you, consider the following red-flag questions:

1. Do they know personal details about you, such as where you live?
2. Have they made threatening comments? Are their threats specific?
3. Are their claims irrational or erratic?
4. Do they have a history of violent behavior?



Protecting yourself against doxxing

You can protect yourself from doxxing by reviewing and removing personal details you may have online - do a Google search for your real name and common usernames.

Personal identifying details go beyond the government identification details such as your address and your birthdate.

They can be anything from your school's name to the bus you take to work each day, or even where and when you get your morning coffee.



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Protecting yourself against Phishing

Information about you online can be used to craft emails which can manipulate you into downloading files or clicking on links which can install malware on your computer.

Be mindful of what you share online and emails that sound suspicious and ask you to take an action - especially if they come from someone you don't know.

Double-check all email addresses and don't download files from unknown sources.



Other ways of keeping safe

1

Think twice before posting, sharing, 'liking', or commenting on anything online.

2

Limit information you post on your account, especially personal details such as birthdate.

3

Make your phone number private.

4

Only accept on personal social networks people you know.

5

Ask your friends and acquaintances not to post personal information about you or tag you without your consent.



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...ways of keeping safe

6

Don't post photographs of your home that might indicate its location

7

Learn about the privacy settings of your social media apps

8

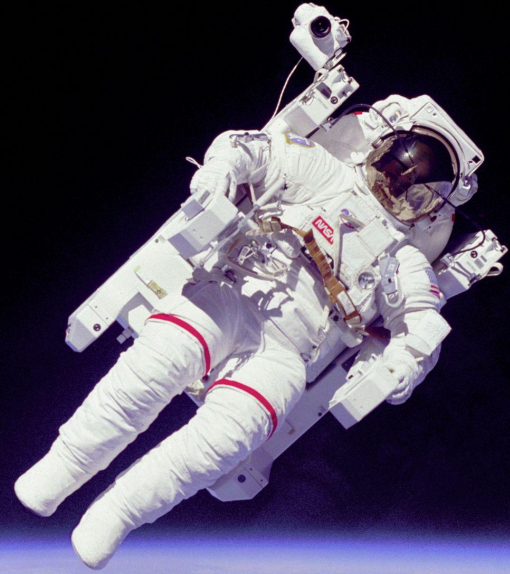
Deactivate geo-location on all your accounts

9

Check the background of your videos/photos before publishing them.

10

Report suspicious or threatening accounts.



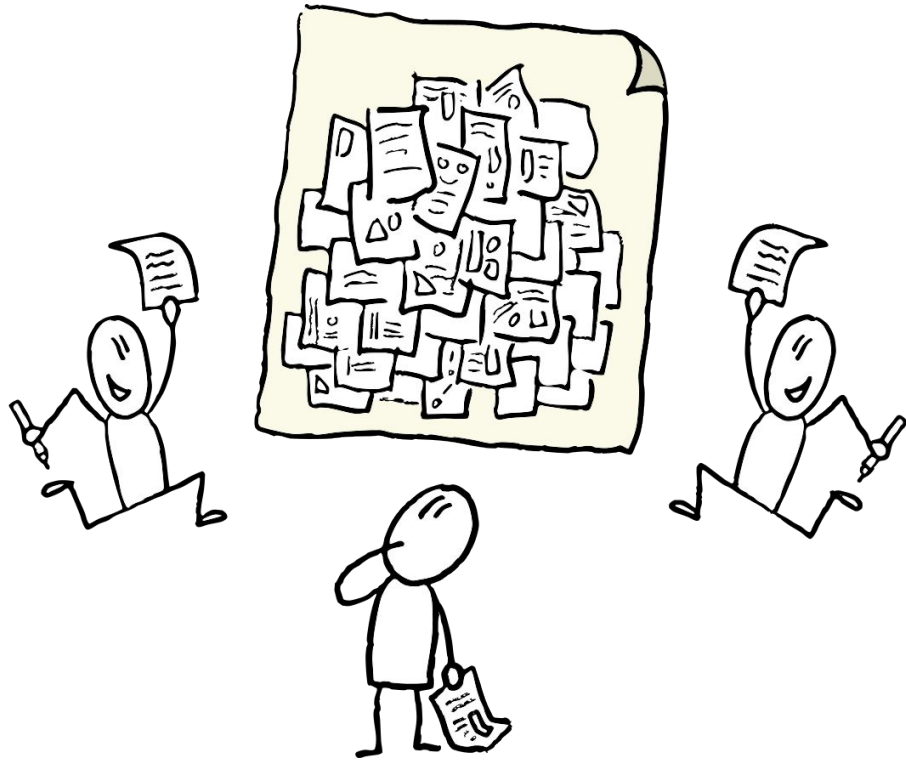
Food for thought...Safety for Wikimedians

Consider a secondary account to work on topics that may result in others wishing to harm you or those you care - especially important if your main account is already easily identifiable or if you attend events in person as well. *If you are vulnerable, **be boring**.*

Even other Wikimedians may have agendas and may not be who they seem. Safe boundaries make sense. Have a Wikimedia-only email address for correspondence that is not tied to your identity. Think twice, thrice, and four times before meeting others close to home.



Call for action: share your tips



Actions the WMF can take are frequently dictated by global policies, but **information** is bounded only by *safety* and *legal concerns*. What wisdom do you have to help others navigating the Wikimedia world safely? We want to partner with the LGBT+ UG to distribute training resources. Tips will be unattributed unless you explicitly direct otherwise and will have to accord with the Terms of Use and with said safety and legal concerns. No matter what we might think of them, we can't advise people to break local laws, for instance, or community policies. Within those boundaries, though, we think there's a lot to share!

Please email talktohumanrights@wikimedia.org with the subject line “tips”.

**Basic digital security can help
protect ourselves and others!
Please share this information.**



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Picture of the Year 2021 finalist
By Ted.ns - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0