Task 'An Introduction to Security and Risk Management' Unit 1

Collaborative Learning Discussion 1 – Peer Response 2

Hello V****,

Your Initial Post contributes to the discussion effectively as it outlines the challenges of integrating technology into human rights investigations, particularly around issues like data bias, privacy concerns, and the lack of on-the-ground presence. Your choice to emphasize the ethical implications of technologies being developed without considering the vulnerabilities of the populations they aim to protect is very relevant in this context.

(Hancock, 2024; **** **** ****, 2025)

However, the discussion could benefit from a closer examination of the specific technologies mentioned, such as blockchain, mesh networks, and satellite communication. These technologies, while promising, often present multiple additional challenges and for instance with feasibility, scalability and issues typical to conflict zones and low-resource environments. For Instance, blockchain requires stable internet, which can be inconsistent in remote areas, mesh networks might not be practical in regions with limited infrastructure and satellite might require expansive equipment (Abraha, 2025)

Moreover, the reliance on technology risks overshadowing the human element of human rights investigations. Technology should complement, not replace, direct engagement with affected communities. While acknowledging the concerns about data misinterpretation and privacy, what further exploration on how different ways bias is being introduced, in addition, which possible solutions could support the aim to mitigate these challenges, or which are some best practices for ethical data collection or safeguards to prevent misuse? (Lorente, 2024)

In summary, you offer insightful perspectives, and I believe further examination of these points could enrich the discussion by highlighting how technology can serve as both a valuable tool and a potential challenge in human rights work, which can be challenging considering the limited scope of words allowed in this task.

References

Hancock (2024) Trouble at Sea: Data and digital technology challenges for maritime human rights concerns. FAccT '24: Proceedings of the 2024 ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency. 988–1001.

Abraha, D.T., (2025). Blockchain-based solution for addressing refugee management in the Global South: transparent and accessible resource sharing in humanitarian organizations. Frontiers in Human Dynamics, 6, p.1391163.

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Lorente, B.A., (2024). *How Technological Affordances Affect Risk Assessments in Open-Source Investigations* (Master's thesis, The George Washington University). Available at: https://www.proquest.com/openview/9e2ce85e2a2010d062dec6d569f209a7/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=18750&diss=y [Accessed 4 November 2025].