

# The Declaration of Digital Human Rights

Version 1.0.0

We live in a society where technology will only become more critical to our way of life. Some may try to resist it, but it is inevitable that the Internet is, if not already, a major part of our lives. 2020, the year that has impacted us all and continues to dominate our way of life, has only led to the realization of how it has been the Internet allowing us to keep in contact with our loved ones while we practice social distancing.

Aside from recreational purposes like those stated above, having the privilege to stay connected online is crucial for businesses trying to overcome this pandemic era.

Without the Internet, many students wouldn't be able to continue their education without putting themselves and their loved ones at risk. Luckily schools have quickly pivoted to school over video conferencing tools.

The importance of the internet is evident, but with the many devices connected to the internet, the growing collection of data companies have on us, and the questionable security and privacy, it is now time to identify the problems that come with relying on an Internet that is not regulated.

Many countries are able to control what information is available to their citizens. The Free Web is simply a group of people advocating against this. We are not able to distinguish between the crime that is tampering with evidence during an investigation and online censorship because after all, you can define it as tampering with information that is transmitted through the Internet.

According to Article 19 from the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), “everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.” When countries censor information on the Internet they are violating human rights.

The following list are a collection of events in which online censorship has occurred:

- **Brazil:** During the Fall 2010 election period, court orders which mandated removal of content related to political campaigns rose exponentially
- **North Korea:** In 2010, North Korea achieved the amazing feat of qualifying for the world cup, where they were drawn in their opening game against Brazil. The story goes that North Korea edited the footage, and, or lied about the result so that their people thought they had won the match. They lied to their country saying that they beat Brazil 1-0. Funny thing is, North Korea did not even qualify for the 2010 World Cup. It amazes us how the citizens of North Korea truly believe that their soccer team did well, when in reality North Korea didn't qualify for the cup.
- **Belarus:** The government of Belarus outlawed browsing foreign websites, making the visiting of those sites a misdemeanor

The list will continue to grow and grow unless action is taken. Countries cannot continue to violate what we define as digital human rights and must be held accountable.

Together, The Free Web and the UDHR wrote this document - The Declaration of Digital Human Rights as a direct response to the growing worry about an Internet that isn't regulated.

Below are the 10 articles we deemed are the definition for human digital rights.

**Article 1:**

All human beings have equal rights in access to the Internet. They should act with deliberate kindness and recognition of one another.

**Article 2:**

The articles, principles and the defined digital human rights in this document should consistently be upheld, regardless of who and where they are applied

**Article 3:**

Censorship should exist only on an individual level. The quality of ideas and opinions expressed by people should be considered on a person by person basis, not through corporations or governments as long as they don't harm and put any one in danger.

**Article 4:**

Everyone is entitled to a secure and anonymous internet connection without worry of being hacked or having their data leaked. A person's identity should be theirs to share or hide.

**Article 5:**

Published and verified work should be considered the intellectual property of the author and as such is subject to copyright laws.

**Article 6:**

Anyone accused of a crime should be considered innocent until proven guilty. They should be subject to fair, lawful trial.

**Article 7:**

Digital content should be developed with accessibility in mind. This extends to both physical and cultural.

**Article 8:**

Everyone has a right to accurate information from verified sources.

**Article 9:**

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression. This right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

**Article 10:**

Everyone has the right to peaceful assembly and association.