

The increase in Internet users worldwide is accompanied by the rise of social networks, in which people can share text, images, videos and other digital media. More than two thirds of the world's Internet users engage in social networks. This proportion is even higher among young people, with close to 90 percent of all people aged 16 to 24 using social media in OECD countries. The fusion of this sweeping penetration of population and the ground breaking nature of rapidly advancing technology and acceleration has changed the world. It defines how we perceive ourselves and others, how we see society, how we access information and news, how we form political opinions, how we meet people – the list goes on. Social platforms have essentially become public spaces of immense importance, spanning across national borders and continents. With the operation of these platforms therefore comes great responsibility as to the moderation, promotion, prohibition, restriction and exclusion of their contents and users. A responsibility which in the analogue world often laid in the hands of public institutions like government, state, and law, but is now born by private corporations, often with little transparency as to their decision making process. The reign of private corporations over these public spaces is accompanied by examples of structural or technical discrimination against marginalized groups of our societies.

I have programmed a mock up of a popular social network which allows for an interactive exhibition exemplifying some of the categories of this discrimination. You can interact with posts by liking them.



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