# Feminist Tech Card Deck

www.feministtech.org

Contemporary digitisation narratives are economic in nature and serve the interests of corporations over the needs of societies and minorities. By contrast, feminist tech policy takes a holistic view of digitisation, to look at it in terms of intersectional patterns of discrimination. By taking a feminist approach we are able to think and see beyond existing stories and structures. We question current innovation narratives and examine the value of maintenance, accessibility, openness and care for the digital societies of the future.

The Feminist Tech Framework is a set of work-in-progress guidelines for feminist tech policy-making and technology creation, an accompanying card deck, as well as visionary essays for more just technological futures. The Framework was drafted in a collaborative process between the team at Superrr Lab and a group of activists, policymakers, writers, designers, technologists, researchers and educators, who advocate for digital rights and the rights of marginalised groups.

The core element of the Feminist Tech Framework is the card deck that helps players engage in discussions about feminist tech in a fun way while drawing upon their own experiences and visions.

Each card features a quote and questions connected to the 12 principles. The card deck can be used in groups – where people pull a card and then share the answers to their questions with the other players – or it can also be used alone. QR codes on the deck will guide users to more info on that principle, as well as hands-on good practice examples for inspiration. The deck contains blank cards for additional principles and questions.

Find more info as well as all contributors of the Feminist Tech Framework here:
www.feministtech.org

Q1:

## What different roles does digital technology play in the climate crisis?

Q2:

## What are the low-tech alternatives we might turn to in place of the digital tools we are already using?

principle 7

»The key question we need to ask is, What are we optimising for? Currently, it's a political and economic model where gains are privatised in the hands of a few while harms are socialised on people and planet.«

— Fieke Jansen
& Michelle Thorne

Q1:

**What invisible labour has gone into the digital tools you regularly use?**

Q2:

**How can we better understand and navigate the environmental and social impacts of the raw materials and resources that power our digital tools?**

## Principle 2.

»Global tech production is highly integrated but its profits are not shared equally between its workers. Tech supply chains, production and delivery rely largely on forced or cheap labour, which affect women disproportionately, particularly in the Global South.«

— Carolina Reis

Q1:

**How would our digital tools have to be designed to last for the next 50 years?**

Q2:

**How can we increase the value of maintenance and care? How do we shift away from individualist to collective perspectives and nourish a global sense of ownership?**

principle 3.

»Right now, big tech is shaping what our future technologies look like and how we imagine them. And because we have become so dependent on their products, our reliance upon their visions is closing down avenues for alternative futures.«

— Fieke Jansen
& Michelle Thorne

Q1:

**What digital technology has made you feel connected to others in a way that felt embodied, sustaining, and/or nurturing?**

Q2:

**What is your favourite digital service business model that does not capitalise on your data?**

principle 4.

»Thinking about feminist tech without centring healing in a way that is collective will reproduce the very mechanisms of oppressions we wish to dismantle.«

— Laurence Meyer

Q1:

**How can accessibility not just be an afterthought or add-on but the central focus of the design process?**

Q2:

**How can marginalised people become part of all stages of design and policy processes? What is in it for these groups?**

## principle 5.

»This lack of equity and representation is grounded in the very structure of the internet that sees power and representation skewed towards a global minority of predominantly white technological developers with access to resources.«

— Chenai Chair

# Principle 6.

Q1:
**Which digital tools should never have been deployed in the first place? Who is harmed by them? And what difficulties are faced when trying to uproot an established technology or practice as compared to never deploying it at all?**

Q2:
**What could a right to review, revoke and refuse look like in practice?**

Q3:
**When is a system too harmful to be deployed?**

»Technology for some uses, like the distribution and monitoring of policing and other carceral infrastructure, will inherently harm us as disabled people, migrants, women*, queer, trans and racialised people.«

— Sarah Chander

# Principle 7.

Q1:
**What is the founding narrative of your favourite digital tool? Whose contributions to it have been rendered invisible?**

Q2:
**What narrative patterns are common in the creation of digital technology? How can we change them?**

Q3:
**What practical steps might you take to make visible the contributions of those who've come before you (and who have prepared the ground for your creations)?**

»Naming is inherently political. By naming we acknowledge those who have come before us: those who participated in creating particular technologies or who contributed to its design. Yet naming, crediting and acknowledging the creators of certain technologies, and looking at the genealogy of how things come to be, is rarely part of technology's dominant discourse.«

— Maya Ober

Q1:

**What tools, services, and hardware are part of the digital public infrastructure of the future? Who should pay for it and maintain it?**

Q2:

**How would you define "public interest tech"?**

Q3:

**What are good ways to explain the benefits of open source to non-tech people?**

Principle 8.

»Paying and supporting our digital care workers requires the development of new funding structures for those who tend to the functioning of the infrastructure that our technology stack is built on.«

— Julia Reda

# Principle 9.

Q1:

## What could a trauma-informed mechanism for reporting hate speech look like?

Q2:

## What does a safe space look like for you personally? What are the important features of a safe(r) space online?

»Not only do online spaces reflect prevailing patriarchal social attitudes, in the age of automation, they risk enshrining and amplifying them, rather than acting as a counterbalance or corrective.«

— Nighat Dad

Q1:
**What does well-informed and reversible consent look like for you? What is an example of it?**

Q2:
**What could a well-designed consensual cookie policy look like?**

Q3:
**In what areas is informed consent essential?**

Q4:
**In which areas would you like to be able to easily revoke your consent to data collected from you?**

**Principle 10.**

»Consent is frequently demanded in exchange for access to vital products and services, and is rarely explained in a clear or accessible way. Meaningful consent – which must be voluntary, informed and reversible – remains rare.«

— Elena Silvestrini
& Naomi Alexander Naidoo

Q1:

**How has your online behaviour changed in the last 10 years? Do you still feel reflected by the profiles you had then?**

Q2:

**What measures could allow for fluid digital identities?**

Q3:

**What kind of digital service should know your gender? And which not?**

# Principle 11.

»Individuals and communities must be supported in contesting the use of categorisations, articulating any categories that are used, scrutinising their benefits, and ultimately in declining to participate if their requirements are not met.«

— Cami Rincón

# principle 12.

Q1:

## What do you think is your most valuable data point?

Q2:

## What obfuscation strategies are you using online? Which work best and what are the pitfalls involved?

»The nonchalance of majoritarian groups who feel they have “nothing to hide” facilitates the collection and classification of online data, which frequently marginalises already-marginalised people.”

— Nakeema Stefflbauer

1

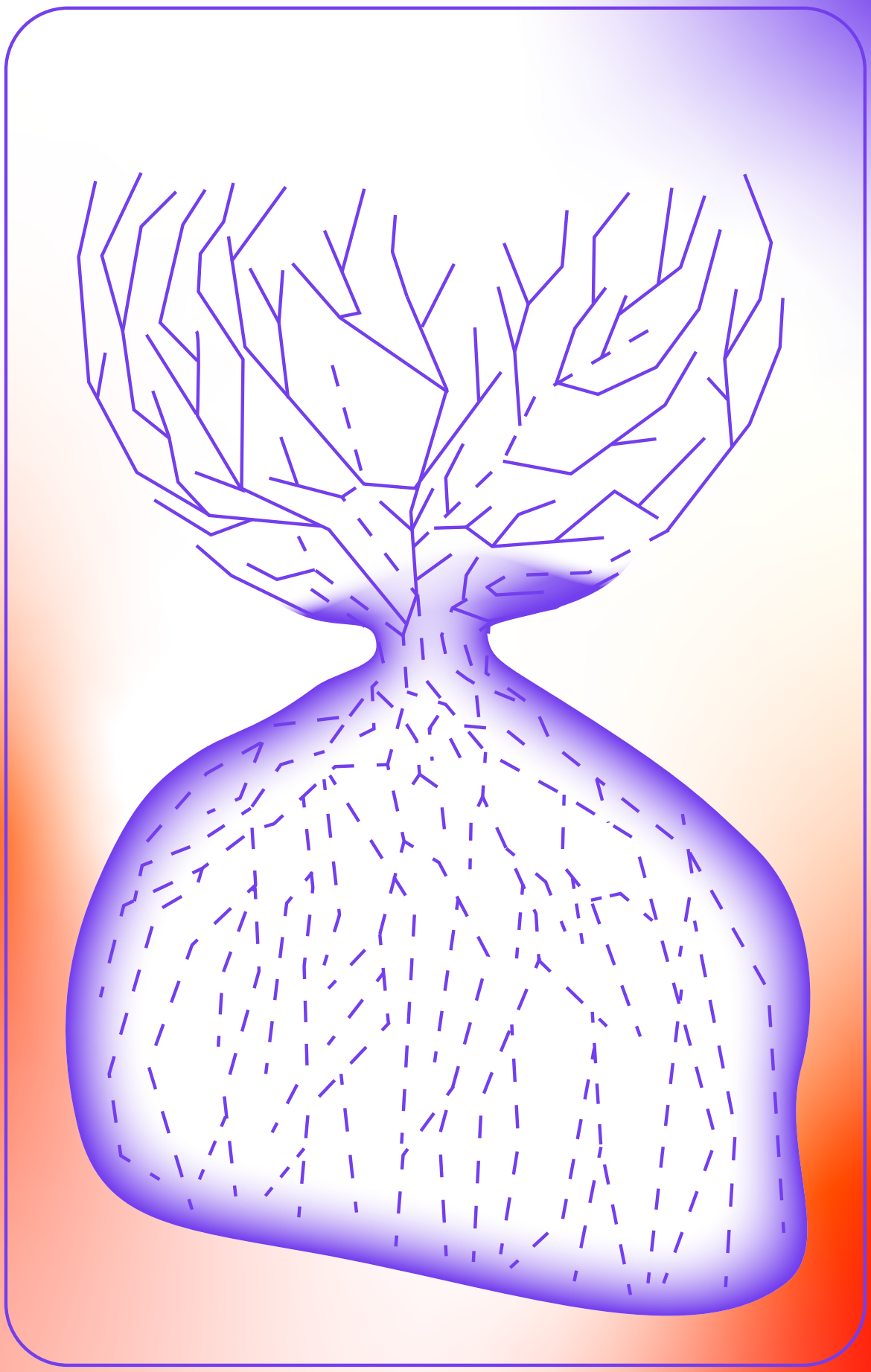
Vision

# Dear Newspaper Editors

Feminist Tech Vision
by Camila Nobrega

This is probably the first faxed letter the newsroom has received in years. It was the only way to avoid being traced. There are many reporters here in the conference halls, all of us running around, trying to grasp the key points and getting only the same fragments of information from the same old faces. We are tired. (…)

→ Principle 1



2

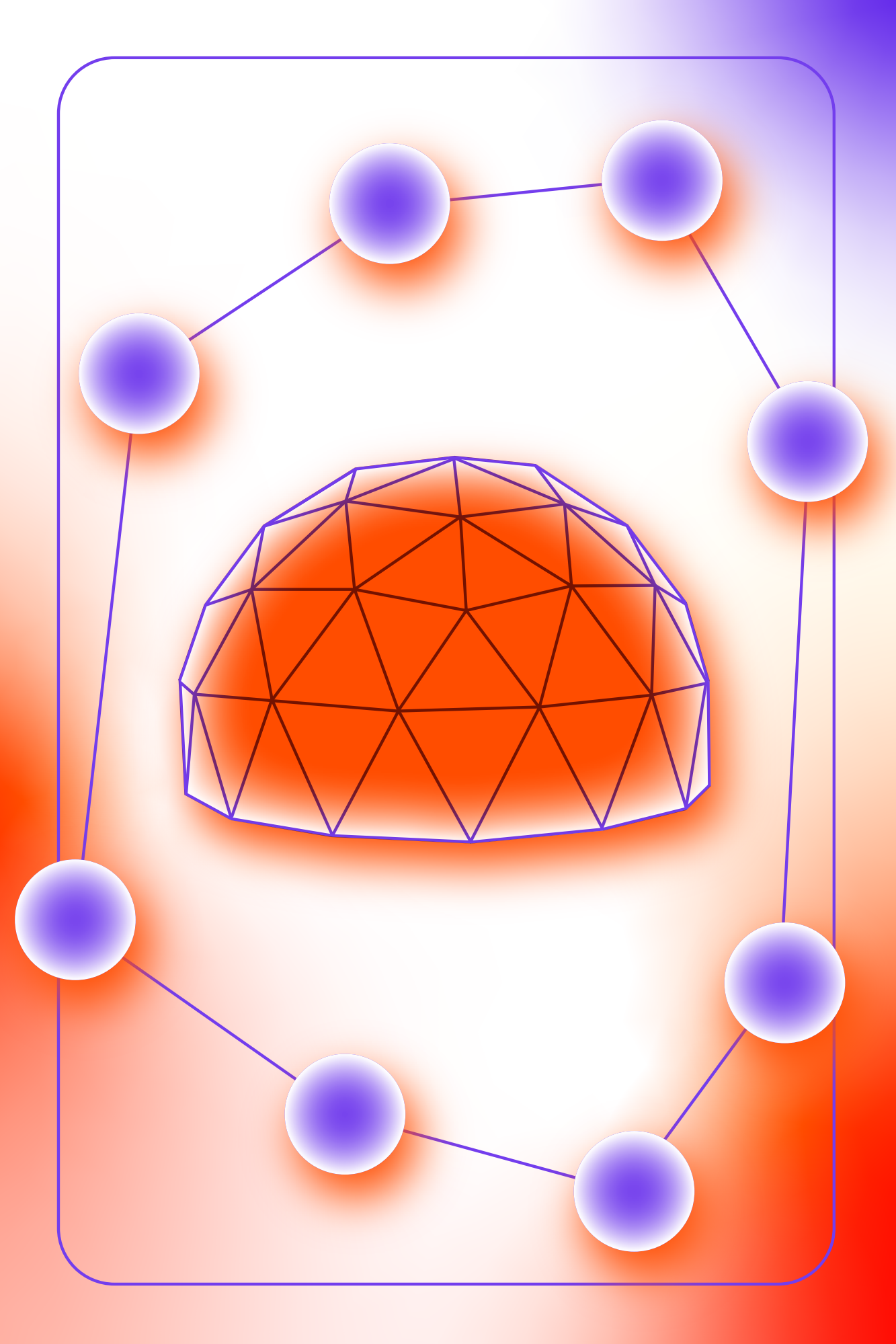
Vision

# The Data Healing Recovery Clinic

Feminist Tech Vision
by Neema Githere

After three years of dedicated organising following The Great Outage of 2021, our community of data healers have succeeded in developing a program tailored to the unique needs of individuals recovering from data trauma. Our practice operates based on a holistic approach to digital wellness which centres clients as collaborators and active participants. This is a space where we have patience, not patients. (…)

→ Principle 4

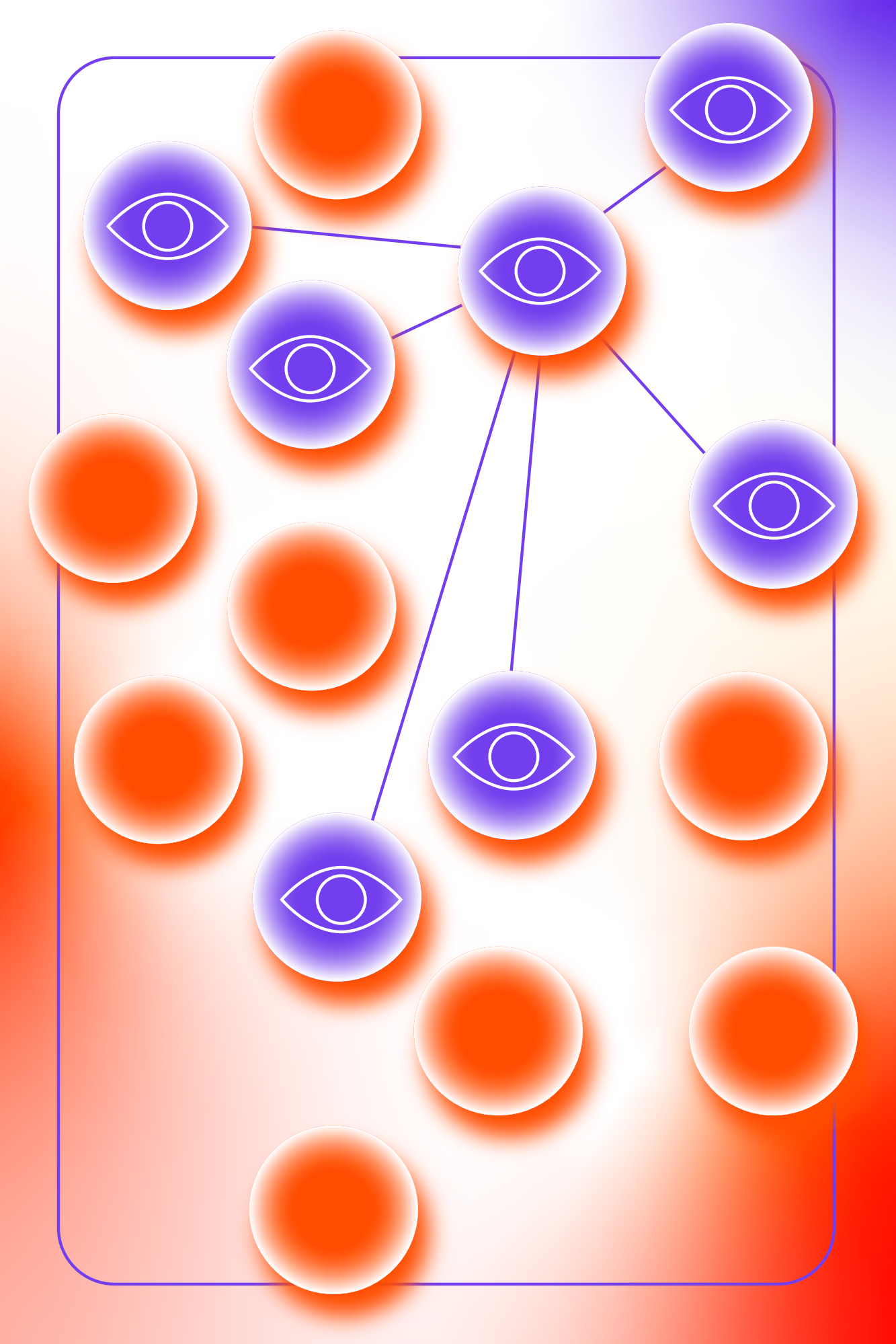


# The Muhabbet Hub

Feminist Tech Vision
by Buse Çetin

I was on my way back from my meditative walk in our neighbourhood forest. I've trained myself to listen to the melodies of the forest and translate them into my own sensual language. Yes, I am developing my own language with sound, image and sensations merging the digital and physical realms. (…)

→ Principle 5

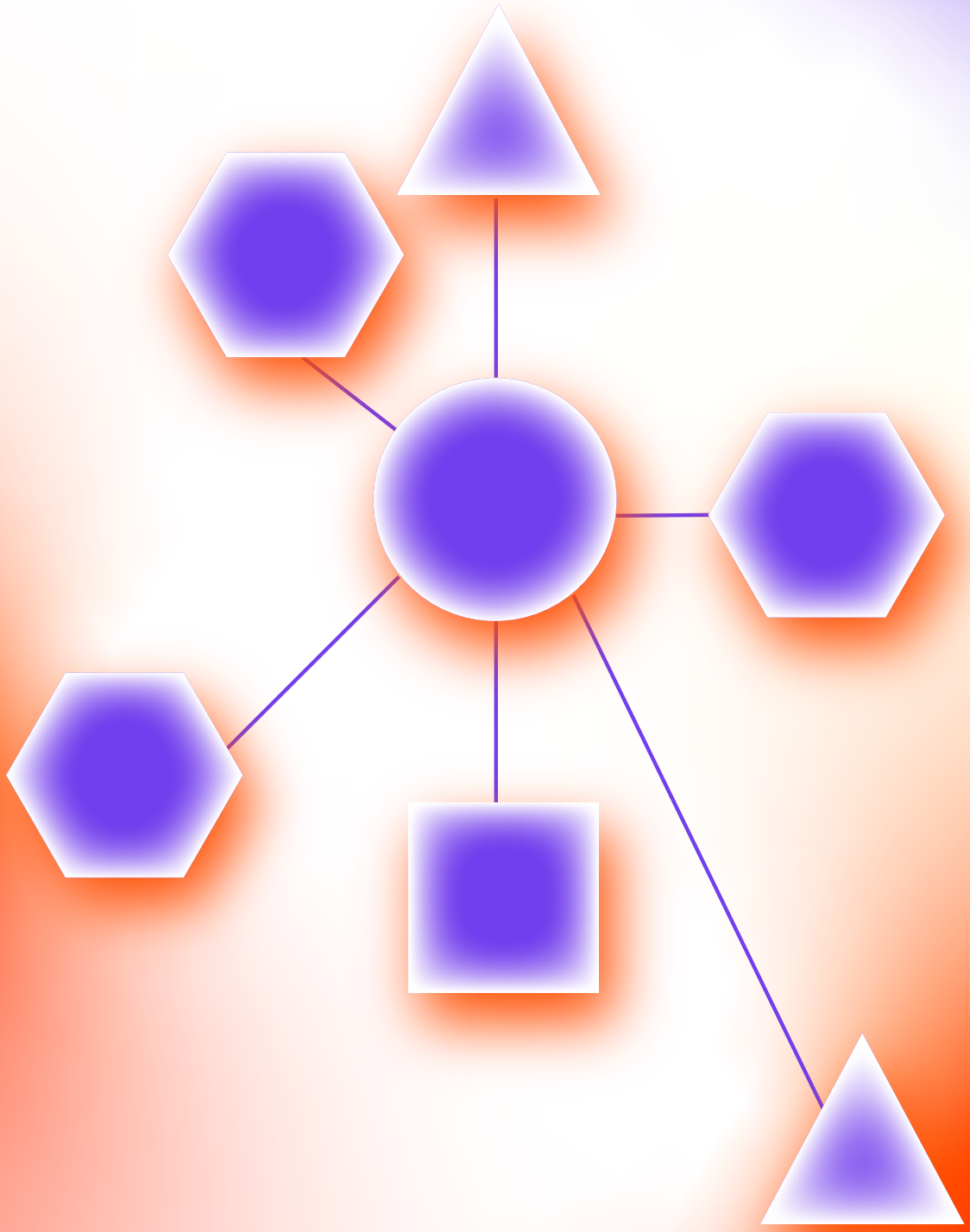


# Dear Diary: Trust and Dating in 2030

Feminist Tech Vision
by Chinmayi SK

I started my day listening to my favourite podcasts and reading through online news sites and social media with my coffee. I spent a good hour in the mild morning sun, something which has become rare these days. I now work remotely from my place tucked away in the hills. I still have a low bandwidth internet connection, but it is good enough to make decent video calls. I have a peaceful functional life. (…)

→ Principle 10



# Metaverses and Borderlands

Feminist Tech Vision
by Vanessa Opoku

When I was a teenager, I spent more time playing computer games than anything else. I loved switching between roles, playing different characters or creating my own.

Above all, it was the only place I was free of the ongoing determination of others, whether about my origin or ancestry, my gender or other parts of my identity. (…)

→ Principle 11

Vision

# “The Friendzzz app has requested to collect your data.”

Feminist Tech Vision
by Safa Ghnaim

I like to imagine a world where privacy is the default and informed choice is made possible. Let’s explore one such alternate reality together...

Imagine a new app comes out and takes the world by storm. It’s called the Friendzzz app. It’s a hot new social media app that puts people over profits and is fully accessible. (…)

→ Principle 12