



Click, scroll, delete: fundamental rights in the digital era

Julianne Freire

Human Rights Lawyer

Click: Fundamental rights at risk?

- ❖ Freedom of Speech
- ❖ Privacy & Equality
- ❖ Accountability & governance



Photo: Protests Gen Z in Nepal, 2025.

Scroll: platforms and States responsibilities

◆ State obligations

- ◆ Binding under international human rights treaties.
- ◆ Examples: ICCPR, European Court of Human Rights rulings.

◆ Platforms' responsibilities

- ◆ Not directly bound by international law.
- ◆ UN Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights (UNGPs): duty to respect rights.
- ◆ Content moderation policies = form of *privatized law-making*.

◆ **Tension:** sovereignty vs. global standards.

- ◆ Example: Hate speech in Germany (strictly regulated) vs. the U.S. (protected under 1st Amendment).

Delete: What is the way forward?

- ❖ Multi stake holder Governance
- ❖ Education
- ❖ Transparency



Thank you!

Julianne Freire