

2020

ANNUAL GAHR CONFERENCE

HUMAN RIGHTS IN CYBER SPACE

SEPTEMBER • 18 • 2020

9AM - 1PM





Cyberspace is a double-edged sword and a new arena of conflict.

Just as with every new communication platform, its utilization is dichotomous, as the reclaimed virtual ground of liberty can be exploited in a malignant manner.

BACKGROUND

The World Wide Web has been the unprecedented source of information since its establishment in the 1990s and played a crucial role in realizing the right of “access to information”.

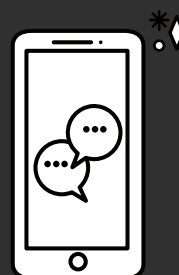
Internet facilitated the unification of and communication between people regardless of the restriction of movement they might suffer. This helped, in many instances, flagging human rights violations no matter where they occurred. The cyberspace is the space where “freedom of speech” has been exercised even in countries where this is a taboo.

Therefore, oppressive regimes are not in particular happy with the new virtual space and are straining to limit its availability. Intelligence systems and dictatorships have been literally stripped, thanks to the cyberspace. At the same time, these unmasked autocratic regimes are exploiting internet technology for the surveillance of activists and ordinary citizens expressing opposing political views, often justified by new law amendments in the name of “counter-terrorism”.



At a one-day online conference, including two panel discussions, human rights activists, representatives of law enforcement agencies, experts, other stakeholders and participants are invited to engage in a discussion about the topic of human rights regimes in cyberspace by focusing mainly on the challenge of finding the balance between free speech and hate speech as well as surveillance and data protection issues.

EVENT PROGRAM



9:00 TO 9:30 WELCOMING & INTRODUCTION

9:30 TO 11:00 PODIUM DISCUSSION + Q&A #1:

SURVEILLANCE VS. DATA PROTECTION

SPEAKERS:

CARMEN GONSALVES

(HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL CYBER POLICY, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE NETHERLANDS)

DANIEL MOSSBRUCKER

(FREE JOURNALIST ON SURVEILLANCE, DATA PROTECTION & INTERNET REGULATION)

PROF. WOLFGANG KLEINWÄCHTER

(COMMUNICATION AND INTERNET GOVERNANCE EXPERT, EMERITUS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF AARHUS)

LISA VERMEER

(DIGITAL POLICY ADVISOR, THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR NOT-FOR-PROFIT LAW)

MODERATION:

HEIKE ALEFSEN

(LEUPHANA UNIVERSITY LÜNEBURG)

11:30 TO 13:00 PODIUM DISCUSSION + Q&A #2:

FREEDOM OF SPEECH VS. HATE SPEECH

SPEAKERS:

AMENA KAMAAL

(EXPERT FOR STRATEGIC THINKING AND COMMUNICATION)

JUDITH FAESSLER

(TERRORISM AND INTERNET SECURITY EXPERT)

INGA DRAEGER

(MANAGING DIRECTOR, #ICHBINHIER)

LISA DITTMER

(ADVOCACY OFFICER FOR INTERNET FREEDOM, REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS GERMANY)

MODERATION:

PROF. ALESSANDRA ASTERITI

(LEUPHANA UNIVERSITY LÜNEBURG)

11:00 TO 11:30 BREAK