

# BUILDING A GLOBAL COMMUNITY FOR DIGITAL RIGHTS

Learnings, Commitments and Actions  
from the 2024 Global Youth Summit on  
Digital Rights



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1.

# BUILDING A GLOBAL COMMUNITY FOR DIGITAL RIGHTS: WILL YOU JOIN US?

## JOINING THE GLOBAL YOUTH SUMMIT ON DIGITAL RIGHTS!

From April 13-15, 2024, a vibrant community of young activists, digital rights experts, and civil society leaders gathered in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and online, united by a common goal: to shape a digital future where children and young people can safely and freely exercise their human rights.

In today's digital age, technology offers unparalleled opportunities for connection, mobilisation, and advocacy. Yet, it also brings challenges that threaten the rights and well-being of the younger generation. This Summit, the cornerstone of Amnesty International's RIGHTS Click Programme, aimed to address these challenges head-on, fostering a Global Community for Digital Rights.

Over three days, participants from across the globe engaged in powerful discussions, innovative workshops, and collaborative actions. Together, we explored how to harness the potential of digital technologies while safeguarding against their harms. Our goal was clear: to build a supportive, inclusive, and rights-respecting online world for all young people. Highlights of the Summit included keynote speeches from top digital rights advocates, interactive sessions on emerging tech trends, and collaborative projects promoting digital literacy and safety. Seeing so many young people working in diverse areas to uphold their rights and those of young people in the digital space was an eye opener. Understanding that digital rights activism can take different shapes and forms, and seeing young people speak about them and educate other young people to champion for these rights was a delight! This experience has been a powerful reminder that when we unite our voices and efforts, we can overcome any challenge. This event has not only expanded our knowledge of digital rights but also fueled our commitment to activism!

As we move forward, the connections and ideas generated during this summit will serve as a foundation for continued advocacy and action. We are committed to creating a digital environment that empowers young people to fully realise their potential and rights. Will you join us?



Celline Chiveli (she/her), 24,  
Kenya, Digital Rights  
Champion



Mercedes Alvarez Treveset  
(she/her), 18, Argentina,  
Digital Rights Champion

## BUILDING A GLOBAL COMMUNITY FOR DIGITAL RIGHTS

We are living in complex, uncertain times. Our human rights movements around the world are being confronted by challenges such as the climate crisis, conflicts, massive inequalities and discrimination and the rise in repressive and anti-rights practices. These challenges are set against a backdrop of rapid technological advancement that has many benefits for human rights, from enabling social movements to mobilise online, to providing those who have been historically marginalised, such as LGBTI people, the opportunity to connect and benefit from Human Rights Education.

Technology also poses numerous threats to human rights, including the use of technologies to surveil and ha-

grass human rights defenders and the use of algorithmic systems to discriminate and exclude certain populations from accessing essential services. Meanwhile, social media platforms compete for children and young people's attention with addictive design elements and profiling-based algorithmic recommender systems, which pose critical risks to human rights. Children and young people are often early adopters of new technologies, which can impact every aspect of their lives, from how they study to how they communicate. And yet, too often, they are left out of the debate, which is unacceptable.

It is time for political leaders, decision-makers and policymakers to listen to the voices of children and young people. They are experts and leaders, and their opinions matter. This Global Youth Summit on Digital Rights report captures not only the urgency for change, but also the power of next generations. When children and young people have access to opportunities to connect, mobilise and dream, they can envision a new world of possibilities. It is up to adults, like myself, to act as allies in this mission, so that children and young people – and adults – from different backgrounds, countries and communities can come together to protect and promote human rights in the digital age.

Change is happening quickly, and we need to act fast if we want to contribute to a better and fairer world. Will you join us?



Erika Guevara Rosas (she/her),  
Senior Director for Research, Advocacy, Policy and Campaigns,  
Amnesty International

## 2.

# HOSTING A GLOBAL YOUTH SUMMIT FOR DIGITAL RIGHTS

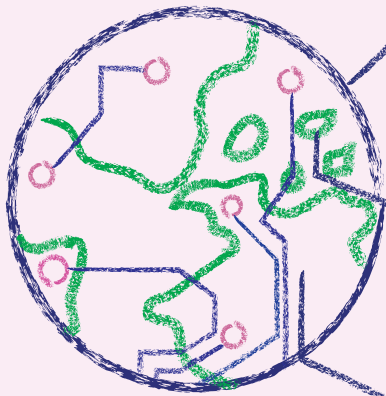
## WHAT HAPPENED?

Amnesty International hosted the [Global Youth Summit on Digital Rights](#) in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 13 to 15 April 2024. The three-day event brought together children and youth leaders from across the globe and provided a space to imagine a world that respects their rights, health, and well-being online. The Summit focussed on issues affecting children and young people online including surveillance, harassment, and abuse, with the aim of supporting them to feel safe and be able to assert their rights and those of others online.

## WHY A GLOBAL YOUTH SUMMIT ON DIGITAL RIGHTS?

Digital technologies have completely transformed how we live, with many benefits – such as the ability to mobilise for protest, connect with different communities, and learn about your identity – but there are also harms that impact the human rights of children and young people across the world. Too often, when it comes to these rights, it is adults talking to adults about issues that affect children and young people. This has to change. We need spaces where child and youth activists, in all their diversity, can come together, share learnings, address challenges and work together in solidarity, so that online platforms and other digital technologies are safe, supportive spaces for them to enjoy their health and well-being and realise their human rights. The **Global Youth Summit on Digital Rights** was a significant moment for bringing child and youth activists together, who are leading change in their communities, to build connections, relationships and communities, with the aim of setting up an intergenerational children and youth focussed **Global Community for Digital Rights**.

## WHO WAS THERE?



Over **200** participants, including **90** in person, from over **25** countries across the world;

**77%** of in-person participants were under 25 years old, and **13%** were under 18;

**40%** of participants were from over 20 partners from youth-led groups to multilateral institutions (see full list [here](#));

## Digital Rights Champions

The [Digital Rights Champions](#), a group of children and youth leaders from across the world with a passion and expertise in digital rights, supported the development of the strategy, approach and content at the Summit, with a view to recruiting new members to their Group. The Digital Rights Champions will play a critical role in the follow-up from the Summit, spearheading the Global Community for Digital Rights.

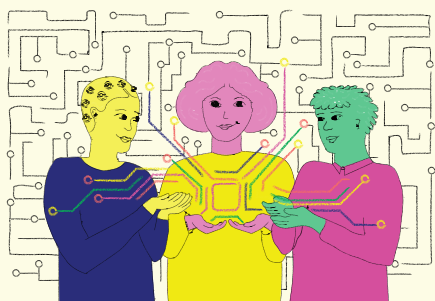


## WHAT DID WE DO?

- 3 days focussing on learning, dreaming, and acting for digital rights;
- Live interpretation provided in English, Spanish and French;
- Overall facilitation by 2 young activists from Argentina and Kenya;
- 20 parallel sessions, 10 led or co-led by partners, 10 led or co-led by young people;
- 3 plenary sessions featuring lived realities of activists and their leadership for digital change
- 3 inspiring themes cutting through the whole event.



Digital Rights Champions



**Uplifting power online:** showing youth actions that tap into the potential of online spaces for change and contribute to a rights-respecting internet



**Affirming well-being online:** demanding that the online world is safe, supportive and allows our community to connect and mobilise



**Protecting protest online:** to call out surveillance, harassment and abuse, protecting online civic spaces and making sure young voices are heard

## WHAT IS THIS REPORT FOR?

This report is designed to capture the learnings, commitments and actions from the Global Youth Summit on Digital Rights to lay the foundations for a **Global Community for Digital Rights**, and inspire new child and youth activists, and their allies, to join a global movement for change.

The Report is split into three Sections in line with how the Summit unfolded:

- 1. We learnt**, capturing some of the learnings that child and youth activists shared on Day 1, demonstrating that the challenges they face are global in nature;
- 2. We dreamt**, showing a new, innovative approach to imagining a world in which the rights of children and young people are respected in the digital world;
- 3. Now is the time to act**, setting out clear commitments, actions and next steps as we look to mobilise a Global Community for Digital Rights.

All information on the Summit, including the Participants Information Pack and Agenda, can be found [here](#). Photos taken during the event are [here](#) (Credit: Conurbana Audiovisual) and [here](#) (Credit: Amnesty International Argentina). Summit video content can be found [here](#).

### 3.

## WE LEARNT

*During Day 1 of the Summit, sessions focussed on sharing collective learnings, recognising shared challenges, and inspiring new ideas to scale their activism online and expose digital threats. Sessions focussed on topics including online climate disinformation, the role of media narratives in shaping youth participation, online harassment and surveillance, the right to privacy and data protection, cyberfeminism, digital polarisation, and care and resilience for a more sustainable online activism. The critical and reflective conversations from these sessions generated a number of insights about the experiences of children and young people online.*

### CHILDREN AND YOUTH NEED MORE SPACES WHERE ADULTS ARE LISTENING TO THEIR VOICES



Activists Chisako (she/her), left, and Abril (she/her), right, alongside Merybell (she/they), Child Participation Advisor

Child and youth activists from across the world repeatedly shared how their voices were not always heard in key decision-making spaces, whether it be in their communities or in global spaces like the United Nations (UN). Abril Perazzini (she/her), a 18 year old activist from Argentina, and Chisako Takada (she/her), a 17 year old activist from Japan, reflected on their experiences advocating for children rights in UN spaces, which felt invaluable in sharing the important voices from children and youth. They also found that the UN spaces they engaged with often have

procedures and systems created by adults and for adults, which can be difficult for children to adapt to and understand. Therefore, meaningful participation in these global spaces has to rely on the individual commitment and support of partners, rather than being facilitated by the institutions themselves.

**Amanda Manyame (she/her)** from the Alliance for Universal Digital Rights (Equality Now) and **Filippo Pierozzi (he/him)** from the UN Tech Envoy's office reflected on the need for more opportunities for children and youth to make their voices heard in shaping the digital environment, and on the upcoming UN Summit of the Future and its Global Digital Compact.

*“Young people are among the most impacted by digital technologies, yet their voices are the least likely to be heard in conversations about future technology and how it might be governed. It is our conviction that young people should play a crucial role and be powerful advocates in global digital cooperation efforts and ensure that digital technologies benefit them and the most vulnerable in society.”*

Amanda Manyame (she/her), Digital Law & Rights Advisor at Equality Now and the Alliance for Universal Digital Rights

## INCREASING ADVOCACY OF HATRED<sup>1</sup>, POLARISATION AND MIS-INFORMATION IN SHRINKING CIVIC SPACES

Disinformation and misinformation are on the rise in public discourse, creating division, polarisation and affecting the ability of child and youth activists to hold powerful actors to account, on a wide range of topics from climate justice to LGBTI rights.

Technologies can be a powerful tool to advance and protect human rights, but equally, they can jeopardise the safety of and create security threats to activists. The issue of growing online polarisation was a key concern for child and youth activists who observed deliberate strategies aimed at fostering divisions and manipulating people into conflict. Polarisation refers to the adoption

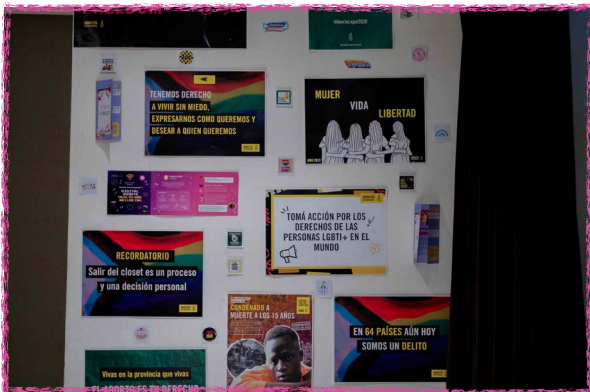
of extreme positions within discussions, often centred around contentious subjects like politics, abortion, and feminism. While societies are divided and advocacy of hatred proliferates, activism for human rights change becomes even harder.



Participants in action

Maung Sawyeddollah, a 21-year-old activist from Myanmar and Rohingya refugee, shared how young people led a campaign to denounce Meta's contribution to the atrocities perpetrated by the Myanmar military against the Rohingya people in 2017; and

William Orura, a 17-year-old Digital Rights Champion from Kenya, cautioned against the abuse of technology to harm and marginalise people in the digital world.



Participants stand up against shrinking civic spaces

*'Digital rights are crucial to me because they are intertwined with the broader struggle for human rights. Digital platforms play a significant role in shaping narratives, spreading information, and mobilising communities, but can also be misused to incite violence and perpetuate harm, as I've experienced in my country Myanmar.'*

**Maung Sawyeddollah (He/Him), 21, Myanmar, Youth Activist**

*'Everything that is created by human beings can be used by humans for good, and for bad. Let us take the example of a knife. It can be used to cut vegetables, but it can also be used by humans for violence. The same is the case for the digital world – it can be used for good, and for bad. We can use it to connect with each other, but it can also be used to harm and marginalise people. Like anything – technology can be abused'*

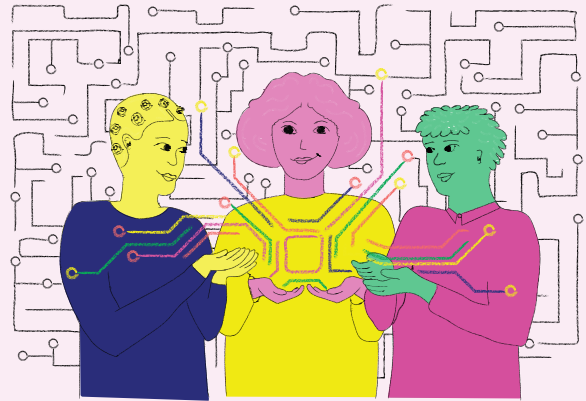
**William Orura (He/Him), 17, Kenya, Digital Rights Champion**

1. Amnesty International talks about advocacy of hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, instead of talking about 'hate speech', because the latter has no universally accepted definition in international law.



## TOOLS, TIPS AND RESOURCES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS

- Build Up has designed a tool for countering polarisation through social media analysis called [Phoenix](#), as well as [free online trainings](#), and a [digital peacebuilders guide](#);
- [#Iamhere](#) is a citizens network present in 14 countries that aims to strengthen people by reacting and standing up when others are exposed to hatred and threats online;
- Amnesty's research in [Myanmar](#) and [Ethiopia](#), shows how Meta's algorithms proactively amplified content which incited violence, hatred, and discrimination;
- Digital Rights Champion, Abril's, blog "[Children must be part of creating a digital future](#)".



### CHILD AND YOUTH ACTIVISTS ARE INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT HOW GOVERNMENTS AND TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES ARE GATHERING AND USING THEIR PRIVATE DATA

Child and youth activists made it clear that universal data protection rights are a growing priority. They emphasised that data protection is not about impeding progress but about striking a delicate balance between innovation and protecting individual rights. The right to privacy is not just a luxury but a cornerstone of human dignity and safety, laying the foundation for so many other human rights.

One example of this was in relation to the world of health: child and youth activists were concerned that health technologies could be mass-gathering data about their most personal and sensitive information, across a range of social media platforms and other health-related apps without their consent. While they may want to enjoy the benefit of health apps, such as meeting doctors remotely, they indicated not knowing where the data goes.



*"Privacy is a human right, and a prerequisite for the realisation of other fundamental rights in the digital space"*

Christopher Arunga (he/him), 27, Kenya, Digital Disruptor in the [Linda Data Campaign](#)



*"Healthcare Professionals are mandated to have patient confidentiality, but where are the same standards for the government and for tech companies. Our health data must be protected in the same way"*

Isaiah Emmanuel Suguitan (He/Him), 24, Philippines, Digital Rights Champion

## CHILD AND YOUTH ACTIVISTS ARE FACING INCREASING PRESSURE ON THEIR WELL-BEING, ESPECIALLY IN DIGITAL SPACES

Activists are facing growing pressures on their well-being and can find it difficult to talk about, including with the organisations they represent, or the communities they serve. The activists reflected on the call to be everywhere, respond to all opportunities, and meet the standard of the 'perfect' activist that is so often perpetuated by the same organisations that organise activism. Social media, as tools for activism, are more and more toxic and addictive by design, which can impact the self-image, mental health, and well-being of younger users. Matias Rimoldi, a 17 year old Argentina activist presented [#Secured Mode \(ModoSeguro\)](#), a project by Google Argentina together with Unicef, Infobae and TED-Ed Clubs where children and young people train others to identify and avoid online threats, and be more aware of social media risks to mental health and well-being.



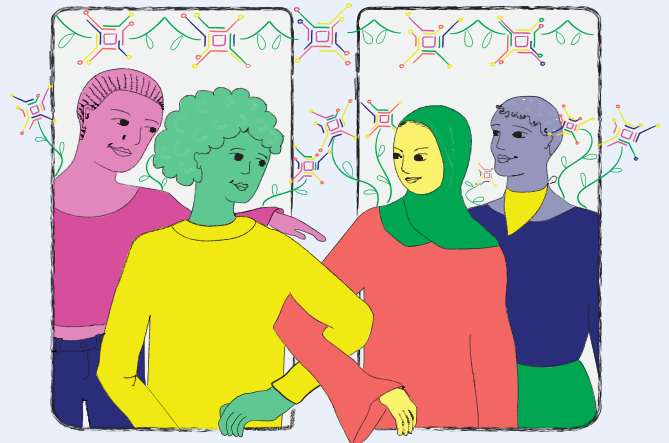
Activists explore how activism is affecting their well-being

## TOOLS, TIPS AND RESOURCES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS

- Tactical Tech has developed [Data Detox x Youth](#), an activity book to help young people take control of their digital technologies with simple activities for reflection and play. The activity book includes sections on digital privacy, digital security, digital well-being and misinformation. They also launched the series [What the Future Wants: Everywhere, All the time](#) that fosters critical conversations about AI, technology and its impacts;

- AUDRi, together with other feminist organisations, developed these [feminist principles](#) to contribute to the UN Global Digital Compact. With Equality Now & Vulnera they wrote this report: [Sexual Violence and Harassment in the Metaverse](#);

- Amnesty published a [Research into the harms of TikTok](#);
- Amnesty's [Staying Resilient While Trying to Save the World Fanzine \(volume 1\)](#) and [Workbook for Youth Activists \(volume 2\)](#).



## CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCE ACCESS TO, AND IMPACTS FROM, DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES VERY DIFFERENTLY

Disparate access to the internet for children and young people reinforces inequalities in access to rights. Online spaces have the potential to be inclusive and transformative, enabling child and youth activists to realise many of their human rights – and yet too often, children and young people do not have full access to technology for learning, connecting and mobilising. This means that, for Governments and

civil society at large, digital inclusion must be a priority to ensure that all young people, regardless of their identity, can participate fully and equally in the digital world.

Moreover, it was clear that technology can affect different communities in different ways. For example, for women and girls, it can support informed decision-making on sexual and reproductive rights; but it can also embed inequalities when there is unequal access to technology resulting in limited access to reliable information on the same rights; and for LGBTI people, it can create community spaces and enable people to learn about their identity, but it can also lead to bullying and discrimination. We need to consider the intersectional needs of all communities so that we build a world that respects everyone's rights in the digital world.

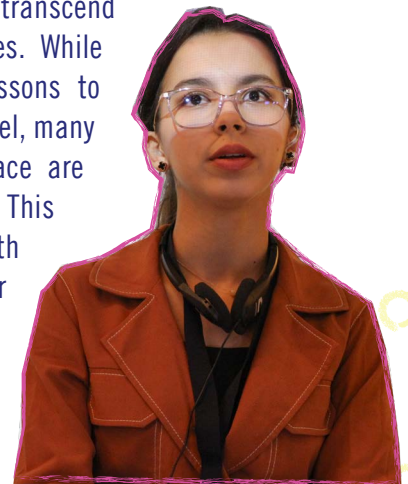
## IF THE DIGITAL WORLD IS SAFE, SUPPORTIVE, AND INCLUSIVE, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE CAN LEAD SOCIAL MOVEMENTS ACROSS THE WORLD

Civic spaces, including online spaces, are shrinking, especially for youth-led activism. Narratives have been constructed about children and youth protesters, which can influence their ability to mobilise and be civically engaged. Children are often seen as too young to participate in activism, and if they do it is suggested that they are being paid or brainwashed. In other contexts, children and youth protesters are seen as marginalised, rebellious, indoctrinated, uninformed, or ignorant. They may also be portrayed as 'victims or villains' - labels that can justify securitisation or (over) protection - or as disruptive - which can be positive or negative. In countries where protesting is less common, child and youth-led protests can instead be seen positively.

During the opening panel, Amina Affinida, a 24 year old Moroccan activist and member of Amnesty's Digital Rights Champions, described how surveillance, harassment and abuse online threaten civic space and how young voices find ways to make their voices heard in the online space. She also spoke of censorship of content

from Palestinian accounts and advocates of Palestinian rights on several social media platforms, drawing from [current reports received by Amnesty](#).

Overall, an important conclusion coming through was that regulating digital technology is a global challenge that requires global action, and collective solidarity. For so many digital rights issues, from government surveillance to the role of big international technology companies, many of the human rights challenges transcend geographical boundaries. While there are so many lessons to learn at the national level, many of the problems we face are international in nature. This is why child and youth activists made it clear that working together, in solidarity across the world, is more important than ever.



Amina (she/her), Digital Rights Champion

## TOOLS, TIPS AND RESOURCES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS



- [Amnesty International launches campaign to protect the right to protest](#)
- [Civil Society Digital Security Hub](#)
- [Online Violence Resources and Amnesty Academy Course](#)

# 4.

## WE DREAMT

*During Day 2 of the Summit, with the steering of an external facilitator trained in play theory, participants embarked on a 6 step journey to imagine a new world, both online and offline, that respected their rights, health and well-being. Through a wide range of creative methodologies and techniques, such as games, processed drama, collaborative and applied theatre, we created a playful world for all Summit participants.*



All participants dream together

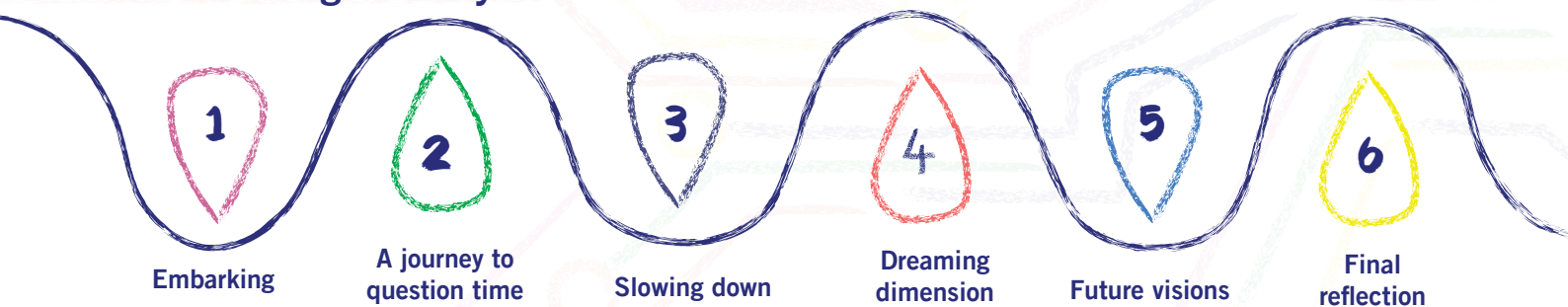
Countless studies show how play can enable children and young people (and adults!) to connect with our intrinsic ability to imagine and innovate. Play is an important right for children and young people, as set out in Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), and it can also contribute to cognitive, physical and emotional well-being. It offers a space to challenge existing norms and assumptions, and envision bold alternatives, which are crucial in addressing today's complex challenges and crises. At the Summit, child and youth activists took part in fun, creative and playful activities to create bonds, disrupt their usual way of thinking, and creatively imagine a digital world that respects their human rights. Using the EPR Model, there are three different forms of play that can be embedded into dreaming sessions:

**Embodiment Play:** Using different senses, including smell, touch and sound, to interact with the world

**Projective Play:** Using toys and objects to externalise ideas as an act of self expression

**Role Play:** Taking on roles of other people to explore different lived experiences

### Dreaming Journey



### Part One: Embarking (on a playful journey)

The first step included sharing open, exploratory questions with the participants, with a focus on the role of time, in shaping our everyday realities and experiences. These questions included: Do you at times feel that time is passing too quickly? Do you sometimes feel that you don't get to do all the things you want to do? Do you ever feel pressured to make the most of every minute? How does time feel when you are immersed in social media? Once participants had considered and debated these questions, they were divided into groups, and received letters inviting them to reflect on the role of time in our lives, and across history, and to question the limits of time we often feel.

## Part Two: A Journey to Question Time

Participants travelled in groups across the venue to meet different “Time Guardians” inviting them to discover different periods of time, from the prehistoric era to modern times. Each room presented unique challenges that teams needed to solve collaboratively in order to uncover messages that led them to the next room. These tasks were designed to provoke thought and teamwork, prompting participants to reflect on their perception of time through playfulness.



Participants use creativity to reflect on time

## Part Three: Slowing Down

At the end of their journey through time, participants gathered to reflect on the messages they had received. They explored the modern, fast-paced conception of time, how social media and digital platforms shape it, and how it impacts their activism, well-being, and ability to dream. To challenge this, they were guided to slow down their internal clocks, through movement and body expression.

## Part Four: Entering the Dream Dimension

Participants were then invited to enter a new dimension of dreams, where time stands still and nothing is rushed. They could connect with the present through sensory activities and a guided meditation where children and young people were invited to imagine their future, focusing on four global themes: politics, people, environment, and the digital world.



Participants use arts and craft to imagine a new world

## Part Five: Future Visions & Collective Dreams

After individual and collective imagining exercises, participants shared their visions of the future and captured them on murals. Four themes emerged, capturing the hopes, dreams and aspirations of children and young people:

### ○ Dreaming of inclusive political systems

Participants imagined a future where children and young people were in power and their leadership was truly diverse and representative. They hoped for an inclusive and participatory political system where all voices were heard, dismantling centralised power structures and promoting equality and justice.

*“Include young refugees, migrants, queers in decision-making”*

*“Leading with love”*

*“Service for the people, by the people”*

○ **Dreaming of people's well-being:** They imagined a future where people live in harmony with nature, communicating honestly and empathetically. A world where well-being is not tied to productivity and outputs, but to how communities are built to focus on shared values of health, well-being and human rights.

*"A world where everyone does what they like and lives happily, where people work less and play more."*

*"People are mindful of one another and are not driven by self-interest."*

*"I dream of a world where people stop wanting more and find happiness within themselves."*

*"People in the future are friendly and respectful to all identities."*

*"People spend more time with friends, family, and community."*

○ **Dreaming of an environment we care for:** participants also imagined a future where respect for nature is paramount and humanity coexists in harmony with the environment. They envisioned green cities, free of pollution, and sustainable communities that value and protect natural resources.

*"Cities without pollution and plastic waste, with trees outnumber buildings."*

*"Recognizing ourselves as part of nature, which cares for and provides for us."*

*"Climate justice, taxes on big companies, the end of fossil fuels."*

*"A world green and blue, where we meet outside screens."*

○ **Dreaming of safe and accessible digital environments for all:** they imagined an inclusive, safe, and accessible digital future for everyone, where technology promotes well-being, creativity, and equitable access to information. They emphasised the importance of using artificial intelligence to solve social problems from health to welfare, and ensuring internet safety for everyone.

*"Equal meaningful access to the internet, devices and technologies."*

*"Safe and happy environment to communicate."*

*"Artificial Intelligence used to solve societal problems, and combined with Human Intelligence"*

*"Technology that bridges communication across cultures without diminishing diversity."*

## Part Six: Final Reflection - Dreaming and Building Utopias

To conclude, participants reflected on the importance of dreaming and building utopias. Participants shared how they feel as activists, their dreams, and the importance of thinking about what we can do to turn those dreams into reality. As a final activity, participants paired up and became “dreaming buddies.” Each person shared a dream about the digital future with their buddy, and scheduled a message to be sent on the same day in 10 years time to check-in with their buddy, reconnect and see whether their dream was realised. Let’s see what the future holds...

### TOOLS, TIPS AND RESOURCES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS:

- Children and Youth’s Call for Action to recognise [The Power of Play](#)
- Free Play Resources and Activities to embed play with [Learning Through Play](#) & [Play Included](#)
- UNFPA’s Theatre-based [Youth Peer Education Toolkit](#)
- Amnesty’s [Childrens’ rights page](#)

## 5.

# NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT!

Day 3 was focused on translating these dreams into action! Different sessions proposed joint actions and strategies for digital rights, focusing on: using play in engaging with children activists, using social media to protest and promote human rights, and pushing for social innovation, the intersection between digital rights, health and diversity. We also explored how we would come together to create a collective vision for a rights-respecting digital world, and build a Global Community for Digital Rights.

## WE HAVE DEVELOPED A COLLECTIVE VISION FOR A RIGHTS-RESPECTING DIGITAL FUTURE

While child and youth activists, and their allies, come from different countries, backgrounds, and areas of activism, there was a strong view that if we worked together and built a Global Community for Digital Rights, we could be more powerful and impactful. Our collective vision is for a world that respects the rights, health and well-being of all children and young people, and where there is:

- **Solidarity and unity** in the face of movements that are pushing back against the human rights of children and young people across the world;

- **Space for dreams and 'big thinking'** amidst the fast-paced nature of technological change, to harness the real innovation, creativity and the leadership of children and young people;

- **Inclusion and equity**, recognising how there can be barriers to accessing important decision-making spaces, and committing to ensuring that all Communities are heard, especially those that are under-represented in activism spaces;

- **Holistic understanding of human rights in the digital age**, acknowledging that digital spaces overlap with offline realities, and that digital rights are not a standalone topic, but one that cuts across all forms of activism, from climate justice to LGBTI rights;

- **Safe, positive, inclusive online spaces** that enable children and young people to realise all of their human rights, going way beyond just achieving digital security, to thriving towards a positive, healthy and inclusive digital space for all.



Participants share moments of joy & care



*"As human beings, we need to make sure that digital spaces respect our rights. Digital spaces are as important as real life!"*

Amina Affinida (she/her), 24, Morocco, Digital Rights Champion

*"We always use words such as 'rights' 'equity' and 'digital empowerment' but how can we bring in additional sectors and partners so that when we talk about rights, it is not abstract to these actors, but something they are part of"*

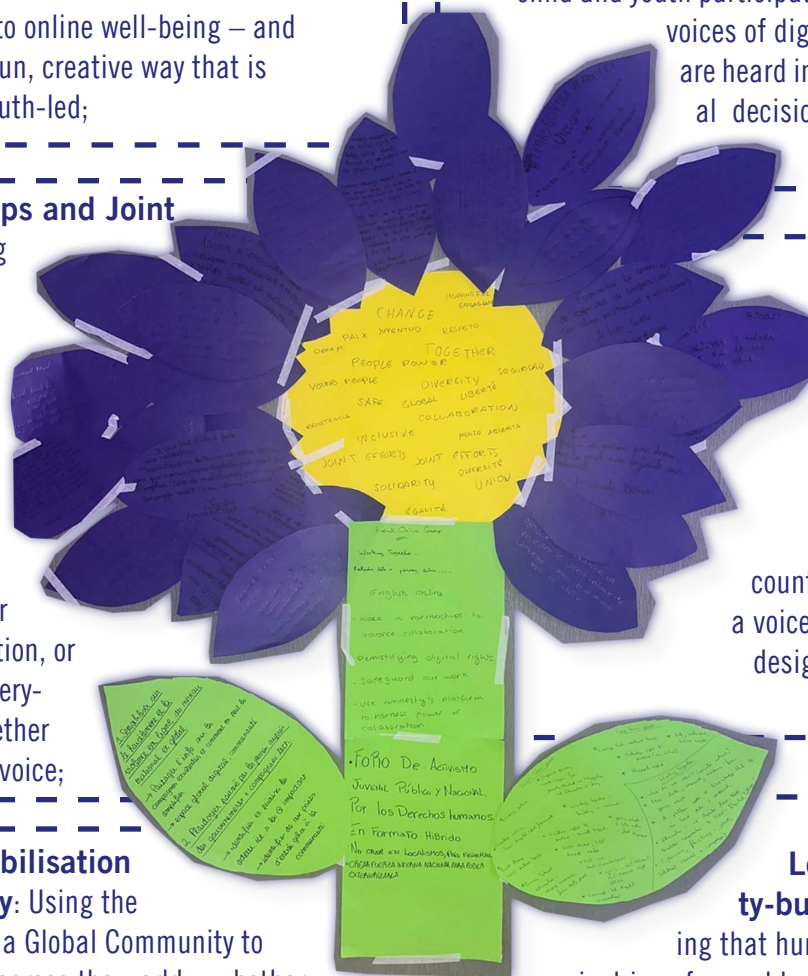
Tinashe Rufurwadzo (he/him) Communications and Digital Engagement Manager, GNP+



# WE HAVE COMMITTED TO WORKING TOGETHER IN SOLIDARITY TO BUILD A GLOBAL COMMUNITY

There was a strong desire to build a Global Community for Digital Rights, where child and youth activists, and their allies, could work together, build global solidarity, and act together to hold actors, including governments and technology companies, accountable for their human rights record in the digital age. As part of this Community, whether it was at the organisational or individual level, there were **high-level commitments** to work together in these different ways:

- 1. Education and Awareness-raising:** Working together to develop child and youth-friendly tools, templates, campaigns and content to raise awareness about issues from digital security to online well-being – and doing this in a fun, creative way that is children-and-youth-led;
- 2. Child and Youth Participation:** Building capacities of different organisations, communities and decision-makers to enable meaningful child and youth participation, and ensure the voices of digital rights activists are heard in global and regional decision making spaces, including the UN;
- 3. Partnerships and Joint Action:** Finding connections across the Global Community to work together on joint actions, whether it be 1 or 2 partners working together on a specific action, or whether it be everyone coming together with one global voice;
- 4. Community Inclusion:** Using the Global Community to ensure that under-represented groups, whether it be based on the country or identity, have a voice in spaces that are designing global digital governance;
- 5. Global Mobilisation and Solidarity:** Using the people power of a Global Community to show solidarity across the world – whether a young person faces online threats in Africa or the Americas, we can stand up for each other and build a global movement;
- 6. Global and Local Community-building:** Recognising that human rights change is driven forward by local and national actors as well as at the international level, and ensuring that national and global action complements and reinforces each other;
- 7. Knowledge building and Learning:** Sharing our learnings and expertise to generate new ideas – digital rights is a new, complex area of human rights, and from research to policy, our collective resources and knowledge can advance our collective aims.



## WE WILL WORK TIRELESSLY TO ADVOCATE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE DIGITAL AGE

During a final plenary session, focussed on galvanising action for digital rights, leaders including Luisa Machado, a Sustainable Development Goal Young Leader, and Felipe Paullier, Assistant-Secretary General on Youth Affairs, UN Youth Office, made a passionate call for more support to young people from adult allies and organisations; with the right support, child and youth activists can become a formidable force for change within the digital landscape.

**Gurchaten Sandhu**, Director of Programmes, ILGA World, then reminded us that online spaces should be **inclusive and transformative, reflecting the diversity** in race, gender, and class of the global youth population.

*“Digital inclusion is fundamental to ensuring that all young people, regardless of their identity, especially who they are and who they love, can participate fully and equally in the digital world.”*

**Gurchaten Sandhu (he/they), Director of Programmes, ILGA World**

**Erika Guevara Rosas**, Senior Director for Research, Advocacy, Policy and Campaigns, Amnesty International, called out the **responsibility of power-holders** - governments and companies alike - in making digital spaces **secure, supportive, and empowering** for children and young people, and in genuinely consulting them in the creation of policies and regulations affecting their online experiences.



Erika (she/her), Senior Director at Amnesty, Activist Luisa (she/they), and Digital Rights Champion, Isaiah (He/him)

**Isaiah Emmanuel Suguitan**, a young activist from The Philippines and Digital Rights Champion, concluded by reminding us all that child and youth-led change is nothing new: youth-led movements are already driving significant actions on issues such as climate justice, racial justice, gun violence, and sexual and reproductive health rights. They are now mobilising for a digital world that respects their rights!

*“Children and young people are the internet generation but too often, they are left out debates about the use and design of technologies that shape their lives. This is not acceptable, and needs to change. The voices of youth activists are loud and clear - their human rights in digital spaces must not be compromised”*

**Erika Guevara Rosas (she/her), Senior Director for Research, Advocacy, Policy and Campaigns, Amnesty International**

*“We must realise that we aren’t future leaders, because the reality is, we’re leaders now. Our age, will not and will never be a hindrance to calling out things that are wrong in our society, let alone human rights violations online. After all, we’re activists - we claim the rights of everyone, everywhere”*

**Isaiah Emmanuel Suguitan (he/him), 24, Philippines, Digital Rights Champion**

# CALL TO ACTIONS

*Using all the ideas, energy, and inspiration from the Summit, child and youth activists came together to develop a set of bold, ambitious calls to action, a set of collective asks for the Global Community for Digital Rights to take forward in national, regional and global spaces:*

**1. Governments and multilateral institutions** must meaningfully include children and young people, in all their diversity, in international, regional and national decision-making and policy-making on human rights in the digital age.

**2. Governments** must regulate and hold companies accountable for their human rights record to ensure the rights of children and young people, including protecting their data and privacy rights, are protected, respected and promoted by design.

**3. Governments** must adopt and implement policies to protect the rights of children and young people, to protect civic spaces and ensure that they have full access to a safe and inclusive digital world.

**4. Social media companies** should ban all targeted advertising aimed at younger users, and establish Youth Accountability Boards where children and youth can be consulted and involved in the decision-making of the platforms they use.

**5. Civil Society** must ensure that children and young people are meaningfully and actively involved in the design and implementation of all Programmes focused on advancing digital rights.

**6. All organisations working with children and young people** must commit to, and invest resources in, prioritising the health and well-being of children and young people in their programmes and products.

**7. All organisations, and child and youth activists,** should see digital rights as a lens cutting across various other human rights topics, from LGBTQ+ rights to Indigenous rights, rather than seeing it as a standalone topic.

**8. Child and youth activists,** from across the world, should acknowledge that digital rights is a global issue by its nature, and requires a global response, where we work in solidarity with different countries and communities across the world.

**9. The UN Special Rapporteur** on the situation of human rights defenders should urge member states to fulfil their responsibility to take specific measures for the protection of human rights defenders, particularly children and young people.

6.

## JOIN THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY FOR DIGITAL RIGHTS!

The journey does not stop here! Together, we will climb many more summits to demand a digital environment that prioritises inclusivity, accessibility, safety and privacy. Now that we have had the Global Youth Summit on Digital Rights, it is time to work together and put our ideas into action. If you want to be a leader in this Global Community for Digital Rights, this is what you need to do next:

1. *Join Amnesty International's online Youth, Power, Action! Platform and the community mailing list by contacting [youthdigitalrights@amnesty.org](mailto:youthdigitalrights@amnesty.org);*
2. *Engage in the Community by sharing your research, ideas, campaigns and calls-to-action;*
3. *Watch out for opportunities to join events shared on the platform or by email.*

**NOW IS THE TIME TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE DIGITAL AGE. WILL YOU JOIN US?**





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