

DIGITAL RIGHTS



Virtually Safe



**IMPACT
AMPLIFIER**

< TEENS CAN CODE >

**RIGHT TO
FREEDOM OF
EXPRESSION**

**RIGHT TO
DIGITAL
ACCESS**

**RIGHT TO
CREATE AND
SHARE DIGITAL
CONTENTS**



www.virtuallysafe.org

DIGITAL RIGHTS

A digital citizen is a person with an identity on the internet. Being a digital citizen means that you are part of an online community. This citizenship is accompanied by many rights and responsibilities, which are intended to protect you as well as everyone else with whom you interact. Digital rights is one of those rights.

Digital rights are those human rights that allow individuals to access, use, create and publish digital media. The rights are given to utilize the media or devices for right activities and not for anything against the law of the society. It permits us to access and use electronic devices such as mobile phones, television, video games, laptop, camera, camcorder etc.

Just as citizens in a society have certain rights and responsibilities, digital citizens in the online world also have certain rights and responsibilities. Digital citizens can enjoy rights of privacy, security, access and inclusion, freedom of expression and more. In other words, Your digital rights cover things like protecting your personal data, protecting your freedom of expression and free access to the internet. it is your right to privacy, data protection and access. However, with those rights come certain responsibilities, such as ethics and empathy and other responsibilities to ensure a safe and responsible digital environment for all.

Just as citizens in a society have certain rights and responsibilities, digital citizens in the online world also have certain rights and responsibilities.

The internet can be a powerful tool for advancing ideas and communities, but it can also be a destructive weapon when users' rights are impeded or if users are not given the opportunity to establish any rights whatsoever. Like other human laws, digital rights ensure that the rights of those using different technologies and platforms are well protected.

www.virtuallysafe.org

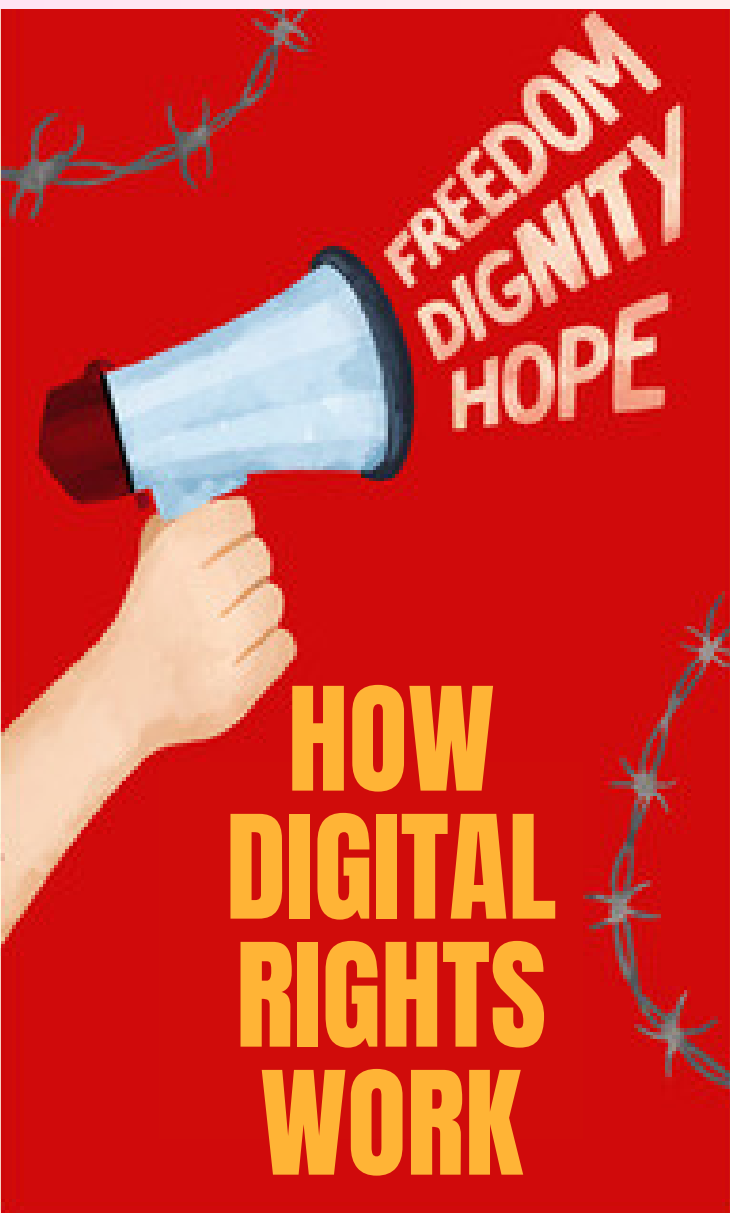


Since most of our activities now are performed over the internet, it is important we understand our digital rights to avoid being taken advantage of especially as young people. Everyone, be it as Individual users, governments, industry and public institutions have an obligation to maintain the integrity of the internet community, whether it has local effects or international effects.

On the other hand, it is important to know, just like a popular saying goes, where the right of one ends, another begins. This means that others equally have the same digital rights that you have. Remember the golden rule, do to others as you would have them do to you. Therefore, you should not act or behave in such a way that will affect others. Once you decide to use digital technologies, you can enrich your experience by reading and understanding your rights and responsibilities, reading through the terms of use on the websites, platforms and apps that you use.

DIGITAL RIGHTS

www.virtuallysafe.org



You have the right to use any and all digital technologies, and you have the responsibility to use them in a safe and responsible manner.

You have the right to use any and all digital technologies, and you have the responsibility to use them in a safe and responsible manner. Taking this a step further, a right means that you have the freedom from interference by another user or institution, whereas a responsibility means that you have a duty to act in a certain way.

All democratic communities, wherever they are located, have placed emphasis on the just and fair: just and fair rules, just and fair opportunities, just and fair say. The digital community is no exception.

In case you don't know, some people are actually looking for your data. You may not know but individuals, groups and companies are actually interested in getting your personal details both for good and not so good reasons.

For instance, governments, companies and even cyber criminals can easily collect your personal data and track your movements and communications without you knowing. This is what digital rights are out to protect.

The question will now be, what are the digital rights available out there? Let's look at some of the digital rights available for you.

1. Right to share your thoughts and opinions (Freedom of Expression).

2. Right to access digital content and use them.

3. Right to create and share digital contents.

4. Right to own and use electronic devices and the internet.

5. Right to gain credit for any personal works or ideas.

6. Right to privacy in digital platforms and communities.

7. Right to report or raise an alarm when violated.

Digital rights are important in ensuring that individuals are able to use digital technologies safely and securely, and that they are protected from online abuse and exploitation. Since a lot more children and teenagers are consuming online content these rights serve them well because they are often a primary target of online attacks and many times they can't protect themselves. Digital rights are in fact important to protect everyone and ensure there is peaceful coexistence.

Digital rights are also important because it protects the creator's work from being copied and used without acknowledgement and compensation. A lot of children are joining the creative circle, they are using their creativity to reel out materials, designs and even apps on a daily basis. These are their intellectual properties and should be well protected.

DIGITAL RIGHTS

www.virtuallysafe.org

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY DIGITAL RIGHTS ARE VIOLATED?

1. Get evidence of the violation by getting a screenshot or copying its URL.
2. In the case of bully or abuse, report to a social media service
3. In cases where your freedom of expression was restricted, you can report to a higher authority.
4. Talk to a trusted adult preferably your parents.

In most countries with Digital Rights legislation, such violations can be taken to court. Reporting the case is one of your rights, use it when necessary.

DIGITAL RESPONSIBILITY

The internet has transformed our lives since its inception, connecting users and enabling a virtual online worldwide community for all, and we all have our responsibilities in this digital space. Part of the process of a child growing up is to learn to become a responsible citizen, able to obey laws, protect their privacy, and respect the rights of others in the society.

Digital responsibility refers to using the internet and digital devices the right way both for oneself and others.

In the same way, when we start using devices to connect to the virtual world we must also learn certain rules, behaviors and good practice that govern this virtual world.

Being a responsible digital citizen entails judicious use of technology as well as safe and informed online behavior. As people connect, purchase, and share information online, the concept of digital citizenship is becoming more widely understood. As a result, practicing responsible habits is more important than ever before.

Digital responsibility refers to using the internet and digital devices the right way both for oneself



and others. It is about how you obey the digital rights of others while using the internet or digital technology. Some examples of digital responsibilities are:

1. Use of appropriate language and behaviour when interacting with others. You should know that as much as the digital right protects you from online bullying or abuse, the same protection applies to others. Hence, you should not speak or treat others inappropriately online.

2. Obey all intellectual property laws. The intellectual laws are laws that protect people's intellectual properties such as research work, books, songs, movies, etc. It is important to learn how to cite people's work appropriately. Although it is acceptable to use someone's work as a resource for your class assignments, group research work or school projects, you need to always give them credit when you do so. By doing so, you are being a responsible citizen. Plagiarism has been a growing concern in schools and other learning institutions. This behaviour is not acceptable. It violates the rights of others. You need to clearly understand and follow the expectations of using someone else's work.

The illegal downloading of videos, books, songs, etc is an ongoing problem in our society. Students need to understand that this is not only disrespectful to the artists and producing companies, but it is against the law. So don't use or share people's work without permission.

DIGITAL RIGHTS

www.virtuallysafe.org



TEACHING PUPILS AND STUDENTS ABOUT DIGITAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Pupils and students use technology and the internet to connect with the world outside their schools and communities as part of their learning process. It is the responsibility of teachers to educate them about the safe, responsible and acceptable behaviours within a digital environment.

Cyberbullying, online predators, and inappropriate content are the regular dangers that kids and teens face daily. Educating them of their digital rights can be a way of arming them ahead of time.

A simple way of teaching this is through the development of what is called "Acceptable Use Policy". This acceptable use policy provides a set of rules and regulations that students should follow when accessing the internet.

Teachers should require that their pupils or students review and sign an acceptable use policy (AUP) before being granted access to the school's computers and network. With this, they will be constantly aware of what they are and what they are not allowed to do with the IT systems of the school.

This will encourage the use of technology and the internet in positive and productive ways, while promoting civility among our students. Teachers are great influencers in the lives of young people and so they can help to teach, correct and empower them as they explore the digital world.

Cyberbullying, online predators, and inappropriate content are the regular dangers that kids and teens face daily. Educating them of their digital rights can be a way of arming them ahead of time.

3. Respect other people's opinions. It is important that you respect the opinions and ideas of others even if you don't accept it. Don't talk down on anyone just because you don't agree with them. Whether on one on one bases or across the internet. The same way you will expect people to respect your opinion, do the same for others.

4. Follow rules and regulations for every Internet site. There are often rules guiding every website or community where we belong or visit for information. It is necessary to follow the rules that guide the operations of such places. For instance in some groups, sharing of certain things is not allowed. We should obey such rules. Failure to do so will mean irresponsibility.

5. Responsibility to report cyberbullying, threats, and inappropriate use of digital resources. This is also one of your responsibilities as a user. If you ever experience any of the above, don't keep it to yourself. Report to appropriate authority.

DIGITAL RIGHTS

www.virtuallysafe.org

HOW CAN PARENTS EDUCATE THEIR CHILDREN ON DIGITAL RIGHTS?

Already, according to the provisions of the digital rights, governments are to ensure the protection of children on the internet using all available measures; however, parents still have a big role to play in ensuring that their children are well protected.

As a parent, you need to intentionally help your children to understand their rights and responsibilities in the digital space so that they will play safe both for themselves and for fellow users.

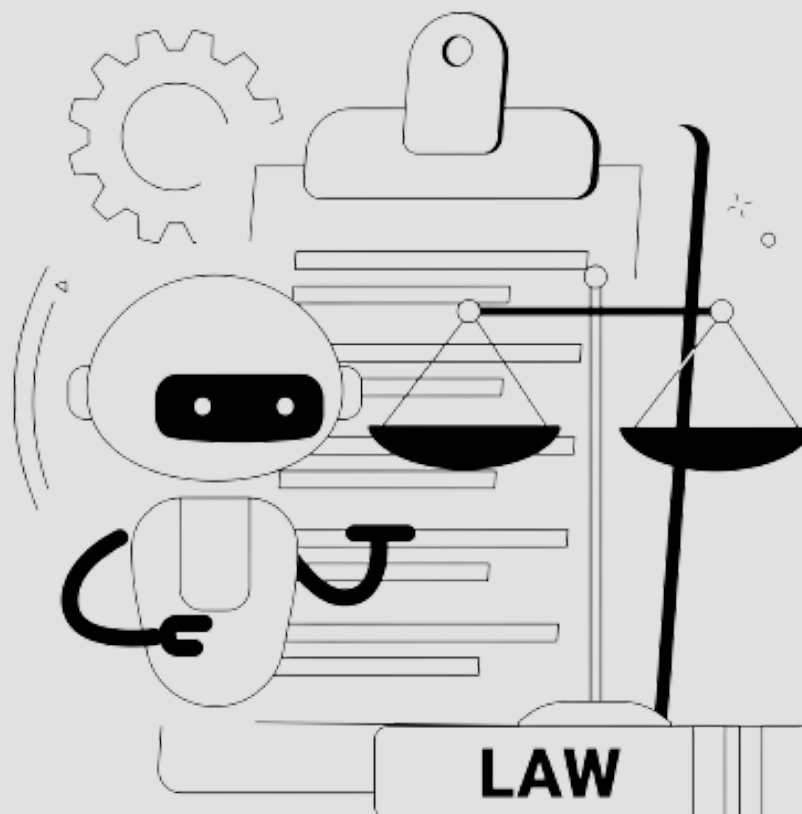
According to a report from the Pew Research Center, approximately 95% of teens use phones; 45% of teens reported their Internet use was almost constant. Also, according to The Center for Parenting Education, kids and teens aged 8 to 28 spent 6.35 hours per day in front of digital screens before the Covid-19 pandemic.

Since we have our young ones spending more and more of their time on the Internet, browsing social media, playing online games and using mobile apps, it is the duty of parents, teachers and other trusted adults to teach them digital responsibilities. Practicing digital responsibility is one way of maximizing their rights.

It is our duty to drive down the above listed digital responsibility measures into our kids and teens for a better society.



It is the duty of parents, teachers and other trusted adults to teach them digital responsibilities. Practicing digital responsibility is one way of maximizing their rights.



DIGITAL RIGHTS



Virtually Safe



**IMPACT
AMPLIFIER**

< TEENS CAN CODE >

**RIGHT TO
FREEDOM OF
EXPRESSION**

**RIGHT TO
DIGITAL
ACCESS**

**RIGHT TO
CREATE AND
SHARE DIGITAL
CONTENTS**



www.virtuallysafe.org