



Trainers' notes: Inter-American Human Rights System instruments and their application to the digital environment

Luis Fernando García

These trainers' notes form part of a module for the APC Internet Rights Are Human Rights training curriculum. The module was produced through the APC project Examining Internet Freedom in Latin America (EXLILA), which was funded by the Open Society Foundations (OSF) and APC and coordinated by ONG Derechos Digitales.

Introduction	<p>The aim of this course is to explore the relationship between international human rights instruments and information and communication technologies (ICT). In particular, it seeks to create more understanding of the impact that digital technologies have on human rights, either by expanding their enjoyment or by creating new challenges and potential rights violations.</p> <p>This module explores specifically the relationship between human rights, as understood in the Inter-American Human Rights System, and the digital environment.</p> <p>In general, this will lead to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• More knowledge about the inter-American system of protection of human rights.• A general understanding of the impact of technologies like the internet on society.• Exploration of how technologies like the internet have helped expand the exercise of rights in different contexts.• Analysis of how rights have been affected by technology, and how the balance between rights that may come into conflict with each other has been modified in the digital environment.
---------------------	--

Course programme, duration and delivery methodology	<p>The time recommended for effective delivery of the course is 3 hours and 30 minutes.</p> <p>The following time allocation is suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 minutes – Introduction to the course and introductions of participants. Presentation slides 1-3. • 20 minutes – Presentation on human rights and the inter-American system. Section 1 of the text handout. Presentation slides 4-8. • 10 minutes – Questions arising from the introductory presentation and other materials. • 15 minutes – Group discussion about the impact of the internet on society and on rights. Section 2 of the text handout. Presentation slides 9-11. General questions. • 15 minutes – Group discussion about internet access as a human right. Section 3 of the text handout. Thematic question 1. • 20 minutes – Presentation and group discussion about the right to freedom of expression. Section 3 of the text handout. Thematic questions 2 and 3. Presentation slide 12. • 20 minutes – Analysis and group discussion about Case 1, on de-indexing of search engine information. • 10 minutes – Presentation on the right to freedom of association and assembly. Section 3 of the text handout. Presentation slide 13. Thematic question 4. • 15 minutes – Analysis and group discussion about Case 2, on interruption of internet service in the context of protests. • 10 minutes – Discussion about the right to education and participation in cultural life. Section 3 of the text handout. Presentation slide 14. Thematic question 5. • 15 minutes – Presentation and group discussion about the right to privacy. Section 3 of the text handout. Presentation slide 15. Thematic question 6. • 20 minutes – Analysis and group discussion about Case 3, on data retention. • 10 minutes – Presentation and group discussion about the principle of non-discrimination on the internet. Presentation slide 16. • 15 minutes – Discussion about the impact on organisations. Conclusions and final questions.
Target audience	<p>The course is aimed at professionals, journalists, students and others interested in human rights issues and/or ICT and the internet.</p> <p>The course is suited to small or large groups, but its presentation methodology will depend on the number of participants and their experience. It is recommended that group discussions be carried out in small groups.</p>
Required knowledge/s skills	<p>General knowledge about human rights, ICT, or both. Interest in the relationship between human rights and the digital environment.</p>

Objectives and expected outcomes	<p>On completion of the module, participants should be familiar with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Inter-American Human Rights System. • The impact of the internet on society. • The way in which the internet has expanded the exercise of rights. • The way in which the internet has created or enabled new forms of rights violations. • The way in which the digital environment has altered the relations and the balance between rights. <p>Participants should have a greater understanding of the complexities of the relationship between the internet and rights; how the way rights are understood in the Inter-American Human Rights System can affect the exercise of rights in the regional context; and how this affects the work of different sectors of civil society or the business community related to the internet and/or human rights.</p>
Pre-workshop activities	<p>Before the workshop begins, participants should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read the text handout. 2. Familiarise themselves with the basic instruments of the Inter-American Human Rights System. 3. Reflect on personal, organisational or national priorities related to the course topics.
Resources included in the unit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trainers' notes 2. Text handout 3. Presentation slides 4. Additional reading material 5. Exercises, discussions and case studies (selected by the trainer) 6. Workshop evaluation 7. Evaluation of the materials 8. Copyright notice.
Additional trainer resources	<p>The trainer should be familiar with human rights and internet issues, with APC's work in this field, and with the content of other modules in this programme.</p>
Equipment needed	<p>A computer, with appropriate office software, connected to a projector for the slide presentation and with internet access to download course resources.</p> <p>Other materials for the exercises and group discussions.</p>