Digital
Rights Foundation
"KNOW YOUR RIGHTS"

DRF

YEAR IN REVIEW:
2017

Digital Rights Foundation (DRF) is a non-government non-profit organization registered legally in Pakistan in 2013 under the Societies Registration Act 1860. DRF focuses on ICTs to support human rights, inclusiveness, democratic processes and digital governance through advocacy, research and direct services. The organization works on issues of privacy, surveillance, free speech, political participation, digital security, gender; tech and online harassment.

Digital Rights Foundation
"KNOW YOUR RIGHTS"

HAMARA INTERNET

The year 2017 brought a lot of unforeseen challenges and we knew it wasn't going to be easy as early as the first week into the year with the disappearance of five bloggers. While the chances of any progress for that year looked bleak by the face of it, but moving forward we had to be sure what we wanted to do and there were only two choices; one option, and perhaps the easy one, would have been to completely give up on everything,and watch the news as the situation further deteriorates; and the second option, and definitely the more rewarding one in the long run, was to struggle - and struggle until those efforts finally result in even a smallest change that would create a rippling effect of larger revolution.

Being the human rights defenders - the identity that we have chosen for ourselves and have happily embraced - we chose the latter and as decided, we struggled without thinking about the sacrifices that entailed and decided that we are going to be struggling for as long as it takes us to see the change happening; to see our efforts changing the life of even the one person who believed in us.

Digital Rights Foundation, by all means, is a small organisation with limited resources. But with every passing minute, we attempted to make sure that this reality of our existence doesn't hinder our way to make society a better place for everyone, regardless of their gender, sexual identity, class, religious and ethnic representations, and many other factors that oppressive structures have used to marginalise people for centuries.

While the year 2017 wasn't an easy one, it certainly wasn't disappointing enough to stop us from doing what all that we did throughout the year. And this report is just a glimpse into our activities to make digital spaces safe for everyone around the globe.

I believe that with the support of our partners, stakeholders, and well-wishers, we will be able to make the new year 2018 better than the previous one; and I'm certain that our collective efforts will bring about that change sooner than we have ever expected it to happen.

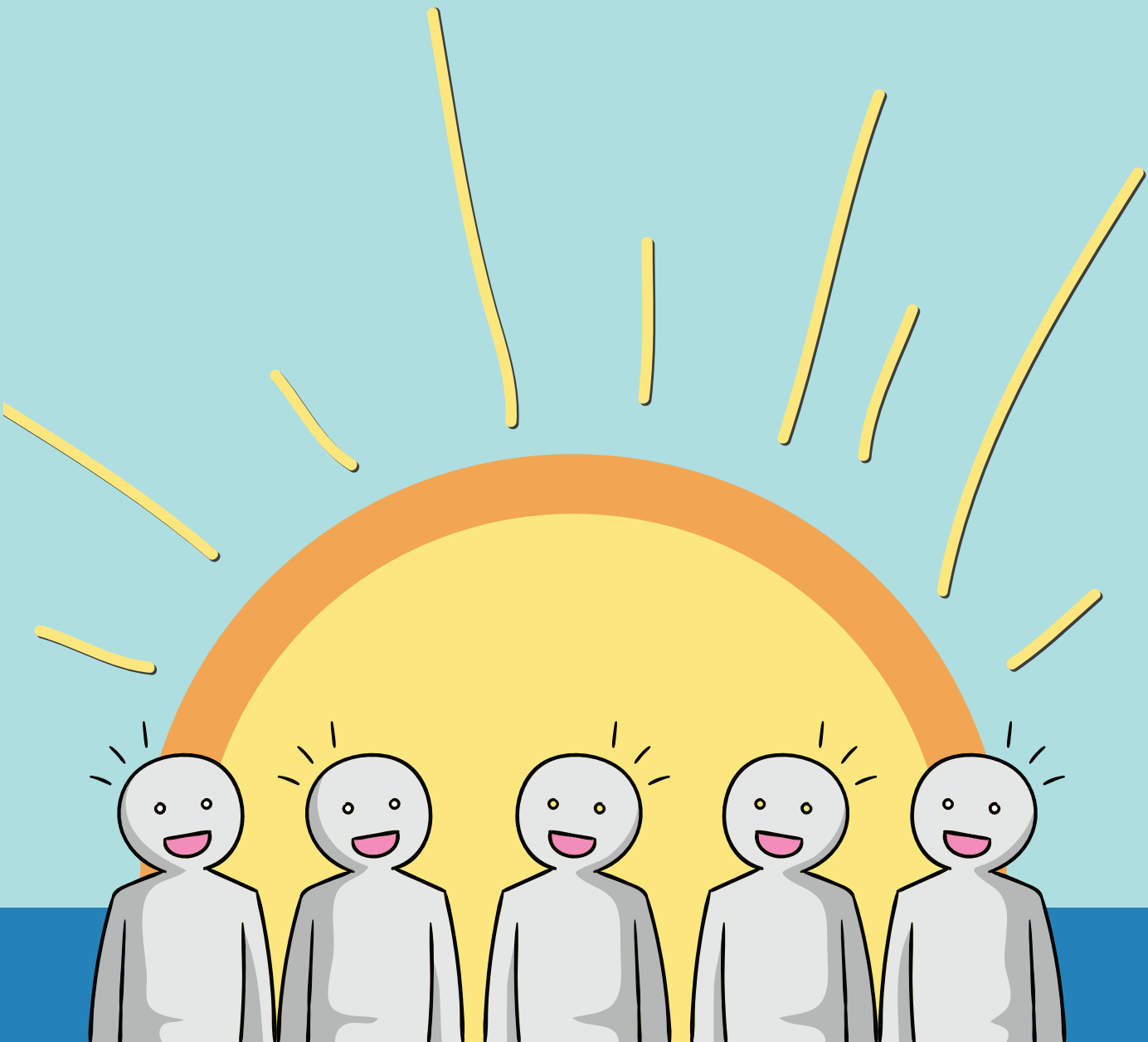Happy new year from my DRF family and I.

In solidarity,

Nighat Dad
Founder and Executive Director
Digital Rights Foundation

This report compiles the brief overview of activities of the Digital Rights Foundation during the year 2017 as we enter the new year with optimism to tackle new challenges and making online spaces accessible and safer for everyone.
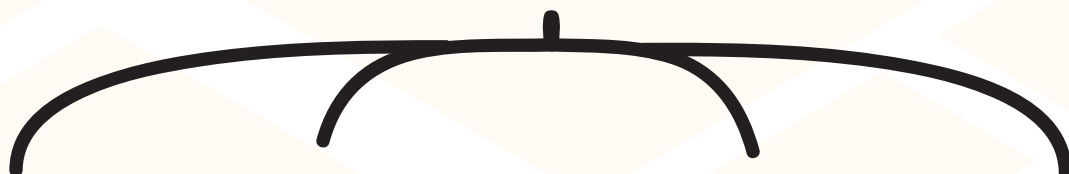
Here's the year 2017 in review...

4,190

PEOPLE REACHED

807 JOURNALISTS

857 GENERAL PUBLIC

2050 STUDENTS

476 HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS
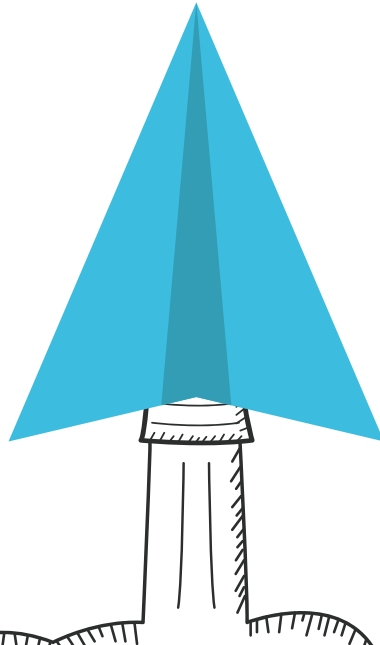
THROUGH

62 WORKSHOPS

9 CONFERENCES

IN

36 LOCATIONS ACROSS

PAKISTAN

17 **COUNTRIES**

22 **EVENTS**

UNLIMITED LOVE

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

MILESTONES

71 EVENTS ATTENDED

4 MoUs SIGNED

46 BLOGS WRITTEN

8 REPORTS RELEASED

5 SUBMISSIONS TO INTL BODIES

315 MEDIA MENTIONS

1 YEAR OF HELPLINE

1,551 COMPLAINTS ANSWERED

ACHIEVEMENTS

NIGHAT DAD SPOKE AT TED GLOBAL 2017

Nighat Dad spoke at the TED Global 2017 in Arusha, Tanzania on August 28, 2017.

Nighat spoke about her own struggle to safely access the technology and how that struggle led her to make things easy for other women in the country. She talked about her dream of a reclaimed online world for women where they're not harassed for expressing their opinions and for making their voices heard; the dream that made way for her to establish Pakistan's first Cyber Harassment Helpline.

CYBER HARASSMENT HELPLINE EXPANDED ITS OPERATIONS

**0800-39393
EVERYDAY
9 AM - 5 PM**

CYBER HARASSMENT HELPLINE

The Cyber Harassment Helpline expanded its operations to seven days a week in August, 2017. Previously the capacity of the Helpline only allowed for operations five days a week--from Monday to Friday. Building on the success of its first nine months of operations, we were able to provide more urgent and timely services. Read details here:

https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/the-cyber-harassment-helpline-expands-its-operations/

The Cyber Harassment Helpline was launched in December 2016 to address the prevailing forms of online harassment, especially gendered harassment, in online spaces in Pakistan. This was born of the realisation that mere legislation is often not enough to provide protection; the aim was to fill gaps in terms of awareness. During the Hamara Internet sessions in schools and universities, many women expressed distrust for law enforcement agencies. The Digital Rights Foundation launched Pakistan's first Cyber Harassment Helpline to bridge the gap between women and the LEAs, and to speed-up the process of reporting and taking required actions under relevant laws.

The helpline has received an overwhelming response from the masses, indicating that online harassment in particular and gender based violence in general is extremely pervasive, and needs to be addressed urgently.

Since its launch, the team has answered 1,551 complaints as of November 2017, and the number is constantly increasing. We hope the journey for the Cyber Harassment Helpline continues.

CYBER HARASSMENT HELPLINE

1551
COMPLAINTS

2
MoU SIGNED

123
AVERAGE CALLS
EACH MONTH

CYBER
HARASSMENT
HELPLINE

2
REPORTS

CASES REFERRED
1063

MEDIA
COVERAGE
60

THE HELPLINE REPORTS

CYBER HARASSMENT HELPLINE

ONE YEAR REPORT
DECEMBER '16 - NOVEMBER '17

0800-39393   EVERYDAY
9AM - 5 PM

Launched in December 2016, the Cyber Harassment Helpline marked its first year of operations by launching its report and renewing its commitment to addressing online harassment in Pakistan.

The Helpline received 1,551 complaints in the form of calls, emails, and Facebook messages between December 1, 2016 till November 20, 2017, out of which 1,476 are cases received over calls. Out of the calls received at the helpline, 67% identified as women, and 33% of the callers were men. Facebook has emerged as the most widely reported platform, given that 45% callers experienced harassment through Facebook. Among the kind of harassment reported to us, complaints of fake profiles, non-consensual use of information, blackmailing, and unsolicited messages were the most common types.

Full Report:
https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Helpline-Annual-Report.pdf

THE HELPLINE REPORTS

CYBER HARASSMENT HELPLINE

SIX MONTH REPORT
DECEMBER '16 - MAY '17

0800-39393
Monday to Friday between 9AM to 5PM

In July 2017, Digital Rights Foundation released the first six months report for the Cyber Harassment Helpline. The report detailed the data collected by the Helpline team and recommendations on how to improve the institutional response to online harassment.

According to the findings, the Cyber Harassment Helpline received 763 complaints in the form of calls, emails and Facebook messages from December 1, 2016 till May 31, 2017. 63 per cent of the calls were made by women, whereas 37% of the calls were made by men.

Full report:

https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Cyber-Harassment-Helpline-Six-Month-Report.pdf

THE HELPLINE TEAM

SHMYLA KHAN

I was absolutely overwhelmed by the response that we received for the Helpline. We started out with just a phone line and a voice on the other end, but over time we've been able to develop dynamic response systems and innovative ways of addressing online harassment. This is not to say there haven't been disappointments, there were days when we went home feeling useless or carrying the stress of a case with us. However, I am glad to be working with such empathetic and intelligent young women—they lift me up when my passion is flagging. We hope that our victim-centric and gender-sensitive approach changes the way people look at internet-based violence and we're able to push for more human rights friendly policies through our advocacy. Here's to a difficult 2017 and an even more challenging 2018!

SEERAT KHAN

Working for the Cyber Harassment Helpline has been quite a journey for all of us and being one of the pioneers in setting up the Cyber Harassment Helpline in Pakistan has certainly been very overwhelming. When we started building the helpline and setting up a referral system we didn't realize the impact we will be making ahead. We built a system for all our callers and provided them with our expertise in the form of legal advice, digital security help and mental health counselling. We've had successes and failures and there have been times when we felt very helpless, however we rose above all this and came out stronger. As a team, we've been through thick and thin and established a good support system for each other and for our callers. We hope to be as resilient as ever in the future and keep providing our services and help to our callers in whatever way we can.

THE HELPLINE TEAM

HYRA BASIT

It was an honor to have been part of the establishment and rise of the Cyber Harassment Helpline this past year. It was a small, but important step in countering VAW and I am happy to be involved in this action. It feels quite conflicting to say that I am excited about the Helpline and the fact that we've gotten an overwhelming response in terms of callers, because I'm not - it just highlights the strength of the oppressive systems that allow such crimes and behavior to persist. What I am excited about, however, is working with the most intelligent and empathetic group of women who build each other up, just as they work towards building up the people who reach out to us for help.

JANNAT FAZAL

It's never easy to make one's self vulnerable, to come out as a victim, or to seek help when one is guilt ridden for something one has no control over. Cyber harassment helpline is a safe haven for individuals who have been targeted, blackmailed and made to feel as if they were at fault. The victim – centered approach helps the callers to trust us and openly talk about their problems. Taking responsibility of other's problems and ensuring their safety is demanding and burdensome and some days we too get burned out but the amazing team at the helpline pulls you back up and goes the extra mile to make sure you are well. The helpline team is compassionate and goes up and beyond their duty to resolve issues and that's the reason of our increased outreach and success.

THE HELPLINE TEAM

KOMAL ALI

I joined the Cyber Harassment Helpline after months of its inception. I sought it as a new yet indispensable concept, and coming from a non-tech background, I brought an outsider's perspective to the project. Given my layperson's perspective I was able to see how the Helpline team bridges the gap in terms of awareness. One of the core purposes of the Helpline remains to let the callers feel secure, something clearly lacking in our online spaces. There is also a dearth of awareness of laws that can protect users. Through the Helpline, I developed an interest in countering online harassment and cyber crimes as a whole. It has been altogether a rewarding journey for me, and has made me more self-aware. At the helpline, we empower people with knowledge to help them make a well informed decision online.

REPORTS AND SUBMISSIONS

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW - Submission
GENDER RIGHTS IN PAKISTAN:
Online violence, Free Speech and Access to Information

DRF conducts advocacy at each level of governance, be it provincial, federal or international. As part of its international advocacy, DRF contributed to the UN HRC's Universal Periodic Review of Pakistan which was conducted in November 2017. The aim of this submission was to advocate for the digital-specific rights for the citizens of Pakistan. The report incorporated the issues of gendered digital violence, digital rights, freedom of expression (FOE), privacy, violence against women and surveillance. The submission can be found here:

http://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/DRF.UPR_.Final_.30.03.2017.pdf

REPORT
MEASURING PAKISTANI WOMEN'S EXPERIENCE OF ONLINE VIOLENCE

Digital Rights Foundation launched Pakistan's first quantitative research study on online violence titled, "Measuring Pakistani Women's Experiences of Online Violence" on May 25, 2017. The study compiled the data collected from close to 1400 women during the 17 sessions that had been conducted in Punjab, Sindh, KhyberPakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, and Gilgit, to create the first ever set of data around online violence in Pakistan. The study maped different aspects of online violence against women, along with a look at how women use digital tools on the whole. Read the report here:

http://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Hamara-Internet-Online-Harassment-Report.pdf

PREVENTION OF ELECTRONIC CRIMES ACT
YEAR IN REVIW - PECA:

August 2017 marked one year since the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act 2016 (PECA) was passed by the National Assembly. DRF published a review of the Act's progress through a short analysis and illustrative timeline which can be accessed here:
https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/year-in-review-peca/

UNSR on VAW - Submission
ONLINE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN PAKISTAN:

ONLINE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN PAKISTAN

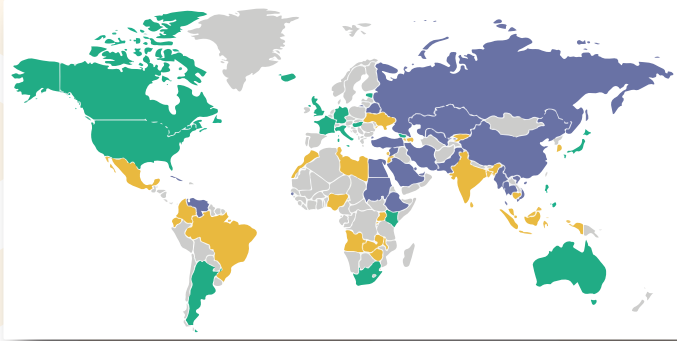SUBMISSION TO UNSR ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Digital Rights Foundation submitted the report on Online Violence Against Women in Pakistan to UNSR on Violence Against Women to be part. The report explored the laws and institutions that are in place within Pakistan to deal with issues of online violence against women. Facts and figures are used to gauge the extent of the problem and its nature, relying on data provided by the government, law enforcement agencies and collected by DRF. The purpose of the report will not only be to analyse the existing structures, but to situate them within the lived experiences of women facing online violence. This experience will be elucidated through case studies as well as analysis done by DRF's cyber harassment helpline team. Access the draft here:
http://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/UNSR-Submission-by-DRF.pdf

FREEDOM ON THE NET REPORT 2017
PAKISTAN RANKS 'NOT FREE' FOR THE 6TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR:

Meticulously researched by Digital Rights Foundation and research analysts at Freedom House, the FoTN 2017 report Pakistan is an attempt to collate and evaluate the state-level violations of user rights, internet freedom, and implementation of censorship in Pakistan.

The report ranks Pakistan "Not Free" for the sixth consecutive year. The report can be accessed here: https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/FOTN-2017_Pakistan.pdf

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL REPORT - Submission
CONTENT REGULATION IN THE DIGITAL AGE:

On December 20th, 2017, Digital Rights Foundation submitted its response to the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, for the upcoming study, "Content Regulation in the Digital Age" as part of the June 2018 Human Rights Council Report.

DRF's submission details the laws and regulations established by the Pakistani government, which must be followed by ISPs and private companies. What we are calling for through this submission is a re-evaluation of the approach towards online content regulation by policy-makers in Pakistan, in order to uphold the right to freedom of expression -- as per the international human rights framework -- and ensure increased transparency and accountability on and for online platforms in Pakistan. Access the full report here:

https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/content-regulation-in-the-digital-age-drfs-submission-to-the-human-rights-council-report-2018/

WAYS TO BRIDGE GENDER DIGITAL DIVIDE FROM A HUMAN RIGHTS PERSPECTIVE:

Digital Rights Foundation submitted responses to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to prepare a report on ways to bridge gender digital divide from a human rights perspective. In its submission, DRF identified the dire need to address the digital divide promoted by gender, and that women are particularly disadvantaged in terms of their position in society, workplace and even in relation to their own families with the same wage bracket. For these reasons barrier to digital technologies and digital life are more enhanced for women.

Read the full responses here:
http://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/drfs-submission-to-un-human-rights-commission-for-the-report-to-bridge-gender-digital-divide/

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL REPORT- Submission

SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS:

Digital Rights Foundation made its submission to the UN Secretary General report on the safety of journalists on the issue of impunity. In the responses, DRF pointed out that female journalists are susceptible to discrimination and gender-based obstacles both from within their professional spaces and outside it. Female journalists in Pakistan face a double-bind because of their gender: at one level they face the same level of threats and surveillance that journalists face in Pakistan (the fourth most dangerous country for journalist according to the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ)), and the secondly the gender-specific obstacles stemming from being a female journalist in Pakistan.

Read the full report here:
http://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/drf-submits-reponses-for-the-un-secretary-general-report-on-the-safety-of-journalists/

POLICY RECOMMENDATION
DATA PROTECTION POLICY DRAFT:

Digital Rights Foundation prepared a policy brief regarding data protection and privacy in the digital age. The policy brief significantly expands the discussion on legal safeguards, the general lack of guidance on Privacy and the broad powers given to the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) under the existing legal regime.

Read details and access the draft legislation here:

https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/data-protection-law-in-pakistan-policy-recommendations-by-drf/

POLICY RECOMMENDATION
SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS BILL

In reference to the Bill on journalist welfare and safety currently under consideration by the Senate Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage, Digital Rights Foundation, along with other digital rights focused organisations, submitted recommendations to be made part of the final draft. These recommendations can be accessed here:

https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Recommendations-Bill-on-Journalist-Welfare-and-Safety.pdf
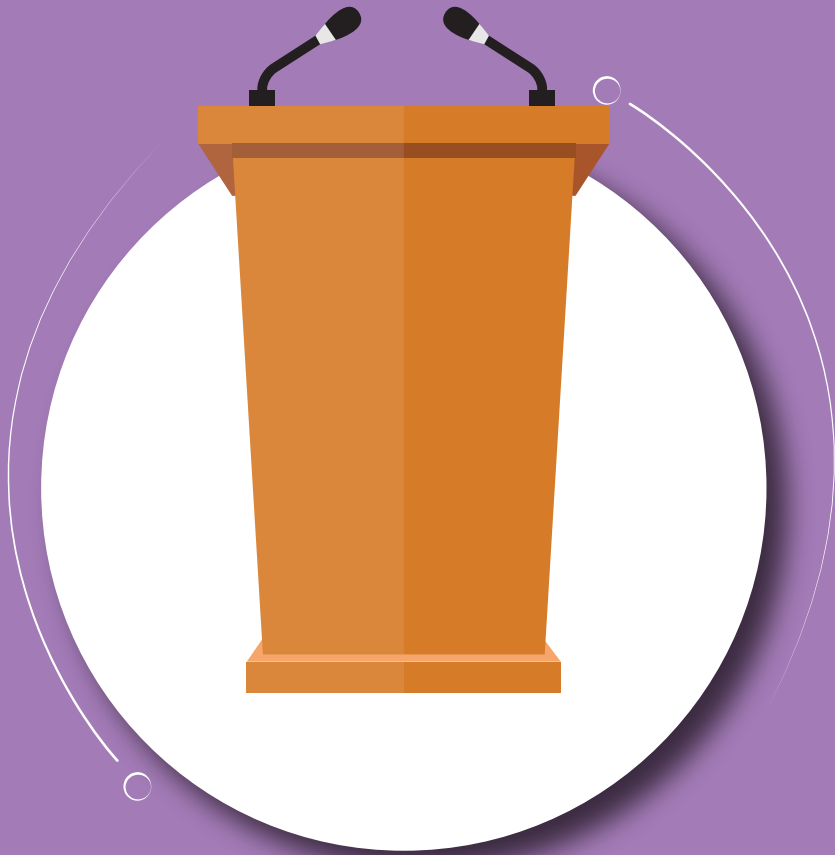
POLICY RECOMMENDATION
PLANNING COMMISSION

In reference to the meeting held at the Planning Commission on November 29, 2017, the presentation given by the FIA regarding "Phase 3" of the National Response Center for Cyber Crime (NR3C) and the forthcoming Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) Rules, Digital Rights Foundation (DRF) put forward some recommendations. DRF recognizes the Commission's inclusion of civil society as a positive step and hopes that this engagement continues in the future.

The recommendations can be accessed here:

https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Planning-Commission.Recommendations.DRF_.Final_.pdf

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

WORKSHOP
SAFER INTERNET DAY:
February 7, 2017

DRF organized a workshop on account of international Safer Internet Day on the 7th of February in Beaconhouse School System Boys Branch, Lahore. Seerat Khan, Jannat Fazal and Huda Jilani conducted the workshop with the enthusiastic secondary school students, which was based on cyberbullying and the safety measures children should adopt while using the internet. During the workshop, children also designed posters and wrote about how they felt about cyberbullying. The need of these workshops in schools was recognized and a survey was also conducted to understand the nature of cyberbullying in schools.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS
INTERNET FREEDOM FESTIVAL:
March 6-10, 2017

Digital Rights Foundation participated in the Internet Freedom Festival (2017) held from March 6th to March 10th in Valencia, Spain.

DRF hosted several panels at the event, ranging from topics such as "Surveillance from the Margins: Different Experiences of Surveillance", online harassment with "Taking Matters into Our Hands: Addressing Online Harassment" to "Data protection law and is different manifestations".

Details of the panels can be found here:
http://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/digital-rights-foundation-at-internet-freedom-festival-2017/

REGIONAL CONSULTATION
OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP:
March 15, 2017

DRF organized the OGP Regional Consultation in Lahore in collaboration with OSF, Punjab Lok Sujag, and Punjab Information Commission on March 15. The meeting through together members of civil society to discuss issues of open government, accountability and transparency, and how the Open Government Partnership can be used as a tool to achieve these goals. DRF has continued to push for its commitments under the National Action Plan (which is still being formulated by the government).

PANEL DISCUSSIONS
RIGHTSCON:
March 29-31, 2017

Digital Rights Foundation hosted four sessions at the RightsCon Summit 2017 held from March 29th to March 31st in Brussels, Belgium.

Thee panels were focused on topics such as "Surveillance and Privacy from the Margins", online harassment with "Taking Matters into Our Hands: Addressing Online Harassment" and "Harassment Goes Deadly: the Global North vs Global South", and the future of the open internet with "Net Neutrality and its Future in the Developing World".

For details, visit:

http://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/yet-another-year-at-rightscon-and-it-was-big/

AWARENESS-RAISING SESSION
NATIONAL MEDIA CONFERENCE:
April 20-21, 2017

Hija Kamran and Nighat Dad spoke to 70 journalists from across Pakistan on digital rights and online safety at National Media Conference 2017 organised on April 20th - 21st, 2017 by College of Excellence in Journalism (CEJ) at IBA, Karachi. DRF conducted six sessions with the participants who were all journalists from different media groups across Pakistan. The sessions aimed at creating awareness about digital rights and privacy among the journalists who face serious level of threats due to the nature of their work.

SPEECH
DIGITAL RIGHTS AND ONLINE HARASSMENT IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH:
March 29-31, 2017

Nighat Dad spoke about "Digital Rights and Online Harassment in the Global South" at The Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University on May 3, 2017. Nighat's talk focused on how people in the South are unaware of their digital rights. They, especially women, face online harassment and have no support to handle the trauma that comes with it. She also emphasized on the fact that cyber threats very often translate into offline consequences.

Watch the talk here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PCCnJacQwRM&app=desktop

DIGITAL SECURITY CLINIC
DIGITAL YOUTH SUMMIT:
May 5-7, 2017

In early May, DRF organised a free Digital Security Clinic at the Digital Youth Summit in Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK). Our 3-person team dispensed digital security advice, raised awareness about cyber harassment, and gave people hands-on demonstrations on how to use important digital security tools. The clinic was an immense success, serving approximately 320 over two days--that's around 20 people per hour.

SPEECH
THE CARTER CENTER:
May 8-9, 2017

THE CARTER CENTER
Waging Peace. Fighting Disease. Building Hope.

Nighat Dad addressed the former US President Mr. Jimmy Carter, and Senator Mr. Bernie Sanders at The Human Rights Defenders Forum organised by and at The Carter Center.
Nighat talked about some major issues that concern digital rights and privacy of the global citizens, including the laptop ban that Nighat says is actually "the Muslim laptop ban". She also emphasized on the US mass surveillance and the Muslim travel ban. According to her, these human rights violations by the countries like the United States of America set bad precedence for other countries like Pakistan that adopt their practices and laws from the west. Watch the video here:
https://www.facebook.com/DigitalRightsFoundation/videos/872079452932618/

CONFERENCE
HAMARA INTERNET: CHALLENGING THE EVOLVING THREAT OF ONLINE VIOLENCE:
May 25, 2017

DRF organized the "Hamara Internet Conference- Challenging the Evolving Threat of Online Violence" in Lahore on May 25, 2017. The conference included participants from across the country: women and digital rights activists, and dealt with issues of online harassment, freedom of expression, privacy, data protection, monitoring, the internet economy, and digital access. The panels consisted of "Hamara Internet: Understanding Online Harassment", "Opportunities on the Internet: New Patterns in Business, Employment and Innovation for women" and "Imagining a Feminist Internet with the Help of Hamara Internet."

WORKSHOP
PRIVACY AND DIGITAL RIGHTS:
May 26, 2017

Digital Rights Foundation held a workshop on privacy and digital rights on on May 26, 2017 in Lahore. The workshop discussed the state of privacy rights in Pakistan in light of cyber law and its implementation. The goal of this focus group discussion was to start a debate about the law, its significance and shortcomings in terms of implementation. The participants pointed out that social media and blogs are unregulated, and they concluded that there needs to be some SOPs around media ethics and privacy.

PRESENTATION
ONLINE HARASSMENT AND MENTAL HEALTH:
May 27, 2017

A study on Online Harassment was presented by Jannat Fazal - the mental health counselor at DRF - and Safieh Shah - Consultant at MSF- on MSF Scientific Day 2017 organised by Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in Delhi, India on May 27, 2017.

The aim of the review of the data was to highlight the psychological impact of cyber harassment on female mental health in Pakistan. Data was collected through Cyber Harassment Helpline from 406 callers using telephonic questionnaire from December 2016 to April 2017. This included demographics, problem description and notes taken by the experts during calls.

Access the research here: https://f1000research.com/slides/6-785

GENERAL MEETING
IFEX STRATEGY CONFERENCE
June 2017

DRF participated in the 2017 IFEX Strategy Conference and General Meeting. At the event, Adnan Chaudhri of DRF was able to share DRF's experiences in the struggle for digital rights, transparency, privacy, and freedom of expression in Pakistan, our cyber-harassment helpline, and to present our thoughts on the Open Government Partnership that Pakistan has recently joined. Furthermore, DRF were voted to become full members of the IFEX network - a new role that will help us in our fight for digital, privacy and freedom of expression rights in Pakistan.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS
APrIGF:
July 26-29, 2017

The APrIGF was held on 26-29 July 2017 at the Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. DRF organized two panels around the subjects of online harassment ("Understanding Solutions Towards Online Harassment") in collaboration from SFLC.in and gendered surveillance ("Surveillance from a Feminist Perspective"). Shmyla Khan, a fellow at APrIGF, was also part of a panel "Hack to fight online violence".

WORKSHOP
HAMARA INTERNET: OUR RIGHT TO SAFE SPACES ONLINE
August 2017

Digital Rights Foundation and FNF organized the Hamara Internet workshop titled ' Our Right to Safe Online Spaces' with civil society members in the month of August. The workshop focused on how civil society members can come together as agents of change and create online spaces that are safe for not just women but also other marginalized communities. The workshop also raised awareness around online safety amongst civil society members and educated them about the additional resources available to them in case of cyber harassment.

WORKSHOP
ONLINE PRIVACY AND SAFETY:
September 25, 2017

Nighat Dad and Hija Kamran conducted a workshop on Online Safety and Privacy during their trip to Karachi, with the students of Institute for Advancing Careers and Talents (iAct) - a project of Habib University for the young students representing underprivileged areas of Karachi. During the training, Nighat and Hija emphasized on the importance of online safety and how it's very essential to make informed decisions when browsing the internet.

PANEL DISCUSSION
POLITICIZING THE INTERNET: RESISTING PATRIARCHY ONLINE
September 25, 2017

DRF was invited at Irtiqa Institute of Social Sciences, Karachi to speak at the panel discussion titled, "Politicizing the Internet: Resisting Patriarchy Online. Nighat Dad, Hija Kamran, Fatima Athar, and Danish Ali from DRF were part of the panel where they discussed how the online experiences of women and other marginalised groups differ from others, and how this difference in experience is followed by self-censorship. There was also a discussion on how women can resist oppression and advocate for change in the online and offline spaces.

WORKSHOP
ENDING CYBER HARASSMENT AGAINST WOMEN:
September 28, 2017

DRF conducted a workshop on Ending Cyber Harassment Against Women with students of University of Okara on the 28th of September. More than 100 students participated in the event in which DRF touched key issues that women face online. Women shared their personal experiences of cyber harassment and harassment in general and were told about the remedies that are available to them in case of harassment.

WORKSHOP
OUR RIGHT TO SAFE ONLINE SPACES
September 2017

DRF conducted a 3 hour workshop with lawyers with a focus on digital rights. The workshop was titled 'Our Right to Safe Online Spaces' in which lawyers came together to discuss the ever changing problem of cyber harassment and hate speech. Participants discussed in detail about the prevailing laws in Pakistan and its implementation within institutions. They also discussed the importance of online safety and what measures to adopt in order to ensure their own safety as well as their clients.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
DATA PROTECTION AND PRIVACY COMMISSIONERS
September 28, 2017

DRF took part in two events - the 39th International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners (ICDPPC), and the 3rd Edition of the Privacy, Personality and Flows of Information (PPFI) workshop, both held in Hong Kong. The PPFI workshop, co-organised by the Office of the UN Special Rapporteur, Digital Asia Hub, and the University of Hong Kong , focused on Asian perspectives for privacy as a global human right.

Members of DRF spoke at the PPFI as part the panel on Gender and Privacy in Asia. Our focus at this panel was to bring attention to the consequences of a lack of privacy through the lens of gender, highlighting the case of Qandeel Baloch.

SPEECH
CHILD DIGNITY IN THE DIGITAL WORLD
October 3-6, 2017

Nighat Dad spoke at the Child Dignity in the Digital World - World Congress organised by Center for Child Protection in Rome, Italy. Her speech titled "Drawing a Line Between Freedom of Speech and Content Control Online" discussed how the internet provides freedom to many but leaves others helpless and deserted. She emphasised that the constitutions around the world safeguard people's right to free speech, but they are still being censored and are forced to self-censor constantly. Nighat concluded her talk with the statement that it's not possible to differentiate freedom of speech from content control when the latter keeps overshadowing and weakening the former.
Watch the full speech here:
https://www.facebook.com/DigitalRightsFoundation/videos/948513825289180/

WORKSHOP
DIGITAL SECURITY AND RIGHTS FOR FEMALE STUDENTS
October 10, 2017

Digital Rights Foundation (DRF) conducted an awareness raising on the online safety of female students at Bahria University, Islamabad on 10th October, 2017. Participants included 85 female students from the Law, Media Studies and Social Sciences departments. The presentations given by the DRF team focused on cyber harassment laws and policies, the impact of harassment on women, DRF's cyber harassment helpline, threat modelling, controlling access online and digital safety

DIGITAL RIGHTS CAMP
CAMP COCONET
October 21-26, 2017

Hija Kamran from Digital Rights Foundation was part of a 5-day digital rights camp, COCONET, that took place from October 21 till 26, 2017 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The camp was organised in an informal setting and gathered 120 digital rights activists from South Asia and Southeast Asia, and aimed at discussing the state of digital rights from the region and encouraging collaboration and bringing everyone on one platform to promote well-being of the citizens beyond borders.

The interventions from the representative of DRF were largely based on curbing online gender based violence and the tools and approaches that have been and can be proven effective in the context of conservative societies.

MOZFEST 2017
October 27-29, 2017

Nighat Dad was part of the diverse lineup of speakers advocating for digital rights around the world for this year's MozFest. Nighat shared her frustration for being invited on yet another global festival and to speak about inspirational success stories, and then go back to the real life where people are still facing injustice, women are still oppressed, where her small team is trying to provide relief to the victims of online abuse with limited resources. She talked about how her mouth hurts to be speaking at panels and conferences without having to see the situation getting better. Watch her full speech at MozFest here:
https://air.mozilla.org/mozfest-2017-sunday-dialogues-and-debates/#@46m8s

OUR RIGHT TO SAFE ONLINE SPACES
November 1, 2017

Digital Rights Foundation carried out an awareness raising workshop on November 1st, 2017 at Forman Christian College (A Chartered University) Lahore, with the collaboration of Women Empowerment Society and Forman Journalism Society. There were 72 number of female students from Journalism department. During the workshop several issues were discussed such as online violence against women, cyber harassment, cyber stalking, spear phishing attacks etc. Digital security team by DRF demonstrated on how to use digital devices safely and securely.

CONFERENCE
NAVIGATING SOCIAL MEDIA: TACKLING VIOLENCE, ABUSE AND HARASSMENT
November 2, 2017

Nighat Dad spoke at Oxford University on "Navigating Social Media: Tackling Violence, abuse and Harassment". Nighat was hosted by Oxford University Pakistan Society, and talked about why and how she felt the need to establish an organisation to raise concerns that not only affect her as a woman but also to other millions of women in Pakistan - the issues that go back to the patriarchal roots the society is based on, and the issues that have been oppressing women for centuries.

The talk was attended by the students of the university, which also included the youngest Nobel Prize recipient, Malala Yousufzai.

CONFERENCE
ORGCON
November 4, 2017

Nighat Dad spoke at the panel titled "Are we at a tipping point for online abuse?" at the ORGCon organised by Open Rights Group in London. Nighat's intervention focused on addressing online violence against women, how the abuse in online spaces knows no limits. From a single comment to rape and death threats and revenge porn, Nighat talked about how violence and hate speech has become an established part of online discourse. Watch the panel discussion here: https://youtu.be/9VhtjkR6COQ?t=5m3s

And watch Nighat's comments here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KW48Hjs-8zs

CONFERENCE
HAMARA INTERNET: CONTEXTUALISING DIGITAL RIGHTS IN PAKISTAN
November 15, 2017

Digital Rights Foundation (DRF) organized the Hamara Internet conference "Contextualizing Digital Rights in Pakistan" at Margalla Hotel, Islamabad on Wednesday, November 15, 2017. The aim of the conference was to explore issues of online harassment and gender-based approaches to the internet. The conference brought together academics, activists, lawyers, journalists and mental health experts from across the country to initiate discourse around issues of online free speech, cyber harassment, the place of mental health within digital spaces and masculinities online. The conference was organised in collaboration with Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung für die Freiheit (FNF).

CONFERENCE
REVIEWING THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY IN PAKISTAN
December 7, 2017

Digital Rights Foundation (DRF) and Bolo Bhi organized the "Reviewing the Right to Privacy in Pakistan Roundtable" on December 7th, 2017.
The goal of the roundtable was to have a comprehensive and interactive discussion with relevant stakeholders about data protection and the right to privacy in Pakistan. International and national trends and developments in regards to digital rights, freedom of expression online, and data protection measures were discussed at the event.

LAUNCH
NETWORK OF JOURNALISTS FOR DIGITAL RIGHTS
December 12, 2017

Digital Rights Foundation marked the launch of their Network of Female Journalists on Online Safety on 12th December. The launch was coupled with a two-day advance training with 28 female journalists from across Pakistan.

The objective of the network is to empower female journalists to practice and promote online safety within media houses and to raise awareness regarding digital rights issues in mainstream media. Journalists were made aware about reporting on digital rights issues leading to improved quality of reporting when talking about the said rights.

PANEL DISCUSSION
INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM
December 18-21, 2017

Digital Rights Foundation was at the Twelfth Annual Internet Governance Forum (IGF) happening in Geneva, Switzerland from 18th to 21st of December, 2017. The dynamic get-together of diverse stakeholders discussed pressing public policy issues related to the digital world. It allowed all participants to share their experiences and debate, as equals, the opportunities and challenges arising from the process of digitization. Read about the interventions by DRF here: https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/digital-rights-foundation-is-at-the -twelfth-annual-internet-governance-forum-2017/

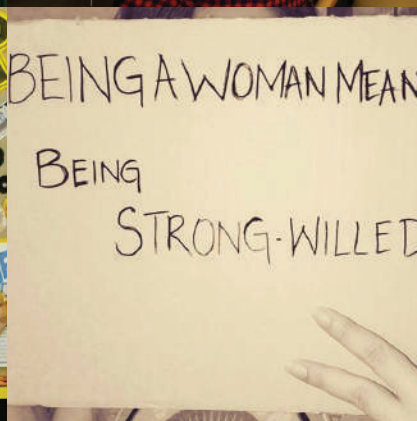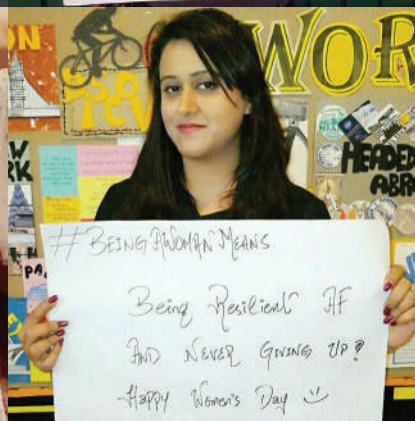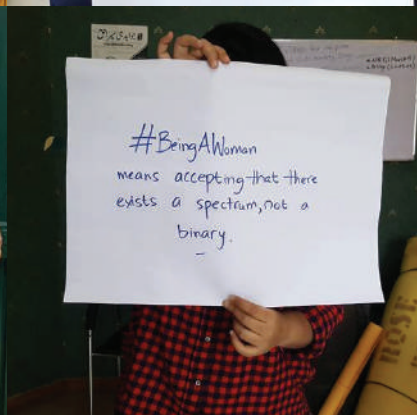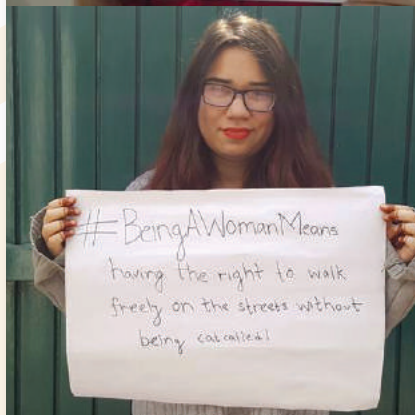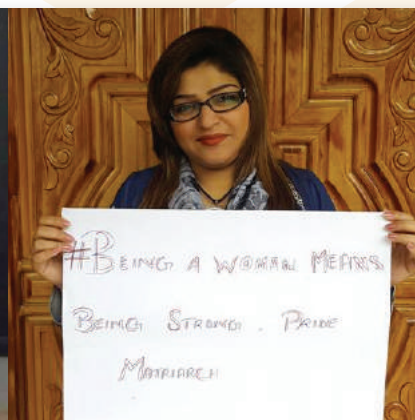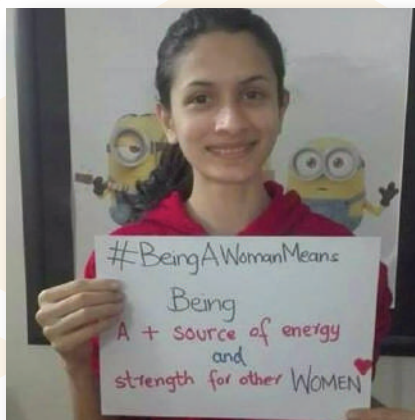# CAMPAIGNS

#BeingAWomanMeans

Digital Rights Foundation celebrated International Women's Day 2017 by asking women what #BeingAWomanMeans to them. The answers were exciting and empowering. With this campaign, we strived to send a message to all the women out there that they're incredible in their own unique way.
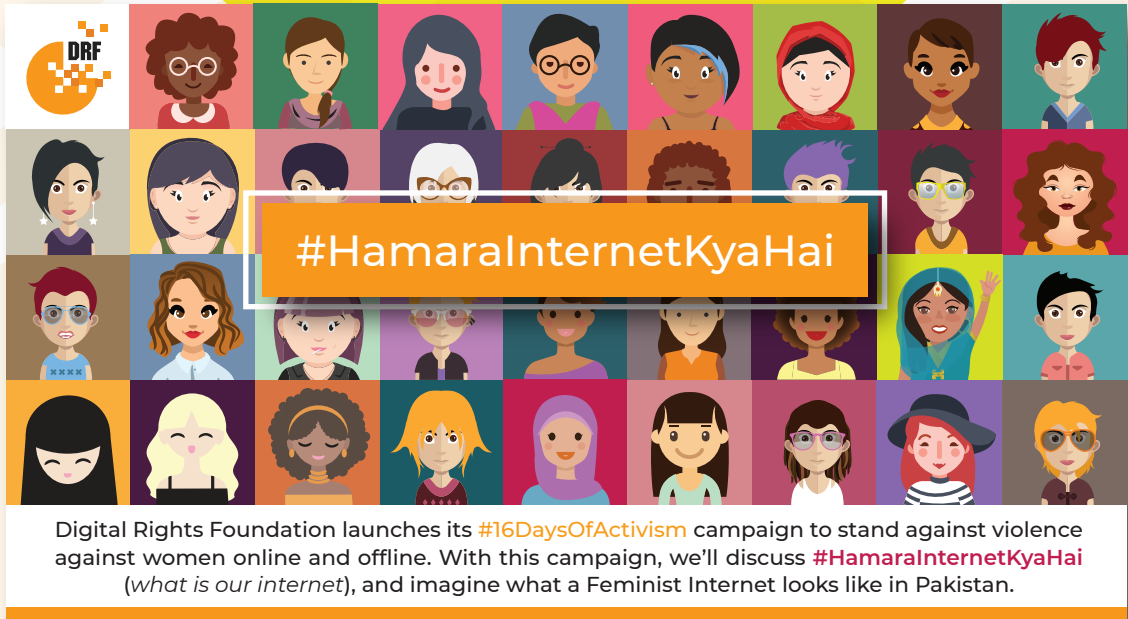
#BeingAWomanMeans

#HamaraInternetKyaHai

Digital Rights Foundation has been working on women's safe access to technology since it was founded in 2012, and we always try to keep our narrative unbiased and our conversations inclusive.

With this year's 16 Days of Activism on Violence Against Women, we decided to mainstream the feminist internet discourse in Pakistan - a topic that has not been highlighted all that much here - through the hashtag *#HamaraInternetKyaHai* (Urdu for *What is Our Internet?*). Our communications team strategised and executed the campaign keeping multiple approaches in mind, making sure people understand the narrative and engage in the conversation. And we're truly glad that they did take part in the conversation through various mediums, be it by comments and tweets on social media, or via expressing their interests directly to the DRF team members, or through the Cyber Harassment Helpline that we launched in December 2016 and is accessible to people via toll-free number.

ACTIVITIES

✓ A colourful and catchy visual that depicts inclusivity

Digital Rights Foundation launches its #16DaysOfActivism campaign to stand against violence against women online and offline. With this campaign, we'll discuss #HamaraInternetKyaHai (*what is our internet*), and imagine what a Feminist Internet looks like in Pakistan.

✓ Two Tweet Chats with DRF's team members, and wonderful feminists who advocate for a feminist internet in Pakistan. We've compiled these chats here in chronological order: *https://www.scoop.it/t/16-days-of-activism-2017*

✓ A blogpost on why does a feminist internet matter, by Fatima Athar: *https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/why-does-a-feminist-internet-matter/*

✓ A blogpost on how harassment hinders women's access to public spaces, both online and offline - by Hyra Basit:
https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/harassment-hinders-womens-access-to-public-and-online-spaces/

✓ We made this short and extremely powerful video depicting how women fall victim of a technological breach, and this is further used by the harassers to abuse victims and blackmail them into meeting more of their demands:
https://www.facebook.com/DigitalRightsFoundation/videos/976245469182682/

This video proved to be important in two ways in the context of Pakistan; a) a lot of people who reached out to us with a feedback on the campaign accepted that this video has helped them accept that it's not a woman's fault if someone bypasses technological loopholes and records them in their private space, where they're supposed to be feeling safe, and b) they understood that digital security is really important to be practiced. A lot of them also said that they covered their webcams after watching this video.

✓ And lastly, we launched completed our first year of the Cyber Harassment Helpline and released the one-year report based on our findings and experiences of operating a national level helpline that is also first of its kind. Access the report through this post:
https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/the-cyber-harassment-helpline-completes-one-year-of-its-operations/

DEVELOPMENTS IN DIGITAL RIGHTS: 2017

FATA INTERNET SHUTDOWNS

Internet in the Federally Administered Tribal Area (FATA) of Pakistan is disconnected since June 2016 in the wake of cross-border clashes between Pak-Afghan armed forces. The life of the 2 million people of FATA is majorly affected as they wait for the ban imposed by the government to be lifted.

FIVE BLOGGERS MISSING

The year 2017 started with the news of five social media bloggers being missing in what is believed to be an attack on free speech. Peaceful protests and sit-ins followed as civil society demanded the recovery of bloggers. Four of them subsequently returned while one still remains missing as of December 2017.

ONLINE GENDERED VIOLENCE

Online spaces are increasingly becoming primary platforms of communication for people, and as a result are posing challenges that were not foreseen. And gender-based violence online needs to be addressed urgently as much as it needs to be countered offline. A lot of DRF's work was focused on countering online violence against women and marginalised groups.

DATA PROTECTION & PRIVACY

To this date, Pakistan doesn't have any data protection legislation, and in the absence of this law, the sensitive information of millions of Pakistanis is constantly at risk - evident by the multiple security breaches in the NADRA database by international agencies. DRF advocated for a strong data protection law, and drafted a policy recommendation for the lawmakers to refer to.

FAKE NEWS

The government of Pakistan blocked social media websites and mainstream news channels to control the flow of information during a military operation against banned outfits in major parts of the country. This resulted in the promotion of fake news and furthered chaos among citizens. DRF advocated for the right of people to access during such times, and stood against censorship that stems into more confusion.

FEMINIST INTERNET

DRF envisions the internet which is inclusive and belongs to everyone. We hope to see the internet where everyone is safe and nobody has to revoke their right to access after being harassed. We wish to see the internet where harassers are a minority and think multiple times before harassing anyone whosoever.

2017 was challenging in a lot of ways, and we know the fight for human rights is not going to be any easy beyond this point. But with every challenge, we'll learn new ways to counter the issues that may come our way in the future. And the team of Digital Rights Foundation hopes and strives to make things a little better in 2018 than they were in this past year and the years before that. We are confident that with the support of our digital rights community in particular and human rights community in general, we'll make the world a place that's just and a place where nobody has to fight for their rights, instead they're by default granted to them.

Onto the new challenges, new solutions, and a new year...

In solidarity,
The DRF Team

Digital
Rights Foundation
"KNOW YOUR RIGHTS"

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HAMARA
INTERNET