



WACC

communication **for all**

Communication Rights in a Divided World



WACC is an international non-governmental organization that promotes communication as a basic human right, essential to people's dignity and community.

WACC is a member of the
actalliance



Genuine communication tries to create images and tell stories that respect the values and traditions that lie at the heart of other people's lives.



Such images and stories strengthen intercultural and interfaith understanding, challenge stereotypes, and create societies that are better able to live together in peace.



They affirm what people hold in common as well as what separates them.

This is why WACC takes a rights-based approach to communication.

WACC's approach follows the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948). Since the UDHR was ratified, three generations of human rights have emerged...



Three generations of rights

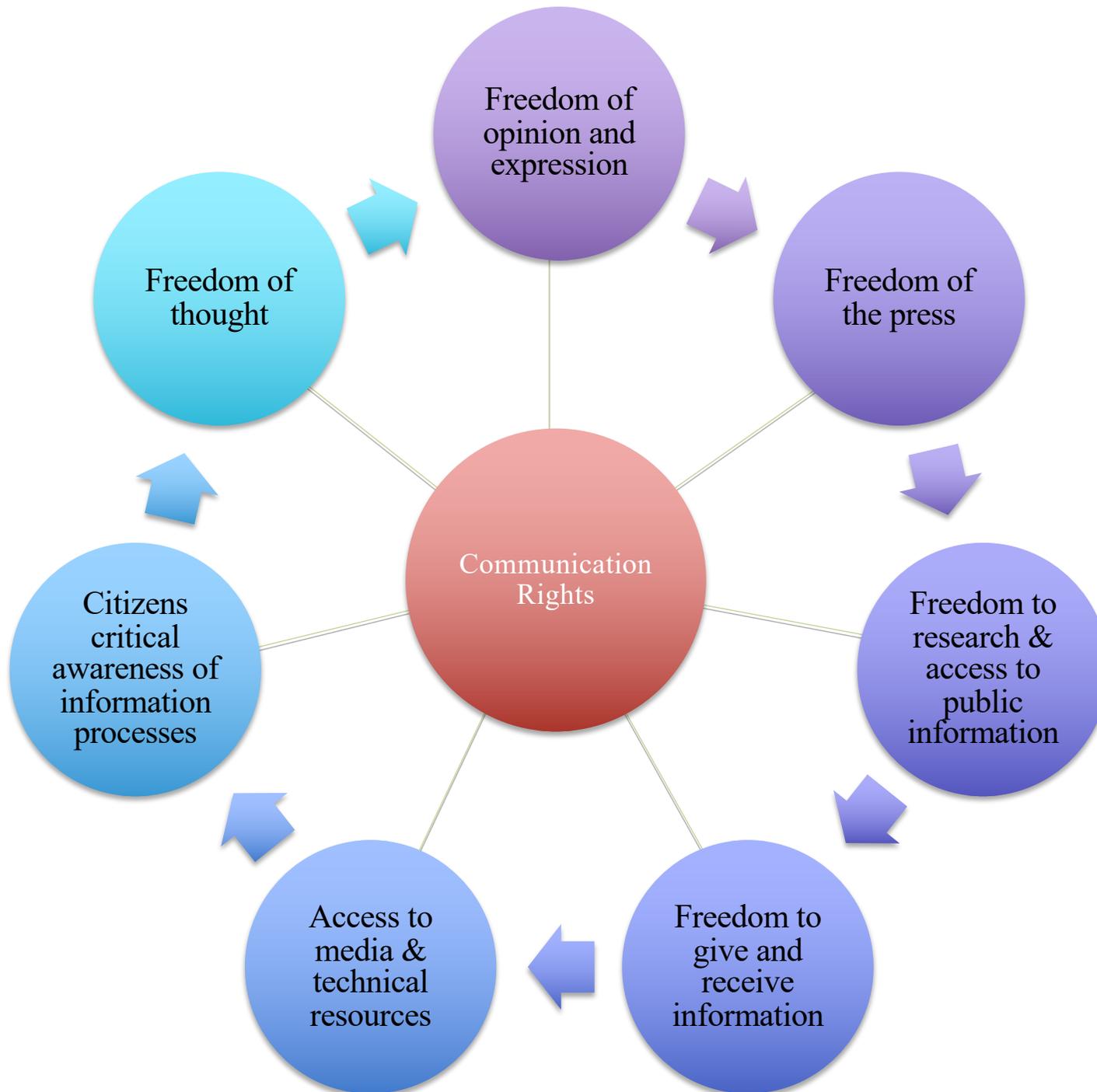
- First-generation rights deal with liberty and participation in political life.
- They protect the individual from excesses of the state.
- They include freedom of speech, the right to a fair trial, freedom of religion, and voting rights.

Second generation rights

- Second-generation rights are related to equality.
- They are social, economic, and cultural in nature.
- They guarantee people equal conditions and treatment in matters of employment, housing, health care, and social security.

Third generation rights

- Third-generation rights are “solidarity rights”.
- They go beyond the duties of the state to include collective rights and responsibilities.
- They include the right to self-determination; development; peace; a healthy environment; and the right to communicate.



Freedom of expression



- In London, England, anyone can stand on a street corner and criticize government policies or ills in society.

- ...in other countries freedom of opinion and expression carry the risk of silencing or disappearance through arrest, imprisonment, and even death.

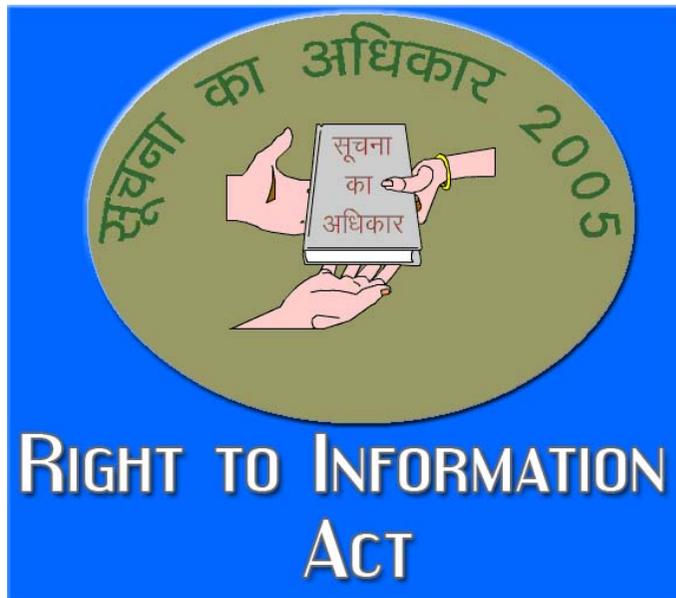


Freedom of information



- Freedom of information laws allow public access to data held by national governments. They establish a “right-to-know” non-sensitive information that must be provided freely or at minimal cost.

- Over 112 countries have implemented some form of freedom of information legislation.



- Most freedom of information laws exclude the private sector from their jurisdiction. This has serious implications, because today the private sector carries out many functions that were previously in the public domain.

Language rights

- In many countries people can use the language of their choice to express themselves...



- In St Lucia, the official language is English. Yet 95% of the population of 180,000 speak a French Creole known as Kwéyòl.



What does this say about self-identity, cultural history, and linguistic imperialism?

Media ownership and control

- In many countries the mass media – television, newspapers, and radio – are editorially independent and play a key public service role.

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Inside Putin's 'mafia state'



● Leaked cables allege rampant corruption ● Claims Russian state linked to organised crime ● Putin 'has amassed massive secret fortune'

Like Russia
The Russian government has been accused of rampant corruption, according to a report by the Guardian. The report, based on leaked cables, says that the Russian government has been accused of covering up corruption and other crimes. It also says that the Russian government has been accused of using its power to suppress dissent and to control the media.

'The Moscow city government's direct links to criminality have led some to call it "dysfunctional" and to assert that the government operates more as a kleptocracy than a government'

Cable from John Negroponte, US ambassador to Moscow

Cables latest

Amazon pulls plug on WikiLeaks website
The United States has asked Amazon to pull its plug on the WikiLeaks website. The move is part of a broader effort to limit the flow of information from the site and to prevent it from becoming a hub for extremist groups.

Pakistan's PM under pressure over dossier

Pakistan's prime minister, Yusuf Raza Gilani, is under pressure to provide more information about the dossier of Osama bin Laden. The dossier, which was leaked by WikiLeaks, contains details of the prime minister's private life and his relationship with the United States.

Putin probably knew about Livnienco plot

Vladimir Putin is likely to have known about the Livnienco plot, according to a report by the Guardian. The report, based on leaked cables, says that the Russian government has been accused of covering up the plot and of using its power to suppress dissent.

UK secretly allowed US to keep cluster bombs at base

Lib Evans and David Leigh
The UK has secretly allowed the US to keep cluster bombs at a base in Afghanistan, according to a report by the Guardian. The report, based on leaked cables, says that the UK government has been accused of covering up the presence of the bombs and of using its power to suppress dissent.

Miliband focused on Sri Lanka to win votes
David Miliband's government campaign in Sri Lanka is focused on winning votes, according to a report by the Guardian. The report, based on leaked cables, says that the UK government has been accused of covering up the presence of cluster bombs and of using its power to suppress dissent.

- In other countries the mass media are controlled by the government or by a small number of private corporations.



- In **Mexico**, there are 1,600 radio stations, 80% of which are owned by just 13 families. The **Azcárraga** family owns the **Televisa** conglomerate, the most influential global producer and distributor of Spanish-language audio-visual content, as well as free-to-air television channels, restricted television systems (satellite and cable), a leading Spanish editorial house, radio stations, entertainment companies, soccer teams and stadiums, music recording companies and cinema distribution companies.

Copyright



- Copyright has existed for decades and was designed to give commercial protection to intellectual property.

- And then there is Creative Commons - a way for creators to take control of how they choose to share their copyrighted



Community radio

- In the global South, community radio stations face many different kinds of obstacles – some related to broadcast legislation.



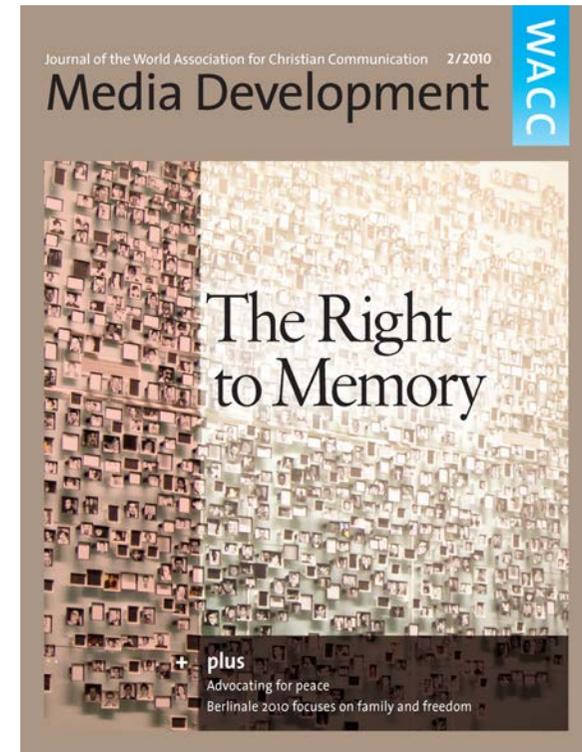
Internet surveillance

- In some countries access to the Internet is controlled and content is censored.
- Net neutrality – the principle that all data should be treated equally and fairly – is also under threat.



The Right to Memory

- In all societies, the choice of what becomes part of public memory and the way it is recorded are not neutral but happen in accordance with predetermined perceptions and policies.



The politics of remembering or forgetting constitutes a struggle for power.

Key words

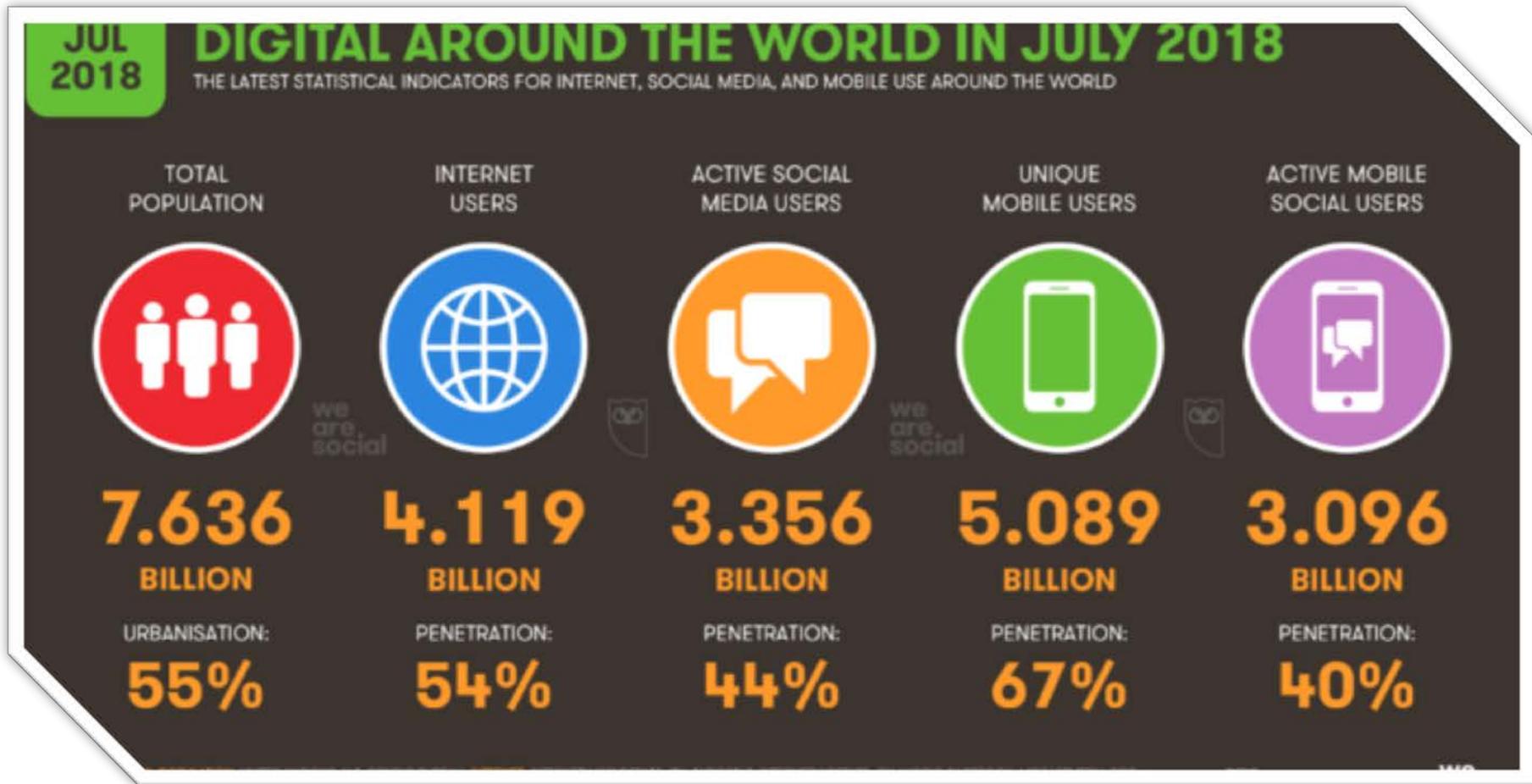
- Accessibility
- Affordability
- Diversity of media outlets and media content
- Plurality of images and voices
- Sharing information and knowledge



Brave New Digital World



Silver's microbe-killing properties are not news: people have known about them for centuries. But now, silver nanoparticles are being used in water purification filters.



The number of Internet users worldwide has skyrocketed since the birth of the World Wide Web in 1990. Since then the growth of internet users has accelerated and reached 3.9 billion in 2018.



Digital vulnerability: disrupting or completely shutting down systems, misuse of information for surveillance, censoring speech, deleting or blocking data.

“Surveillance capitalism” works by providing free services that billions of people cheerfully and unthinkingly use, enabling the providers of those services to monitor the behaviour of users in astonishing detail.

**THE AGE OF
SURVEILLANCE
CAPITALISM**

—
**THE FIGHT FOR A
HUMAN FUTURE
AT THE NEW
FRONTIER OF POWER**

—
**SHOSHANA
ZUBOFF**

“A better web that serves all of humanity”



- Governments to translate laws and regulations for the digital age.
- Companies to do more to ensure their pursuit of short-term profit is not at the expense of human rights, democracy, scientific fact or public safety.
- Citizens to hold companies and governments accountable.

Shared principles

- Truth
- Human dignity
- Non-violence
- Communication is a spiritual exercise
- Communication builds and shapes community
- Communication enhances participation
- Communication promotes freedom and demands accountability
- Communication celebrates cultural diversity
- Communication builds connectedness
- Communication affirms justice and challenges injustice



WACC promotes **communication rights** as a means to strengthen the human, political, economic, cultural, and social rights of people and communities worldwide.

Communication rights help change lives for the better.



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www.waccglobal.org