Call for Applications: ARTICLE 19 Internet of Rights Fellowship

ARTICLE 19's Team Digital is looking for one to two new fellows to join the 2021-2022 cohort of the Internet of Rights (IoR) Fellowship. This is a 12-month fellowship, beginning in April 2021.

Since 2014, ARTICLE 19 (A19) has been a pioneer in introducing and strengthening human rights considerations in the design, development, and deployment of Internet infrastructure by participating in global Internet governance bodies where technical standards and policy development happens. In doing so, A19 has carved out pathways for civil society engagement in these bodies; however, there remains the need for greater, more diverse, and more sustainable civil society participation. In its fifth year, the IoR Fellowship will equip a diverse community of civil society advocates with the tools they need to carry out long-term engagement to set the technical policies and standards that define the global Internet.

2021-2022 Fellowship Tracks

This year, A19 is soliciting applications for the following track:

- **Datafication:** This is a research track that focuses on building evidence of the human rights impacts of data-driven infrastructure technologies including facial recognition, emotion recognition, and other biometric-based systems; the internet of things (IoT) and smart cities; and AI/ML-based networking. The IoR fellow(s) will work with A19's Team Digital to research case studies and write reports of infrastructure deployments in localized global south contexts. Fellows will also present their work in Internet governance bodies such as IGF, and may also participate in technical standards communities such as the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) and Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

About the IoR Fellowship

The general goals of the IoR Fellowship are:

- To protect and promote freedom of expression, freedom of association, privacy, and other human rights in key Internet technical standards and policy bodies.
- To bridge the knowledge gap in these bodies regarding human rights and their relevance to Internet infrastructure.
- To cultivate sustained and effective participation of civil society advocates in Internet technical standards and policy bodies.
- To increase the diversity of representation in these bodies.

The Fellowship runs for 12 months, beginning on April 1, 2021. During this year, fellows work closely with their mentor—a designated member of A19's Team Digital. All fellows follow one of four tracks: Datafication, Privacy and Censorship, Business and Human Rights, and Connectivity.

Upon selection, fellows work with A19 staff to develop a workplan and schedule. The Fellowship is designed to be flexible and dynamic to account for each fellow's skills, interests, and experience. In line with the workplan, mentors will provide assistance such as advocacy coordination, support during meetings, ad hoc training, and in-depth research collaboration. Mentors will also facilitate fellows' inclusion in global and regional networks of experts and activists working on digital rights and Internet governance issues, including current and former fellows.

A cornerstone of this programme is to support fellows' participation in Internet governance bodies: therefore, all fellows are expected to participate in three Internet technical standards or policy meetings over the course of the year. This participation will be pursuant to the workplan, and meetings will be selected with support from mentors. This aspect of the programme is intended to further the Fellowship's goals while developing fellows' capacities and knowledge in the fields of Internet governance and human

rights. The Fellowship will cover any costs associated with attending these meetings and/or conferences. During the 2021-2022 fellowship year, we do not expect any physical travel to attend meetings as part of the programme; all participation will be done virtually.

Fellows are expected to commit to an <u>average of eight hours per week</u> engaging in forum-specific discussions, participating in working groups, and completing projects. In return, fellows will receive a monthly honorarium of USD 300 over the duration of their fellowship.

Expectations

We are looking for the following qualities in our fellows:

- Technical competence. While this may include knowledge of and experience in computer networking and protocols, systems design, and architecture, it is not necessary. We are looking for candidates who are capable of digesting complex or difficult concepts in technical policies or standards and explaining them to a wider audience.
- Some prior experience of participating in Internet governance bodies, and/or in-depth knowledge of the Internet governance processes that are relevant to the applicant's workplan proposal.
- Strong research, writing, and speaking skills in English. The program will be conducted entirely in English.
- A clear commitment to protecting and promoting human rights and Internet freedom.

Although we expect that fellows have some working knowledge of current technical and policy discussions happening across the internet governance landscape prior to starting their fellowship, we encourage applications from people at all professional levels, especially including early career professionals. We welcome applicants who are familiar with global internet technical standards and policy processes, but do not yet have opportunities to sustain long-term engagement in them.

By the end of the programme, we expect that fellows will be well-equipped to continue their engagement in Internet technical standards and policy bodies following the conclusion of their fellowship. Through their projects, fellows will gain a deeper understanding of Internet governance and Internet infrastructure, and how to effectively explain infrastructure technologies and their relevance to human rights to a wider audience.

Applications

To apply, please submit the following materials as a single .zip file to fellowship@article19.org by **Wednesday, March 3**:

1. Curriculum vitae (CV)
2. A statement of interest, indicating the following:
   - How you intend to meet the goals of the Fellowship.
   - A proposed 12-month workplan, including your key deliverables/outputs. (If you are selected, you will have the opportunity to revise this workplan; it is only requested at this stage to demonstrate your knowledge of the track you are applying for, internet governance, and human rights.)
   - How you expect that these deliverables/outputs will create impact, in line with the goals of the fellowship and your selected track.
   - How you expect that your project will help you sustain your participation in Internet governance beyond the life of the Fellowship.
      - 3. Contact information for two references

Successful applicants will be invited to interview with A19 staff in March.

Applicants from the global south, women, and other individuals that identify as part of underrepresented groups in Internet governance are especially encouraged to apply.