Call for Applications: ARTICLE 19 Internet of Rights Fellowship

ARTICLE 19's Team Digital is looking for public interest advocates to join the 2022-2023 Internet of Rights (IoR) Fellowship as part of the individual fellows cohort. This is a 12-month fellowship, beginning in April 2022.

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 sixth year, the IoR Fellowship will equip a diverse community of advocates working on behalf of civil society with the tools they need to carry out long-term engagement to set the technical policies and standards that define the global Internet.

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 support sustained and effective participation of civil society advocates in Internet technical standards and policy bodies.
- To support and champion the consideration of underrepresented people and communities in decision-making processes within these bodies.

The Fellowship runs for 12 months, beginning on April 1, 2022. During this year, each fellow will work closely with their mentor—a designated member of A19's Team Digital. All fellows follow one of three tracks: Censorship, Connectivity, or Datafication.

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 2022-2023 fellowship year, any decision to travel to attend meetings in-person as part of the programme will be taken in line with A19 policies and international guidance on the COVID-19 pandemic, and will prioritise fellows' safety, well-being, and peace of mind as the utmost importance. In lieu of in-person participation, fellows will be expected to participate in meetings virtually.

Fellows are expected to commit to an average of eight hours per week 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. In addition, fellows may request an additional fixed "technology allowance" to cover IT costs to improve fellows' remote meeting participation,

on an as-needed basis.

2022-2023 Fellowship Tracks

This year, A19 is soliciting applications for the following tracks:
- **Censorship:** This track focuses on technical standards and policies pertaining to internet infrastructure that improve resilience to censorship and the security of communications. The IoR fellow(s) may engage in technical discussions related to routing protocols that determine how data moves from source to destination within and across IP-enabled networks, contribute to networking protocols to address vulnerabilities exploited by censors, and or work with internet infrastructure providers such as internet registries to address content moderation issues at the DNS level. Fellows will participate in internet governance forums such as the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), and World Wide Web Consortium (W3C).
- **Connectivity:** This track focuses on ensuring all people have choices in how they connect to the internet, particularly local communities dependent on last-mile networking technologies and infrastructure. The IoR fellow(s) may advocate for technical and policy frameworks that can support alternative internet operators such as community or non-profit services in multilateral forums, improve wireless networking standards to enable community networks, or protect human rights considerations in technical specifications of mobile networks. Fellows will participate in internet governance forums such as the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP), and the International Telecommunication Union Development Sector (ITU-D).
- **Datafication:** This track focuses on advocating for human rights in discussions of data-driven infrastructure technologies such as facial recognition, emotion recognition, and other biometric-based systems and the internet of things (IoT) and smart cities. The IoR fellow(s) may research and write case studies of data-driven infrastructure deployments in localized global south contexts or push back against wide scale deployment of biometric recognition systems, or engage in standard-setting around biometric technologies and smart cities. Fellows will participate in technical standards communities such as the IEEE, International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the ITU Technical Sector (ITU-T), and oneM2M.

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 and, where possible, specific standards or protocols 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 <u>fellowship@article19.org</u> by **Wednesday, March 2**:

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.