

Universal Declaration on Digital Child Protection

Ensuring a Safe and Secure Online Future for Minors

Marie Seshat Landry

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Preamble

Recognizing the growing risks that social media poses to minors, including exposure to predatory behavior, cyberbullying, mental health deterioration, and data exploitation, we, the undersigned nations, organizations, and individuals, declare the necessity of a universal standard to **prohibit social media membership for anyone under the age of 18**.

This declaration affirms that **children and teenagers must be protected from harmful online environments** and that digital spaces should not serve as platforms for exploitation, manipulation, or unsafe interactions with adults.

1. Minimum Age for Social Media Membership

All individuals must be **at least 18 years old** to legally create, access, or maintain a social media account on any platform, in any country, under any circumstances.

2. International Legal Framework

1. Nations shall enact and enforce legislation that prohibits social media platforms from granting membership to individuals under 18.
2. International bodies, such as the **United Nations, World Economic Forum, and regional regulatory agencies**, shall oversee and coordinate global compliance efforts.
3. **Social media companies must align their policies, terms of service, and operational frameworks** with this standard, ensuring a unified global approach.

3. Mandatory Age Verification

1. All social media platforms must implement **robust and verifiable age authentication measures**, such as government-issued ID verification, biometric verification, or secure third-party verification systems.

2. Platforms that fail to enforce strict age verification shall face **substantial financial penalties and potential bans from operating in compliant jurisdictions**.
3. **User privacy and data security protections must be prioritized**, ensuring that age verification processes do not lead to unnecessary data collection or misuse.

4. Alternative Digital Spaces for Minors

1. Governments, educational institutions, and child advocacy organizations shall **develop safe, regulated digital environments for minors**, designed for education, social connection, and entertainment in a supervised manner.
2. **Digital literacy and safety education** must be integrated into school curriculums to prepare minors for responsible online engagement upon reaching adulthood.

5. Prevention of Loopholes and Shadow Platforms

1. Authorities must actively monitor and regulate **unregistered, underground, or foreign-based platforms** that attempt to circumvent these protections.
2. Parents, educators, and caregivers shall be **empowered with tools and resources** to ensure minors do not seek or gain access to unauthorized digital spaces.

6. Continuous Evaluation and Adaptation

1. An **International Digital Child Protection Task Force** shall be established to monitor the effectiveness of this declaration and recommend necessary adaptations as technology evolves.
2. Research institutions and child protection agencies shall conduct ongoing studies to measure the impact of this policy on **mental health, digital literacy, and online safety**.

7. Universal Commitment

1. All nations, social media companies, tech developers, and civil society organizations are called upon to **adopt, implement, and enforce this declaration** as a binding international standard.
2. Signatories commit to **prioritizing the well-being of children over corporate profits, technological convenience, or political hesitation**.

Conclusion

This declaration establishes an **unwavering global standard**: No individual under the age of 18 shall be permitted to create, maintain, or access a social media account. **The protection of minors in digital spaces is not optional—it is a moral, legal, and social imperative.**

By **removing children and teenagers from social media**, we eliminate the dangers posed by unregulated online interactions and ensure that youth can develop in safer, healthier, and more controlled environments.

The digital world belongs to adults. Let kids be kids.