

Forum : Liberté d'expression**Thématique : Comment garantir un accès à l'information fiable à la génération Z tout en la protégeant contre les dangers des médias ?**

Nom du/de la Citoyen.ne : McMillan, Finlay

Situation familiale ☐ Marié/en couple ☒ Célibataire ☐ Avec enfants, si oui combien _____	Niveau d'étude ☐ Primaire ☒ Secondaire ☐ Universitaire
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1. De quelle manière êtes-vous concerné.e par le sujet ?

My name is Finlay, I'm 18 years and I work for a taxi company in Venezuela. When I start my day and get in my car, I turn on the radio. The first thing I hear is a government broadcast cutting into whatever program was playing, because the law requires every station to do so. By the time a passenger gets in, I've already been reminded that the news in Venezuela isn't used to inform you. Instead, they are used control your thinking, which also explains why I grew up watching independent newspapers and TV channels shut down one by one and state channels coming in to replace them.

Most of my days are spent listening to passengers arguing about politics, sharing videos on their phones, asking me if I've heard about this or that. I notice how often nobody actually knows what's true anymore. Mobile data is expensive, so most people I know are careful, and don't often compare sources properly. The people that suffer the most from this the most are workers like me, students, mothers, children who can't afford fast connection.

When Maduro was captured earlier this year, I watched passengers' phones fill up with videos instantly, some were real, although most were fakes and made with AI. The worst part was that a large proportion of people couldn't tell the difference. In today's world, lies can travel as fast as truth, if not faster.

What frustrates me the most is that people making decisions about my country's future aren't informed properly. This means that when voting and normal procedures are reestablished, my country might get worse before it gets better, especially since Machado has been exiled.

2. Que proposez-vous à votre échelle ?

At an individual level, I would like to prioritise personal information choices: consuming and financially supporting independent outlets (such as Cotejo.info and Efecto Cocuyo) and stopping the overexaggeration of unverified claims. Acknowledging that state funding can limit editorial independence, I suggest that citizens donate small amounts or pay a minimal subscription. Another initiative to consider would be to privatise CANTV and opening up the telecoms market to competition.

On access, the priority is making connectivity a community and market problem, not a state one. I would also support the proposal that connectivity be determined by a community (towns, villages), Wi-Fi networks run by local businesses, and no regulation on the internet service provider market.

On verification, I support the idea of citizens independently fact-checking state and NGO claims without their involvement – cross-referencing arguments and claims against multiple sources – and teaching basic AI-detection skills. This would make the spread of unintentional fake-news manageable for citizens, while treating state disinformation as a political problem.

On education, I support the report's media literacy goal but not state provided programmes like UNESCO's CLEMI. Media literacy should instead be run through families, churches and local groups, since the state and organisations carry the same risk of bias as with state-funded media.

At forum level, I support local citizen assemblies to make suggestions (as opposed to lawmakers), like those mentioned in the report (France, Ireland, Taiwan, Kenya). In Venezuela's current transitional period, with Machado excluded from the electoral system, such forums would give everyday citizens a voice. I would like that free and fair elections be established, as I see these as being the solution to the country's information issue.