

Forum : Forum citoyen sur la liberté d'expression (bil)

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

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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 ?

Hello my name is Mikhail and I am a young Bangladeshi worker of 18 years who works in a textile factory. I started working at a young age and have had no access to formal education or reliable information. Due to this I never had any proper information on my rights as a worker, safety regulations and the conditions that I work in. My mother died in the collapse of the Rana Plaza in 2013, which took a massive toll on my mental health and directly exposed me to the consequences of unsafe working conditions and a lack of transparency in the textile industry. Today, I campaign with ActionAid Bangladesh for greater transparency about the reality of sweatshop work. I now work and campaign with ActionAid Bangladesh, which works to protect and strengthen the rights of women workers in Bangladesh by creating "Workers Cafes " which provide garment workers with information and support concerning labour laws, women's rights and workplace problems. These safe spaces are crucial to inform workers about their rights, especially considering the fact that many workers do not have access to information and often do not possess education higher than the secondary level.

This is why I am directly concerned by the question of reliable information. Information is not only important for people using social media. For workers like me, having accurate information can mean understanding our rights, recognising unsafe conditions and knowing where to seek help. At the same time, I understand that social media can make information much easier to access while also allowing misinformation and manipulated content to spread quickly.

2. Que proposez-vous à votre échelle ?

At my level, I would focus on making reliable information accessible to people who are often excluded from education and traditional information sources. Based on the work of ActionAid Bangladesh's Workers' Cafés, I would support more local spaces where workers and young people can receive trustworthy information, ask questions and discuss their rights without needing a high level of formal education.

The use of simple and accessible language rather than complex official documents would make the communication of information more effective and the use of posters, community meetings, radio, local organisations and social media could all be used to reach different groups. Workers should have clear

information about workplace safety, labour laws, their rights and where they can report problems or seek support.

I also believe that it is crucial to promote basic media literacy education for young people. It is important to teach them how to identify if a source is trustworthy by looking at the source and to understand how to compare different sources and recognise misleading or fake content. This is especially important for the younger generation as they receive most of their information through social media which is a massive hub for misleading content.

However, protecting people from misinformation should not mean restricting their freedom of expression or their access to the internet. The objective should be to give people the skills and reliable sources they need to judge information for themselves.

Finally, I would encourage greater transparency from companies and organisations. In the textile industry, for example, companies should provide clearer information about where products are made, the conditions workers face and the measures being taken to protect workers. ActionAid has already documented serious problems affecting garment workers in Bangladesh and has campaigned for stronger protections against workplace violence and harassment.

For me, access to reliable information is closely connected to workers' rights. People cannot effectively defend their rights if they do not know what those rights are. Giving workers and young people access to trustworthy information therefore helps them participate in society while also protecting them from misinformation and exploitation.