

Forum : forum citoyen sur la liberté d'expression**Thématique : Comment garantir un accès à l'information fiable à la génération Z tout en la protégeant des dangers des médias ?**

Nom du/de la Citoyen.ne : Charlie Hoogendoorn

Situation familiale ● Marié/en couple ○ Célibataire ○ Avec enfants, si oui combien	Niveau d'étude ○ Primaire ● Secondaire ○ Universitaire
--	--

1. De quelle manière êtes-vous concernée par le sujet ?

My name is Charlie Hoogendoorn. I am a 34-year-old mother of two and work at a local high school in Mbuji-Mayi in the province of Kasai-Oriental in central DRC. I am passionate about my job, after school hours I take my children with me to the Seventh-day Adventist Church where I volunteer as secretary and they can help around. Besides that, I'm also involved in politics and handle relations with the International Association for the Defense of Religious Liberty.

As a teacher in the DRC, I experience trouble providing my students with up to date and reliable information which is vital in providing decent-level education. In my city of Mbuji-Mayi access to the internet is limited to a handful of Web-café's if you don't want to pay for an expensive monthly subscription. The local library is my main source of information, but I do not believe this is sufficient for the Gen-Z I teach.

Once every two weeks I visit a web-café to send pictures/videos to my family in Kinshasa and to catch up on global politics. While the government signed both the universal declaration of human rights which establishes the universal right to hold opinions and to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media. And the international covenant on civil and political rights which means countries must protect freedom of expression. The level of disinformation is very high. This is attributed to the current political state our country is in with the two rebel parties fighting and the upcoming unconstitutional elections. Luckily my area is not affected by the war in the east but both online and real propaganda is everywhere to be seen. The propaganda these rebel groups are spreading are dangerous not only by polarising the children which leads to them making poor political decisions but also by convincing them to join the armed forces which puts their life at risk and further destabilises our country.

2. Que proposez-vous à votre échelle?

First, we must provide a reliable way for Gen-Z to access the internet by for example, decreasing provider prices or for the state to incentivise Web-café's.

Once a broader range of the younger (and general) population can connect to the internet, we must protect them from hate speech, disinformation and other harmful content not only for their safety but also for the future of our country. This is mainly the responsibility of parents but as a teacher I think it would be extremely beneficial to offer an internet safety course in our schools.

While these solutions would protect Gen-Z we must also solve the problem at its root. Disinformation and political instability. To solve the entire war is quite hard and it's not like

people haven't tried before but we can find solutions for disinformation. For example implement laws that make spreading it an offenable crime.

Sources:

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-civil-and-political-rights>

<https://balobakicheck.com/en/report-from-the-drc-the-difficulty-of-accessing-reliable-information-how-disinformation-and-media-censorship-have-made-communities-more-vulnerable-to-insecurity/>

<https://rsf.org/en/country/democratic-republic-congo>
[various Wikipedia pages](#)