

SUMMARY

Twelve Plus Group Seminar “Human Rights in the Digital Era. AI and Social Media: Opportunity or threat for Youth?”

On 8–9 June, the Parliament of the Republic of Poland hosted the Twelve Plus Geopolitical Group Seminar entitled “Human Rights in the Digital Era. AI and Social Media: Opportunity or Threat for Youth?”, organised by the Polish Inter-Parliamentary Union Group in cooperation with the Twelve Plus Geopolitical Group and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

The event was attended by delegations from the following Twelve Plus Group member states: Albania, Australia, the Czech Republic, Greece, Italy, Latvia, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Switzerland, Türkiye and Ukraine, as well as a representative of the Madrid Regional Parliament (Spain). The IPU Secretariat was represented by the Secretary General-elect, Ms Anda Filip. The proceedings were chaired by the IPU Vice-President, Senator Gabriela Morawska-Stanecka (Poland). The seminar was formally opened by the Deputy Marshal of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland, Mr Szymon Hołownia.

8 June 2026 (Monday)

10:00 Opening of the Conference

Welcome addresses by: Mr Szymon Hołownia (Poland), Deputy Marshal of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland; Senator Gabriela Morawska-Stanecka (Poland), IPU Vice-President; Mr Laurent Wehrli (Switzerland), Chair of the Twelve Plus Group

10:25 **Address by Anda Filip, Incoming Secretary General of the IPU**

10:30 Keynote 1: *The Duty of States to Protect Minors from Violence, Cruelty and Moral Corruption*

Speaker: Emilio Puccio – Secretary General of the Intergroup on Children’s Rights in the European Parliament

10:45–12:45 Panel I: **Moderator: Deputy Kinga Gajewska (Poland)**

Constitutional and International Foundations for Protecting Children from Moral Corruption on the Internet

Panellists: Emilio Puccio, Deputy Lesia Vasylenko (Ukraine), Deputy João Pedro Louro (Portugal), Senator Magdalena Kochan (Poland), Senator Adam Bodnar (Poland)

14:45–15:00 Keynote 2: *Global Trends in Restricting Children’s Access to Social Media*

Speaker: Sharon Claydon – Deputy Speaker of the Australian House of Representatives

15:00–17:00 Panel II: *Combating Cyberviolence and Online Gender-Based Violence. Social Media Bans for Children – Where Should the Line Be Drawn?*

Moderator: Deputy Monika Rosa (Poland)

Panellists: Elisa Vigil (Madrid Regional Parliament, Spain), Marta Pucilowska-Schiemann (Institute of Digital Citizenship), Dr Alexander Kriebitz, AI Policy Consultant (IPU), Cynthia López Castro (Mexico), President of the IPU Forum of Women Parliamentarians

9 June 2026 (Tuesday)

10:00 Keynote 3: *AI and Human Rights – New Challenges for Parliaments. Risk Systems, Manipulation, Transparency, Political Accountability*

Speaker: Deputy Manuela Tender (Portugal)

10:15–12:45 Panel III: *AI and Human Rights – From Algorithmic Discrimination to Surveillance*

Moderator: Deputy Grzegorz Napieralski (Poland)

Panellists: Deputy Joanna Kluzik-Rostkowska (Poland), Deputy Bora Muzhaqi (Albania), Deputy Cosmin-Ioan Corendea (Romania), Alex Read, Project Officer: Parliamentary Action on AI (IPU)

14:30–15:00 Conference Summary and Closing

Summary Remarks by IPU Vice-President Senator Gabriela Morawska-Stanecka:

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we conclude today’s seminar entitled “*Human Rights in the Digital Era. AI and Social Media: Opportunity or Threat for Youth?*”, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all speakers, panellists, moderators and participants for their valuable contributions to this highly important discussion.

Throughout the day, we had the opportunity to examine some of the most significant challenges facing children and young people in the digital environment. Our discussions demonstrated that

protecting minors from violence, cruelty and moral corruption on the internet is not merely an obligation arising from constitutions, international law and European standards, but also a shared responsibility of the state, educational institutions, families, technology platforms and civil society.

The first panel reminded us that fundamental rights and legal guarantees must evolve alongside technological development. We discussed how constitutional standards, international human rights instruments and European Union regulations can effectively protect children in an increasingly globalised digital space.

The second panel focused on the growing problem of cyberviolence and gender-based violence online. The discussion highlighted the complexity of striking a balance between children's safety and their right to participate in digital life, freedom of expression and access to information. The important role of parents, teachers and digital platforms in creating a safer and more responsible online environment was also emphasised.

The third panel addressed the profound impact of artificial intelligence on human rights. We examined both the opportunities and the risks associated with algorithmic decision-making, profiling, discrimination, surveillance and data collection. The discussion underscored the need to ensure transparency, accountability and a human-centred approach to the governance of AI technologies, so that innovation serves people and respects their fundamental rights.

The common denominator of all three panels was the recognition that technology itself is neither good nor bad. Its impact depends on legal frameworks, ethical principles and the decisions made by societies. Protecting human rights in the digital era requires constant vigilance, international cooperation and a consistent commitment to placing human dignity at the centre of technological development.

I would like to thank you all warmly for your engagement, inspiring questions and willingness to participate in this highly important debate. The exchange of views that took place today demonstrates the importance of interdisciplinary dialogue in the face of the dynamic changes shaping the contemporary digital world.

I hope that today's discussions will inspire further research, cooperation and concrete action to ensure that digital technologies and artificial intelligence become tools that empower and protect young people, rather than sources of exclusion, discrimination or harm.

I wish you an enjoyable visit and once again thank you all for your participation. I hope that we will continue these important conversations in the future.