



A Holistic View of Freedom of Opinion and Expression in the Digital Sphere

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Susie Alegre

Associate – Doughty Street Chambers

Senior Research Fellow – University of Roehampton

Article 19 ICCPR

1. *Everyone shall have the right to hold opinions without interference.*
2. *Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice.*
3. *The exercise of the rights provided for in paragraph 2 of this article carries with it special duties and responsibilities. It may therefore be subject to certain restrictions, but these shall only be such as are provided by law and are necessary:*
 - (a) For respect of the rights or reputations of others;*
 - (b) For the protection of national security or of public order (ordre public), or of public health or morals.*

3 Aspects to the Right

- Freedom of opinion
- Freedom of expression
- Freedom of Information

Understanding the Right in the Online Space

- Different aspects to the right are all relevant to understanding the problems posed by misinformation and disinformation online.
- All aspects of the right are interconnected, and a holistic approach is needed to address the complex challenges of misinformation and disinformation online.

Freedom of opinion

- the freedom to hold opinions in the forum internum is absolute
- includes the right to form and change opinions

Freedom of Expression

- may be restricted by law when necessary for limited set of reasons
- different types of expression may attract different levels of protection
- may be negatively affected by fear of abuse

Freedom of Information

- the ability to seek and receive information affects our opinions
- the way we receive information may have different impacts on our opinions
- agency in choosing the information we receive

“Freedom is the freedom to say that two plus two make four.
If that is granted, all else follows.”

George Orwell, 1984

Susie Alegre - Contact

- Website: www.susiealegre.com
- Email: s.alegre@doughtystreet.co.uk
- Twitter: @Susie_alegre