

TECHNOLOGY AND HUMAN RIGHTS DIGEST: QUARTER 3, 2025



Introduction

Youth Take the Lead in Defending Digital Rights:



Across Kenya, young people are taking bold steps to redefine what safety, consent, and accountability look like in the digital age. Through the Privacy First Campaign, a youth-led movement advancing digital rights and responsible online behaviour, two dynamic teams from Nairobi and Mombasa have unveiled powerful campaigns tackling some of the most urgent challenges facing internet users today: uninformed digital consent and cyberbullying.

Nairobi Team: *Consent or Coercion? Rethinking Terms and Conditions*

In Nairobi, the **Consent or Coercion?** The campaign is shining a light on one of the most overlooked issues in data protection, the illusion of “free consent” online. The campaign interrogates whether users genuinely agree to the long, jargon-filled Terms and Conditions (T&Cs) that tech companies impose, or whether they are subtly coerced into surrendering their

privacy in exchange for access to essential digital services.

Drawing from Article 31 of Kenya’s Constitution and the Data Protection Act (2019), the Nairobi team argues that meaningful consent must be informed, voluntary, and comprehensible, yet for most users, this is far from the reality. Research by Deloitte shows that over 91% of people accept online terms without reading them, a statistic that rises to 97% among youth aged 18–34. This dynamic leaves millions vulnerable to exploitative data practices by apps, mobile lenders, and telecom providers.

Through these activities, the campaign seeks to spark critical reflection among university students, engage the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC), and other stakeholders and push for simplified, transparent, and user-friendly T&Cs from tech companies. Long-term, the team envisions a digital ecosystem where consent is not coerced but consciously given, and youth play a central role in holding corporations accountable.

Mombasa Team: *Scroll Bila Troll – Fostering Kindness and Safety Online*

Meanwhile, on Kenya’s coast, the Scroll Bila Troll campaign is tackling the rise of cyberbullying among young people. Based on a survey conducted by the team, 78% of youth aged 18–25 in Mombasa have either experienced or witnessed cyberbullying on platforms like TikTok, a statistic that underscores the urgent need for digital empathy and protection.

With the rallying cry “*scroll freely, without fear*”, Scroll Bila Troll aims to foster safer and more inclusive online spaces through youth-centered activities and policy advocacy. The campaign’s

OUR QUARTER IN NUMBERS:

5+ Counties Reached by the Tech & Human Rights Team

10+ Data Protection Workshops & Conferences

100+ Civil and Human Rights Groups trained on Data Protection and Digital Rights

500+ people directly reached through various events and workshops

immediate goal is to reduce cyberbullying by at least 10–25% among youth, while pushing for the creation of cyberbullying-specific legislation in Kenya.

The campaign also leverages strong partnerships with Amnesty partners and external stakeholders to strengthen data-driven advocacy and community engagement. On social media, weekly themes such as *#KnowTheLine*, *#FreeButFair*, and *#BlockReportMoveOn* drive digital solidarity and awareness.

The Campaign is centering empathy, accountability, and empowerment, Scroll Bila Troll to not only challenges toxic online culture but also push for transparency from tech platforms, calling on companies like Meta and TikTok to publish Anti-Cyberbullying

Transparency Reports and enhance content moderation systems.

Both campaigns embody the essence of the Privacy First Campaign: a movement driven by young Kenyans who believe that a just and inclusive digital future must protect privacy, dignity, and expression. From university debates to creative digital challenges, these initiatives show that youth are not just participants in online spaces, they are architects of a safer, more ethical internet.

As the campaigns roll out across campuses and social media, they aim to inspire a new generation of digital citizens who scroll, post, and click with awareness, kindness, and power. Look out for their campaign launches in October!

QUARTER 3 HIGHLIGHTS:

Strengthening Data Protection in Kenya:

Ijue Data Yako:



We wrapped up the #IjueDataYako project with a powerful final session in Kisumu & Kakamega. Since March, we've empowered 25 CBOs with tools to understand & protect their data rights. We celebrated the dedication of our participants by awarding them certificates for their commitment and hard work. It's inspiring to see so many individuals now better equipped to advocate for their data privacy and contribute to a more secure digital environment. Big thanks

to our partner ICON Data and Learning Labs (IDL) . Let's continue to champion data rights and build a more informed society!

Data Governance Café:



We ran a Data Governance Cafe in July on the Kenya Information and Communications (Amendment) Bill 2025. That proposal may reshape how the State monitors our digital lives. With the Bloggers Association of Kenya and Data Privacy and Governance Society of Kenya, we

explored what this Bill means for our digital freedoms.

From metered internet access to unchecked data interception, the Bill raises urgent questions:

- Where is the transparency and oversight?
- Is surveillance being normalized as part of a service delivery improvement?
- And, what can Kenya learn from global standards for privacy and data protection?

Civil society players, legal minds, and digital rights advocates joined us in calling for rights-respecting data governance, because national security must never cost us constitutional freedoms.

COVAW Training on Data Protection:



Through the Technology and Human Rights manager, we held a session for the Coalition on Violence Against Women (COVAW- Kenya) during their two-day staff capacity building workshop on data protection and security, an important venture for an organization that handles sensitive survivor data in GBV, SGBV and TFGBV response.

It is exciting to see strides made by COVAW towards data protection compliance. In the context of GBV and TFGBV response, data protection compliance is not a barrier to work, it's an enabler. It builds trust with survivors, demonstrates professionalism and is a vital component of providing safe, ethical and effective support.

Privacy Litigation Surgery:



This August, we brought together litigation lawyers and researchers from the Data Privacy and Governance Society of Kenya to explore strategies for advancing privacy jurisprudence in Kenya. Public interest litigation is a core component of strengthening data governance in Kenya and protecting the right to privacy. We explored strategies for strengthening public interest litigation and building collaborations that safeguard digital rights. This initiative reflects Amnesty Kenya's commitment to shaping Kenya's data governance ecosystem through thought leadership, partnerships, and proactive engagement with the courts.

Data Protection Workshop- Eldoret Public Sector DPOs



We held a 3-day data protection workshop in Eldoret in collaboration with the regional Office of the Data Protection Commissioner and DPO 360. Data Protection Officers from across the North Rift came together for a dynamic workshop focused on strengthening privacy

practices in healthcare, education, finance, hospitality, and community sectors. From unpacking the Right to Privacy to building institutional privacy programs, the sessions were rich with insights and practical tools to keep pushing for [#DataProtectionMashinani](#) and a rights-based approach to data governance in Kenya.

Malindi Data Governance Workshop:

We held a two-day Data Governance Workshop in Malindi with representatives from CSOs and CBOs. The session equipped CBO representatives, who often act as data handlers themselves, with a deeper understanding of data subjects' rights and the principles of data protection as outlined in the Data Protection Act. They will now be able to integrate this knowledge into their daily work, actively promote awareness, and educate their peers, families, and communities on responsible data handling. Through this initiative, we aim to empower CBOs to register their organizations with the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) and to recognize data violation risks, as well as understand the reporting mechanisms available within the ODPC's structures.

Mombasa Community Dialogues



In Mombasa, the data governance conversation has now expanded across all six subcounties: Likoni, Changamwe, Kisauni, Mvita, Jomvu, and Nyali. Our Data Champions, drawn from the Mombasa Civil Society Network, are taking the lead in bringing these discussions to the grassroots, fostering community awareness and strengthening understanding of data protection principles.

East African Legal Empowerment Summit:



In August, we attended the East Africa Legal Empowerment Summit in Lodwar, where we held a session on the Bill of Rights.

The Bill of Rights is the heart of our Constitution. It safeguards dignity, equality, and justice for all. By deepening conversations around it, we aim to bridge the gap between the law and the people, ensuring that every individual can understand, claim, and defend their rights.

Data Protection and Digital Safety Training for Human Rights Defenders



In a time when Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) are increasingly targeted through surveillance, intimidation, and harassment, both online and offline in Kenya, strengthening resilience is more critical than ever.

We brought together #HumanismyID Alliance members for a Data Governance and Digital Security Workshop, equipping them with

practical tools to safeguard their voices, protect their digital footprints, and continue defending rights fearlessly.

Together, we're building safer spaces for advocacy and pushing back against shrinking civic space.

Taita Taveta Data Governance Workshop



We hosted a 3-day workshop in Taita Taveta to build awareness around privacy, responsible data practices, and digital rights. The sessions empowered community leaders to better understand data governance, assert their rights, and protect themselves in the digital age.

Through this workshop, we hope that the civil society networks in Taita Taveta can also actively promote awareness and educate their peers, family, and community about data protection practices, helping to create a culture of responsible data handling.

Storytelling for Data Governance Series



In September, we kicked off our Storytelling for Data Governance series, spotlighting voices from across civil society.

Over the last 5 years, Kenya's Data Protection Act has shaped how civil society organizations safeguard privacy, strengthen compliance, and advocate for digital rights, and in lieu of this we shared short stories and reflections from those working at the heart of this change. You can watch this series [here](#).

Forum for Internet Freedom in Africa 2025



We attended the 12th edition of the Forum for Internet Freedom in Africa in Windhoek, and participated in 2 sessions: The Article19 session on cross-regional lessons for inclusive digitalisation across North, West and East Africa regions, and as a panelist in the Paying the Cost of Connection, which spotlighted the lived experiences of young people navigating digital health and human rights in contexts often marked by exclusion, inequality, and surveillance.

It is rather concerning to note that digital rights challenges are intensifying across the continent. We are witnessing governments adopt increasingly authoritarian measures to control online spaces and silence criticism, shrinking civic space and threatening the very freedoms that the internet should protect.

So, what can we do as civil society and as individuals who care about protecting human rights online?

Defend civic space by speaking out against repressive digital laws and policies. Amplify youth voices and build intergenerational coalitions that reimagine inclusive and rights-based digital governance. Invest in resilience-

from digital security capacity building to community-led movements that can withstand state pushback. Hold tech and governments accountable, demanding transparency, accountability, and human rights safeguards in all digital transformations.

The internet must remain a space for empowerment, not oppression. And that requires all of us- advocates, policymakers, tech leaders, and citizens to take action together.

Children and Young People's Digital Rights, Health and Well-being

Digital Rights Essay Competition Award Ceremony and Excursion



In July, we marked the end of the 2025 Amnesty International Kenya Digital Rights Essay Competition with an Awards Ceremony bringing together the winning students and teachers from winning schools. This year we received 1024 essay entries from 45 participating schools. Since 2022, the Essay Competition has been a platform for children and young people to champion for a human rights-respecting digital ecosystem that prioritizes mental health and wellbeing. It is remarkable how young people see the internet and demand for what is just. We'd like to congratulate Geoffrey Anyoda and Sheryl Awuor, who emerged this year's winners, and also embarked on a 2-day excursion, learning about human rights work in Mathare and Kiamaiko Social Justice Centres.

Supporting young voices on tech governance is integral to creating safe digital platforms for all.

RIGHTS Click Alliance:



The Rights Click Alliance held its Quarter 3 convening, bringing together members of the coalition to deliberate on the question, *"How do we campaign against punitive digital rights policies in Kenya?"* The half-day strategy session focused on the proposed amendments to the **Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act (CMCCA), 2018**, which have sparked concerns among civil society and legal experts for expanding state surveillance powers, criminalising online expression, and threatening the privacy and participation of children and young people. Through insightful presentations, participants unpacked the implications of the amendments on privacy, freedom of expression, and access to information, rights enshrined in Kenya's Constitution.

The convening also featured collaborative sessions where participants explored strategies to strengthen alliance coordination, policy monitoring, and rapid-response advocacy. Members worked in breakout groups to design an “early warning” network and draft collective action points to safeguard digital rights and online freedoms. By the close of the session, the Alliance had agreed on a joint position and next steps to enhance collaboration in defending children’s and young people’s digital spaces from regressive policy threats. The meeting reaffirmed RCA’s commitment to advancing a safe, inclusive, and rights-respecting digital environment in Kenya.

Privacy First Campaign Prelaunch:



The *Jua Terms* and *Scroll Bila Troll* pre-launch events were successfully held as part of youth-led initiatives promoting digital rights and responsible online engagement in Kenya. In August, the *Jua Terms* team convened a pre-launch forum at Mount Kenya University, Parklands Law Campus, and later at Catholic University of Eastern Africa under the theme “Consent or Coercion? Rethinking Terms and Conditions.” The event brought together students, and digital rights advocates to discuss

informed digital consent and privacy in Kenya’s data ecosystem. Through panel discussions, testimonies, and Q&A sessions, participants explored how coercive “take-it-or-leave-it” consent models undermine users’ rights. The event succeeded in mobilizing youth voices, fostering dialogue between academia and activists, and building early momentum toward the full campaign rollout.

In September, the *Scroll Bila Troll* campaign held its pre-launch at the **Technical University of Mombasa**, introducing its vision of promoting digital kindness and combating cyberbullying among youth aged 18–25. The interactive session featured presentations by youth facilitators, storytelling on overcoming online hate, and stakeholder engagement with partners and influencers. Participants shared feedback on campaign strategies and contributed ideas for amplifying positivity online, generating anticipation ahead of the official campaign launch set for October.

International Youth Day:



During this year’s International Youth Day, we joined the panel for the webinar on [#MakeITSafe](#) campaign organized by the Digital Rights and Health Project at Restless Development.

The recently released “Paying the Costs of

Connection” report by DHRP reveals the scale of technology-facilitated abuse, from surveillance and blackmail to harassment and algorithmic discrimination, that undermines safety, dignity, and access to essential services. This conversation centred the voices of young people directly affected, connecting their lived experiences to the bigger fight for digital rights, public health, and human dignity. Our collective message was clear: digital spaces must protect people, not put them at risk.

Righteous Madness: Digital Access to Information



To mark this year’s Universal Day for Access to Information, we dove deep into the world of data protection—what it means, why it matters, and how you can keep your information safe in a digital-first world. From secure tools to ethical frameworks, we unpack the real-life impact of data governance and the power of protecting your digital footprint. Whether you’re an activist, a techie, or just curious about your rights online—this one’s for you! Listen to the podcast episode [here](#)

UPCOMING

EVENTS
Q4, 2025

17
OCT

The Privacy First Campaign Launch — spotlighting youth-led digital rights advocacy - Oct 17, Mombasa

22
OCT

Annual Conference and Research Day — an opportunity for scholars and professionals whose work in progress intersects with data governance and public interest to submit abstracts of their original work for consideration.

31
OCT

Data Governance Café — conversations on data protection, ethics, and community empowerment

08
NOV

CTRL+ Speak 2nd Edition Launch — elevating voices shaping Kenya’s digital rights future

19
NOV

Online Harassment of HRDs in Kenya Report — exposing patterns of digital abuse by the Kenyan government and calling for accountability

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO PARTICIPATE, EMAIL US AT SHARLENE.MUTHURI@AMNESTY.ORG.KE

This publication is a quarterly release by the Technology and Human Rights Program at Amnesty International Kenya. For further information, please feel free to reach out to the Technology and Human Rights Campaigns Officer here: sharlene.muthuri@amnesty.or.ke.

OUR QUARTER THROUGH THE LENS

