

## **CCAN's Public Statement Marking One Year of War in Gaza and Further Regional Escalation**

4 October 2024

The Christchurch Call Advisory Network (CCAN) consists of not-for-profit organizations and individuals from civil society, academia, and the technical community convened as part of the Christchurch Call. CCAN exists to provide expert advice on implementing [the commitments](#) in the Call in a manner consistent with international human rights law and a free, open, and secure internet.

One year on from the terrorist attack of October 7, the devastating war in Gaza continues to terrorize civilians. Now, with the further escalation in Lebanon and Israel, an even greater regional war looms. In this urgent context, CCAN again calls to attention the myriad of actions and behaviors by parties to the conflict, governments, tech companies, and others that are inconsistent with the commitments of the Christchurch Call. While not all parties to the conflict are Call signatories, signatories to the Call should not only adhere to the Call commitments, but take a stand against actions inconsistent with the Call, including:

- Internet shutdowns and repeated attacks on civilian telecommunications infrastructure including communications devices;
- The leveraging of user data and user-generated content and communication channels, for targeting and other military purposes in a manner inconsistent with international humanitarian law;
- Restricting access to information and restricting (or requiring the restriction of) freedom of expression through content moderation that is not in line with international human rights standards;
- The dissemination of state and non-state sponsored propaganda and disinformation, hate speech, incitement to genocide, violent extremism, and other content that violates international human rights standards and humanitarian law.

The harmful impact of these actions resonates globally, exposing already vulnerable communities to further violence and harm, online and offline.

Against the backdrop of the Call's commitment to uphold human rights and protect the most vulnerable against violent extremism and terrorism, CCAN reaffirms its responsibility to

safeguard these commitments and to hold signatories to the Call accountable, particularly in times of armed conflict and crisis.

In light of the above, CCAN urges governments and tech companies to uphold human rights, international humanitarian law, and the Call commitments, and reiterates its previous call for actors in the conflict, platforms, and governments to:

- Ensure that all people across the region have unhindered and reliable access to the internet and digital communications platforms without human-initiated outages, consistent with the Call's commitment to "free, open and secure Internet and international human rights law," and for actors not to interfere with this access unless it is in full compliance with the requirements of the applicable human rights instruments;
- Neither force the removal of content that is within the bounds of free expression, nor destroy content that contains evidence of possible criminal war activity;
- Exercise great care in their use of social media, and not allow their social media accounts to disseminate false information;
- Involve civil society in crisis response as early as possible; and
- Apply human rights standards and support frameworks to reduce amplification of terrorist content on the internet.

Sincerely,

Christchurch Call Advisory Network (CCAN)  
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