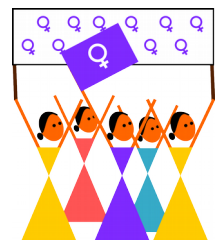


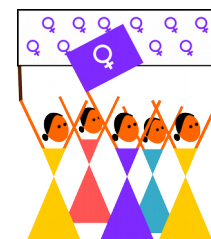
A feminist perspective on gender, media and communication rights in digital times

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Introduction – the global policy dialogue we need to have

- Access to media and ICTs acknowledged as fundamental to women's right to participation
 - Digital metamorphosis acknowledged in the 2015 review of the Beijing Platform for Action
 - bridging the gender digital divide viewed as integral to SDG 5, by the WSIS plus 10 review
- But what would it take to advance women's communication rights in a digitally restructured media environment?



Key issues for freedom of expression

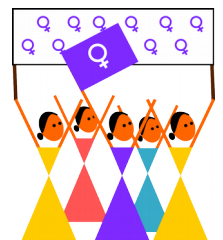
- The arbitrariness of the 'law of the platform'

Abortion pill group's Facebook page deleted over promoting 'drug use'

Page for Women on Web, which connects doctors with women in places that restrict abortion access, deleted over 'promotion or encouragement of drug use'



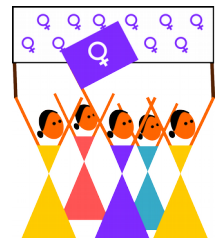
In June, ProPublica reported on the secret rules that Facebook's content reviewers use to decide which groups are "protected" from hate speech. We revealed that the rules protected "white men" but not "black children" because "age," unlike race and gender, was not a protected category. (In response to our article, Facebook added the category of "age" to its protected characteristics.) However, since subgroups are not protected, an attack on poor children, beautiful women, or Indian taxi cab drivers would still be considered acceptable.



Key issues for freedom of expression (contd.)

- The algorithmic turn in news dissemination has pushed the kill switch on media pluralism.... making it even more difficult for voices of women at the margins to translate into the right to be heard?

Last night it seemed as though my entire Twitter timeline was Ferguson, and my entire Facebook newsfeed was ice buckets. (Not a bad thing!)

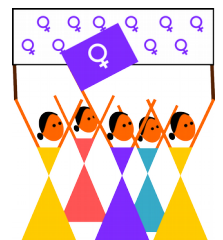


Key issues for freedom of expression (contd.)

- Copyright regimes that curtail women's access to knowledge



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Policy research agendas

- Algorithmic turn in media and impacts on freedom of expression in different contexts
- Adverse impact of rigid copyright policies on women's access to knowledge
- Alternative practices of media collectives working for gender equality

