The G7 Research Group presents the

2022 G7 Elmau Summit Final Compliance Report

28 June 2022 to 17 April 2023

Prepared by
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“We have meanwhile set up a process and there are also independent institutions monitoring which objectives of our G7 meetings we actually achieve. When it comes to these goals we have a compliance rate of about 80%, according to the University of Toronto. Germany, with its 87%, comes off pretty well. That means that next year too, under the Japanese G7 presidency, we are going to check where we stand in comparison to what we have discussed with each other now. So a lot of what we have resolved to do here together is something that we are going to have to work very hard at over the next few months. But I think that it has become apparent that we, as the G7, want to assume responsibility far beyond the prosperity in our own countries. That’s why today’s outreach meetings, that is the meetings with our guests, were also of great importance.”

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015

G7 summits are a moment for people to judge whether aspirational intent is met by concrete commitments. The G7 Research Group provides a report card on the implementation of G7 and G20 commitments. It is a good moment for the public to interact with leaders and say, you took a leadership position on these issues — a year later, or three years later, what have you accomplished?

Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme,
in G7 Canada: The 2018 Charlevoix Summit
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“[Guided by the conviction that democratic values make us stronger in tackling global challenges, we will cooperate with civil society and our partners beyond the G7 to] … promote human rights online and offline.”

_G7 Leaders’ Communiqué Executive Summary_

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Background

Though human rights discourse within the G7 has a long track record, its connection to and general discussion of the digital sphere is far more recent. Beginning with the inception of the Digital Opportunities Task Force (DOT Force) in 2000, the protection of human rights online focused primarily on the potential benefits of technology in supporting efforts towards access in health care and education.\(^{104}\) The DOT Force aimed to “report…findings and recommendations on global action to bridge the international information and knowledge divide.”\(^{105}\) As such, much of the G7’s history in addressing human rights in the digital sphere has concerned itself with bridging development gaps through information and communication technology. In later years, as the digital sphere has progressed, the G7 has turned its attention to the ways in which information and communication technology can both inhibit and support human rights in free speech, privacy and principles of the rule of law.\(^{106}\) To protect the integrity of cyberspace, the G7 consistently reaffirms its commitment to the regulation of the digital sphere through multilateral collaboration efforts across states and their respective private and public sectors.\(^{107}\)

At the 1989 Paris Summit, forty years after the United Nations’ General Assembly’s adoption of the “Universal Declaration of Human Rights,” G7 members reaffirmed their commitment to the document and its principles.\(^{108}\) This declaration marked the first time the topic of human rights was explicitly addressed at a G7 summit.

At the 1990 Houston Summit, G7 members introduced an economic declaration aimed at protecting “the practice of free elections, the freedom of expression and assembly, the increased respect for human rights and the rule of law.”\(^{109}\) Emphasizing the principles of freedom and consent with respect to labour, the Houston


\(^{106}\) G7 Principles and Actions on Cyber, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 23 September 2022. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/cyber.html


Economic Declaration affirmed the protection of human rights as a necessary component for economic growth and prosperity.

At the 1991 London Summit, G7 members commended developing countries who had begun to implement “radical policy reforms” in human rights.\(^\text{1110}\) The group cited the protection of human rights as a main contributor to economic development and reaffirmed the need for “open systems of administration, accountable to the public” that may monitor human rights abuses.

At the 1992 Munich summit, G7 members stated human rights as a common value shared between East and West states following the democratic revolution in Europe.\(^\text{1111}\) Members emphasized the need for the maintenance of these rights regardless of the specific inclinations of individual governments.

At the 1994 Naples Summit, G7 members put forth their support for the creation of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights office.\(^\text{1112}\) G7 members outlined their support for the “improvement of international monitoring mechanisms and procedures for the promotion and protection of human rights everywhere, including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities.”

At the 1995 Halifax Summit, G7 members implored the UN Secretary-General to utilize the High Commissioners on Human Rights and Refugees to foster better analysis for the prevention of negative impacts through disaster and conflict.\(^\text{1113}\) The summit emphasized upholding human rights as being integral to crisis control and sustainable development.

At the 1997 Denver summit, G8 members explicitly endorsed the work of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda.\(^\text{1114}\) The summit focused most specifically on development in Sub-Saharan Africa through the protection of human rights by way of good governance, democracy and the cooperation of the private sector—reaffirming their support of institutions of international humanitarian law.

At the 1998 Birmingham Summit, G8 leaders pledged to explore the ways in which they could support Africa in development through human rights protection.\(^\text{1115}\) These included humanitarian aid as well as financial and technical assistance in building stronger “social and economic systems.”

At the 2000 Okinawa summit, G8 members mentioned digital opportunities in connection to public welfare and development and formed the DOT Force.\(^\text{1116}\) The creation of this task force marked the beginning of the G8’s work on tackling inequality in the digital sphere.

\(^{1112}\) Chairman’s Statement, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 10 July 1994. Access Date: 4 October 2022. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1994naples/chairman.html
\(^{1114}\) Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 July 1997. Access Date: 4 October 2022. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1997denver/g8final.htm
At the 2001 Genoa summit, the DOT Force fulfilled the mandates set at Okinawa and reported on the potential of digital technologies to contribute towards development and social cohesion.\footnote{Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 July 2001. Access Date: 23 September 2022. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2001genoa/finalcommunique.html} These findings resulted in the consideration of the role of “e-Government” in political and social progress.\footnote{Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 July 2001. Access Date: 23 September 2022. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2001genoa/finalcommunique.html}

At the 2002 Kannaskis summit, G8 leaders released a key document from the DOT Force Report Card that was titled “Digital Opportunities for All.”\footnote{Digital Opportunities Task Force Report Card: Digital Opportunities for All, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) June 2002. Access Date: 23 September 2022. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2002kananaskis/dotforce_reportcard.pdf} This document elaborated upon the mandates that states had given in prior summits’ addressals of digital development and put forth an action plan for increased access to health care and education through the use of information and communication technology.

At the 2004 Sea Island Summit, G8 members released a statement condemning the human rights violations occurring in Sudan.\footnote{G8 Statement on Sudan, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 10 June 2004. Access Date: 4 October 2022. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2004seaisland/sudan.html} Leaders called on the Sudanese government and other parties involved in the political conflict to disarm and approach a diplomatic solution.

At the 2007 Heiligendamm summit, G8 members urged the Sudanese government to follow ceasefire agreements and allow humanitarian aid access into the country—invoking UN Security Council resolution 1591.\footnote{G8 Summit Statement on Sudan/Darfur, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2007. Access Date: 4 October 2022. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2004seaisland/sudan.html} Member states expressed their continued disapproval of human rights violations in Sudan, as well as their desire for perpetrators to be held accountable.

At the 2009 l’Aquila Summit, G8 members produced the “Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future” declaration.\footnote{Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2009. Access Date: 4 October 2022. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2009laquila/2009-declaration.html} This document contained the group’s first-ever explicit connection between human rights and global health, with members condemning any violations or discrimination inflicted against those suffering from HIV/AIDS.

At the 2010 Muskoka summit, G8 leaders cited the upcoming Kabul Conference as an opportunity for the Government of Afghanistan to prove its progress in human rights.\footnote{Muskoka Declaration: Recovery and New Beginnings. G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 June 2010. Access Date: 4 October 2022. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2010muskoka/communique.html} Members committed to supporting the country in its period of “transition and development” by promoting more credible, inclusive and transparent parliamentary elections.


At the 2016 Ise-Shima summit, G7 leaders explicitly committed to “the protection and promotion of human rights online.”\footnote{G7 Principles and Actions on Cyber, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 23 September 2022. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/cyber.html} In a document titled “G7 Principles and Actions on Cyber,” leaders emphasized the
importance of a secure and fair cyberspace. This document created the foundation for future discussion of the threats, rather than solely the positive potential, of digital connectivity.

At the 2018 Charlevoix summit, G7 members produced the “Charlevoix Commitment to End Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Abuse and Harassment in Digital Contexts.”1127 This summit marked the first time in which gendered-violence was addressed specifically as a major concern of digital safety and security.

At the 2021 Carbis Bay summit, G7 members approved of the “Digital Ministers’ Internet Safety Principles document outlining parameters for online ethics.”1128 The group formally condemned state-imposed restrictions on digital democratic processes and government-mandated internet shutdowns and also committed to combatting hate speech and privacy infringement. In a G7 Trade Ministers meeting on 28 May 2021, members restated their commitment to international instruments such as the ILO and the “UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.”1129 This was a reaffirmation of former commitments made by the group concerning the eradication of forced labour in global supply chains.

At the 2022 Elmau summit, G7 members aimed to “maximise the coherent implementation of and compliance with international standards relating to human rights, environment, and labour across global supply chains.”1130 G7 members emphasized support for strengthening human rights in the labour sphere by strengthening “compliance with international standards, including through mandatory measures that protect rights-holders, provide for greater multilateral cooperation to address abuses and support remedy, thus enhancing predictability and certainty for business.” G7 members condemned the human rights situation in China, including in Tibet and Xinjiang; Myanmar; Iran, specifically discussing the increased use of arbitrary arrests, detention and capital punishment; Afghanistan; and Syria. In the digital sphere, G7 members pledged to center human rights and fundamental freedoms in discussion of the Internet as reflected in the G7 Resilient Democracy Statement. G7 members discussed their support for states “to increase digital access while ensuring that security, interoperability and respect for human rights are built into global connectivity.”

Commitment Features
At the 2022 Elmau Summit, G7 leaders made the following commitment: “[Guided by the conviction that democratic values make us stronger in tackling global challenges, we will cooperate with civil society and our partners beyond the G7 to]…promote human rights online and offline.”1131 This commitment can be interpreted as having one main target: the promotion of human rights. The target includes two central dimensions: one, the promotion of human rights in the digital sphere; and two, the promotion of human rights offline. Further, in each area — online and offline — the G7 member must cooperate with civil society as well as other partners beyond the G7.

“Democratic values” refer to the “values of freedom, respect for human rights and the principle of holding periodic and genuine elections by universal suffrage.”1132 In the context of this commitment, democratic values should help guide responses to human rights abuses.

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1127 Charlevoix Commitment to End Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Abuse and Harassment in Digital Contexts, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 23 September 2022. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/violence-commitment.html
1129 G7 Trade Ministers’ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 4 October 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/trade/210528-communique.html
1130 G7 Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 28 June 2022. Access Date: 1 October 2022. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2022elmau/220628-communique.html
1131 G7 Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 28 June 2022. Access Date: 1 October 2022. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2022elmau/220628-communique.html
“Cooperate” refers to “acting together or in compliance.”[1133] In the context of this commitment, G7 members should aim to work alongside civil society which is defined as “any non-profit, voluntary citizens’ group which is organized on a local, national or international level.”[1134] Some examples of civil society include community groups, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), charitable organizations, labour unions and professional associations. Additionally, G7 members should also act with partners outside of the G7, or anyone other than a G7 member associated through collaborative action, to ensure the universal promotion of human rights. This can include other countries or international organizations.

“Promote” refers to “supporting or renewing old efforts or creating new efforts in the area” or “to contribute to growth or prosperity of, to help bring into being.”[1135] Within the context of this commitment, promoting human rights can refer to directly opposing rising digital authoritarianism, investing in the cyber resilience of digital infrastructure within and across G7 countries, developing and implementing robust international cyber norms, upholding human rights standards across global supply chains, tackling instances of forced labour and protecting refugees and forcibly displaced persons.

“Human rights” are defined by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) as “rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any status.”[1136] Within the context of this commitment, G7 members should promote human rights such as “the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work and education,”[1137] and other rights specified in the UDHR.

“Online” is defined as “connected to, served by, or available through a system and especially a computer or telecommunications system.”[1138] Online human rights issues can include instances of digital transnational repression, censorship or surveillance programs and the promotion of digital authoritarianism.

“Offline” is defined as “not connected to, served by, or available through a system and especially a computer or telecommunications system.”[1139] In the context of this commitment, “online and offline” are understood to mean both within and beyond the global digital ecosystem.

Full compliance, or a score of +1, is assigned to G7 members who demonstrate strong action to promote human rights through both dimensions of cooperation: online and offline. In the online sphere, examples of strong actions regarding promoting human rights include, but are not limited to, enforcement of laws through policy action, such as fines for disobeying government guidelines on online harm, digital transnational repression or digital authoritarianism; investing in the cyber resilience of digital infrastructure within and across G7 countries; developing and implementing robust international cyber norms; changing legislation to prevent the malicious use of cyberspace by state and non-state actors and ensuring its accountability through democratic oversight of a legitimate government; and increased funding for digital access while ensuring that security and respect for human rights are built into global connectivity.[1140] Examples of strong actions regarding promoting

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human rights offline include, but are not limited to, providing financial support to protect refugees and forcibly
displaced persons, women and children in areas of conflict; and joining and/or participating in international
organizations that aim to uphold human rights standards across global supply chains, tackle instances of forced
labour, or improve the accountability and documentation for human rights violations and abuses like sexual
and gender-based violence including in conflict situations. In order to achieve full compliance, a member
must take strong actions in both dimensions of the commitment in cooperation with civil society and other G7
members.

Partial compliance, or a score of 0, is assigned to G7 members who demonstrate strong action in only one
of the two commitment dimensions. This means that in one dimension of the commitment the member has taken
weak action. Weak actions include verbal reaffirmations of existing commitments, attendance at international
conferences, or sharing information on human rights abuses without cooperating to address such issues.
Additionally, if a member demonstrates strong action in only one dimension of the commitment—online or
offline—or if a member does not cooperate with civil society and other G7 members then a partial compliance
score is given.

Non-compliance, or a score of −1, is assigned if the G7 member takes weak or less than strong action in one
dimension of the commitment while not cooperating with either civil society or other international partners. It
will also receive a −1 if it fails to take any action to protect human rights both online or offline, or the G7
member actively threatens human rights both online and offline.

Scoring Guidelines

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<td>The G7 member took insufficient or no action to promote human rights both online or offline and did not cooperate with civil society or international partners.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>The G7 member took some action to promote human rights offline and online alongside, while also cooperating with civil society or international partners OR took strong action either offline OR online while cooperating with one of the relevant stakeholders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+1</td>
<td>The G7 member took strong action to promote human rights online AND offline while also cooperating with civil society and international partners to this end.</td>
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Compliance Director: Saarah Khan
Lead Analyst: Faye Rozario

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to promote human rights online and offline while also
cooperating with civil society and international partners to this end.

On 31 July 2022, Minister of International Development Harjit Sajjan announced that CAD9 million would be
devoted to three projects for promoting LGBTQ2I+ human rights. Along with the APCOM Foundation,
Cuso International and World Bank, Canada will use this funding to improve LGBTQ2I+ services in Asia,
create safer communities in the Democratic Republic of Congo and further research minority conflicts in
developing countries.

On 1 September 2022, Minister of Foreign Affairs Mélanie Joly gave a statement on a report by the UN Office
of the High Commissioner for Human Rights discussing the human rights situation in the Xinjiang Uyghur

\[1141\] G7 Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 28 June 2022. Access Date: 23 September 2022.
http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2022elmau/220628-communique.html

\[1142\] Canada announces funding for 3 LGBTQ2I-related projects in developing countries, Global Affairs Canada (Vancouver) 31 July
lgbtq2i-related-projects-in-developing-countries.html
Autonomous Region in China. Minister Joly urged China to listen to the international community and uphold human rights obligations.

On 8 September 2022, Canada participated in a Roundtable of G7 Data Protection Authorities in Bonn, Germany. The goal of this roundtable was to address the significance of privacy-enhancing technologies, the role of data protection authorities and regulations of artificial intelligence.

On 30 September 2022, G7 Foreign Ministers released a statement on the illegal annexation of sovereign Ukrainian territory. All G7 members expressed united condemnation of Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine and Russia’s continued violations of Ukraine’s sovereignty and independence.

On 3 October 2022, Minister Joly announced that Canada would impose additional sanctions under the current “Special Economic Measures (Iran) Regulations” in light of continuous extreme human rights violations. Specifically, these measures aim to combat the systematic persecution of women, such as Mahsa Amini, by Iran’s police force.

On 6 October 2022, Minister Joly announced that CAD9.7 million was going toward four projects in Latin America and the Caribbean. One of the projects would receive CAD2.2 million in partnership with the International Organization for Migration to combat human trafficking within Latin America and support the integration of Venezuelan refugees throughout communities.

On 7 October 2022, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau declared further measures against the human rights violations in Iran after the death of Mahsa Amini. These measures will include denying the Iranian regime — including the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and its top leaders — access to Canada, expanding sanctions against those conducting human rights abuses and restricting the finances and property of perpetrators.

On 7 October 2022, the Ministry of International Development announced a fund of CAD9.7 million to help developmental assistance projects aimed at advancing 2SLGBTQI+ rights and gender equality. Additionally, the fund will support “Venezuelan refugees, migrants and their host communities across Latin America and the Caribbean.”

On 20 October 2022, Canada, along with the members of the Freedom Online Coalition, called upon the Government of Iran to lift the country’s nationwide internet restrictions. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Coalition declares that cutting off mobile data, disrupting social media, cutting internet services, blocking users and accessing private devices are clear violations of human rights.

On 28 October 2022, Prime Minister Trudeau announced plans to impose new sanctions on Russia’s justice and security sectors for violating the human rights of Russian opposition leaders. These new measures will be based on the current sanctions which target over 1,400 Russian justice system members accountable.

On 28 November 2022, Prime Minister Trudeau visited James Smith Cree Nation to announce CAD62.5 million over six years to support Indigenous approaches to community safety and to support the healing, mental health and well-being of community members impacted by the September attacks that took the lives of 11 people. The aim of this investment is to increase access to mental health, trauma and substance use services as well as end violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQI+ people.

On 2 December 2022, Minister Joly announced that Canada is imposing additional sanctions under the Special Economic Measures (Iran) Regulations.

On 7 December 2022, Minister Joly and Minister Saajan announced CAD4.3 million in funding to support projects aimed at ending gender-based violence around the world. The announcement also voiced support for the UN Population Fund, Grace Farms Foundation and included stakeholders and partners in “conducting research on technology-facilitated gender-based violence in the Global South.”

On 8 December 2022, Prime Minister Trudeau provided a statement for Human Rights Day announcing further action against the human rights violations of regimes of Russia, Iran and Myanmar. The restrictions will affect 67 individuals and 9 entities named in the human rights violations.

On 15 December 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, alongside Foreign Ministers of Australia, Canada and New Zealand released a joint statement condemning the execution of protesters in Iran.1157

On 29 December 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, alongside the Foreign Ministers of Australia, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, Switzerland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States and the High Representative of the European Union, released a joint statement condemning the “barring of female employees of national and international non-governmental organizations from the workplace” as it “puts at risk millions of Afghans who depend on humanitarian assistance for their survival.”1158 The statement called on the Taliban to immediately reverse this decision.

On 10 January 2023, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced “targeted sanctions under regulations pursuant to the Special Economic Measures Act against four Sri Lankan state officials responsible for gross and systematic violations of human rights during armed conflict in Sri Lanka, which occurred from 1983 to 2009.”1159 These sanctions aim to condemn Sri Lanka for the continued impunity it has afforded to those who have committed human rights violations.

On 10 January 2023, Prime Minister Trudeau, Mexico’s President Andrés Manuel López Obrador and the US’ President Joe Biden met for the tenth North American Leaders’ Summit in Mexico City.1160 The goal of the meeting was to remove barriers for marginalized populations, ensure safe migration between countries and reduce both gender-based violence and violence against the LGBTQ+ community.

On 19 January 2023, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions Élisabeth Brière announced CAD598,272 in funding an advocacy intervention program to support women who experience intimate partner violence.1161 This fund aims to support older adults who are at a higher risk for elder abuse like social isolation, loneliness and family-based violence.

On 26 January 2023, Prime Minister Trudeau announced the appointment of Amira Elghawaby as Canada’s first Special Representative on Combatting Islamophobia.1162 This action aims to fight hatred, racism and discrimination for Muslim communities.

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On 24 February 2023, Prime Minister Trudeau announced an increase in aid to Ukraine and sanctions on Russia. Specifically, Canada provided CAD32 million to Ukraine for stabilization and defense and sanctioned over 100 of Russia’s elite and government officials as well as weapons and chemicals.

On 27 February 2023, Minister Sajjan announced CAD45 million towards the humanitarian needs of those affected by the conflict in Yemen.

On 6 March 2023, Prime Minister Trudeau hosted European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen for discussions on maintaining robust sanctions against Russia and promoting women’s empowerment in the workplace. With the two leaders promising to coordinate efforts to assist Ukraine’s neighbours affected by the displaced populations, Prime Minister Trudeau also committed an additional CAD3 million to clear landmines and unexploded ordinances in Ukraine. Towards the efforts of gender equality, Prime Minister Trudeau announced an investment of CAD7.5 million towards the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation.

On 15 March 2023, Minister of Public Safety Marco Mendicino met with Victim Services Toronto and Project Recover which provide support to survivors of human trafficking looking to reclaim their financial independence. The aim of this action is to prevent, protect and empower victims and survivors.

On 24 March 2023, Prime Minister Trudeau and US President Biden met to discuss their shared priorities of creating a fairer migration system between the two countries and promoting security in Haiti. Respectively, Canada announced that it would welcome 15,000 migrants on a humanitarian basis from the Western Hemisphere and invest CAD100 million in equipment for the Haitian National Police.

On 29 March 2023, Prime Minister Trudeau promised over CAD50 million to support human and digital rights at home and abroad. CAD2 million will go to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to strengthen its digital tools while CAD5 million will go to Lawyers without Borders to fight against human rights violations in Honduras.

On 14 April 2023, Canada announced over CAD37 million in funding for 42 innovative community-led projects across Canada. The goal of these projects is to scale up prevention, harm reduction and treatment efforts for those at risk of experiencing substance-related harms and overdose.

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to promote human rights online and offline while also cooperating with civil society and international partners to this end. Canada has a variety of actions, working on the domestic front and in partnership with international organizations. Moreover, Canada is proactive in its approach to human and digital rights i.e., its response to Iran’s internet policies. By pledging funds, sanctioning international actors perpetuating online authoritarianism, combating human trafficking and working to protect minorities, Canada has fulfilled its commitments in promoting rights within and beyond the digital sphere.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

**France: +1**

France has fully complied with its commitment to promote human rights online and offline while also cooperating with civil society and international partners to this end.

On 1 July 2022, the Interministerial Delegation for Accommodation and Access to Housing organized a webinar to discuss the human trafficking of Ukrainian refugees. The webinar aimed to raise public awareness and provide guidelines on how to support and guide such victims towards resource centers.

On 14 July 2022, the Ministry of the Interior and Overseas Territories partnered with the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs to donate a DNA analysis laboratory to the General Prosecutor’s Office of Ukraine. The goal of this donation is to increase Ukraine’s capacity to store and analyze evidence of war crimes and crimes against humanity, particularly from its current war with Russia.

On 30 August 2022, the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and Argentina’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship reaffirmed their commitment to combat enforced disappearances of women. Together, both states encouraged all nations to sign on to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

On 8 September 2022, France participated in a Roundtable of G7 Data Protection Authorities in Bonn, Germany. The goal of this roundtable was to address the significance of privacy-enhancing technologies, the role of data protection authorities and the need for artificial intelligence regulations.

On 22 September 2022, the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Catherine Colonna chaired the Summit for Information and Democracy. Minister Colonna reaffirmed France’s commitment to ensuring all

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countries’ legal frameworks regarding freedom of opinion and expression are in alignment with human rights standards.

On 23 September 2022, France and Germany organized a ministerial meeting on the topic of “Shaping Global Cybersecurity: A Call for Action to Promote Responsible State Behaviour & Capacity-Building.” The goal of this meeting was to discuss a plan for developing and improving current rules in cyberspace.

On 28 September 2022, France recognized International Safe Abortion Day claiming that it was “[unwaveringly] committed to this inalienable right.”

On 28 September 2022, the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs partnered with the CMA CGM Foundation to strengthen its “A Boat for Ukraine” operation. The goal of this project is to transport more than 1,000 tons of humanitarian goods to Romania where they will then be picked up by Ukrainian partners.

On 28 September 2022, President Emmanuel Macron announced a partnership between France and Germany regarding the World Food Programme. The two countries plan to assist Ukraine in donating 50,000 tons of wheat to Somalia and Ethiopia.

On 29 September 2022, the National Council for Policies to Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion (CNLE) held its plenary meeting. Minister of Solidarity, Autonomy, and People with Disabilities Jean-Christophe Combe proposed the creation of a “Solidarity Pact” to bring together relevant stakeholders in the social security industry.

On 30 September 2022, G7 Foreign Ministers released a statement on the illegal annexation of sovereign Ukrainian territory. All G7 members expressed united condemnation of Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine and Russia’s continued violations of Ukraine’s sovereignty and independence.

On 3 October 2022, the Secretary of State to the Prime Minister Charlotte Caubel launched a campaign to establish national helpline numbers connecting authorities with children fighting violence. The campaign will promote the number “119” for victims of violence, “3018” for victims of cyberbullying and “3020” for victims of bullying in schools.

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On 13 October 2022, the Ministry of the Interior launched the Radio Network of the Future (RRF) project. This project aims to modernize communication between security and emergency actors by providing a high-speed communication network for all relevant actors.

On 13 October 2022, France organized a day around the concept of being “resilient in the face of risks.” This day aimed to raise public awareness surrounding technological and cyberspace threats.

On 18 October 2022, the Cyberdefense Command opened the TAMERLAN exercise at the Cyber Center for Operational Preparation. The goal of this training exercise was to strengthen cyber combatants and equip them to react in emergency situations.

On 20 October 2022, the Interministerial Mission for the Protection of Women against Violence and the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings and the Ministerial Statistical Service for Internal Security published the results of its annual survey regarding victims of human trafficking. The survey emphasized the threat of new technologies regarding human trafficking.

On 20 October 2022, France, along with the undersigned members of the Freedom Online Coalition, called upon the Government of Iran to lift the country’s nationwide internet restrictions. Under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Coalition declared that cutting off mobile data, disrupting social media, cutting internet services, blocking users and accessing private devices are clear violations of human rights.

On 28 October 2022, the Minister Delegate for the Digital Transition and Telecommunications Jean-Noël Barrot announced the launch of 17 new cybersecurity projects. These projects will increase training efforts, develop new solutions and strengthen partnerships between relevant actors, all within the realm of cybersecurity.

On 9 November 2022, the Directorate General of Armaments initiated the third annual DG’hAck challenge. The goal of this event was to highlight vulnerabilities in France’s digital systems and challenge cyber experts to present innovative solutions to such issues.

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On 24 November 2022, the Cyber Center for Operational Preparation under the Command of COMCYBER led a French team to engage in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization’s (NATO) Cyber Coalition 2022. This team consisted of soldiers, civilians, and reservists from official positions and civil society. The team worked to address cybersecurity weaknesses across NATO states, ultimately aiming to strengthen cyber resilience.

On 25 November 2022, the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs held an event for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. At this event, the Ministry reaffirmed France’s commitment to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence and end impunity for abusers.

On 26 November 2022, President Macron announced an additional contribution of EUR6 million to the World Food Programme. This donation will further support efforts to transport Ukrainian grain to Sudan and Yemen.

On 12 December 2022, Minister of the Interior and Overseas Territories Gérald Darmanin, Minister of Health and Prevention François Braun and Minister Barrot organized a meeting on hospital cybersecurity. The ministers announced a comprehensive program regarding cyber incidents involving new exercises, resources and planning tools.

On 13 December 2022, France hosted the Solidarity with the Ukrainian People Conference. The meeting aimed to meet the needs of Ukrainians for the winter and guarantee the resilience of infrastructure in five key areas: access to energy, access to water, agri-food, health, transport.

On 29 December 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, alongside the Foreign Ministers of Australia, Denmark, Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, Switzerland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States and the High Representative of the European Union, released a joint statement condemning the Taliban's decision to prevent female employees of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from working, as this puts at risk millions of Afghans who depend on humanitarian assistance for their survival. The statement called on the Taliban to immediately reverse this decision.

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On 22 January 2023, France and Germany committed to strengthening the EU and to intensify efforts towards rising up to the challenge of global security challenges in Ukraine, promoting the sustainability of digital infrastructure and strengthening European digital sovereignty relating to 5G and 6G networks.\textsuperscript{1195}

On 30 January 2023, Prime Minister Élisabeth Borne presented the National Plan to Combat Racism, Anti-Semitism and Origin-Based Discrimination (2023-2026).\textsuperscript{1196} The goal of this plan is to train civil servants in these issues, support victims of such discrimination and sanction the perpetrators.

On 6 February 2023, France recognized the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation and asserted that gender equality is an integral part of France’s “feminist foreign policy.”\textsuperscript{1197}

On 7 March 2023, Prime Minister Borne announced an inter-ministerial plan for women’s equality 2023-2027.\textsuperscript{1198} The goal of this plan is to fight violence against women, promote access to women’s health and achieve professional and economic equality for women.

On 8 March 2023, the Ministry of the Interior and Overseas recognized International Women’s Rights Day and reaffirmed its dedication to upholding gender equality.\textsuperscript{1199}

On 14 April 2023, Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna and Korea’s Foreign Minister Park Jin hosted the fourth Foreign Ministerial Strategic Dialogue in Seoul discussing global security priorities on preserving a free and open Indo-Pacific region, condemning the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea’s unlawful ballistic missiles and respecting the territorial sovereignty of Ukraine.\textsuperscript{1200}

On 17 April 2023, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemned the ongoing clashes between the army and Rapid Support Forces in Sudan that began on 15 April 2023 and have killed 100 civilians so far.\textsuperscript{1201} France expressed support for Sudan’s regional and international partners to mobilise and reach a ceasefire.

France has fully complied with its commitment to promote human rights online and offline while also cooperating with civil society and international partners to this end. France has developed domestic policies with agencies like the CNLE to strengthen its cyberspace and provide its citizens with digital security and the RRF and TAMERLAN exercise to better equip and train first responders. France has also worked with international partners such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Germany and Ukraine to extend


humanitarian and technological assistance thus affirming its support of human rights initiatives both within its borders and across the globe.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

**Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to promote human rights online and offline while also cooperating with civil society and international partners to this end.

On 25 August 2022, Human Rights Commissioner of Germany Luise Amtsberg released a statement calling upon the Vietnamese Government to advocate for the prison release of human rights journalist Pham Doan Trang.\(^{1202}\) Additionally, Commissioner Amtsberg urged the government to protect the rule-of-law and provide insight on proceedings to international observers.

On 8 September 2022, Germany participated in a Roundtable of G7 Data Protection Authorities in Bonn, Germany.\(^{1203}\) The goal of this roundtable was to address the significance of privacy-enhancing technologies, the role of data protection authorities and regulations of artificial intelligence.

On 23 September 2022, Germany and France organized a ministerial meeting on the topic of “Shaping Global Cybersecurity: A Call for Action to Promote Responsible State Behaviour & Capacity-Building.”\(^{1204}\) The goal of this meeting was to discuss a plan for developing and improving current rules in cyberspace.

On 28 September 2022, Germany and France announced a partnership regarding the World Food Programme.\(^{1205}\) The two countries plan to contribute 50,000 tons of wheat provided free of charge by Ukraine to Somalia and Ethiopia.

On 30 September 2022, G7 Foreign Ministers released a statement on the illegal annexation of sovereign Ukrainian territory.\(^{1206}\) All G7 members expressed united condemnation of Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine and Russia’s continued violations of Ukraine’s sovereignty and independence.

On 7 October 2022, Parliamentary State Secretary to the Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Niels Annen traveled to Amman, Jordan where he pledged over EUR95 million for short-term employment

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and educational programs to help over 700,000 Syrian refugees within Jordan.\footnote{Government Negotiations with Jordan: Through its development cooperation, Germany supports stabilisation in Middle East, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 7 October 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022. https://www.bmz.de/en/news/press-releases/government-negotiations-with-jordan-125772} The goal of this meeting was to discuss developmental strategies of how best to implement the funding for those displaced by conflict in Jordan.

On 13 October 2022, Interior Minister Nancy Faeser conducted a high-level meeting to discuss the Ukrainian refugee situation.\footnote{Federal Interior Minister Nancy Faeser: An extraordinary joint effort, Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (Berlin) 13 October 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022. https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/kurzmeldungen/EN/2022/10/high-level-meeting_refugees.html} In response to the poor housing situation resulting from the large number of Ukrainian refugees, Germany pledged additional housing for 4000 more refugees. Federal, state and local governments will also launch a platform where experts may discuss solutions to the refugee housing crisis.

On 14 October 2022, Minister for Women’s Affairs Lisa Paus attended the Gender Equality Ministers Meeting in Berlin.\footnote{Closer Cooperation and More Ambitious Goals, German Federal Government (Berlin) 14 October 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022. https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-ru/uebereignungsgesetze/2134642} The Ministers made a joint declaration to increase equality in times of crisis and conflict for women. Additionally, Paus called upon Iran to honor human rights and end its oppression of women.

On 17 October 2022, Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock and Minister Faeser announced the federal humanitarian admission program.\footnote{Humanitäres Aufnahmeprogramm für queerer Geflüchtete aus Afghanistan, Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend (Berlin) 17 October 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022. https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/alle-meldungen/humanitaeres-aufnahmeprogramm-fuer-queere-gefluechtete-aus-afghanistan-202580} This program is to be used for Afghans at risk due to conflict.

On 20 October 2022, Minister Faeser, along with 16 countries and the EU, met at the Western Balkans Summit in Berlin to discuss human trafficking.\footnote{Close cooperation with the Western Balkan countries, Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (Berlin) 26 October 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022. https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/kurzmeldungen/EN/2022/10/close_cooperation_with_the_western_balkan_countries.html} They committed to further increase border security ties between the countries and measures targeted at immigrant human smugglers.

On 20 October 2022, Germany, along with the undersigned members of the Freedom Online Coalition, called upon the Government of Iran to lift the country’s nationwide internet restrictions.\footnote{Freedom Online Coalition Joint Statement on Internet Shutdowns in Iran, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 20 October 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022. https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/10/freedom-online-coalition-joint-statement-on-internet-shutdowns-in-iran.html} Under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Coalition declares that cutting off mobile data, disrupting social media, cutting internet services, blocking users and accessing private devices are clear violations of human rights.

On 28 October 2022, Germany withdrew its reservations about the Istanbul Conference.\footnote{Bundesregierung verstärkt Kampf gegen Menschenhandel, Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend (Berlin) 28 October 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 1 November 2022. https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/alle-meldungen/bundesregierung-zieht-vorbehalte-gegen-istanbul-konvention-zurueck-202866} This action will lead to a full implementation of both Articles 59 and 44 which discuss personal situations of victims and provisions of national criminal law, respectively. This added measure will better address the human rights violation of gender-based violence.
On 3 November 2022, Minister Baerbock and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken hosted the US-German Futures Forum in Muenster, Germany to advance democratic shared values in an increasingly digital world. The goal of the forum was to develop proposals for several political measures on topics like Reinforcing Democracy at Home: Delivering Democracy Digitally, Advancing Democracy and Human Rights Online and Defending Democracy: Countering Digital Authoritarianism and the Misuse of Technology.

On 18 November 2022, the Ministry for Family Affairs set up an independent reporting body to investigate human rights trafficking. The Ministry will provide funding to the German Institute for Human Rights to “ensure that international regulations are implemented more effectively by collecting and evaluating data.”

On 28 November 2022, Minister of Justice Marco Buschmann and Italy’s Minister of Justice Carlo Nordio met to discuss the fight against war crimes in Ukraine. Both ministers assured their utmost support for ongoing investigations by the International Criminal Court.

On 7 December 2022, the Federal Cabinet adopted the 15th Human Rights Report. The goal of this report is to describe efforts taken to protect human rights at home and abroad including issues like digital technologies being used by autocratic regimes to violate human rights and commitment to fighting human trafficking.

On 29 December 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, alongside the Foreign Ministers of Australia, Denmark, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, Norway, Switzerland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States and the High Representative of the European Union, released a joint statement condemning the “barring of female employees of national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from the workplace” as it “puts at risk millions of Afghans who depend on humanitarian assistance for their survival.” The statement called on the Taliban to immediately reverse this decision.

On 3 January 2023, the Federal Foreign Office created an official set of guidelines for how they must promote women’s equality and rights entitled, “Shaping Feminist Foreign Policy Federal - Foreign Office Guidelines.” These 10 guidelines are meant specifically to highlight “marginalized people in art and culture, research and science, education and the media.”

On 22 January 2023, Germany and France committed to strengthening the EU and to intensify efforts towards rising up to the challenge of global security challenges in Ukraine, promoting the sustainability of digital infrastructure and strengthening European digital sovereignty relating to 5G and 6G networks.

On 20 February 2023, Federal Development Minister Svenja Schulze, Federal Labour Minister Hubertus Heil and Director-General of the International Labour Organization Gilbert Houngbo met in Ghana and Côte
d’Ivoire to discuss human rights in global supply chains. The aim of the meeting was to see how applying new supply chain regulations to global supply chains would lead to better working conditions.

On 1 March 2023, Minister Baerbock and Minister Schulze released a new set of directives for diplomatic and development policy to invest more on gender equality. Promoting the Feminist Foreign Policy, Minister Schulze said that this action aims to close the digital and economic gender gap.

On 8 March 2023, Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth Lisa Paus spoke at the 67th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women. On the topic of women’s involvement in the digital sphere, Minister Paus’ speech covered women’s disproportional lack of access to the internet and inclusion in a turning AI world.

On 6 April 2023, Germany increased military support for Ukraine including armored vehicles, trucks and drones.

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to promote human rights online and offline while also cooperating with civil society and international partners to this end. Through upholding the accountability of other countries and protecting refugees and vulnerable groups, Germany has complied with promoting human rights on a national and international level. Germany also took strong action to protect human rights in the digital sphere across different groups as seen with its involvement with the Freedom Coalition, its condemnation of the Iran government for restricting the internet and its support for women’s digital economic empowerment.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Maeve Kelly

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to promote human rights online and offline while also cooperating with civil society and international partners to this end.

On 25 July 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs committed to new humanitarian corridors for 300 Afghan citizens departing from Iran and Pakistan to arrive in Rome. This initiative is part of the “Italian Plan for the Afghan People” and relates to the Memorandum of Understanding for humanitarian corridors and evacuations from Afghanistan.

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On 31 August 2022, the Italian Agency for Development and Cooperation arranged an emergency contribution of EUR250,000 towards the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (FICROSS) in Sudan.\textsuperscript{1226}

On 1 September 2022, the Italian Agency for Development and Cooperation made an emergency contribution of EUR500,000 to FICROSS in Pakistan.\textsuperscript{1227}

On 8 September 2022, Italy participated in a Roundtable of G7 Data Protection Authorities in Bonn, Germany.\textsuperscript{1228} The goal of this roundtable was to address the significance of privacy-enhancing technologies, the role of data protection authorities and regulations of artificial intelligence.

On 30 September 2022, G7 Foreign Ministers released a statement on the illegal annexation of sovereign Ukrainian territory.\textsuperscript{1229} All G7 members expressed united condemnation of Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine and Russia’s continued violations of Ukraine’s sovereignty and independence.

On 5 October 2022, the Italian Agency for Development and Cooperation arranged two emergency grants worth a total of almost EUR2 million to meet the growing humanitarian needs of the Lebanese population.\textsuperscript{1230} Of these, EUR750,000 is directed to the World Health Organization for the purchase and supply of drugs necessary for the treatment of patients suffering from serious diseases.

On 12 October 2022, the Department for the Digital Transition of Justice, Statistical Analysis and Cohesion Policies launched the Online Court Project in the four judicial offices of Catania, Catanzaro, Marsala and north Naples to advance their digitization.\textsuperscript{1231} The digitalization of courts allow for the increase of accessibility when patrolling human rights violations in the digital sphere.

On 20 October 2022, Italy, along with the undersigned members of the Freedom Online Coalition, called upon the Government of Iran to lift the country’s nationwide internet restrictions.\textsuperscript{1232} Under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Coalition declares that cutting off mobile data, disrupting social media, cutting internet services, blocking users and accessing private devices are clear violations of human rights.


On 8 November 2022, the Ministry of Education engaged in a consultation for the updating of the National Digital School Plan. The General Directorate for Structural Funds for Education, School Construction and Digital Schools aims to update the Plan in light of the rapid evolution of digital technologies, ensuring structural provisions for the human right of education in the digital sphere.

On 25 November 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs joined the “UNITE! Activism to End Violence against Women & Girls” campaign promoted by UN Women, which was focused on the fundamental contribution of civil society movements, organizations and women’s rights activists to raise public awareness on these issues. Italy expressed its firmest condemnation against all forms of discrimination and violence against women.

On 28 November 2022, Minister of Justice Carlo Nordio and Germany’s Minister of Justice Marco Buschmann, met to discuss the fight against war crimes in Ukraine. Both ministers assured their utmost support for ongoing investigations by the International Criminal Court.

On 29 December 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, alongside the Foreign Ministers of Australia, Denmark, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Norway, Switzerland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States and the High Representative of the European Union, released a joint statement condemning the “barring of female employees of national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from the workplace” as it “puts at risk millions of Afghans who depend on humanitarian assistance for their survival.” The statement called on the Taliban to immediately reverse this decision.

On 11 January 2023, President Giorgia Meloni met with the Ukrainian Electricity Emergency working group to define major electricity sector operators and logistical arrangements for the next shipment. The goal of this group is to coordinate initiatives to support Ukraine’s electricity shortages.

On 31 January 2023, President Meloni met with UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi confirming appreciation for the UN Refugee Agency’s work for the protection and welfare of refugees and underlining the UNHCR’s cooperation with Italy, especially in Libya in creating humanitarian corridors.

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On 6 February 2023, Italy reaffirmed its commitment to the elimination of Female Genital Mutilation.\textsuperscript{1239} Italy’s continuous condemnation represents a commitment to the physical and psychological health of girls and young women.

On 20 February 2023, Italy sent large amounts of electrical equipment to Ukraine in support of those without access to electricity.\textsuperscript{1240}

On 30 March 2023, the Summit for Democracy announced a declaration reaffirming shared belief in the advancement of peace, prosperity, equality, sustainable development and security.\textsuperscript{1241} This declaration included commitments pertaining to the protection of human rights online and offline.

On 15 April 2023, Italy condemned North Korea’s launch of a long-range ballistic missile which violates UN Security Council resolutions and poses a threat to international peace and security.\textsuperscript{1242}

On 16 April 2023, Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani expressed concern and called for an immediate ceasefire between the Rapid Support Forces and the army in Sudan as fighting had already killed 100 civilians.\textsuperscript{1243}

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to promote human rights online and offline while also cooperating with civil society and international partners to this end. Administering emergency aid to countries experiencing hardship, adequately ensuring the human right of education in the digital sphere, and advancing digitization indicates Italy’s commitment to promoting human rights on and offline. Internationally, Italy has exhibited its commitment through monetary aid and the condemnation of human rights injustices while it has focused domestically on advocating against trends of violence and abuse.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

\textbf{Japan: +1}

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to promote human rights online and offline while also cooperating with civil society and international partners to this end.

\textsuperscript{1239} Italy’s commitment to eliminate the practice of Female Genital Mutilation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Rome) 6 February 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 11 April 2023. https://www.esteri.it/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2023/02/impegno-dellitalia-per-leliminazione-della-pratica-delle-mutilazioni-genitali-femminili/
\textsuperscript{1240} Large amounts of electrical equipment to be sent to Ukraine, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Rome) 20 February 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 11 April 2023. https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/large-amounts-electrical-equipment-be-sent-ukraine/21862
On 30 June 2022, the fourth Japan-India Cyber Dialogue was held virtually where they discussed national cyber policies and cybersecurity strategies. The goal of this dialogue was to underline interest in the safekeeping of human rights on the online sphere.

On 5 July 2022, Japan provided monetary assistance totaling approximately USD200 million as a response to the deterioration of global food security, as exacerbated by the conflict in Ukraine. This sum aims to provide food assistance and capacity building for countries facing food shortages and provide emergency food assistance as humanitarian aid to countries in the Middle East and Africa, as well as to support the promotion of grain exports from Ukraine through bilateral assistance.

On 16 July 2022, Japan extended an emergency grant aid of USD3 million to Afghanistan in response to the damages caused by the earthquake that had occurred in eastern Afghanistan. This is a monetary alliance in the provision of access to health and medical care, shelter, water and sanitation through the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

On 29 July 2022, Japan provided emergency relief goods like generators, portable jerry cans, tents, sleeping pads and plastic sheets through the Japan International Cooperation Agency to the Philippines in response to the damages caused by the earthquake in the northern Philippines.

On 8 September 2022, Japan participated in a Roundtable of G7 Data Protection Authorities in Bonn, Germany. The goal of this roundtable was to address the significance of privacy-enhancing technologies, the role of data protection authorities and regulations of artificial intelligence.

On 16 September 2022, Japan decided to extend emergency grant aid of USD7 million to Pakistan in response to the damages caused by the flood disaster. Japan’s emergency grant aid will allow implementing humanitarian assistance activities for those seriously affected by the flooding disaster in different parts of Pakistan through multiple international organizations in areas such as food, shelter, health and medical care.

On 30 September 2022, Japan, along with other G7 Foreign Ministers, released a statement on the illegal annexation of sovereign Ukrainian territory. All G7 members expressed united condemnation of Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine and Russia’s continued violations of Ukraine’s sovereignty and independence.

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On 20 October 2022, Japan, along with the undersigned members of the Freedom Online Coalition, called upon the Government of Iran to lift the country’s nationwide internet restrictions.\textsuperscript{1252} Under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Coalition declares that cutting off mobile data, disrupting social media, cutting internet services, blocking users and accessing private devices are clear violations of human rights.

On 28 October 2022, Japan provided an emergency grant aid of USD1 million to the Kyrgyz Republic in response to the deterioration of the local humanitarian situation caused by clashes at the country’s border with Tajikistan.\textsuperscript{1253} This Emergency Grant Aid will allow the implementation of humanitarian assistance activities through the World Food Programme and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in areas such as food, shelter and non-food items.

On 20 December 2022, Press Secretary Hikariko Ono expressed firm condemnation against the Taliban’s suspension of Girls’ Higher Education in Afghanistan.\textsuperscript{1254} In efforts to promote human rights on a global level, Secretary Ono expressed the standard of women’s education as fundamental when advocating for the right of all Afghans to be guaranteed equal access to education regardless of gender.

On 22 December 2022, the Government of Japan provided generators as support to protect the lives of the people of Ukraine.\textsuperscript{1255} Generators are meant to “secure lifelines such as heating and water in the midst of continuing severe cold.”

On 29 December 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, alongside the Foreign Ministers of Australia, Denmark, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Switzerland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States and the High Representative of the European Union, released a joint statement condemning the “barring of female employees of national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from the workplace” as it “puts at risk millions of Afghans who depend on humanitarian assistance for their survival.”\textsuperscript{1256} The statement called on the Taliban to immediately reverse this decision.

On 7 February 2023, Japan held the Japan-UK Bilateral Consultations on Cyber Issues.\textsuperscript{1257} Each country discussed cybersecurity strategy, policy and capacity building for cybersecurity thus promoting a secure cyberspace for the assurance of human rights.

On 14 February 2023, Japan extended Emergency Grant Aid of approximately USD550,000 as support for winterization assistance in Ukraine for victims of war.\textsuperscript{1258}

On 28 February 2023, Japan provided humanitarian assistance to the people of Myanmar affected by the coup d’état.\textsuperscript{1259} In response to the rapid increase of the need for humanitarian assistance due to the deteriorating


situation since last year, Japan decided to provide additional humanitarian assistance totaling approximately USD60.3 million in food, medical aid and shelter through international organizations.

On 20 March 2023, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Justice Takami Hiroyuki participated in the Justice Ministers’ Conference, supporting the International Criminal Court and its investigation into Russia’s involvement in Ukraine in London which was co-hosted by the UK and Netherlands.1260

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to promote human rights online and offline while also cooperating with civil society and international partners to this end. As a global contributor to humanitarian crises, as well as an open adversary of international human rights abuses, Japan has shown significant affirmation to its commitments amongst the international community. Japan has complied in taking strong monetary and ally-based action with other nations and organizations when promoting human rights within the offline sphere.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

**United Kingdom: +1**

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to promote human rights online and offline while also cooperating with civil society and international partners to this end.

On 8 September 2022, the UK participated in a Roundtable of G7 Data Protection Authorities in Bonn, Germany.1261 The goal of this roundtable was to address the significance of privacy-enhancing technologies, the role of data protection authorities and regulations of artificial intelligence.

On 29 September 2022, the UK invested funding up to GBP200,000 to assess the cybersecurity of business devices that are connected to the Internet.1262 This new investment is part of the GBP2.6 billion National Cyber Strategies plan, which encourages organizations to support further research into digital safety of office devices. With the intention to assess the cyber resilience across British businesses, this initiative aims to uncover vulnerabilities in these prevalently used enterprise products and subsequently expand the digital economy.

On 30 September 2022, G7 Foreign Ministers released a statement on the illegal annexation of sovereign Ukrainian territory.1263 All G7 members expressed united condemnation of Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine and Russia’s continued violations of Ukraine’s sovereignty and independence.

On 3 October 2022, the UK was elected to the governing council of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).1264 The ITU oversees the international spectrum coordination and satellite networks that support technologies such as mobiles, Wi-Fi and GPS navigations. By becoming a member of the ITU’s council, the UK promoted a free and safe cyberspace with its global partners.

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On 7 October 2022, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Michelle Donelan made a joint statement with the US’ Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo on the launch of “a new senior-level Comprehensive Dialogue on Technology and Data” to further joint efforts regarding technology and democratic values.\textsuperscript{1265}

On 13 October 2022, the UK issued an additional GBP10 million of funding to flood relief efforts in Pakistan.\textsuperscript{1266} Minister of State Tariq Ahmad visited the regions most affected and spoke with important UK-funded agencies in Sindh. This announcement of further humanitarian support focused on supporting displaced people, re-establishing communal water supplies and enhancing sanitation. The UK ensured assistance facilitating Pakistan’s economic recovery and resilience against future natural disasters.

On 19 October 2022, the UK announced aid to 150,000 victims of drought and conflict in Ethiopia.\textsuperscript{1267} In particular, this support included an additional GBP14 million in funding of “comprehensive health, water sanitation, hygiene and nutrition services.” The package also provides mental health support to children and women who were subjected to violence and exploitation.

On 20 October 2022, the Cyber Command and the UK’s Strategic Command cooperated on a joint project to strengthen cyber resilience.\textsuperscript{1268} Deputy Director Cyber Command Matthew Paradise affirmed the significance of maintaining reliable digital infrastructures and networks. Similar sentiments were echoed by the UK’s Director Operation at Defence Digital Nick Washer who said that collective cyber operations “offer huge shared benefits in enhancing collective defense.”\textsuperscript{1269} Through joint digital collaborations, malicious online activities are suppressed and cybersecurity is further strengthened.

On 20 October 2022, the UK, along with the undersigned members of the Freedom Online Coalition, called upon the Government of Iran to lift the country’s nationwide internet restrictions.\textsuperscript{1270} Under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Coalition declares that cutting off mobile data, disrupting social media, cutting internet services, blocking users and accessing private devices are clear violations of human rights.

On 28 October 2022, the UK granted more than GBP1 million to 17 domestic organizations to enhance media literacy skills for individuals at risk of experiencing online abuse and misinformation.\textsuperscript{1271} The funding scheme created “The Media Literacy Taskforce Fund” to improve vulnerable groups’ media literacy skills through investing in community-led projects. Similar projects include Freshrb and Parent Zone, where both organizations mentor teenagers and parents in combating online disinformation. All the plans are part of the Online Media Literacy Strategy, which supports a safer online environment by protecting vulnerable groups from harmful content and tackling online criminal activities.

\textsuperscript{1271} Help for vulnerable people to spot disinformation and boost online safety, Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (London) 28 October 2022, Access Date: 31 October 2022. https://www.gov.uk/government/news/help-for-vulnerable-people-to-spot-disinformation-and-boost-online-safety
On 28 November 2022, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office published the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative Strategy which sets out the approach to using diplomacy and defence influence to prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence.1272

On 9 December 2022, Foreign Secretary James Cleverly announced new sanctions that target “corrupt actors, and those violating and abusing human rights, as well as perpetrators of sexual violence in conflict.”1273

On 29 December 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, alongside the Foreign Ministers of Australia, Denmark, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Japan, the United States and the High Representative of the European Union, released a joint statement condemning the “barring of female employees of national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from the workplace” as it “puts at risk millions of Afghans who depend on humanitarian assistance for their survival.”1274 The statement called on the Taliban to immediately reverse this decision.

On 9 January 2023, the Home Office committed up to GBP36 million to the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Intervention Fund and other measures aimed at tackling domestic abuse and stalking.1275

On 30 January 2023, the Home Office published a guidance for immigration staff to grant temporary permission to stay to victims of human trafficking and slavery.1276

On 16 February 2023, Minister for Development and Africa Andrew Mitchell announced GBP80 million in funding to provide education for 20 million children living in conflict areas from Ukraine to Syria.1277 This action aims to protect children affected by war, disaster and displacement.

On 23 February 2023, the UK launched the five-year National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security to protect women and girls in conflict.1278

On 5 March 2023, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office announced a call for proposals for a project under its Conflict, Stability and Security Fund.1279 The aim of this project is to pursue the Two State Solution as a means to end Israel’s apartheid state in Palestine.

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On 15 March 2023, the UK delivered a statement in concern of the increasing attacks on Human Rights Defenders in the civil society space during the 52nd session of the UN Human Rights Council.\(^{1280}\)

On 20 March 2022, the UK co-hosted the Justice Ministers’ Conference with the Netherlands in support of the International Criminal Court and its investigation into Russia’s involvement in Ukraine.\(^{1281}\)

On 6 April 2023, Minister Mitchell reaffirmed support to Cameroonian trade and discussed the human rights impacts of the conflict in Cameroon.\(^{1282}\)

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to promote human rights online and offline while also cooperating with civil society and international partners to this end. Through implementing domestic programs and issuing multilateral initiatives, the UK has dedicated itself to ensuring digital safety and developing cyber resilience. In addition to online security, the UK has demonstrated its commitment to actively protecting victims in crises and conflicts, through the administration of humanitarian aid abroad in countries such as Pakistan and Ethiopia. Domestically, human rights victims are supported by the UK government through numerous programs towards the prevention of violence and discrimination. Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of +1.

**United States: +1**

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to promote human rights online and offline while also cooperating with civil society and international partners to this end.

On 19 July 2022, Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh and Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo announced a 120-Day Cybersecurity Apprenticeship Sprint.\(^{1283}\) This project aims to create a “skilled and diverse cybersecurity workforce” prepared to protect digital infrastructure. The project also seeks to provide traditionally underrepresented communities with greater access to careers in cybersecurity.

On 30 July 2022, the Department of Homeland Security recognized the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, reaffirming the Department’s dedication to this issue.\(^{1284}\)

On 16 August 2022, the Department of Defense partnered with Korea’s Ministry of National Defense to hold the 21\(^{st}\) Korea-US Integrated Defense Dialogue.\(^{1285}\) The two countries pledged to continue collaborating in efforts to strengthen cyber infrastructure.

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On 19 August 2022, the Department of Justice announced USD35.7 million in state grants intended to support sexual assault victims.\footnote{Department of Justice Announces $35.7 Million in Grants for States to Support Victims of Sexual Assault, Department of Justice (Washington D.C.) 19 August 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/department-justice-announces-357-million-grants-states-support-victims-sexual-assault} On 25 August 2022, the Department of Justice announced USD49.85 million in grants to provide legal services for sexual assault victims.\footnote{Justice Department Announces $49.86 Million in Office on Violence Against Women Grants to Support Legal Services for Survivors of Sexual Assault, Department of Justice (Washington D.C.) 25 August 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-announces-4985-million-office-violence-against-women-grants-support-legal} The purpose of these grants is to “bring[ing] justice within reach” for survivors of gender-based violence.

On 7 September 2022, the Department of State sponsored a training series surrounding international capacity to counter the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea’s cyberthreats.\footnote{Department of State Cybersecurity Training Series Boosts Global Resilience Against Democratic People’s Republic of Korea Malware, Department of State (Washington D.C.) 7 September 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. https://www.state.gov/department-of-state-cybersecurity-training-series-boosts-global-resilience-against-democratic-peoples-republic-of-korea-malware/} This nine-day training program included partner nations from across the Western Hemisphere.


On 8 September 2022, the US participated in a Roundtable of G7 Data Protection Authorities in Bonn, Germany.\footnote{EDPS attends roundtable of G7 Data Protection and Privacy Authorities, European Data Protection Board (Brussels) 4 November 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. https://edps.europa.eu/press-publications/publications/newsletters/newsletter-97_en#roundtable} The goal of this roundtable was to address the significance of privacy-enhancing technologies, the role of data protection authorities and the need for artificial intelligence regulations.


On 15 September 2022, the Department of Defense began an expansion of its Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood-PLUS program.\footnote{Defense Department Expands Military Child Care Program to Increase Availability of Affordable, Quality Child Care for Military Families, Department of Defense (Washington D.C.) 15 September 2022. Access Date: 24 December 2022. https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/3160232/defense-department-expands-military-child-care-program-to-increase-availability/} This program aims to assist military families in obtaining access to quality child-care programs, thereby ensuring that children of military families have quality access to healthcare.
On 16 September 2022, the Department of Homeland Security announced its State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program. This program will equip state, local and territorial governments with the resources to address cybersecurity threats and strengthen their cyber infrastructure.

On 22 September 2022, the Department of State announced that it will be sending nearly USD376 million in humanitarian assistance to Venezuela. This assistance is meant to support the integration of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the region.

On 22 September 2022, the Department of State announced that it will be sending over USD170 million in humanitarian assistance to the Rohingya community within Burma and Bangladesh. This assistance will protect the human rights of the survivors of the Rohingya refugee crisis.

On 22 September 2022, the Department of Justice announced USD21.72 million in grants intended to reduce sexual and domestic violence on college campuses. These will be administered through the Grants to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking on Campus Program and the Consolidated Youth and Engaging Men Grant Program.

On 25 September 2022, the Deputy Secretary of Commerce Don Graves travelled to Romania for the International Telecommunication Union 2022 Plenipotentiary Conference. This conference discussed issues related to telecommunication and communication technology.

On 28 September 2022, the Department of Labor released new tools to combat child and forced labor. These include the Comply Chain app, the Sweat & Toil app and the ILAB Knowledge Portal, all of which provide quick access to relevant information on the topic. The Department also published its annual “List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor” and “Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor” reports.

On 30 September 2022, G7 Foreign Ministers released a statement on the illegal annexation of sovereign Ukrainian territory. All G7 members expressed united condemnation of Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine and Russia’s continued violations of Ukraine’s sovereignty and independence.
On 1 October 2022, the Department of Homeland Security recognized Cybersecurity Awareness Month. The Department pledged to engage with partners across the nation to promote cyber hygiene and strengthen the technology ecosystem.

On 1 October 2022, the Department of State’s Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons announced seven new awards under its Program to End Modern Slavery. The award recipients include the Innovations for Poverty Action, International Labour Organization, International Organization for Migration, New York University Marron Institute, University of Georgia Research Foundation, Washington University and Winrock International.

On 7 October 2022, Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo made a joint statement with the UK’s Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Michelle Donelan on the launch of “a “new senior-level Comprehensive Dialogue on Technology and Data” to further joint efforts regarding technology and democratic values.

On 14 October 2022, Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with activists to discuss human rights in Iran. The conversation focused particularly on the rights of Iranian women.

On 20 October 2022, Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas met with Japanese government officials to discuss US strategic objectives in Japan. The officials discussed cybersecurity issues within the Indo-Pacific maritime space.

On 20 October 2022, the Cyber Command and the UK’s Strategic Command cooperated on a joint project to strengthen cyber resilience. Deputy Director Cyber Command Matthew Paradise affirmed the importance of maintaining reliable digital infrastructures and networks. Similar sentiments were echoed by the UK’s Director Operation at Defence Digital Nick Washer who claimed that collective cyber operations “offer huge shared benefits in enhancing collective defense.”

On 20 October 2022, the United States, along with the undersigned members of the Freedom Online Coalition, called upon the Government of Iran to lift the country’s nationwide internet restrictions, which they claim constitutes a human rights violation.

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On 21 October 2022, the Department of State announced the launch of its Global Emerging Leaders in International Cyberspace Security Fellowship.\textsuperscript{1308} The goal of this fellowship is to foster a “diverse global network of future policy leaders” who will ultimately uphold a framework for state behaviour in cyberspace.

On 31 October 2022, President Joe Biden issued a proclamation regarding Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience Month.\textsuperscript{1309} Within this proclamation, President Biden emphasized the importance of fortifying cybersecurity in the face of malicious cyber activity and cyberattacks.

On 3 November 2022, Secretary Blinken and Germany’s Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock hosted the US-German Futures Forum in Muenster, Germany to advance democratic shared values in an increasingly digital world.\textsuperscript{1310} The goal of the forum was to develop proposals for several political measures on topics like Reinforcing Democracy at Home: Delivering Democracy Digitally, Advancing Democracy and Human Rights Online and Defending Democracy: Countering Digital Authoritarianism and the Misuse of Technology.

On 4 November 2022, Secretary Blinken condemned President of the Haitian Senate Joseph Lambert for his involvement in human rights violations.\textsuperscript{1311} This condemnation was charged by evidence that President Lambert was involved in corrupt activity and many human rights violations, most notably an extrajudicial killing.

On 15 November 2022, Secretary Mayorkas testified in front of the House of Representatives regarding the Department of Homeland Security’s response to cyber threats.\textsuperscript{1312} Secretary Mayorkas discussed the growing threat of cyber criminals who attempt to exploit the cyber ecosystem. In response, Secretary Mayorkas claimed that the US must adopt a “whole of society approach” including local, state and federal governments.

On 28 November 2022, Special Envoy to Advance the Human Rights of LGBTQI+ Persons Jessica Stern travelled to Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines.\textsuperscript{1313} On this trip, Stern discussed human rights, particularly those of LGBTQI+ individuals.

On 8 December 2022, the US issued a Joint Statement along with the eight countries involved in the Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse on women’s rights in Iran.\textsuperscript{1314}


statement declared the countries’ support for protestors and condemnation of Iranian authorities under their overall commitment to supporting the rights of Iranian women.

On 20 December 2022, Secretary Blinken issued a statement in support of the rights of Afghan women.1315 He condemned the Taliban’s restrictions on women’s rights and specifically the choice to ban women from universities and girls from secondary schools.

On 27 December 2022, President Biden signed the “Countering Human Trafficking Act of 2022” to expand the Department of Homeland Security’s Center for Countering Human Trafficking.1316 This action aims to support the Department’s outreach to victims while increasing traffickers’ accountability.

On 29 December 2022, the US alongside the Foreign Ministers of Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, Switzerland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the High Representative of the European Union released a joint statement condemning the “barring of female employees of national and international non-governmental organizations from the workplace” as it “puts at risk millions of Afghans who depend on humanitarian assistance for their survival.”1317 The statement called on the Taliban to immediately reverse this decision.

On 10 January 2023, President Biden, Mexico’s President Andrés Manuel López Obrador and Canada’s Prime Minister Justin Trudeau met for the tenth North American Leaders’ Summit in Mexico City.1318 The goal of the meeting was to remove barriers for marginalized populations, ensure safe migration between countries and reduce both gender-based violence and violence against the LGBTQ+ community.

On 19 January 2023, Secretary Blinken recognized National Human Trafficking Prevention Month in a press statement affirming the State Department’s commitment to fighting against the issue on all fronts.1319

On 25 January 2023, the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Transportation hosted a roundtable on “Intersections of Human Trafficking and International Aviation.”1320 The meeting discussed how human trafficking can be countered through global partnerships and industry best practices.

On 31 January 2023, the Department of Homeland Security announced its Annual Awards in Countering Human Trafficking to recognize Department leaders in the fight against human trafficking.1321

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On 13 February 2023, the President’s Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons met at the White House. The meeting discussed how the government can strengthen its human trafficking policies, specifically to reflect the insights of human trafficking victims.

On 14 February 2023, the Department of Labor announced USD2.5 million in grants to promote human rights in labor relations, aimed at countering practices such as child labor and forced labor.

On 22 February 2023, the Department of State held its annual International Women of Courage Award Ceremony to celebrate women who “lead the charge for human rights, democracy, and justice.”

On 28 February 2023, Acting National Cyber Director Kemba Walden hosted a discussion titled “The State of Cybersecurity in the Black Community.” Organized in honour of Black History Month, this discussion sought to delineate methods of working towards widespread digital and economic security for Black Americans.

On 6 March 2023, Principal Deputy Chief Technology Officer Alexander Macgillivray delivered a speech at the State of the Net Conference. He affirmed the Biden administration’s dedication to responsible technology innovation which “strengthens democracy, safeguards civil rights, and includes everyone.”

On 8 March 2023, the Department of State held its annual International Women of Courage Award Ceremony to celebrate women who “lead the charge for human rights, democracy, and justice.”

On 20 March 2023, Secretary Blinken launched the 2022 Human Rights Report which accounts for global human rights conditions and the ways in which the US supports them.

On 24 March 2023, President Biden and Canada’s Prime Minister Justin Trudeau met to discuss their shared priorities of creating a more fair migration system between the two countries and promoting security in Haiti.

On 27 March 2023, President Biden signed an Executive Order prohibiting the use of commercial spyware which is a form of spyware which has been used by various governments to perpetuate human rights abuses.

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On 31 March 2023, President Biden released a statement on National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. President Biden highlighted his past efforts to address sexual assault, such as the Violence Against Women Act, and promised to continue countering the issue.

On 31 March 2023, the White House recognized the Transgender Day of Visibility by announcing new commitments to addressing the issue. These commitments include creating a report on supporting LGBTQI+ youth and issuing guidance on supporting LGBTQI+ public servants.

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to promote human rights online and offline while also cooperating with civil society and international partners to this end. The US has worked extensively to build cyber resilience and promote digital safety while involving stakeholders across its various departments. The US has also taken significant action to uphold human rights globally, setting a strong example for the international community.

Thus, the United States receives a score of +1.

**European Union: +1**

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to promote human rights online and offline while also cooperating with civil society and international partners to this end.

On 29 July 2022, the European Data Protection Board (EDPB) and the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) adopted a joint opinion on the EU’s Proposal for a Regulation to prevent and combat child sexual abuse. The proposal imposes obligations with regard to detecting, removing and reporting online child sexual abuse materials, as well as grooming on providers of relevant information society services. Negotiations are ongoing within the Council of the EU to reach an agreement with the EU member states on an effective compromise text. This will be followed by negotiations with the European Parliament and the Commission.

On 8 September 2022, the EDPS participated in a Roundtable of G7 Data Protection Authorities in Bonn, Germany. The goal of this roundtable was to address the significance of privacy-enhancing technologies, the role of data protection authorities and regulations of artificial intelligence.

On 16 September 2022, the EDPS requested that the Court of Justice of the European Union annul two sections of the newly amended Europol Regulation. These two provisions, articles 74a and 74b, legalize Europol’s possession of individual personal data even in the absence of established links to criminal activity. This new proposal aims to protect individual’s privacy in legal digital access by requiring legal certainty for supervisory enforcement.

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On 30 September 2022, the European Commission, along with other G7 Foreign Ministers, released a statement on the illegal annexation of sovereign Ukrainian territory. All G7 members expressed united condemnation of Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine and Russia’s continued violations of Ukraine’s sovereignty and independence.

On 12 October 2022, the EDPB adopted Opinion 28/2022 on the Board of the Europrivacy certification criteria, submitted by the Luxembourg Data Protection Authority. This opinion marks the approval of the first European Data Protection Seal, which targets operations performed by data controllers and processors from various sectors. The scheme is another milestone towards greater General Data Protection Regulation compliance advocated by the EU in enhancing cybersecurity.

On 17 October 2022, the European Council added 11 individuals and four entities to the list of those subject to restrictive measures. The updated sanctions include the Morality Police, the Iranian Enforcement Forces, numerous local chiefs responsible for the repression of protests, and Iran’s Minister of Information and Communications Technology Issa Zarepour. The current measures include a travel ban and asset freeze, an export control list targeting equipment used for telecommunication monitoring and domestic oppression and an EU prohibition on financial aid to restricted parties. The EU and its member states reaffirm their condemnation of brutality against peaceful demonstrations, asserting that individuals’ rights to non-violent protests should be protected.

On 20 October 2022, the EU, along with 16 countries and Germany’s Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock met at the Western Balkans Summit in Berlin to discuss human trafficking. They committed to further increase border security ties between the countries and measures targeted at immigrant human smugglers.

On 28 October 2022, the EU provided EUR1 million to finance the activities and work of the Envoy on Technology of the UN Secretary General over the next two years. The EU is dedicated to supporting the UN’s agenda of developing a Global Digital Compact and promoting a model of internet governance. Under this global cooperation, the EU continues to advocate for a secure digital community in upholding free speech, protecting online data and combating disinformation.

On 24 November 2022, the European Commission established a common EU helpline number for victims of violence against women in an effort to supplement rules to “combat violence against women, including online” established in March.

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https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2022/09/g7-foreign-ministers-statement-on-the-illegal-annexation-of-sovereign-ukrainian-territory/

1337 EDPB adopts “wish list” of procedural aspects, first EU data protection seal and a statement on digital euro, European Data Protection Board (Brussels) 12 October 2022. Access Date: 31 October 2022.

1338 Iran: EU sanctions perpetrators of serious human rights violations, European Council (Brussels) 17 October 2022. Access Date: 1 November 2022.

1339 Close cooperation with the Western Balkan countries, Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (Berlin) 26 October 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022.
https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/kurzmeldungen/EN/2022/10/close_cooperation_with_the_western_balkan_countries.html

1340 EU provides €1 million in funding to the Office of the Envoy on Technology of the UN’s Secretary-General, European Commission (Brussels) 28 October 2022. Access Date: 2 November 2022.

On 29 December 2022, the High Representative of the European Union alongside the Foreign Ministers of Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, Switzerland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States, released a joint statement condemning the “barring of female employees of national and international non-governmental organizations from the workplace” as it “puts at risk millions of Afghans who depend on humanitarian assistance for their survival.” The statement called on the Taliban to immediately reverse this decision.

On 24 January 2023, the EDPS approved a EUR5.5 million fine issued by the Irish Data Protection Authority (DPA) and instructed the DPA to further investigate WhatsApp IE’s operations in lawfully handling users’ personal data.

On 7 February 2023, the EU published its Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles to establish a secure, safe and sustainable digital transformation.

On 23 February 2023, the EDPS started piloting the use of Open Source Software to foster a secured online cloud environment. This plan not only furthers compliance with the EU’s data protection law, but also avoids data transfer to non-EU states to have more control over personal data.

On 6 March 2023, President Ursula von der Leyen met with Canada’s Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for discussions on maintaining robust sanctions against Russia and promoting women’s empowerment in the workplace. Towards the efforts of gender equality, President Von Der Leyen announced plans to join the Alliance for Feminist Movements and Equal by 30 campaign.

On 7 April 2023, the EU released a statement condemning the decisions of the Taliban to ban Afghan women from working for the UN and its agencies, funds and programs. The EU urged the Taliban to deliver on their promises to protect the human rights for the entire population of Afghanistan.

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to promote human rights online and offline while also cooperating with civil society and international partners to this end. Through extensive cooperation among allies in various multilateral platforms, the EU has significantly advanced its dedication to combating online harm, developing international cyber norms and investing in increased digital access. Aside from promoting a free and secure cyberspace, the EU also actively tackles human rights violations offline, primarily through implementing penalties in targeting infringements against individual freedoms.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Xinyi (Cindy) Zhu

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