Human Rights in the Time of the Internet

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What are human rights?
Human rights are not universally respected
Business & human rights
The role of corporations

United Nations
Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights
Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights

1. State duty to protect human rights
Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights

2. Corporate responsibility to respect human rights
Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights

3. Both should provide access to remedy
1. Setting standards

2. Measuring how companies are performing on these standard
2015 Corporate Accountability Index

- 16 companies: 8 Internet, 8 telcos
- 3 categories: commitment, freedom of expression, privacy
- 31 indicators
2015 Corporate Accountability Index

- There are no winners: users are mostly in the dark

- There is a range between companies

- And: there is a pathway to improve
Human rights impact assessments

C4. Impact assessment

Does the company conduct regular, comprehensive, and credible due diligence, such as human rights impact assessments, to identify how all aspects of their business impact freedom of expression and privacy?
Grievance and Remedy

C6. Remedy
Does the company have grievance and remedy mechanisms?
Thank you!

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