

Charter of principles on fighting fake news and disinformation practices in the post-truth era

PREAMBLE

Considering that IBPEL – Instituto Brasileiro de Perspectivas em Expressões de Liberdade has the institutional mission of deepening and disseminating studies about freedom of expression, so that, in this way, it is possible to bring together different discourses and visions of the world and show that responsible dialogue, conscious, sustainable, democratic, open and plural is essential if we want to evolve as a society and as individuals;

Considering that the global community is going through a critical moment in which the polarization of ideas, intolerance, hate speech, Fake News, practices of misinformation, post-truth speech, the war of narratives, farces, montages, fake videos, deepfakes and deepdubs are disseminated by a digital and hyperconnected society, with an impressive speed of production and dissemination of content, putting in check the limits and contours of freedom of expression;

Considering that we live in a complex, non-linear, multicultural, transcultural, globalized society, with paradoxical times, at the same time that information, the plurality of opinions, beliefs and discourses circulate at broadband speed and with instant and extraterritorial reach, individuals are increasingly polarized, isolated and trapped in their own convictions;

Considering that Fake News, practices and lies circulate faster and more efficiently in virtual environments than accurate and qualified information;

Whereas Fake News, practices and lies spread scientific denialism and historical denialism, as well as affect trust and credibility in scientific institutions, also undermining credibility in public policies, reinforcing the negative feeling of hate;

Whereas it is necessary to reconnect people and re-establish genuine and responsive dialogue as a condition for possible coexistence between different points of view;

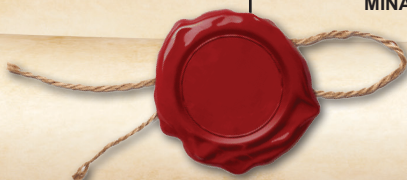
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Considering that the dissemination of Fake News and disinformation practices attacks not only the attacked or the defamed, but hits society, democracy and the foundations of the Democratic State of Law;

Considering that the spurious culture of dissemination of Fake News and disinformation practices reveal the bias of adherence to authoritarianism of its disseminators, denoting a difficulty to live and coexist with pluralism and diversity;

Considering that it is necessary to create conditions of be in order and balance between coexisting freedoms;

Considering that freedom of expression is linked to fundamental concepts, such as: autonomy, responsibility, conscience, equity, respect, empathy, ethics and commitment to the truth.

Considering that public liberties are not absolute and unconditional, therefore they must be exercised in a harmonious way, observing the limits defined by legal systems and international treaties;

Considering that the destructive power of Fake News and disinformation is more dynamic and viral than the reparative and informative power of true and qualitative information;

Considering that the dissemination of Fake News and disinformation practices present themselves as a harmful obstacle to the intellectual-moral progress of the human being, creating an undesirable emotional environment of disharmony and imbalance, jeopardizing fraternal coexistence among all, emptying the concreteness of values universals of human dignity and respect for the civilizing value of truth;

Considering that the dissemination of FaKe News is unacceptable today and always, and its disseminators must carry out an urgent critical reflection to definitively and permanently abandon this practice within society, having as an aid in taking a position the universal golden rule that no we must do to others what we do not want them to do to us;

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Whereas Fake News, practices and lies produce the harmful effects of manipulating public opinion, influencing the electoral process, destroying reputations, favoring individuals, favoring a company, favoring a particular institution;

Considering that the vast majority of world civilization is connected to the internet, digital media/social media platforms increasingly play an essential role in accessing information and exercising freedom of expression;

Considering that the universal civilizational consensus of the majority of democratic planetary nations determines that every person has the right to seek, receive and disseminate information and ideas of all kinds, with the exception, however, of the need to respect human rights, plurality and diversity, as well as as the posture of permanent combat of hate speech practices, which constitute incitement to discrimination, intolerance, hostility, backbiting, revenge, crime or violence;

Considering that the world civilizing agenda of general protection of personal data protection is based on informational self-determination, freedom of expression, information, press, communication and opinion, with respect to human rights, the free development of personality and the dignity of citizens, in the exercise of citizenship;

Whereas Fake News, practices , post-truth discourses, narrative warfare, hoaxes, montages, fake videos, deepfakes and deepdubs weaken and undermine the desired trust in institutions and harm the regime democratic by compromising the critical and reflective capacity of citizens to make decisions based on true information, on negative social, political, economic and legal impacts;

Considering that the digital environment, the internet, social networks and messaging applications are currently the great catalysts through which Fake News, disinformation practices and lies are spread;

IBPEL resumes its active stance by encouraging and building spaces for genuine exchange, learning and active listening and, in the meantime, the institute has made public its Charter of Principles on Fake News, disinformation practices and lies in the post-truth era in the following terms.

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PRINCIPLES

Art. 1st- Freedom of expression is one of the preliminary conditions for the proper functioning of the democratic system, insofar as it puts citizens in a position to express their own demands and influence the political game and the course of public affairs.

Art. 2nd- Fake News is a distorted way of falsifying public opinion, in bad faith, with a view to destroying the reputational capital of individuals and creating manipulation mechanisms, not conforming, therefore, to the conforming core of freedom of speech. expression.

Paragraph One- Not all false or untrue information qualifies as Fake News.

Second Paragraph- Fake News can not be confused with news that I do not agree with or do not like.

Art.3rd- Fake News is qualified as a type of fraudulent information, which has content intentionally simulated, false or distorted.

Paragraph One- The most appropriate translation for Fake News corresponds to “fraud news”, and not simply “fake news”.

Paragraph Two- Fake News corresponds to “fraudulent news”, with the appearance of truth, forged with the appearance of being reliable journalistic, manufactured with bad intention, produced with the deliberate and conscious intention of causing actual or potential harm, always with the purpose of deceiving the public.

Art. 4th- Fake News and disinformation practices contribute to feeding a post-truth environment, in which individuals are more concerned with validating their own beliefs than in the search for facts, sources and reality.

Paragraph One- Fake News and disinformation practices take advantage of the confirmation bias of individuals, a situation in which critical reflective evaluation is compromised when certain information coincides with our individual beliefs.

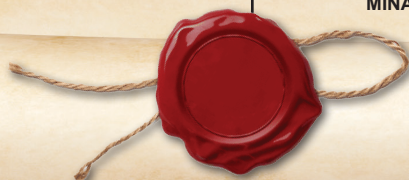
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Art. 5th- Disinformation is a contemporary spurious kind of mass and industrialized lie, forged, created, presented and disseminated in bad faith, with the non-civilizing and deplorable intention of obtaining economic, political, social and legal advantages or to deliberately deceive and consciously an audience. Disinformation is capable of causing public or private harm, with the production of content that, in essence, sabotages the enlightened understanding and knowledge of the facts on the part of citizens and society.

Paragraph One- Disinformation practices, as a rule, comprise the decontextualization of information, the fabrication of facts, the denial of history, the denial of evidence from scientific data, the transformation of opinion into facts and the Fake News themselves.

Second Paragraph- The spurious and clandestine practices of mass disinformation comprise the spraying of fraudulent news that distort and decontextualize reality with the intention of manipulating the open, democratic and plural public debate on the most diverse topics.

Art. 6th- Post-truth refers to circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in public opinion than emotions, feelings, intentions and personal beliefs, with the truth and its dissemination taking a giving way to the appeal to irrationality, passions and personal desires.

Art. 7th- Fake News and disinformation practices, in the post-truth era, represent, in this 21st century, one of the greatest risks to the correct course of the electoral system and to Western democracies, and, therefore, must be fought by all, mainly because it intensifies sectarianism, instills social division, generates worrying levels of political instability, representing a concrete threat to the regular functioning of democracy and its structuring institutions.

Art. 8th- The fight against Fake News and disinformation practices, in the post-truth era, must occur at the level of institutional responsibility and at the level of individual responsibility.

Paragraph One- Institutional responsibility is understood to mean the performance of governments, companies, press, platforms and social networks that directly or indirectly handle information, news and data.

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Second Paragraph - Individual responsibility is understood to be the civic duty of each individual as an agent who, in their respective sphere of action, must curb the propagation of Fake News.

Art. 9th- The dissemination of qualitative and accurate information, the culture of transparency and accountability, the valorization of professional sources of information, the education of the population and verification agencies are important tools to combat Fake News and disinformation practices.

Art. 10th- The creation of seals and credibility indicators should be encouraged for all those who disseminate or produce information.

Paragraph One- The higher the credibility indicators, the more credible the source of information and the greater the reliability of individuals in that content.

Second Paragraph - Examples of credibility indicators are: disclosure of possible funding of information, ethical commitment to the diversity of voices, the practice of ombudsman, author's credentials, specification of the type of material produced, citation of sources, and other similar things.

Art. 11- It is up to the respective nation-states to create legal mechanisms to prevent the spread of Fake News and disinformation practices, as well as to institute sanctions for those responsible who intentionally create, sponsor and share such materials.

Art. 12- There is a need to carry out a broad qualitative democratic debate about the way in which the algorithms of social networks work, and the emergence of so-called "information bubbles" must be fought, they are conducive spaces to the creation, dissemination and propagation of disinformation practices, Fake News and lies.

Art. 13- Governments can and should create rules and incentives for private companies to remove from their databases news that are proven to be Fake News.

Art. 14- Governments can and should promote literacy, with the empowerment of citizens to identify Fake News, disinformation practices, post-truth discourse, narrative war, farces, montages, fake videos, of deepfakes, deepdubs, hatespeech and ways of fighting them, with incentives for events and seminars.

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Art. 15- Checking agencies perform services of relevant public interest and, as such, deserve a privileged legal, fiscal and economic framework in order to better develop their activities.

Paragraph One- Governments must establish terms of cooperation, partnerships, agreements and promotion policies with the verification agencies.

Art. 16- Social networks, research sites and hosting sites fulfill an important social duty insofar as they limit or restrict the reach of publications and content aimed at the dissemination of Fake News, disinformation practices and lies.

Paragraph One- Governments and companies must curb the monetization of pages spreading Fake News, disinformation practices and lies, which would amount to the funding of crimes.

Art. 17- Public policies must be instituted to combat Fake News, disinformation practices and lies through investment in preventive education and digital inclusion that guide citizens to identify and avoid disinformation, fraud, scams and the manipulation of public opinion.

Paragraph One- The most vulnerable groups, such as the elderly, children and adolescents, and people who, for whatever reason, have difficulties in handling digital technologies deserve special attention.

Art. 18- Fake News and disinformation practices must be fought daily in a great global effort among peoples, as they represent a threat to social peace, undermining trust and credibility in the structuring principles and values of the Democratic State of Law, promoting the culture of error despite the truth, the culture of segregation instead of the culture of inclusion and acceptance, the culture of angry polarization and incitement to hate speech instead of fraternal coexistence with diversity, pluralism and human rights, generating a deleterious vibratory frequency of destructive feelings in terms of socio-emotional interactions.

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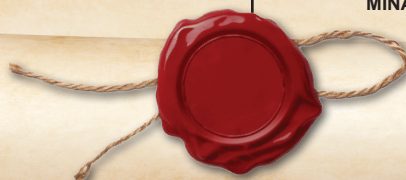
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