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A CRITICAL LOOK AT INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION OF ONLINE PRIVACY

Binding Corporate Rules are more effective than privacy protection enforced through electronic walls because they preserve the global character of the network. Perceived through national or regional standards, electronic walls constructed to preserve privacy make the threat of a splinternet real. Regardless of whether it is introduced to protect privacy, prevent copyright infringement, or uphold morality, splinternet signals the end of the global network as we know it. The global information society will cease to exist if the once-global network becomes a set of sparsely connected national webs. Nations may gain the perception of security but lose the interoperability of the global network and access to the global "cloud" of information. If states choose to sacrifice their residents' freedom of information and exercise permanent surveillance of all online activities in order to guarantee security and secure data through national privacy standards, a global cyberspace that posed the initial threat will be gone.

A walled cyberspace does not have to be the answer. International law offers several potential solutions to these global challenges, grounded in its rich jurisprudence on human rights and conflict resolution. There are numerous international projects aimed at reaching a consensus in the application of existing human rights for online interactions—for example, the OECD Guidelines on personal data.

The more recent developments in privacy protection compromise are geared toward the structure of the cloud-computing based cyberspace [2]. Data protection policies are no longer settled at governmental conferences but, instead, are established by transnational companies. These data protection policies are verified by the users who either willing use them or exit a network they find to be unsafe or exploitive. Global businesses were the first to recognize the characteristics of the information society and amend their policy models accordingly. Because elaborate international hard-law treaties are time-consuming and require extensive compromises, current proposals resort to soft-law measures. These soft-law measures take the form of selfregulation (or co-regulation) [3] based on common ethical standards, described in non-binding declarations or guiding principles. Endeavors such as the Google Global Network Initiative resort to self-regulation, calling upon industry representatives (social platforms operators, ISPs) to adhere to a set of rules and principles aimed at granting

international privacy protection to their users [1]. The existing privacy challenge encourages companies to reach for the rich, soft-law background available in public international law. Commissioner Reding's proposal takes this practice a step further, giving a company-proposed set of policy guidelines a legally binding character after its approval by an EU data protection body. Introducing the BCRs might serve as the missing link between soft law regulations and international law making. The role of customary international law is being reinvented.

Determining the scope of the human rights catalog for online activities is recognized as the biggest challenge that the information society will have to face in the near future. Success will be realized only if the global community unites to tackle the challenge together. Physical elements of the global network, regardless of their location, may function well only if they are managed coherently. If states fail to see that truth and construct firewalls around the areas that they believe to be their "parts" of the cyberspace, thereby creating "walled gardens" to protect their residents' privacy, the global information society will surely face its doom: the end of the global cloud facilitating the free exchange of thought and information. A consensus-based global solution, resembling BCRs in flexibility, may serve as a starting point for finding a global consensus on human rights online protection.

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COMBATING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE UK

Domestic abuse remains pervasive within British society. Despite the long-term falling prevalence, an estimated 2 million adults report being subjected to domestic abuse and, tragically, 82 women and 13 men were killed by a partner or former partner in 2016/17.

Nearly 2 million people a year in England and Wales experience domestic abuse, and many endure long-term harm from their experiences. Domestic abuse is traumatising for victims and their children and is