Digital civic Space and Inclusion

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- Why talk about digital civic space and digital rights?
- Case Study: Digital space in the OPT
- Digital activism in COCs international work.
- Takeaways
Digital civic space and digital rights

Why is it relevant?

- Technologies and digital spaces are reshaping civic space and how citizens come to action
- Shrinking digital civic space & restriction of online movement.
- Digital inclusion: There is a need for equal, unrestricted and indiscriminatory access to digital technologies and spaces and online information.
- Digital opportunities: How to navigate civic

We need to become aware of who are left behind, what mechanisms are used to exclude them.

Women, youth, physically challenged,
Digital civic space and digital rights

The digital realm

#Action

#Restriction
Case: Digital rights in the OPT

How do youth movements in the OPT navigate online and offline civic space in the OPT?

Digital occupation

- Legislation
- Surveillance
- Digital infrastructure
- Private sector

Youth movements and activism in the OPT

- Significant population - 30%
- Key in driving social change, particularly Young Women.
- Diversity of initiatives
- Yet, vulnerable and excluded from decision-making

Youth movements and activism in the OPT
Digital rights in the OPT - Exclusion

- Self-censorship
- Blocked and removed accounts
- Online Harassment
- Internet shutdowns
- Off-the-grid (Google Maps)

“I know many people who got arrested as a result of expressing their ideas on Facebook, especially when it comes to the Palestinian Israeli issue. The content that could be shared here is highly monitored, you cannot share everything and there are some pictures and words we cannot use because they think that it mobilizes the idea of terrorism.”

Female respondent, West Bank.
Digital civic space and Opportunities

Digital opportunities

- Education & awareness
- Alternative Social platforms
- Creating positive narratives about youth.
- Active citizens & digital civic participation.
- Digital governance/democracy
Giveaways

- Include digital space as a dimension of your civic space analysis.
- Map the digital rights together with the communities you work with.
- Contextualize and differentiate digital space and digital users.
- Explore with partners participation in Digital democracy.
- Shaping online narratives.
Cool digital projects

- Totem project (Free Press Unlimited)
- ODB - Digital Security Handbook
- Digital Journey
- Shrinking Digital civic space
- Digital rights in the OPT
Contact me!

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