



Supported by the European Union under the Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)

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DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION

FEMINIST PRINCIPLES OF THE INTERNET



This is a dialogue

There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle as
there is no such thing as a single-issue problem

- AUDRE LORDE



Identified as a black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet. stood at the intersection of numerous forms of discrimination and oppression, including homophobia, sexism and misogyny, a lack of socio-economic support for women raising children, a lack of accountability for violence against women in the domestic sphere and in daily life, economic poverty in her community

PRAISE THE

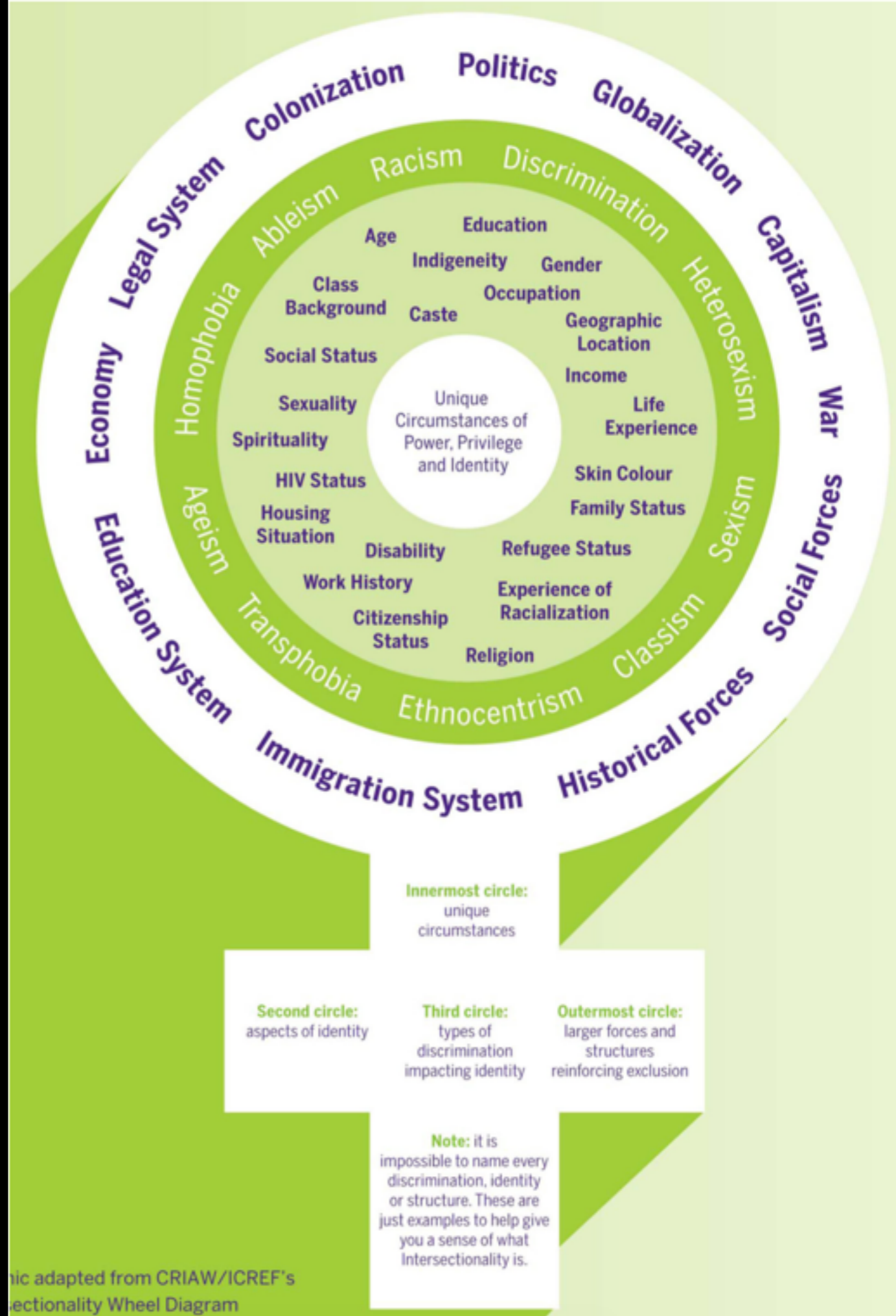


LORDE

INTERSECTIONALITY

Human rights are indivisible, inalienable, interconnected and interrelated.

In practice, who has access to rights is impacted by intersecting social systems that give rise to particular forms of power and privilege, based on certain identities.



WHY DO WE NEED A FEMINIST INTERNET?

“From falling in love to demanding accountability from our government, [the internet] is becoming part of the texture of our everyday **social, political, economic, and cultural life.**

It's not just an inert tool that we wield when we have access to it, but a **space where things happen, where identities are constructed, norms reified or disrupted, action and activities undertaken.**

As such, it cannot help but be a space of intersectionality where **many things collide and connect”**

- *Jac Sm Kee*

15 FEMINIST PRINCIPLES OF THE INTERNET

- A feminist internet starts and works towards empowering more women and queer persons – in all our diversities – to dismantle patriarchy. This includes universal, affordable, unfettered, unconditional, and equal **access** to the Internet.
- A feminist internet is an extension, reflection, and continuum of our movements and **resistance** in other spaces, public and private. Our agency lies in us deciding as individuals and collectives what aspects of our lives to politicize and/or publicize on the internet.

15 FEMINIST PRINCIPLES OF THE INTERNET

- The internet is a **transformative** public and political space. It facilitates new forms of citizenship that enable individuals to claim, construct, and express our selves, genders, sexualities. This includes connections across territories, demands for accountability and transparency, and significant opportunities for feminist movement-building.
- **Violence** online and tech-related violence are part of the continuum of gender-based violence. The misogynistic attacks, threats, intimidation, and policing experienced by women and LGBTQI people are real, harmful, and alarming. It is our collective responsibility as various internet stakeholders to prevent, respond to, and resist this violence.

15 FEMINIST PRINCIPLES OF THE INTERNET

- There is a need to resist the religious right, along with other extremist forces, and the state, in monopolising their claim over morality and silencing feminist voices at national and international levels. We must claim the power of the internet to **amplify** alternative and diverse narratives of women's lived realities.
- As feminist activists, we believe in challenging the patriarchal spaces that currently control the internet and putting more feminists and LGBTQI people at **decision-making** tables. We believe in democratizing the legislation and regulation of the internet as well as diffusing ownership and power of global and local networks.

15 FEMINIST PRINCIPLES OF THE INTERNET

- Feminist interrogation of neoliberal capitalist logic that drives the internet is critical to destabilise, dismantle, and create alternative forms of **economic power** that are grounded on principles of the collective, solidarity, and openness.
- As feminist activists, we are politically committed to creating and experimenting with technology utilising **open source** tools and platforms. Promoting, disseminating, and sharing knowledge about the use of such tools is central to our praxis.

15 FEMINIST PRINCIPLES OF THE INTERNET

- The internet's role in enabling access to critical **information** - including conversations on health, pleasure, and risks - is essential, and must be supported and protected.
- Surveillance by default is the tool of patriarchy to control and restrict rights both online and offline. The right to **privacy** is a critical principle for a safer, open internet for all. Equal attention needs to be paid to surveillance practices by individuals against each other, as well as the private sector and non-state actors, in addition to the state.

15 FEMINIST PRINCIPLES OF THE INTERNET

- We have the right to access all our personal **data** online and to be able to exercise control, which includes knowing who has access to the data and under what conditions and being able to delete it forever. However, this right needs to be balanced against the right to access public information, transparency, and accountability.
- We strongly object to the efforts of state and non-state actors to control, **regulate** and restrict the sexual lives of consenting people and how this is expressed and practiced on the internet. We recognize this as part of the larger political project of moral policing, censorship and hierarchisation of citizenship and rights.

15 FEMINIST PRINCIPLES OF THE INTERNET

- We recognise our role as feminists and internet rights advocates in securing a safe, healthy, and informative internet for **children** and young people. This includes promoting digital and social safety practices. At the same time, we acknowledge children's rights to healthy development, which includes access to positive information about sexuality at critical times in their development. We believe in including the voices and experiences of young people in the decisions made about harmful content.

15 FEMINIST PRINCIPLES OF THE INTERNET

- We recognise that the issue of **pornography** online is a human rights and labor issue, and has to do with agency, consent, autonomy, and choice. We reject simple causal linkages made between consumption of pornographic content and violence against women. We also reject the umbrella term of pornographic content labeled to any sexuality content such as educational material, SOGIE (sexual orientation, gender identity and expression) content, and expression related to women's sexuality.

15 FEMINIST PRINCIPLES OF THE INTERNET

- It is our inalienable right to choose, express, and experiment with our diverse sexualities on the internet.
Anonymity enables this.

LETS MOVE ON

THAT WAS LOTS OF FOOD FOR
THOUGHT



Thinking cat...

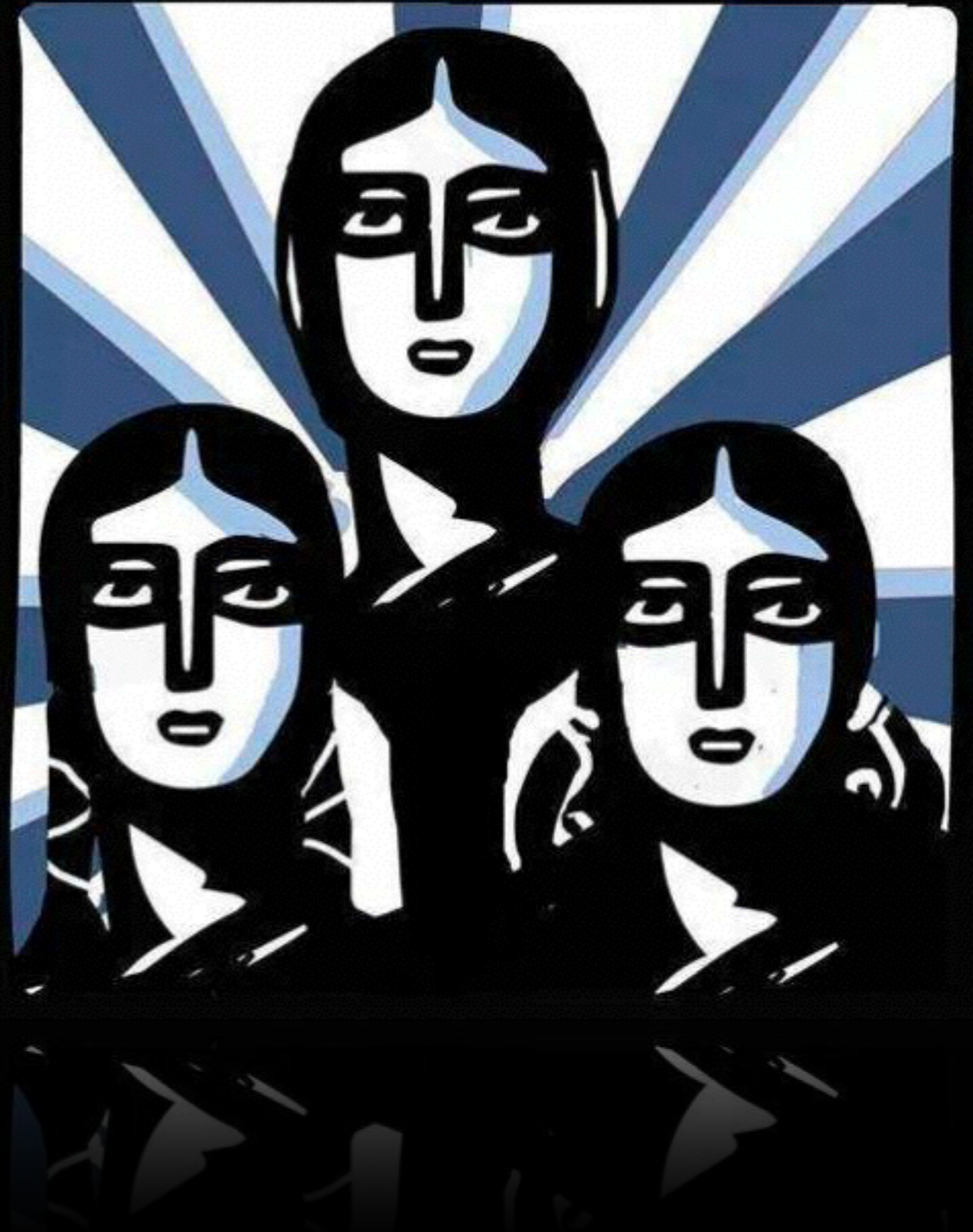
...is thinking

INTERSECTIONALITY



ACTIVISM

- #DalitWomenFight are seeking to dismantle the centuries old caste system that excuses high rates of sexual violence, discrimination, and the social, economic and cultural exclusion of Dalit women
- In March 2015, they organised 'Wikipedia Hackathon' to bring their campaign for rights and awareness to the internet as a transformative sphere for the realisation of rights.
- During the hackathon, participants were met with abusive comments and attempts to delete the wikipedia entries from Hindu nationalists trolls.



AGENCY

- Sifting through the moral panics that govern the internet— especially around sexuality online.
- Agency is also about centring the voices and experiences of the intended beneficiaries of policies that seek to prevent harm and provide redress—especially for young people.



ACCESS - DECISION MAKING & GOVERNANCE

- In 2012, there were only 2 women, out of a total 15 members, on the Board of Directors of the ICANN—the non-profit organisation responsible for coordinating the maintenance and methodologies of several databases, with unique identifiers, related to the namespaces of the Internet
- Bringing marginalised voices of women and LGBTIQ people in all their diversities to the decision-making tables on internet and tech governance.



ACCESS - USAGE

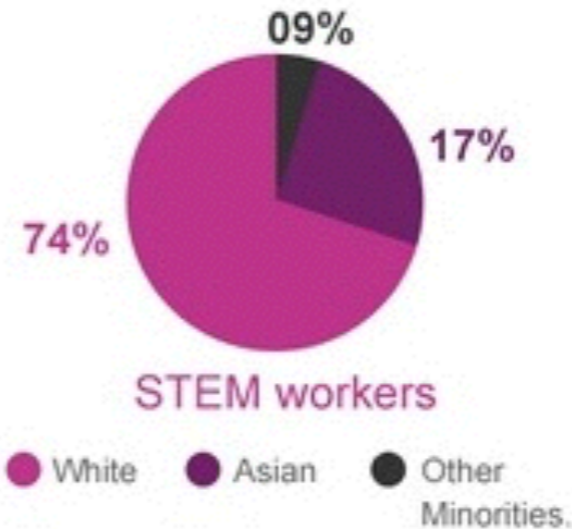
- Intel's 2012 Women and the Web report found that 23 percent fewer women than men had access to the Internet across the developing world.
- A 2015 GSMA report found that women were 14 percent less likely to own phones than men, translating into approximately 200 million fewer women mobile users.
- In South Asia, women are 38 percent less likely to own a mobile phone than men.



STEM Facts on Women & Girls



74% of STEM workers are male. Only 26% are female.



STEM workers

● White ● Asian ● Other Minorities.

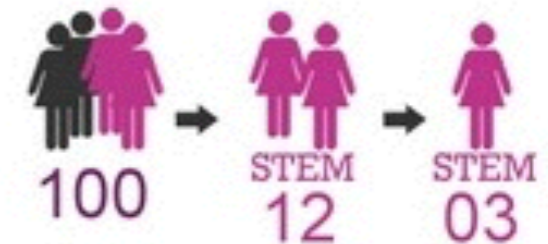


Women comprise more than 20% of engineering school graduates, yet only 11% of practicing engineers are women



Women were 28% of all workers in S&E occupations in 2010, up from 21% in 1993

Women's presence among computer/mathematical scientists declined from 31% to 25% over the period, but only because men's rate of growth in this area was higher than women's. The number of women working in computer/mathematical sciences has increased more than in any other broad occupational area.



Of 100 female bachelor students, 12 graduate with a STEM major but only 3 continue to work in STEM fields 10 years after graduation.



The wage gap between women and men is much smaller in STEM occupations than other occupations. In STEM fields, women earn \$0.92 for every \$1 earned by men, compared to \$0.77 for other fields.



Although women fill close to half of all jobs in the U.S. economy, they hold less than 25 percent of STEM jobs.

Women with STEM jobs earned 33 percent more than comparable women in non-STEM jobs, considerably higher than the STEM premium for men. As a result, the gender wage gap is smaller in STEM jobs than in non-STEM jobs.

Access -
Employment

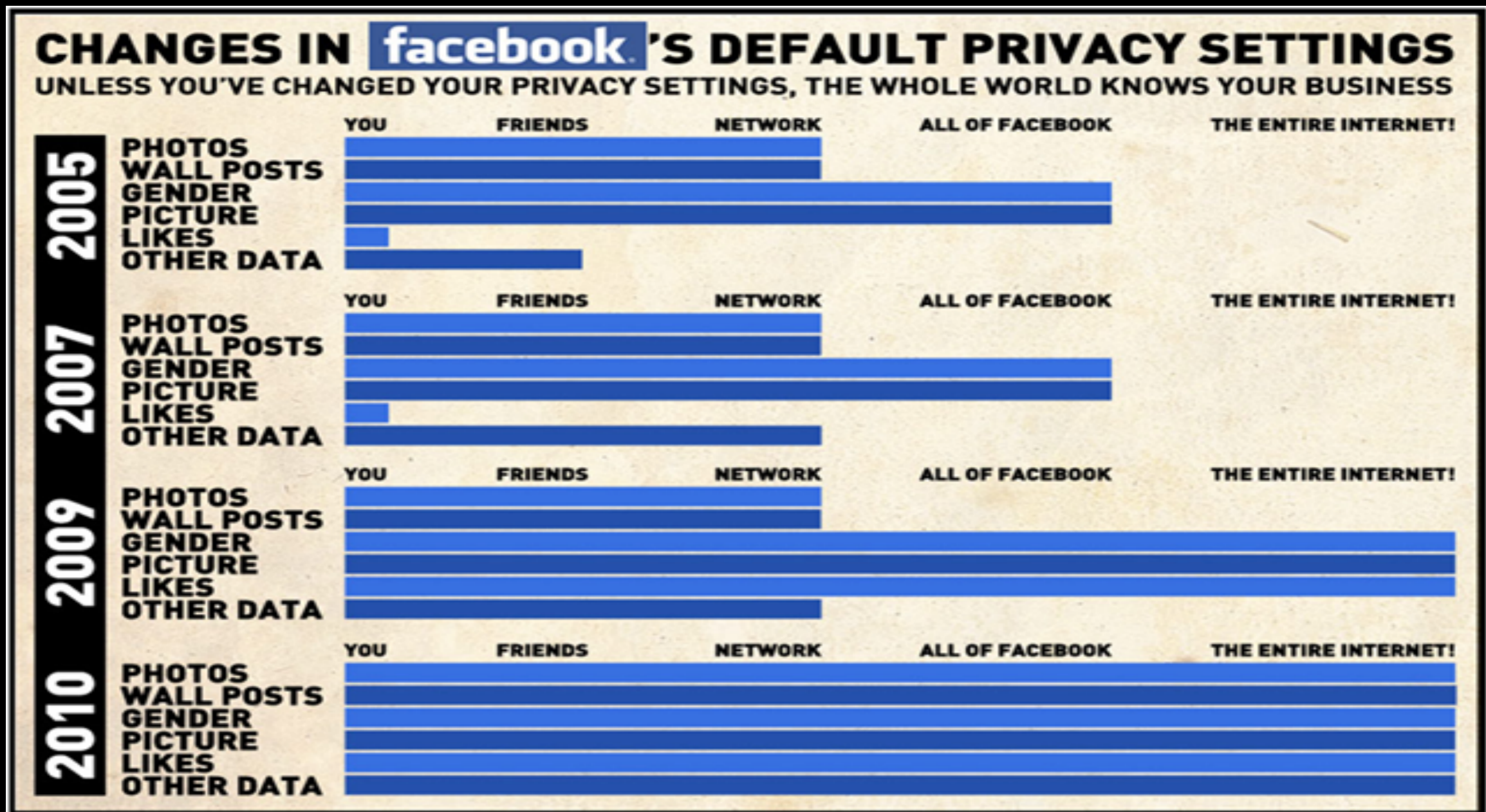
PRIVACY



- The right to privacy and to exercise full control over our own data is a critical principle for a safer, open internet for all.
- Privacy is intimately connected to the issue of online security; the two are distinct, but their relationship reciprocal.

ECONOMY

- Companies directly benefit from the increased flow of personal and private information into the public realm online (e.g. storing user habits, creating targeted advertising profiles, buying/selling user data to marketers, tracking user locations to send them nearby offers, etc.)



SUMMING UP

this is my opinion

of your opinion

Thank you

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WEBSITE RESOURCES

[HTTP://DEFINDIA.ORG](http://DEFINDIA.ORG)

[HTTP://APC.ORG](http://APC.ORG)

[HTTP://INTERNETRIGHTS.IN](http://INTERNETRIGHTS.IN)

[HTTP://TAKEBACKTHETECH.NET](http://TAKEBACKTHETECH.NET)

[HTTP://EROTICS.APC.ORG](http://EROTICS.APC.ORG)

[HTTP://WWW.GENDERIT.ORG](http://WWW.GENDERIT.ORG)