



Association for Accountability and Internet Democracy

140, rue du Faubourg Saint Honoré, 75008 Paris, France

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MOTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CONTRACT FOR THE WEB

AAID is pleased to announce our cooperation with the Web Foundation/Tim Berners-Lee and our support of The Contract for The Web.

AAID's philosophy is founded upon the conviction that inclusiveness, tolerance and human dignity on the Internet cannot be achieved without the recognition of an accountability standard covering all actors on the Net (in "a spirit of brotherhood" in the words of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights).

We are strongly opposed to the principle of absolute immunity as reflected by the CDA 230 the effect of which is relieving the gatekeepers of any responsibility towards society, users and democracy while at the same time allowing them to consolidate their unprecedented concentration of power.

AAID wishes to drive policy towards a more nuanced approach.

A principle of **relative immunity** will have a salutary effect upon the future development of Cyberspace and force us all to act as responsible citizens in this new space of civilization.

AAID's "Leitmotif" is Accountability and the protection of Human Rights on the Internet.

We wish to see the Net in its splendid universality promote and protect **all** Human Rights and not just the unlimited Free Speech dogma which has hijacked all other values as a consequence of political and corporate agendas.

The stars seem aligned right now for this move: Enhanced data protection law in California, SESTA/ FOSTA, fake news hearings and a growing awareness of the challenges created to democracy and Human Rights as the result of unconditional tech celebration.

These rights are the fruits of struggles throughout history. They did not come about by chance and their international recognition is a milestone of civilization. There is no need to develop a specific Bill of Rights for Cyberspace. Human Rights are not a function of time and space.

We are convinced that lack of accountability will ultimately negate these achievements and with them democracy, tolerance and inclusiveness.

We salute the Web Foundation's initiative to see the above principles reflected in a Contract for The Web. This contractual approach may ultimately pave the way for a recognition of mutual rights and obligations in cyberspace much like the early political philosophers' approach to the relationship between the citizens and the state.

Dan Shefet

President of the Association for Accountability and Internet Democracy (AAID)