

AI and Human Rights

Rebekah Rest

Abstract

This presentation explores the intersection of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and human rights. It examines the critical importance of protecting fundamental rights in the face of AI advancements and the potential benefits of adopting a human rights approach to AI governance.

The presentation begins by defining human rights and highlighting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a foundational document. It then discusses how AI development poses risks to various human rights, emphasizing the disproportionate impact on vulnerable groups and the interconnected nature of rights violations.

Generative AI, with its ability to create realistic and potentially harmful content, is presented as a particular area of concern. Specific examples are presented to illustrate its implications on rights including freedom from harm, participation in public affairs, intellectual property rights, and protection against discrimination.

Two main approaches to governing AI are contrasted: risk-based and rights-based. The risk-based approach focuses on determining the level of risk associated with an AI system. The rights-based approach, on the other hand, emphasizes the protection of fundamental rights regardless of the risk level. The presentation argues that a rights-based approach offers several advantages, including its alignment with established human rights frameworks, existence of enforcement mechanisms, and offering clear principles for addressing potential harms.

The presentation concludes by outlining steps for implementing a human rights-based approach to governing AI. These steps include requiring human rights impact assessments, banning certain high-risk uses of AI, closing legislative loopholes, facilitating stakeholder participation, and promoting international cooperation. The presentation also highlights recent developments, such as the EU AI Act and the UN's work on AI governance, that move in this direction.