



WORLD WIDE WEB
FOUNDATION

Working together for the web we want

The web has changed our lives for the better in a myriad of ways — but also faces huge challenges.

The Web Foundation is at the heart of the debate about the future of the digital world. Founded by Sir Tim Berners-Lee, the inventor of the web, and Rosemary Leith, we are working for the web we want — a web that improves people's lives and protects the rights of those who use it.

We deploy original research, policy development and advocacy to shape the policies and products we need to achieve our goal.

In doing so, we aim to be one of the leading tech policy and research bodies in the world, doing all we can to bring our founders' vision to reality.

Introducing the World Wide Web Foundation

Our work so far

Over the past decade we've fought successfully to expand internet access, defend net neutrality, protect online privacy, open up public data, champion local innovation, and:

- **Helped make internet access more affordable** for over 600 million people in low and middle-income countries.
- **Uncovered digital gender inequalities** in [22 countries](#) and our [Women's Rights Online network](#) has led advocacy on policies designed to narrow the digital gender gap.
- **Secured unprecedented commitments from the world's biggest tech companies** [to tackle the abuse of women](#) on their platforms.

Our priorities in 2022



01

We are safeguarding and championing the globally recognised principles for a free, fair and safe web for everyone as formulated in our [Contract for the Web](#) to catalyse lasting change.

Our [Contract for the Web](#) was the first ever global plan of action to create a better web, developed with expert input from all over the world. In the next phase of the Contract we are ensuring it stays relevant in order to tackle existing and upcoming threats, while showcasing best practice for digital policy and products.



02

We are developing innovative solutions to the most pressing tech challenges of our time, building on the success of our innovative [Tech Policy Design Lab](#).

This unique approach creates space for policymakers, tech companies and researchers to learn directly from those affected by technology. Together, we create solutions that limit the worst of humanity and encourage the best online.

In 2021, we focused on securing gender equality online — so that all women and girls can use the web safely, without the threat of abuse and harassment. We continue to drive forward with this critical work, as you'll see.

In 2022, we are examining the 'deceptive designs' which are built into website or app interfaces and can manipulate us into making choices we may not want to make. We will identify concrete ways to curb these widespread practices and shift the industry toward more trusted design.

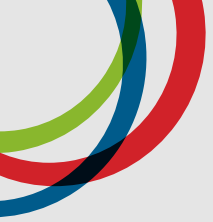


03

We are fighting to close the digital gender divide and make the web work for women and girls.

Our Women's Rights Online Network works across Africa, South East Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean to bridge the gender gap in technology, data, and policymaking. This year, alongside our partners, we are working to launch new national [Gender Scorecards](#) to provide much-needed data on the digital gender gap. We will also publish the Gender and ICT Policy Playbook to inform policies and encourage urgent action.

The web won't truly be for everyone until it works for women, and so we're pushing for policies and practices to tackle gender inequalities online. The [pilot project](#) for our Tech Policy Design Lab convened over 120 experts from 35+ countries to co-create solutions to curb online gender-based violence — and secured unprecedented [commitments](#) from Facebook, Google, TikTok, and Twitter to tackle abuse on their platforms. Now, we're working to hold these companies accountable for their commitments and ensure these promises act as a springboard to action to address this growing threat to gender equality online.



Our approach

| **Generating evidence:**

Everything we do is grounded in research and data. Our research team uncovers evidence and understanding of issues at the heart of digital inequalities.

| **Developing solutions:**

We develop policy solutions to the biggest tech challenges facing our societies, informed through consultation with technology experts, companies, policymakers, civil society leaders, and diverse groups of people across the world.

| **Building alliances:**

We scale the impact of our work through the power of the alliances and networks we build.

| **Catalysing Action:**

We work constructively with government and industry decision makers to shape policies and practices, and advocate for their adoption alongside our partners.

“The Web Foundation and its Alliance for Affordable Internet have not only defined what meaningful access to the internet is but have also helped millions of people around the world achieve it.”

Hon Ursula Owusu-Ekuful, Minister of Communications, Ghana

“We need people like the Web Foundation who bridge across the ecosystem, who bring a principled and evidence-based approach, and who partner with and challenge technology companies like Google to create a web that serves all humanity.”

Jacquelline Fuller, President, Google.org

“I have seen the Web Foundation doing a brilliant job of bringing together governments, companies and citizens to find innovative solutions to the burning digital problems of our time. Sir Tim Berners-Lee, Rosemary Leith and the Web Foundation are at the forefront of the fight for justice in the 21st century.”

Rt Hon Gordon Brown, Former Prime Minister, United Kingdom

“Congratulations to the World Wide Web Foundation. What you all have done is extraordinary. The Ford Foundation is proud to have supported the Web Foundation and we are so grateful for your leadership.”

Darren Walker, President, Ford Foundation

“It is time to commit to delivering the web we want for the world we want – for a generation of young people and for those yet to come. We hope you’ll join us.”

**Rosemary Leith & Tim Berners-Lee, Co-founders,
World Wide Web Foundation**



www.webfoundation.org

We need your help

Tim Berners-Lee had a vision for a web that served humanity and he gave it to the world for free. Fighting for it comes at a cost. Here’s what you can do to help:



DONATE

or sponsor a programme



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to talk about collaborating