



Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic
to the United Nations Office
and other International Organizations
at Geneva

Breakfast discussion organized by UN Youth Delegates from Czechia
on the occasion of the 59th session of the UN Human Rights Council

From Information Warfare to Youth Rights: Building Resilience Through Digital Democracy

Friday 20th June 2025, Geneva

Venue: Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic | Chemin Camille Vidart 17 | Floor 6

Program

- 8:15** Arrival of participants, *coffee & croissants*
- 8:30** Welcome by the **UN Youth Delegates from Czechia** Terezie Hiclová and Jakub Rychlý
- 8:35** **Jakub Rychlý: Czech digital Excellence vs Disinformation Vulnerability**
- Remarks by **Gina Romero** (UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association) and **Tereza Hořejšová** (DiploFoundation), moderated by Terezie
- 8:50** Roundtable discussion ***Under Information Attack: Experiences of Youth from European Frontline States*** between panelists: **Terezie Hiclová** (UNYD Czechia), **Hania Miśniakiewicz** (UNYD Poland), **Adina Nivukoski** (UNYD Finland), and **Vidmantas Mitkus** (UNYD Lithuania) – *via video*, moderated by Jakub
- 9:15** Fire-side chat (reactions and wrap-up of discussion)
- 9:30** Closing, *informal networking*

Background

In response to the growing impact of information manipulation on democratic societies, the Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations Office in Geneva is convening a thematic discussion on the nexus between information warfare and the rights of young people in the digital age. As digital technologies increasingly shape political discourse and civic engagement, young people have emerged both as key actors and primary targets in the information space. Disinformation campaigns and other forms of malign interference directly undermine their rights to freedom of expression and access to information.

This event brings together young delegates from European frontline states—countries particularly vulnerable to hostile influence operations — for an open discussion on their experiences with online manipulation and the strategies they have developed to resist it. Their insights will inform future efforts to ensure the protection of youth rights in the digital sphere — contributing, by extension, to international objectives such as SDG 16 on inclusive and informed decision-making and SDG 4 on education and critical thinking.



Questions

1. In what ways do disinformation campaigns strategically target young people, and which techniques are most prevalent across social media platforms?
2. How can young people shift from being targets of manipulation to defending democratic values? What helps them stay critical in polarized environments?
3. What national or international measures can effectively counter disinformation targeting youth?

Speakers

Terezie Hiclová is a Master's student at Sciences Po, specializing in International Security Policy with a focus on hybrid threats and foreign influence. She holds a degree in European politics and has experience in EU policymaking from her work in the European Parliament. Her interests include democratization, democratic resilience, and empowering youth through informed participation in decision-making. She currently serves as one of the two Czech UN Youth Delegates.

Tereza Hořejšová has been working in the field of digital policy and cyber for more than ten years. She has conceptualized and led several capacity building programs, with focus on small and developing countries. She currently works for DiploFoundation, based in Geneva. She has also led the regional efforts of the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise in the regions of the Americas and the Caribbean, Africa, Pacific island states and South East Asia.

Hania Miśniakiewicz is the Polish UN Youth Delegate, representing youth perspectives on global issues such as peace, democracy, and security. With a background in journalism and management, she focuses on amplifying young voices and fostering values-based leadership. A former alpine ski racer, she brings resilience and teamwork into her advocacy work. Hania has experience across sectors—from supporting foster youth education to working at UNICEF's Refugee Response Office for Ukrainian refugees.

Vidmantas Mitkus is a youth policy expert from Lithuania with a Master's in Social Policy from Vilnius University. He leads the Youth Affairs and Non-formal Employment Division at Vilnius City Municipality. He has represented Lithuania as a UN Youth Delegate and chaired the National Association of Youth Affairs Coordinators. His work focuses on youth participation, public policy, and civic engagement.

Adina Nivukoski is a UN Youth Delegate of Finland (2024–2025). With a background in education policy and gender equality, she has worked with international organizations such as UNESCO, OECD, and UN Women Finland. A passionate advocate for girls' education and the Women, Peace and Security agenda, Adina has led gender equity initiatives and represented youth voices globally.

Gina Romero was appointed the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association in April 2024. Over the past 20 years, she has been engaged in the promotion and defence of human rights, governance, civic space, and civic and political participation, specially focusing on marginalized groups, gender and youth. She is expert in dialogue, mediation, building and managing networks.

Jakub Rychlý graduated from Management of cities and regions and has a strong interest in financial education, new and digital technologies and local governments. Jakub is a founder of an NGOs that helps with financial literacy of young people. At the same time he is consultant on AI start-ups and one of the two Czech UN Youth Delegates.