



GPA

Global Privacy Assembly

Data Protection and Other Rights and Freedoms Working Group

Working Group Report – July 2025

Chair authority: OPC Canada



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Executive summary

The Data Protection and Other Rights and Freedoms Working Group (DPORF) began its mandate following the Global Privacy Assembly's (GPA) 41st Annual Conference in 2019, with the adoption of the [Resolution on privacy as a fundamental human right and precondition for exercising other fundamental rights](#). That resolution committed our group and its members to “developing a narrative to highlight the integral relationship of data protection to other rights and freedoms” in 2020-21. Our research of that report, consultation, and writing culminated in the publication and adoption of the [Privacy and Data Protection as Fundamental Rights: A Narrative](#) at the 2021 GPA Annual Conference. Following this report, the DPORF was mandated with promoting the narrative and its recommendations on behalf of the GPA.

In 2023, GPA members adopted the GPA's 2023-2025 Strategic Plan, establishing new roles and responsibilities for all GPA working groups. As a result, the DPORF was charged with building on the group's previous work of promoting the relationship between privacy and human rights. This work includes developing further linkages between privacy and other fundamental human rights, including democratic rights, as well as engaging with relevant stakeholders and facilitating discussions on this relationship. That same year, the Assembly also adopted the [Resolution on the Privacy and Human Rights Award](#). As a result, the DPORF's focus has been on the successful launch of the Privacy and Human Rights Award and following the selection and announcement of the first award recipients in February 2025, a retrospective exercise by the Award Selection Committee in preparation for the second iteration of the award is planned for May 2026.

In addition, the DPORF undertook the following activities over the past year:

- In June 2024, the GPA's Privacy and Human Rights Award was open for applications through to September 2024. Afterwards, the Award Selection Committee met on multiple occasions to review the nominees and select the co-winners.
- Working in close collaboration with Access Now, the inaugural ceremony took place during the RightsCon Summit in Taipei, Taiwan on February 25, 2025.
- As part of the RightsCon Summit 2025, Canada OPC and US Department of Justice collaborated on a session entitled “Exploring Privacy, Data Protection and Democratic Rights”.
- The Catalan data protection authority translated the 2021 Narrative Report into Spanish. The report is now available in three languages: English, French, and Spanish. The Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada developed social media content to promote the Narrative Report being available in three languages during Data Privacy Week in January 2025.
- In March 2025, the GPA's [Privacy and Human Rights Award webpage](#) was updated to announce the co-winners of the award. This information was available in English, French, and Spanish.



Introduction

The GPA has previously noted that at an international level, data protection and privacy rights are enshrined in important global instruments such as the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), [Convention 108](#), and the [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#).

Furthermore, in many parts of the world, privacy and data protection are recognized as a fundamental right on their own, providing a crucial legal underpinning for the exercise of other rights. This recognition anchors the projects of our working group.

In 2023, at the GPA's 45th Annual Conference, members adopted the Assembly's 2023-2025 Strategic Plan, which renewed the DPORF's mandate. This new mandate includes the following responsibilities:

- Pilot the new Privacy and Human Rights Award program for the first edition of the award in 2024.
- Encourage GPA members to produce documents and materials on Privacy and Data Protection (PDP) and its relationship with other fundamental rights with partner organizations, including translation of existing DPORF materials into other languages.
- Engage with academic entities developing research on PDP and its relationship with other fundamental rights.
- Facilitate discussion within the PDP community on linkages to other fundamental rights.
- Encourage GPA members to develop arguments and collect evidence on the intersection between privacy and other rights.

Working Group Members

The DPORF is chaired by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada and is comprised of the following members and observers:

- Data Protection Commissioner's Office, Albania
- The National Directorate for Personal Data Protection, Argentina
- National Data Protection Authority, Belgium
- Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada
- Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada
- Chilean Transparency Council
- Council of Europe
- L'Autorité de Régulation des Télécommunications, de Côte d'Ivoire
- Dubai International Financial Centre
- European Data Protection Supervisor
- European Union Fundamental Rights Agency (as observer)
- L'Autorité pour la Protection des Données Personnelles et de la Vie Privée du Gabon
- Personal Data Protection Service of Georgia



- Federal Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information, Germany
- Office of the Information Commissioner, Jersey
- Kosovo National Data Protection Agency
- Garante per la protezione dei dati personali, Italy
- Liechtenstein Data Protection Authority
- National Institute for Transparency, Access to Information and Personal Data Protection, Mexico
- Institute for Access to Public Information of Mexico City, Mexico
- Institute for Transparency, Access to Information and Data Protection of Michoacán, Mexico
- Commission de Contrôle des Informations Nominatives, Monaco
- Nigeria Data Protection Commission
- Personal Data Protection Office, Poland
- Autorità Garante per la Protezione dei Dati Personali, Republic of San Marino
- Personal Data Commission, Senegal
- Information Regulator, South Africa
- Catalan Data Protection Authority, Catalonia, Spain
- Federal Data Protection and Information Commissioner, Switzerland
- Instance nationale de protection des données personnelles, Tunisia
- Information Commissioner's Office, United Kingdom
- Department of Justice, United States of America (as observer)
- Federal Trade Commission, United States of America (as observer)
- New York City Office of Information Privacy, United States of America
- Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner, Victoria

New Working Group Members

This year, the DPORF welcomed several new members to the working group:

- Personal Data Protection Authority of Mauritania (APD)
- National Privacy Commission, Philippines
- The Dutch Data Protection Authority (AP), Netherlands
- The Privacy Protection Authority, Israel
- Personal Information Commission, Japan



Working group activities

Privacy and Human Rights Award

At the 45th GPA Annual Conference in Bermuda, members adopted the [Resolution on the Privacy and Human Rights Award](#). This resolution called on the DPORF to establish a new GPA award focusing on the intersections of privacy, data protection, and other fundamental human rights.

The DPORF's work plan included establishing the Award Selection Committee in April 2024 that was responsible for reviewing award nominations, followed by the development of the nomination forms and scoring rubric. The call for nominations was open on the GPA website from June through September 2024, and nominations were subsequently evaluated by the committee.

The working group also prepared the required promotional materials, including the [GPA's Privacy and Human Rights Award webpage](#), email communications, and social media content. Finally, in order to communicate with a larger audience, the working group translated these materials into French and Spanish.

A joint venture of the GPA and Access Now, the inaugural Privacy and Human Rights Award was presented at Access Now's summit on human rights in the digital age, [RightsCon](#), in Taipei, Taiwan in February 2025.

The 2024 inaugural prize was [awarded to two co-winners](#) and announced by Commissioner Philippe Dufresne, Canada's Privacy Commissioner and Chair of the DPORF :

- The global **5Rights Foundation** was recognized for its efforts to promote the adoption of laws that guarantee digital privacy and data protection rights for children. The organization was instrumental in securing the United Kingdom's Children's Code, a first-ever statutory code of practice for protecting children's data and advocating for California's Age-Appropriate Design Code. The Foundation has also developed a Child Online Safety Toolkit to help lawmakers enshrine online safety into their laws and practices.
- The India-based **Internet Freedom Foundation** was honoured for its litigation and advocacy work defending online freedom and addressing the use of excessive and illegal surveillance. In particular, it was recognized for its advocacy work related to the surveillance of sanitation workers and the introduction of a student identification system.



Second iteration of the Privacy and Human Rights Award

- The working group has been reflecting on the points raised following a retrospective exercise in preparation for the second iteration of the award. The call for nominations is planned for September 2025 and the award will be handed out at the next RightsCon Summit in May 2026.
- The Award Selection Committee Terms of Reference as well as the scoring grid and nomination form have been reviewed to build on lessons learned from the first year and improve the overall process.
- Initial discussions have also taken place with DPORF working group members on the possibility of having materials for the second iteration of the award translated into other languages.

DPORF Teleconferences

- In December 2024, the DPORF working group discussed and provided updates on the Privacy and Human Rights Award. The working group also reviewed the 2023-25 workplan and held a roundtable for DPAs to share their jurisdictional updates.
- In March 2025, Franco Giandana Gigena, Policy Analyst at Access Now, talked about the important work of this civil society in the defence of digital rights in relation to the partnerships we are building between the GPA and the global civil society community.
- Working group members discussed the possibility of participating in the different steps of the next Privacy and Human Rights Award. This includes joining the review committee, managing the scoring grid, and providing translations of materials.
- The working group also shared details on the dialogue session with the US Department of Justice on “Exploring the relations between privacy and democratic rights” as part of the debrief on the award ceremony and RightsCon.
- The next teleconference is scheduled to take place in August 2025.
- The Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada has been the Chair of the DPORF since its creation in 2019 and has signalled to the membership its intention to step down from this role and begin the transition to a new Chair once a successor is identified.



Forward looking plan 2025-2026

The DPORF's focus remains capacity-building for its members and advocacy for the intersection of privacy and other fundamental rights. The working group will continue to identify prominent privacy and human rights experts and schedule workshops to increase members' understanding of the ways in which privacy and data protection affect other fundamental human rights.

Concurrently, and following the successful launch of the Privacy and Human Rights Award, the working group continues its preparations towards the launch of the second iteration of the award, with the nomination period set to open in September 2025 and the winners to be announced at RightsCon 2026.

Conclusion

The DPORF continued to implement the GPA's Strategic Direction 2023-2025 by highlighting how privacy underpins the protection and recognition of other fundamental rights, by building strategic alliances with civil society organizations, and by developing the capacity building of its members. This was reflected through the working group's efforts in continuing to promote the Narrative Report, strengthening its partnership with Access Now through the Privacy and Human Rights Award, and by hosting teleconferences aimed at reinforcing the sharing of information and strategies amongst its members.

The success of the first iteration of the Privacy and Human Rights Award was a clear highlight of the past year and a solid stepping stone for future versions of the award.

The Chair would like to sincerely thank all working group members for their feedback, enthusiasm, participation, and support of activities over the past year, and for their continued trust and support in the DPORF's mandate.