

Microsoft's Response to Access Now's July 26, 2022 Letter

We appreciate Access Now's July 26, 2022 letter on Microsoft's scoring in [Ranking Digital Rights 2022](#), which assesses the strength of Microsoft's policies and reporting on privacy and freedom of expression protections and also suggests possible enhancements. Microsoft has engaged with Ranking Digital Rights since its inception. We appreciate the on-going collaboration with the organization, Access Now, and other civil society organizations who play an essential role in advancing protection and respect for human rights.

We have a responsibility and commitment to operate our business in a way that respects universal rights such as privacy, freedom of expression and the right to access information. At Microsoft, respecting human rights is a critical component of our mission to empower every person and every organization on the planet to achieve more. A focus on human rights helps our employees make good decisions and responsible choices and builds trust with our customers and partners. As articulated in Microsoft's [Global Human Rights Statement](#), we work to ensure that our business activities respect and promote human rights and that our technology plays a positive role across the globe.

Our approach is aligned with the [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#) as the authoritative global standard for business and human rights. And we are a founding member and serve on the board of the Global Network Initiative (GNI), a multi-stakeholder collaboration between information and communications technology (ICT) companies, civil society organizations, socially responsible investors, and academic institutions to protect and advance freedom of expression and privacy in the ICT sector.

In suggesting "one, timely, and achievable, objective based on [Access Now's] insights into the most acute issues facing at-risk users," you noted the following recommendation:

"The company offers stronger, more human rights-protective policies for Bing, Outlook, and OneDrive than it does for LinkedIn and Skype. Microsoft should apply its other services' better policies, particularly regarding third-party requests, to these platforms."

We would like to note the following:

- Like Bing, Outlook, and OneDrive, Skype is governed by the [Microsoft Services Agreement](#) and [Microsoft Privacy Statement](#) and follows the same Microsoft policy on respecting human rights. See [Skype Legal Policies, Terms and Conditions](#) for more information.
- Given its nature as a professional network, LinkedIn has its own [User Agreement](#) and [Privacy Policy](#). It also has a set of [Professional Community Policies](#), which were recently [updated](#) in



May, 2022. Nevertheless, LinkedIn's terms of service and policies are grounded in Microsoft's commitment to respect human rights.

Further information about our policies and practices to respect customers' privacy and freedom of expression is available in our [Reports Hub](#).

We value ongoing opportunities to learn from all stakeholders and look forward to continuing our dialogue with Access Now and other members of the human rights community.