



The **Cyber Peace Institute** is an independent, non-governmental organization focused on peace in cyberspace. We aim to decrease the frequency, impact, and scale of cyber-attacks by sophisticated actors that have significant, direct harm on people. The CyberPeace Institute believes that civilians need to be brought back to the forefront in cybersecurity discussions and be empowered in understanding how their infrastructures are attacked. Through collective analysis of cyberattacks and capacity-building measures grounded in internationally accepted norms, the CyberPeace Institute is confident that positive changes will be made towards the protection of civilians and the overall stability in cyberspace.

Closing the accountability gap: a proposal for an evidence-led accountability framework

The growing weaponization of the Internet reflects the current threat landscape, where state and non-state actors are conducting cyber operations with little risk to be held accountable. From hijacking systems and ransomware attacks to cyberespionage attempts, malicious actors deploy cyberweapons to undermine hospitals, telecommunications networks, transportation systems, and critical public services. The current digital age is fraught with problems relating to our rights, and at the core of these issues is the inherent lawlessness of the cyber domain.

Not closing the accountability gap means a widening of the digital divide between those who have the capabilities to react to cyberattacks, and those who do not. The impact of cyberattacks is expressed as a cost to infrastructure or business disruption; we need to bring the human dimension of the attack and the rights of civilians back at the core. **There can't be any framework for accountability if the victims are not at the centre of the discussions.**

The CyberPeace Institute aims at addressing the accountability gap through multiple facets: a top down approach for the international community to design an overarching framework, and a bottom-up approach where grassroots practitioners propose actionable accountability measures on the basis of the technical reality of the cyberspace and the human cost of cyberattacks. The cyberspace is a common good, and how malicious actors are abusing it should be public knowledge. The CyberPeace Institute will focus on tangible issues **and wishes to help build an actionable and evidence-led accountability framework.** The CyberPeace Institute **will deliver scalable and sustainable solutions to vulnerable communities targeted by major attacks, with the final purpose of closing the accountability gap in cyberspace.**