EFF’s Work Across the World

The Internet is global, and so are the threats to online freedom. The laws controlling the use of technology in one nation can have a profound effect on human rights in another. When one state treads on the rights of Net users, other countries are quick to follow in their footsteps. And where citizens are free to innovate with technology in their own country, their work benefits us all.

The Electronic Frontier Foundation’s international team works to defend digital rights on the global stage, identifying and preventing damaging changes in laws and regulations before they can spread worldwide.

Much of our work involves interceding in the negotiation of international agreements, which are often decided outside of the democratic process, from affecting your digital rights. EFF has permanent observer status at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). WIPO was where the restrictions that became the worst parts of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) began. Here, EFF has successfully fought against the introduction of yet more invasive IP regulations to the Internet — such as the Broadcasting Treaty, an agreement that would give broadcasters new copyright-like powers over anything they relayed, online or off.

Recently, EFF has worked to expose the proposed Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement, a secretive multi-national pact that could severely limit digital rights online. We’ve liaised with copyright experts across the globe to create Copyright-Watch.org, a comprehensive public database of international copyright laws. And we’ve fought in Europe and beyond to stop the worldwide spread of regulations that would throw Net users off the Internet on the hearsay of the movie and music companies — so-called “graduated response” or “three strikes” laws.

EFF works alongside other grassroots digital activists worldwide. In Canada, we co-founded Online Rights Canada and assist local groups to fight against the importing of the worst of the United State’s DMCA. In Europe, we’ve cooperated with the UK’s Open Rights Group to protest the EU’s extension of copyright in sound. And in authoritarian regimes without strong civil liberties, we work to help individual bloggers and online journalists fight censorship and privacy invasions by providing technical advice, and publicity, and by supporting Tor, a powerful anonymizing and censorship circumvention program.

Learn more about EFF’s international work: www.eff.org/issues/international

Wherever you live, you can help support global civil liberties by donating to EFF: www.eff.org/support