

EDITED VOLUME, ROUTLEDGE
RESEARCH IN INTERNATIONAL
LAW SERIES



DIGITAL SOLIDARITY AND INTERNATIONAL LAW:

COLLECTIVE ACTION AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE DIGITAL AGE

CALL FOR PAPERS

I. BACKGROUND AND THEME OF THE BOOK

Solidarity, the sense of cooperation and good neighbourliness that underlies shared interests and collective responsibility to promote, protect, and achieve the wellbeing of all members of a group or society, is a universal value reflected in the norms of the international community.

For instance, the preamble and article 1 of the *UN Charter* underscore the fact that the protection of fundamental human rights, the maintenance of international peace and security, and the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples are the common interests of humankind, whose achievement requires cooperation and concerted efforts.

Over the years, solidarity has been expressed by states, communities, and individuals in more personal and tangible ways. This includes the reception and care for refugees from conflict zones by various countries, the organisation of protests by communities and civil society groups to press for the end to wars and human rights violations in other parts of the world, and the mobilisation of funds, volunteers, and other humanitarian assistance by individuals and charity organisations to assist peoples in distress.

With the advent of digital technologies and tools to connect a vast number of actors across time and borders, solidarity is increasingly formed and expressed within, or through, the digital sphere. Digital environments have helped amplify minority and vulnerable group voices through social media hashtags and trends. States and humanitarian organisations have also shown solidarity in responding to crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic through digital solutions. Within the context of speech, expression and advocacy, it is relatively easy to conceptualise digital solidarity where the act of *expressing* solidarity is itself the end goal. However, more imagination and creativity are required if digital solidarity is to be employed as a *tool or practice* to address tangible or real-world problems, such as poverty and hunger.

While presenting many opportunities, the digital sphere also presents considerable risks and threats to the formation of solidarities necessary to overcome global challenges. This includes, for example, disinformation, censorship and surveillance, as well as digital divides which exclude vulnerable groups. Misuse of artificial intelligence and algorithmic biases amplify divides. The ‘terms of conditions’ of the formation of solidarities are increasingly dictated by powerful technology corporations. These challenges and their impacts upon how different actors interact with each other need to form part of the conversation across disciplines, including international law.

The edited volume, “**Digital Solidarity and International Law: Collective Action and Human Rights in the Digital Age,**” will examine the emerging legal norms and practices around *digital solidarity*, the forms of solidarity created and expressed within or through the digital sphere using technologies and tools that connect people across time and borders. The objective is to explore how digital solidarity manifests and operates in various areas of international law. Accordingly, the book will address how digital connections can serve as powerful tools to address crucial matters of international concern in the areas of human rights, trade, environment, health, and peace and security.

The risks and harms which the digital environment and technologies pose to such connections are also expected to be addressed. To this end, contributions are expected to be grounded in doctrinal analysis, empirical research, and critical approaches (including TWAIL, feminist, or interdisciplinary perspectives) that engage with the question of digital solidarity under international law.

2. NATURE OF CONTRIBUTIONS INVITED

The Editors, Dr Yohannes Eneyew Ayalew (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem), Dr Karin Frodé (Monash University) and Dr Christopher Nyinevi (ECOWAS Court of Justice), have secured a book contract with ROUTLEDGE and are pleased to invite contributions from both established and emerging scholars with an interest in the theme of the book. These contributions will complement already secured chapters on digital solidarity which focus on the digital sharing economy, artificial intelligence, international trade, private actors and international criminal justice.

Interested contributors may submit abstracts for consideration on any of the following topics:

- Normative and philosophical discourses on digital solidarity
- Regional approaches to digital solidarity

- International organisations and digital solidarity
- Climate and digital solidarity
- Digital solidarity in the context of pandemics and global health
- Digital solidarity practices: selected national or regional practices (authors are expected to propose a specific case study)
- Topics outside the above list that nevertheless engage creatively with digital solidarity may be considered in consultation with the Editors

3. SUBMISSION GUIDELINES AND DEADLINES

Interested contributors should express their interest by submitting an abstract (of maximum 400 words), along with a 150-word bio or a one-page CV, to **karin.frode@monash.edu** no later than **8 January 2026**. Contributions may be sole authored or co-authored.

Authors of selected abstracts will be notified by **14 January 2026**. First or progress drafts of papers for editorial and peer-review are due by **31 March 2026**, while final papers are expected to be submitted by **31 July 2026**.

Full papers should be in the range of **7,000** to **8,500** words including footnotes, and references should comply with the Oxford Standard for the Citation of Legal Authorities (OSCOLA).

The selected authors will be expected to attend at least one online meeting with the Editors (timing will be flexible to accommodate timetables) to bring authors together and discuss the overarching approach to the book.