

REF N°136-CA/SG/26

**SUBJECT MATTER: REPORT ON DIGITAL MORALITY AND THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN
DIGNITY IN CAMEROON**

I. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the rapid expansion of digital technologies and social media platforms in Cameroon has significantly transformed communication, social interaction, and economic opportunities, particularly among young people. While these platforms offer avenues for expression and empowerment, they have also contributed to emerging human rights concerns related to dignity, privacy, and ethical conduct online. This report highlights the growing trend of self exposure, including the dissemination of explicit content by young individuals, and examines its implications on human dignity and societal values within a human rights framework.

II. CONTEXT AND OBSERVATIONS

In the pursuit of money, fame, influence, and social recognition, a concerning number of young Cameroonians are engaging in harmful online practices. These include:

- The deliberate sharing of nude or sexually explicit images and videos on social media platforms;
- The recording and public dissemination of intimate moments;
- Engagement in online behaviors that undermine personal integrity and self worth.

Such actions are often driven by economic hardship, peer pressure, the desire for online validation, and the influence of digital culture that rewards sensational content.

III. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

Here is your full Section III rewritten clearly, professionally, and cohesively in proper human rights report style:

Writing

III. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

These practices raise serious human rights concerns, particularly regarding the following:

1. Right to Human Dignity

Human dignity is a fundamental principle recognized under international human rights law, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The voluntary or coerced exposure of one's body in degrading or explicit contexts undermines this inherent dignity and erodes respect for the individual as a rights-holder.

2. Right to Privacy

The sharing of intimate content whether consensual or non-consensual constitutes a violation of the right to privacy. Once such content is disseminated online, it becomes extremely difficult, if not impossible, to fully remove, resulting in long-term and potentially irreversible harm.

3. Protection from Exploitation

In some cases, individuals particularly young women may be manipulated, coerced, or economically pressured into producing explicit content. This raises serious concerns of exploitation, abuse, and potential forms of digital and sexual exploitation.

4. Psychological and Social Harm

Victims of online exposure often face stigma, harassment, cyberbullying, and long-term reputational damage. These consequences can significantly affect their mental health, social relationships, and future educational or professional opportunities.

These practices occur in multiple forms. In some instances, individuals are exposed by third parties without their consent, constituting clear violations of their rights. However, an increasing number of cases involve individuals intentionally producing and sharing explicit content themselves, often using their own bodies. This growing trend of self generated obscene material reflects a concerning pattern of voluntary self-exposure, frequently influenced by social pressure, economic hardship, or the pursuit of online visibility. Despite the element of consent, such practices still serious human rights concerns, particularly regarding dignity, privacy, and the risk of further exploitation once the content enters the public domain.

IV. UNDERLYING FACTORS

The report identifies several contributing factors:

1. Economic vulnerability and unemployment among youth;
2. Lack of digital literacy and awareness of online risks;
3. Weak enforcement of laws related to cybercrime and digital exploitation;
4. Social media algorithms that incentivize sensational and explicit content;
5. Limited parental guidance and societal discourse on digital ethics.

V. LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

Cameroon has legal provisions addressing cybercrime, morality, and privacy. However, enforcement remains limited, and there is a need for stronger mechanisms to:

- Regulate harmful online content;
- Protect victims of digital exploitation;
- Promote responsible digital behavior.

Additionally, Cameroon is bound by international human rights instruments that emphasize the protection of dignity, privacy, and the rights of women and children.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

To address these challenges, the following measures are recommended:

1. Awareness and Education

- Implement nationwide digital literacy programs focusing on online ethics, privacy, and responsible use of social media.
- Integrate digital morality education into school curricula.

2. Strengthening Legal Frameworks

- Enhance enforcement of existing cybercrime and data protection laws.
- Develop specific policies addressing online sexual exploitation and abuse.
- Community and Institutional Engagement
- Encourage families, religious institutions, and civil society organizations to promote values of dignity and self-respect.
- Support youth-led initiatives that advocate for responsible digital behavior.

3. Support for Victims

- Establish confidential reporting mechanisms for victims of online exploitation.
- Provide psychosocial and legal support services.

4. Platform Accountability

Advocate for stronger moderation policies by social media companies operating in Cameroon.

VII. CONCLUSION

While digital platforms present valuable opportunities for development and expression, they must not become tools for self degradation or exploitation. Protecting human dignity in the digital age requires a collective effort from individuals, communities, institutions, and the State.

The preservation of dignity is not only a moral obligation but a fundamental human right. Urgent action is required to ensure that the digital space in Cameroon remains safe, respectful, and aligned with the core values of humanity.

Done at Douala, this July 29th, 2026

Signed

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Executive Secretary