

Title: **AM-22-1 to R4: European Digital Democracy:
Sovereignty, Rights and Online Safety**

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Digital technologies and social platforms have a profound impact on people's lives. They shape what individuals see, feel and believe, often in ways that are neither transparent nor easily controlled.

Vulnerable groups are particularly exposed. Behavioural profiling, targeted advertising and opaque recommender systems amplify risks for people who already face discrimination or social and economic insecurity.

Children and young people are especially at risk. European teenagers spend around three hours per day on social media, where addictive feeds increase their exposure to harmful, explicit and deceptive content. Amnesty International found that TikTok's algorithms can push self-harm and depressive content to teenage accounts within minutes.

AI-driven manipulation has direct consequences on people's lives. Women face a disproportionate threat through deepfake abuse. Around 96 percent of deepfakes are pornographic, with more than 90 percent targeting women. This fuels harassment, blackmail and lasting psychological harm.

These practices show that the threat is not only who owns the platforms, but how their systems operate and how they exploit emotions, vulnerabilities and even mental health for profit.