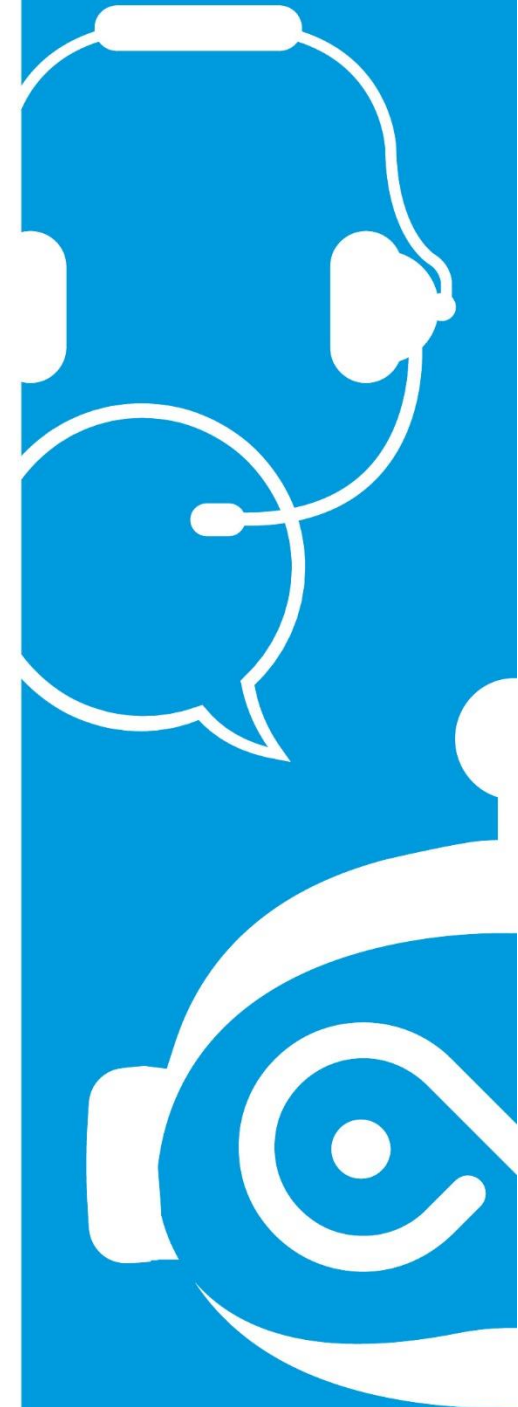




KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: THE RIGHT TO BE FORGOTTEN

What is it?

The right to be forgotten is a **digital phenomenon** that refers to the fundamental right of every citizen to request the removal (as well as the updating and modification) of personal information concerning them. It is therefore established that every individual has the right to be forgotten and to no longer be associated with facts that have been the subject of news in the past, since these facts can negatively reflect on his or her private and professional life.

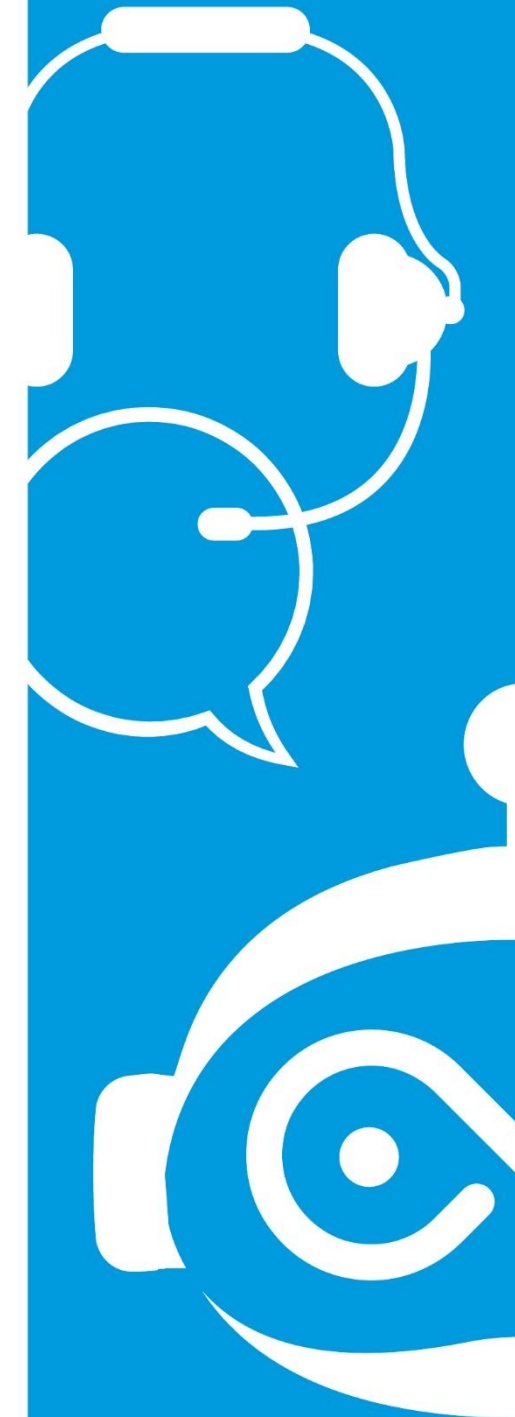


How can it impact the sexual and reproductive health of youth?

The right to be forgotten can help protect young individuals from explicit or compromising content about their SRH or prior private experiences being available online without their consent. This can prevent potential harm, such as cyberbullying, doxing, or unintended exposure. The right to be forgotten can also aid youth in managing the potential consequences of engaging with SRH information online. Some young individuals might turn to the internet for information about SRH, but the fear of being labelled or stigmatised can discourage them. The ability to remove such information may reduce the fear of judgment and encourage seeking accurate information.

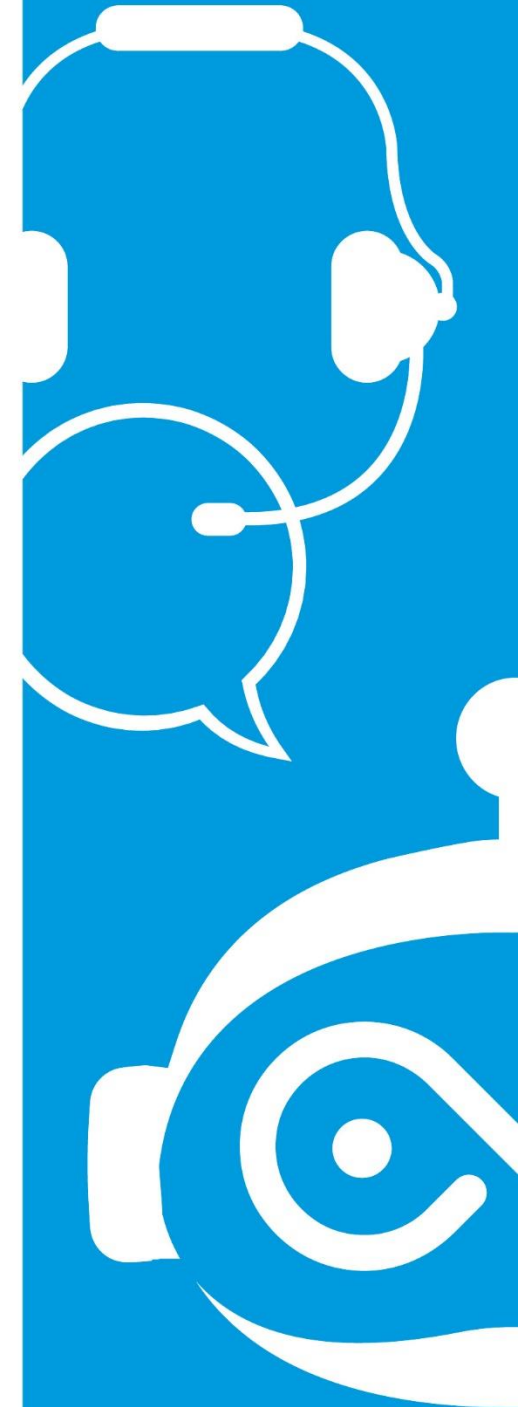
On the other hand, the right to be forgotten may hinder access to relevant and essential SRH information for youth. If individuals have the power to delete online content related to this subject matter, there is a risk that useful, educational, or supportive resources might be removed, limiting access to vital information that promotes healthy sexual development. Removing certain online content may hinder efforts towards accountability, education, and addressing social issues related to sexual behaviour. Lessons can be learned from public discussions and sharing experiences, which could ultimately contribute to a more informed and responsible approach to SRH.

Overall, while the right to be forgotten can help protect the privacy and well-being of youth by preventing the dissemination of sensitive information online, it is crucial to strike a balance between privacy rights and access to useful SRH resources. Implementing measures that ensure accurate, reliable, and non-stigmatised SRH education is available while maintaining individual privacy is important.



What are some ways in which youth can be supported?

- Teach youth about their digital footprint. Explain to them how the internet works, how personal information can be collected and stored, and the potential implications of sharing personal data online.
- Educate youth and help them exercise their right to request the removal or erasure of their personal information from online platforms and search engine results. Take them through the process of submitting removal requests to websites or search engines. Show them how to draft a request and provide them with any necessary resources or contact information. Remember, it is essential to work within the legal frameworks of your jurisdiction and ensure that the advice provided is based on accurate and up-to-date information.
- Help youth understand the importance of protecting their privacy and seeking consent before sharing personal information online.
- Encourage youth to reflect on their online presence and help them identify any content that they might want to remove or address.
- Share tips on how to adjust privacy settings on social media platforms, delete or deactivate accounts, and manage online reputations.



Related digital phenomena/tools:

See sheets:

- Cyberbullying: Doxxing
- Sexually explicit content: OnlyFans
- Gender-based violence: Intimate image abuse

Further reading:

- GPDP. "Diritto All'oblio," 2020. <https://www.garanteprivacy.it/i-miei-diritti/diritti/oblio>.
- Werro, Franz, ed. *The Right to Be Forgotten: A Comparative Study of the Emergent Right's Evolution and Application in Europe, the Americas, and Asia*. Ius Comparatum - Global Studies in Comparative Law, volume 40. Cham, Switzerland: Springer, 2020.
- Wolford, Ben. "Everything You Need to Know about the 'Right to Be Forgotten.'" GDPR.eu, November 5, 2018. <https://gdpr.eu/right-to-be-forgotten/>.

