



**GIFCT**  
Global Internet Forum  
to Counter Terrorism

# GIFCT Tech Solutions Code of Conduct

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VI.0

## Purpose

The purpose of this code of conduct is to outline the expectations for acceptable use of the technology resources that the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT) produces, operates, and maintains. These guidelines are in place to ensure that the technical solutions we deliver are used in a manner that supports the core mission and values of the organization: to prevent terrorists and violent extremists from exploiting digital platforms and to be transparent, inclusive, and respectful of the fundamental and universal human rights that terrorists and violent extremists seek to undermine.

By accessing and using our technical solutions, you and your organization agree to follow this policy. In order to ensure that GIFCT can deliver our mission in accordance with our core values, we reserve the right to suspend or terminate access to our technical solutions for anyone who violates this code.

## Scope

This policy applies to the use of all technical solutions provided by GIFCT and any code, systems, or technical products licensed by GIFCT. All employees, contractors, consultants, and other workers of GIFCT, or those of any member organization of GIFCT, are responsible for exercising good judgment regarding the appropriate use of GIFCT technologies in accordance with this policy, other legal agreements, and local laws and regulations.

## Standards of Use

GIFCT Members have been provided with specific guidance on the expected use of GIFCT systems as well as examples of what would be considered unacceptable use. These details have been removed to ensure operational security.

## Enforcement Responsibilities

GIFCT leadership is responsible for clarifying and enforcing the standards of acceptable use and will take appropriate and fair corrective action in response to any behavior they deem inappropriate following consultation with the affected person/organization.

## Reporting

Instances of unacceptable use may be reported to GIFCT at [tech@gifct.org](mailto:tech@gifct.org). All complaints will be reviewed and investigated promptly and with discretion.

GIFCT are obligated to respect the privacy and security of the reporter of any incident. Once final action has been determined, GIFCT will contact the original reporter to let them know what action (if any) will be taken.<sup>1</sup> In your report, please include your contact information, names of individuals involved, your account of what occurred, and any extra context you believe is relevant.

## Enforcement Guidelines

GIFCT leadership will follow these guidelines in determining the consequences for any action they deem in violation of this code of conduct in consultation with the Operating Board and keeping the board informed at every stage:

### 1. Correction

**Impact:** Accidental violation or unexpected use that has a potential risk of future violation.

**Consequence:** A private, written notice from GIFCT leadership, providing clarity around the nature of the violation and an explanation of why the usage was inappropriate. A written acknowledgment and remediation may be requested.

**Transparency:** Disclosure to GIFCT Operating Board.

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<sup>1</sup> If you are unsure whether the incident is a violation, or whether the space where it happened is covered by this code of conduct, we still encourage you to report it. We would much rather have a few extra reports, even if we decide to take no action, rather than miss a report of an actual violation. We will not look negatively on you if we find the incident is not a violation. And knowing about incidents that are not violations, or happen outside our spaces, can also help us to improve the code of conduct or the processes surrounding it.

## **2. Warning**

Impact: A violation through a single incident or series of actions.

Consequence: A warning from the GIFCT Executive Director, providing clarity around the nature of the violation and an explanation of why the usage was inappropriate. A written acknowledgment and remediation may be requested and consequences for continued behavior will be identified.

Transparency: Disclosure to GIFCT Operating Board and anonymous summarization in GIFCT transparency reports.

## **3. Temporary Ban**

Impact: A serious violation of acceptable use standards, including sustained inappropriate behavior.

Consequence: A temporary ban from access to and use of specific GIFCT technologies for a specified period of time.

Transparency: Disclosure to GIFCT Operating Board and Independent Advisory Committee (IAC) and anonymous summarization in GIFCT transparency reports.

## **4. Permanent Ban and/or Revocation of GIFCT Membership**

Impact: An extreme violation or demonstration of a pattern of violation of acceptable use standards, including sustained inappropriate behavior.

Consequence: A permanent ban from the use of specific GIFCT technologies or potentially a revocation of GIFCT membership, depending on the nature of the violation.

Transparency: Public disclosure, and detailed explanation in GIFCT transparency reports.

## **5. Legal enforcement of agreements and or seeking damages**

Impact: A breach of legal agreements, such as the GIFCT hash-sharing database ISA and NDA, that causes reputational or material harm to GIFCT or other member companies.

Consequence: Seeking legal remedies for damages in accordance with the nature of the violation and the harm incurred by GIFCT or member companies.

Transparency: Public disclosure, and detailed explanation in GIFCT transparency reports.

## Appeals

Any organization deemed to have breached this code of conduct is entitled to submit a written notice of appeal to GIFCT. Your notice of appeal must be submitted by email to [execdirector@gifct.org](mailto:execdirector@gifct.org) and must be received within 10 business days of the date of notice of being notified of the consequences. Your notice of appeal must include a description of the reason for your appeal, highlighting where you consider GIFCT have not followed the guidelines laid out above.

The GIFCT Operating Board shall review the appeal and determine to affirm, modify or reverse the determination of breach of this code of conduct or the associated consequences within 30 business days and may consult with GIFCT Independent Advisory Committee as part of this process. Such determination of the GIFCT Operating Board shall be final.

## Attribution

This code of conduct/ethics is adapted from existing frameworks, such as:

- [ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct](#)
- [Code of Ethics | IEEE Computer Society](#)
- [Technology: Ethics & Independence Considerations | IFAC](#)
- [IT Professional Code of Conduct to Protect Electronic Information](#)
- [The Code of Conduct | Meta](#)
- [Open Source Code of Conduct | Meta](#)
- [Twitter Developer Community code of conduct](#)
- [Code of Conduct | Microsoft Open Source](#)
- [AI at Google: our principles](#)
- [DataKind's Playbook](#)
- [Contributor Covenant](#)
- [IT Acceptable Use Policy - Information Technology](#)