THE MEANING OF PEACE

According to Johan Galtung's definition, peace refers to the absence of violence. Violence can take various forms such as direct violence, structural violence, and cultural violence. While direct violence involves the use of force against another person, structural violence is violence embedded in the system or structure of a society, which leads to socio-economic inequalities. Cultural violence, on the other hand, refers to the legitimization of direct and structural violence.

SDG 16: PEACE, JUSTICE, AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 is explicitly addressing the goal of peace, social justice, and the building of effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels. This goal aims to address structural and cultural violence in society and politics and promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, access to justice for all, and building effective and inclusive institutions at all levels.

TECHNOLOGY & HUMAN RIGHTS

In the digital age, technology is a powerful magnifier that can either promote or hinder human rights. The opportunities of digital technologies include doing things quicker and more efficiently, removing bureaucratic and other obstacles, and improving socio-economic living conditions. Indirect impacts of technology on human rights include the (re-)allocation of political, economic, and social power, which can empower marginalized groups, including women, create horizontal networks of power, and establish new forms of self-government.

However, there are also risks associated with digital technologies that threaten human rights. These include political repression through surveillance and control, social scoring mechanisms, and the emergence of new forms of violent mobilization and threats, such as hate speech and cyber threats. The (re-)allocation of political and social power can also lead to new forms of exploitation, exclusion, and discrimination.
THE ROLE OF ETHICS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Given both the opportunities and risks of technology for human rights, ethics and human rights play a crucial role in promoting and safeguarding peace and human wellbeing in the digital age. We must actively identify opportunities for digital technologies to promote human rights, while also addressing the risks and reigning in the development and use of digital technologies for violent purposes.

Guiding questions include: What should we do to promote and safeguard human rights in the digital age? Based on what 'good reasons' and arguments? It is important to consider peaceful versus violent settings and belief systems, as this can affect the ambiguity and ambivalence of ethical decision-making.

In conclusion, the impact of digital transformation on human rights is a complex issue that requires us to prioritize ethics and human rights in our decision-making. By doing so, we can ensure that digital technologies are used to promote and protect human rights, rather than hinder them.