

Human Rights Impact Assessment of RDRS

Noncommercial Stakeholder Group

What is the RDRS?

- Registrant Data Request Service (RDRS): a centralized system for handling requests for private sensitive registration data.
- Goal: streamline communication between requesters (e.g., law enforcement, IP holders) and registrars.
- Voluntary participation by registrars in the pilot phase.

Why It Matters for Human Rights

- Involves personal data disclosure, impacting privacy and freedom of expression and access.
- Decisions about access to private data can affect security of users, journalists, and activists.

The Good: Standardization and Transparency

- Brings predictability to data request handling.
- Creates transparency around how and when data are requested.
- Helps establish accountability mechanisms across registrars and requestor community.
- Can encourage human-rights–based processes (e.g., documentation, review).

The Risk: When Standardization Becomes Obligation

If RDRS becomes mandatory, registrars might feel pressured to:

- Disclose private data automatically rather than evaluate necessity.
- Skip human-rights review of individual requests.
- Normalize over-disclosure or mission creep in data access.