Intermediary Liability enables websites and other Internet intermediaries, big and small, to host and moderate user content, by ensuring they are not held legally responsible for their users’ posts. Intermediary Liability shields platforms from liability for user content and allows platforms to moderate harmful content and hate speech.

**Why Does Intermediary Liability Matter to LGBTQ+ Individuals?**

Research suggests that LGBTQ+ people adopt technology and the internet at higher rates than other communities. Intermediary Liability enabled LGBTQ+ spaces online so we could tell our stories and our truth so the media could no longer diminish or deny us. The fight for trans rights has particularly thrived online thanks to Intermediary Liability.

Intermediary Liability allows websites such as the Trevor Project and GLAAD to amplify the voices of our community and remove harmful content. Changes to Intermediary Liability would impact many online spaces but LGBTQ+ people would disproportionately be harmed.

**Weakening Intermediary Liability Would Result in Unintended Consequences**

- **Lawsuits Increase**: Websites could be legally responsible for everything users post.
- **Controversial Opinions Silenced**: LGBTQ+ people who can currently express themselves and care for their community could be silenced as websites become less open to hosting content created by users.
- **Innovation Decreases**: Innovation would be diminished as new platforms and infrastructure intermediaries would face new legal obstacles to getting started.
- **Posting Speed Decreases**: Sites may feel pressure to limit real-time posts in order to review them to avoid liability.

Intermediary Liability has allowed LGBTQ+ content to proliferate and thrive. Intermediary Liability acts a shield allowing websites to host LGBTQ+ content that might have been considered controversial or drawn lawsuits without fear of liability. Intermediary Liability is a sword that allows moderators to aggressively remove anti-LGBTQ+ content (e.g., anti-LGBTQ+ organization spam comments) without fear of liability. Intermediary Liability provides safe spaces online for LGBTQ+ communities.

Marginalized groups online face harassment every day and platforms need to do more to protect them. But it shouldn’t take the threat of narrowing Intermediary Liability to force companies to take those measures.