

# Preface



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We live in an age of rapid advancements in digital technology and interconnectivity. This rapid change was accelerated by the Covid-19 pandemic, which pushed more people and activities online. These advances have demonstrated great value and offer opportunities to drive economic growth and higher living standards globally. However, such advances often run ahead of policy, regulation and people's personal understanding, leaving space where existing inequities can be worsened and where new personal and system-level risks may be generated.

The mission of Lloyd's Register Foundation — to engineer a safer world — is fundamentally underpinned by research and evidence, and our World Risk Poll is a powerful tool to understand the nature and scale of different safety challenges across the globe. The Poll gives a voice to people around the world, including in places where there is little existing data on risk.

It provides a resource to understand how people around the world use and view emerging technologies and empowers policymakers to ensure that technological adoption promotes equity across all groups in society.

This report focuses on two main areas: the emergence of artificial intelligence technologies and their increasing role in decision-making processes; and the risks associated with personal information shared online. Our results show there is widespread concern about both issues and that experience of discrimination galvanizes opinion and acts as a significant driver of concern, especially in relation to the misuse of data by governments.

There is a clear and urgent need for policymakers to close regulatory gaps and ensure equitable access to this technology for all.

To support this aim, we make our data freely available so that stakeholders across the world, including governments, regulators, businesses, researchers, NGOs and international bodies, can use them to inform and target policies and interventions that make people safer, working with the communities at risk. Please get in touch if we can help you use these data to create a safer, more connected world.