

# Security Briefs 27 – Digital SIR: Part 1 – Legitimacy and Awareness Online

## Introduction

Over the past several episodes, we've explored Strategic Intercultural Relations—or SIR—which helps global workers build healthy, secure, and honorable relationships in cross-cultural settings. If you haven't already watched or listened to those episodes, it would help if you went over them now so that these next few episodes make more sense.

Because today, we begin a three-part conversation on how those same SIR principles apply in a place we often overlook: the digital world.

Why does this matter?

Because in today's global environment, **your online presence is part of your personal security profile**. And it's visible not just to friends and family, but to immigration officers, government censors, opposition groups, and curious neighbors.

So, let's talk about how to live out **Legitimacy and Awareness** in the digital space.

## Digital Legitimacy

The first SIR principle is Legitimacy — being known for what is legal, honest, and consistent with your stated role.

That same principle applies to your online identity.

Ask yourself:

- Do my social media bios match the reason I give for being in the country?
- Are my posts and photos consistent with my stated role?
- Would someone reviewing my online activity see integrity—or confusion?

Just like we craft a **Short Truthful Statement**, or STS, for in-person conversations, it's wise to develop a **Digital Truthful Statement**, or DTS — a consistent identity across all public platforms that's accurate, non-provocative, and contextually appropriate.

And remember: **inconsistency invites scrutiny**. If your online activity doesn't match your stated purpose, it can raise red flags—and erode trust.

## Digital Awareness

The second SIR principle is Awareness. Online, this has two key layers.

First, **self-awareness**. Be mindful of what your digital tone communicates. A sarcastic tweet or controversial meme might seem harmless to your friends back home—but in your host culture, it could appear arrogant, inflammatory, or even criminal.

Second, **situational awareness**. Pay attention to what's happening digitally around you. Are certain apps being monitored? Is the government targeting religious content online? Are local believers under surveillance?

You don't need to panic—but you do need to be informed. Assume that your digital life is **public, permanent, and searchable** — because in most cases, it is.

## Conclusion

Now you know: your digital identity is part of your overall witness—and part of your security posture.

In our next episode, we'll continue our conversation and explore the third SIR principle: Respect. We'll also walk through some practical digital habits for wise and incarnational online living.

We'll see you then.