

# Policy Matters



Your weekly digest of policy reports that **matter**.  
Edited by [Toby Green](#) and [Gary Price](#) of *Policy Commons*.

## Nature matters

What happens to GDP if we allow nature to degrade? In [a first-of-its-kind report](#), Green Finance Institute teamed up with scientists and financiers to look at the material impact of the degradation of the UK's natural environment. The key finding? It's more costly to society than the 2008 financial crisis or COVID-19.

## COP28: Tracking the promises made in Dubai

The International Energy Agency (IEA) has launched [a new dedicated web resource](#) to track global progress towards the energy commitments made at the COP28 climate summit in Dubai with the aim of limiting global warming to 1.5°C. (Reminder: we have a complete [collection of reports released for COP28](#) and the [official commitments and declarations made](#) there).

## Data, the State, and democracy

[Keywords of the Datafied State](#) is a collection of essays on concepts that are central to understanding the relationship between government and technology and how that relationship differs across geographies. The project grew from a desire to explore how algorithms become part of and influence state functions, how trust and doubt in public sector data infrastructures are shaped, and what the implications are for democratic practice.

## Media freedom declining in Europe

"Media freedom is clearly in steady decline across the EU," said Eva Simon, the senior advocacy officer at Liberties, on the release of their [annual EU media freedom report](#). The report discusses relevant legislative and regulatory action at EU and national level during 2023 and maps the main trends and developments in media freedom. The report includes a special chapter dedicated to the new European Media Freedom Act and what it means.

## Generative AI and the economy

Andrew McAfee, a cofounder of MIT's Initiative on the Digital Economy, is the inaugural Technology & Society Visiting Fellow for Google. His new report explores the potential economic impacts of generative AI. [The report](#) draws on McAfee's original research on AI and the economy, with input from experts across Google, to focus on how the recent surge in generative AI may impact productivity, labor markets, and the skills workers need to succeed in an AI-powered economy.

## Gaza: Understanding campus protests

[A non-partisan analysis](#) of antisemitism and Islamophobia among college students and American adults, based on national surveys from 12/14/23 to 1/16/24, has recently been published by the Chicago Project on Security and Threats.

## Using technology to harass in the workplace

A [first-of-its-kind study](#) in Australia found that one in seven adults engaged in workplace technology-facilitated sexual harassment.

## Museum governance and funding

[A new report from American Alliance of Museums](#) highlights strides museum boards have taken with diversity and inclusion in recent years. It also shows that they continue to face financial strain in the aftermath of the pandemic, with half of museums indicating at least one sign of financial distress.

## What's in our new *Public Health and Social Care* module?

We're sharing examples of what you'll find in our new *Public Health and Social Care* module, going live this week.

## Death on the job

AFL-CIO, America's largest union federation, has just released [their annual report on safety and health at work](#). It includes a state-by-state breakdown of a wide range of safety and health data. The most dangerous state to work in? Wyoming—probably because agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting are more dangerous than mining.

**Read more about our new *Public Health and Social Care* module [here](#).**

## Announcing *Mentions*—a new tool for measuring impact

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