

1. GLOBAL SIGNALS — LABOR, GOVERNANCE & SOCIETY

Eight US States Sue OpenAI, Alleging ChatGPT Puts Children at Risk

On October 14, the attorneys general of Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, West Virginia, Arkansas, Arizona, Idaho and Montana filed separate consumer-protection lawsuits against OpenAI. They allege that ChatGPT put children at risk and misled families about its safety: that it encouraged self-harm, reinforced delusions, gave dangerous medical advice and helped users plan violence.

The states are asking the courts to order changes to how ChatGPT works, along with damages and civil penalties. OpenAI says it has built “industry-leading age-specific protections” into its product and plans further safeguards, including parental controls and break reminders. None of the allegations has been tested in court. The suits come days after Character.AI, the AI companion app facing similar claims, filed for bankruptcy.

> **Why it matters:** Until now, protecting children from chatbots has mostly been left to companies' own policies. If these suits succeed, courts — not product teams — could start setting the minimum safety standards for AI used by young people, and those standards tend to travel: products changed for American children usually change for children everywhere.

Sources: TechRepublic | Montana Department of Justice

ALSO THIS WEEK

- AI has not dented US employers' faith in degrees: in a Gallup–Lumina survey of 2,500 hiring managers, 80% prefer candidates with a college degree even when a job does not require one, and 48% expect AI to make degrees more important over the next five years. [source]

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2. INFRASTRUCTURE & COMPUTE

At Build 2026, Nigeria Proposes Pooling AI Computing With Rwanda, Senegal and Kenya

At the Build 2026 conference in Abuja on October 21, Nigeria's government made a candid admission and an unusual proposal. Speaking for Communications Minister Bosun Tijani, Olubunmi Ajala, director of the National Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, named electricity, internet connectivity, cloud infrastructure and access to advanced chips as the main obstacles to Nigeria's AI ambitions. His answer: connect Nigeria's GPUs with computing resources in Rwanda, Senegal and Kenya so that African researchers can combine capacity for larger tasks such as training language models. “Nigerian capacity might not be big enough, but we could aggregate this for all of us.”

The government also proposed a data park near Lagos's Egbin power station, which it says has about 60% unused capacity, and another with Togo. Around 20 million Nigerians remain unconnected.

> **Why it matters:** No single African country can afford frontier-scale computing on its own. Pooling capacity across borders could give researchers and startups in Lagos, Kigali, Dakar and Nairobi access to resources none of their governments could buy alone — if the proposal moves from conference stage to signed agreements.

Sources: ThisDay | BusinessDay

ALSO THIS WEEK

- A study commissioned by Luminate, presented at Build 2026, estimates that Nigeria's reliance on foreign cloud services costs the country about $850 million a year. [source]

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3. EDUCATION & HUMAN CAPACITY

Meta and South Africa's Government Open a Free AI Academy for Developers and Students

Meta and South Africa's Department of Communications and Digital Technologies have launched AI Academy South Africa, a free programme with two tracks. The first is an eight-week, instructor-led virtual masterclass for students, developers and professionals, covering AI foundations, generative AI and prompt engineering, and building applications with Meta's AI models. Enrollment is open until January 2027.

The second is a pitch competition for early-stage South African startups building with Meta's AI tools: ten shortlisted teams pitch in Johannesburg on October 30, and two winners each receive about R82,000 in equity-free funding and a trip to Meta's AI Summit in Istanbul. The aim, said the department's Craig Meyer, is to help South Africans become creators rather than consumers of AI.

> **Why it matters:** For a student or junior developer in South Africa, a free, structured course with a path to funding lowers the cost of getting started in AI. The trade-off is that it trains people on one company's tools; the skills transfer, but the ecosystem being built is Meta's.

Sources: Bizcommunity | The Citizen | Enrollment

ALSO THIS WEEK

- Ghana's draft primary-school curriculum would add AI literacy, coding and digital citizenship from kindergarten to Primary Six, with lessons designed to work even without devices or internet; the Education Ministry says it is still under review. [source]
- India's Gujarat state has drafted an “AI for Every Student” mission to train about 500,000 college students in English and Gujarati, with 5,000 faculty trainers and Rs 20 crore budgeted — though India's rules on children's data protection will only apply from May 2027. [source]

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4. CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

India's Courts Are Writing the Rules on AI Deepfakes of Actors

On October 8, the Delhi High Court granted actors Kangana Ranaut and Vijay Deverakonda protection of their personality rights against AI-generated deepfakes, morphed images, cloned voices and fake endorsements. In Ranaut's case, Meta must take down the identified content within 72 hours; in Deverakonda's, Meta, Google and X must remove 94 listed links, online

marketplaces must pull merchandise within 72 hours, and the IT and telecom ministries must order internet providers to block infringing sites. Actor Arjun Kapoor has won similar protection.

The court is also drawing limits. In other pending cases, it has said personality rights cannot be used to block reporting on alleged wrongdoing, and it is working out who counts as a celebrity entitled to protection. For now, Indian actors are getting through the courts the kind of protection that, in the United States, is negotiated through union contracts or left to state law.

> **Why it matters:** For an actor whose face and voice are their livelihood, a fast takedown order is the difference between a contained deepfake and one that circulates for months. India's courts are building that protection case by case — a model other countries without specific AI likeness laws may follow.

Sources: MediaNama | ANI | LiveLaw

ALSO THIS WEEK

- In the United States, music publishers and Anthropic argued on October 21 over whether training AI on song lyrics is fair use, in the Concord v. Anthropic case; the judge has not yet ruled. [source]

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5. REGIONAL LENS — AFRICA & THE GLOBAL SOUTH

Nvidia's Sovereign-AI Billions Keep Skipping Latin America

Latin America produces about 6.6% of world economic output but attracts only around 1.1% of global AI investment, according to the Latin American Artificial Intelligence Index (ILIA) published by ECLAC and Chile's CENIA. It hosts 4.8% of the world's data-center infrastructure, against 38.5% in the United States.

The gap shows in where Nvidia's sovereign-AI money goes. On October 13, the company announced $2 billion in new AI investments in Europe, on top of $8 billion over the previous year, and it has committed $250 million of compute to UK universities for AI safety research. No Latin American government has received a comparable offer. The region's own efforts are smaller: Brazil's federal technology agency SERPRO is building a national sovereign AI platform on Nvidia hardware, and El Salvador has launched an open synthetic dataset.

> **Why it matters:** Where AI computing is built decides where AI jobs, research and startups can grow. For students and founders in São Paulo, Bogotá or Mexico City, a region left out of the buildout means building on rented capacity abroad — and paying for it in dollars.

Sources: Latin Times | ILIA 2025 (ECLAC–CENIA)

ALSO THIS WEEK

- UNDP's Rome Centre restated this week that only about 5% of Africa's AI talent has access to the computing power needed for complex work — a figure from a 2024 analysis of Zindi's data-science network — and that cloud services often cannot be paid for in local currency. [source]

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6. OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS

A Free Carnegie Mellon AI Certificate for Africans — Apply by November 15

Carnegie Mellon University Africa, based in Kigali, is accepting applications until November 15 for its free Artificial Intelligence Certificate for Africa, with the next cohort starting on January 17, 2027. The programme consists of six online courses — Python for AI, the mathematical foundations of machine learning, machine-learning essentials, applied generative AI, and two courses on AI in its social and African context — totalling about 270 hours.

It is aimed at early-career learners looking for internships or entry-level roles and at mid-career technical professionals. Applicants need introductory linear algebra, probability and statistics, and programming, plus a computer, a reliable connection and at least five hours a week. Participants earn a badge for each course and a certificate for completing all six.

> **Why it matters:** A rigorous, university-backed AI programme at no cost is rare. For a graduate in Kampala or Abidjan with the basics in maths and programming, it is a credible route into AI work without leaving home or paying tuition.

Sources: Opportunities for Africans | CMU-Africa

ALSO THIS WEEK

- Nominations for ITU's EQUALS in Tech Awards 2027, which recognize work on gender equality in technology, close on November 7 at 23:59 CET. [source]

ONE SIGNAL WE ARE WATCHING

Protection and access. This week, courts and governments moved on two fronts at once. In the United States and India, they acted to protect people — children who use chatbots, and artists whose faces and voices are copied without consent. In Abuja, Johannesburg and Kigali, the effort went into widening access: shared computing, free training, open doors into the AI economy. The defining question is not simply how societies regulate AI, but whether they can expand access while protecting human dignity. Effective AI governance must advance both: safeguards without access risk deepening inequality, while access without safeguards risks undermining trust. At Tomorrow Foundation, we believe the two must be built together — and that the communities with the least infrastructure today deserve a full voice in shaping both.

AI for All Global Brief is a publication of Tomorrow Foundation.