Consistent with article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the establishment, maintenance and fostering of an independent, pluralistic and free press is essential to the development and maintenance of democracy in a nation, and for economic development.

By an independent press, we mean a press independent from governmental, political or economic control or from control of materials and infrastructure essential for the production and dissemination of newspapers, magazines and periodicals.

By a pluralistic press, we mean the end of monopolies of any kind and the existence of the greatest possible number of newspapers, magazines and periodicals reflecting the widest possible range of opinion within the community.

The long walk from resolutions to reality

Penney Talsbøll remarks that to realize the rights to freedom of expression and access to information belong to all people, not only to journalists. And that it takes patience to outrun them.

2014 is a significant year for the African continent. It marks the 50th anniversary of the Windhoek Declaration and of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights and the 25th anniversary of the Windhoek Declaration. The African Union (AU) has designated 2014 as the Year of Human Rights with particular emphasis on the rights of women. As we celebrate these milestones, it is important to reflect on our achievements as well as the remaining challenges to the realization of human rights in general and the rights to freedom of expression and access to information in particular. Both the African Charter and the Windhoek Declaration provide us with a menu of standards for the effective protection of freedom of expression and as information as well as the press freedom. The Charter guarantees every individual in the region the right to receive and disseminate his or her opinion without interference. The main thrust of the Declaration is to promote independent and pluralistic media. It frames freedom of expression and information as fundamental contributions to the fulfillment of human aspirations and, more importantly, recognises that there cannot be a successful participatory democracy without a fully independent press.

The normative principles enshrined in the Charter and the Declaration were translated into a number of instruments. In 1993, at a workshop on the African Charter and the Declaration were reconfirmed and given more concrete shape in a number of African regional instruments. In 2006, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression and access to information in Africa was established to monitor its implementation. The mandate of the Special Rapporteur was expanded a few years later to include access to information.

The Declaration of Principles has over the years assumed a preeminent legal effect. It is used extensively on the African continent and elsewhere. The Declaration of Principles was adopted by the 21st session of the AU and brought into effect in 1998, after being submitted to the African states for ratification. It has not only been the first mention of the principle that the right to information is a right to information. It provides that the right to information is a right that is absolute. It is used to criminal law with all the attendant features: the possibility of arrest, imprisonment and even the death penalty. Such crimes are used to punish people for expressing their views and this, in turn, stunts the growth of the human rights movement.

In order to encourage more countries to adopt access to information laws, the Special Rapporteur has undertaken advocacy visits to Nigeria, Ghana, Cote d’Ivoire, Somalia, the South African Republic, Morocco, Angola, Libya, Mozambique, Niger, Algeria, Benin, Kenya, South Africa, Ethiopia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Zimbabwe and Namibia. This concretises the engagement by the AU with member states, the requirements of national and regional and international standards on access to information, the colonial-era security laws that hold back development and freedom. These provisions ought to be repealed and if a story is of national importance, no one should be held to criminal responsibility. The Special Rapporteur has focused on sensitising line ministries, government officials, media practitioners and civil society actors on the importance of access to information in the promotion of good governance.

For example, if countries have adopted access to information laws, they include Angola, Botswana, Cote d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Liberia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Namibia, Rwanda, Kenya, South Africa, Ethiopia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Zimbabwe. A number of states, however, have not fulfilled their obligations.

In 2013, the Special Rapporteur was expanded to include access to information and access to justice. In 2014, the Special Rapporteur has undertaken an advocacy mission to the Republic of South Africa. The Special Rapporteur has found that there is a need for access to information policies to foster democratic participation and protect human rights in a number of African countries.

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On the other hand, criminal defamation is extremely controversial. The court has been able to charge persons with defamation under criminal law while at the same time requiring a balancing between the right to freedom of expression, in particular, and the protection of the public interest.

Criminal defamation is considered to be a dual wrong in that the plaintiff sues the wrongdoer for the defamation and the public interest is also served by the conviction of the accused.

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Although the court did not strike down criminal defamation in its entirety, it did hold that a sentence of imprisonment for criminal defamation related only to the African Charter and Human Rights Principles, which provides for the protection of freedom of expression, including freedom of the media, and the right to privacy.

The issue is to get the balance right – to protect legitimate reputational concerns while ensuring that the media can get on with their job...
In all countries, state-owned media are financially supported through advertising revenue and subsidies. Although it’s been over ten years since this study, evidence from more recent years shows that governments continue to play a significant role in supporting state-owned media. Governments, for example, provide media outlets with financial assistance, often in the form of advertising revenue. This reliance on government support can limit the diversity of viewpoints and content, as media outlets may be pressured to avoid coverage that conflicts with government policies or interests.

The growth of digital advertising has not only reinforced the dominance of state-owned media but has also created new challenges for the democratic health of media systems. Digital advertising has become a major source of revenue for media outlets, both state-owned and private. However, this revenue model can also undermine the independence of media organizations, as they may be required to produce content that aligns with the interests of advertisers.

In countries where state-owned media continue to dominate, the diversity of media voices is often limited. This can have serious implications for the democratic health of media systems, as it reduces the range of perspectives and opinions available to the public. It can also lead to a lack of accountability, as media outlets may be less likely to hold governments to account if they are financially dependent on them.

There are efforts to promote media diversity and independence, such as the Windhoek Declaration, which was adopted in 1993. The declaration calls for the promotion of plural media systems and the protection of media freedom. However, the implementation of these principles varies across different countries.

The African media landscape, both in terms of numbers and market structure, is dominated by state-owned media. This is particularly true in countries with large populations, such as Nigeria and South Africa. The dominance of state-owned media is often due to a lack of alternative funding mechanisms, such as advertising revenue or audience support.

In conclusion, while the African media landscape shows signs of pluralism and diversity, there is still a long way to go to achieve a truly independent and pluralistic media system. Governments and civil society must continue to work together to promote media freedom and ensure that media outlets are able to operate independently and provide a range of perspectives and opinions to the public.
The media are running helter skelter

The audience supply pipe has broken, the digital audience is promiscuous and, for the first time, the audience is also the publisher. The newspapers that the audience used to love are no longer essential because it is easy to gather news from a variety of sources in a few clicks. So, are newspapers about to go the way of the dinosaurs?

There are four critical causes of this change, and these events are, in fact, happening every day. Each one of these is sufficiently frightening to make us just about give up hope that newspapers can be saved. Yet, if we’re to hang on, we need to figure out how to transform our businesses to make them immune to these changes.

The key question is whether those of us with a love for print will simply lie down and die...
Open data and new technologies, Keys to the media’s future

Stephen Ambrose Page looks into a future of mobile phones, data and drone journalism where news is delivered and accessed in new and innovative ways. “Mobile phones and light, inexpensive drones offer great opportunities for news gathering and delivery with the potential of changing the face of journalism.”

Digital technologies have given journalists opportunities to innovate, ethical, and technical, and to work in collaborative ways across borders and platforms to create new opportunities for transparency and accountability. The use of new media technologies in journalism has been enabled by the rise of smartphone use and the growth of social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn, which have become key platforms for news dissemination and engagement. These technologies have enabled journalists to publish content in real-time, allowing for immediate and widespread sharing of news stories. Additionally, platforms like Diario de Noticias and SaharaReporters have been able to achieve this, in interaction with other factors, through the use of innovative digital tools.

The internet is now a primary source of news and information for many people, and it has transformed the way in which news is generated, disseminated, and consumed. The internet has provided a platform for citizens to engage in the production and dissemination of news and information, allowing for greater access to information and participation in the public discourse. This has led to a greater focus on the importance of digital literacy and the need for individuals to be able to critically evaluate the information they consume.

One aspect of digital technology that is less talked about is the hazard of information overload. Our societies have become message-saturated, and the internet is one of the main conduits through which this information is consumed. The internet is also increasingly being influenced by private interests, such as advertising and data mining, which can manipulate the visibility and manipulation of content. Social media platforms are also contributing to the problem of information overload, as the constant stream of updates and notifications can be overwhelming and time-consuming.

The internet has become a key tool for journalists, allowing them to access information from around the world and to connect with sources and experts. However, the use of the internet for news gathering and dissemination also presents challenges, such as the spread of misinformation and the difficulty of verifying the accuracy of information. Journalists need to be equipped with the skills to critically evaluate the information they are presented with and to fact-check and verify the accuracy of stories.

The power bearers are now subject to public consultation and public contestation, at the click of a button!

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Today’s digital age has led to a shift in the balance of power, with the public having greater access to information and the ability to hold those in power accountable. Digital tools like SaharaHealth and the MDCN’s master register have allowed individuals to verify the credentials of their doctors and make informed decisions about their health care. The internet has also enabled the creation of an online space where individuals can meet to discuss and identify social problems and to get involved in discussions and online political action.

However, despite the potential for the internet to foster greater transparency and accountability, there are also concerns about the misuse of these technologies. The internet has been used to spread misinformation, propaganda, and disinformation, which can be detrimental to democratic processes and the rule of law. Additionally, the internet has been used to facilitate political contestation, at the click of a button!

In the digital age, the power bearers are now subject to public consultation and public contestation, at the click of a button!

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Social media platforms are now subject to public consultation and public contestation, at the click of a button!

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The internet has become a powerful tool for citizen engagement and social mobilization, allowing individuals to connect and advocate for change. Social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter have been used to organize protests, petitions, and campaigns, and to raise awareness of important issues. However, the use of social media also presents challenges, such as the spread of misinformation and the difficulty of verifying the accuracy of information.

Internet: two-faced monster or revolutionary breakthrough?

While we celebrate the emancipatory potential of digital technologies, we should also realize their contradictory nature.

As a little boy, I used to watch my grandmother singing and dancing in the kitchen. She would sing such beautiful songs, and I would join in, feeling the rhythm of the music. It was a joyous experience, and I would always look forward to those moments.

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The media we want

Our reporters asked young people around Africa about what kind of media they would like to see in their country. Here are summaries of what they said. You can see video versions of their statements at www.WHK25.misa.org

LIBERIA

Abdullah Sesay (19), Monrovia, Liberia, Child Rights Advocate; Student, Light International School

I would like our media to be more proactive, to be independent in their reporting and to get to the people and get more information, especially information that is genuine, on national development or national security.

NIGERIA


I expect the media to be very objective. They can meet this expectation if they are independent and without bias. They can also lend to meeting this objective if they choose to dance on the toes of government.

MALAWI

Prince Rongonzi Chidzowwe (24), Bhatere, Malawi, Graduate, University of Malawi

I would like to see a media that is free and objective, not being influenced by any social groupings or perceptions of women or women media, just projecting what represents society in Malawi as a whole.

UGANDA

Grace Timanywa (22), Mukono, Uganda, Student, Uganda Christian University

I expect the Ugandan media to deliver accurate news and the latest information. I also expect the Ugandan media to interview our leaders so that we can get to know their views on what is happening in the country. I would like to see some of the newspapers deliver more accurate news. Some have facts, but they add in more spin to the news. It’s better to just keep it simple.

KENYA

Shaloam Strooper (18), Nairobi, Kenya, Student, University of Nairobi

I expect from the media in Kenya that at any given time, at any given place, whenever something happens I should be able to get that information. I should be able to know what is happening in my country. Sometimes you may not be on Twitter or Facebook and you see pictures of things happening that the news hasn’t yet reported. The media should be faster than social networks.

MALAWI

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I would like to see a media that is free and objective, not being influenced by any social groupings or perceptions of women or women media, just projecting what represents society in Malawi as a whole.

SAUDI ARABIA

I would like the media to highlight our expectations, especially concerning the women. Women are not well reported. I would like to see more balance: equal reporting on issues around gays and lesbians, making the public aware of their rights and responsibilities. (Do I think that the media is meeting my expectation? No, I don’t think so because politically it’s always about the ruling party. The smaller parties are not as mentioned. Issues of gays and lesbians are not well reported. I would like to see more balance in equal reporting about all genders and equal reporting on political parties.

SOUTH AFRICA

Thandeka Gamede (22), Soweto, Newlands, Johannesburg, South-Africa, Coordinator & Assistant Director at a casting agency

My expectation of media is a non-political treatment, reporting without fear or favor, more reporting on issues around guns and lawlessness, making the public aware of their rights and responsibilities. (Do I think that the media is meeting my expectations? No, I don’t think so because politically it’s always about the ruling party. The smaller parties are not as mentioned. Issues of guns and lawlessness are not well reported. I would like to see more balance in equal reporting about all genders and equal reporting on political parties.

ZIMBABWE

I would like the Zimbabwean media to always tell the current news, be on time and ensure that information is delivered to the public accurately. There are certain stories, certain news clips that may not be suitable for the younger audience so I would like to see these sorts of stories especially for the younger viewers so that they may not be affected, and to discuss these particular stories only to the desired audience. It is the mature, adult type of people.

Anthony Kavana (26), Kampala, Uganda, Sound Engineer

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I would expect the Zimbabwean media to be transparent in their coverage, to be explicit and not to be manipulated. They are failing to meet our expectations because you find that journalists when they cover stories, at times they are manipulated by business men or politicians or they cover it with a slant or cover it for money. I would like to see the Zimbabwean media change to the scene so that when they do their journalism they should be explicit and look at issues that are affecting society. They should not serve any individual’s interests. They should cover every aspect of it and cover it up to the end.

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National security and free expression: Lessons from South Africa

Jane Duncan urges journalist and civism society across Africa to research and mount campaigns against increasing restrictions on free speech – in the name of “national security”.

National security is a term many government policies and discourse from around the world. It means the protection of the state and its institutions from internal and external threats. It is often associated with maintaining order and stability, and it can be used to justify limiting certain freedoms and rights.

The 1995 White Paper on Intelligence had warned against centralisation because it made it easier for government officials to keep secrets from the public. The White Paper warned that centralisation would lead to a concentration of power and a lack of accountability. It also noted that centralisation would make it easier for intelligence agencies to operate outside the law and that it would undermine the democratic process.

The African National Congress, which was elected to power in 1994, promised to build a new society based on justice and equality. However, the ANC government has been accused of using the law to keep the police and the military in control of the country. The government has also been accused of using the law to silence critics and opposition politicians.

There is more and more evidence of security forces being put to anti-democratic uses. In the past two decades, the increasingly rapid advance of the information technologies has been one of the key drivers of the development of the global digital economy. This has been accompanied by a proliferation of new threats to national security, including cyber attacks, terrorism, and human rights abuses.

The New Statesman has written that “National security and free expression: Lessons from South Africa” is a book that provides a comprehensive overview of the issues surrounding national security and freedom of expression. The book is a must-read for anyone interested in these issues.

The book covers a wide range of topics, including the history of national security and freedom of expression in South Africa, the role of the government in regulating the media, and the impact of the internet on freedom of expression.

The book also examines the relationship between national security and democracy. It argues that national security cannot be used to justify the suppression of free speech, and that governments must ensure that their actions are taken in the public interest.

The book ends with a call foraction, urging governments to take steps to protect free speech and to ensure that national security laws are not used to suppress the activities of journalists and other media professionals.

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Building trust in the media

The general public judge journalists collectively and the unprofessional behaviour of one may affect the public’s opinion of all journalists. They should be in a position to take the time to consider the impact and potential harm of publication. Wherever errors occur, corrections should be published promptly and an apology offered if appropriate. The code is intended through a complaints procedure that enables the general public to voice concerns about newsgathering or editorial behaviour in the pursuit of the journalist. These complaints are then dealt with by the media regulator and independent media Ombudsman, approved by the EFN. Of the 27 complaints reported to the Media Ombudsman on average every year, most relate to inaccurate reporting, which is the result of confusion and the poor skills of journalists. There are also complaints of unfairness and bias in reporting where a journalist has failed to solicit the views of the subject about particular allegations. Complainants then assume that the journalist in question is unethically motivated. Journalists and the media are important parts of a democratic system, because they check and report on abuses of power and provide citizens with reliable information to make informed decisions and choices. The continuous building of trust in the media by providing a link between the public and journalists through the EFN is an important contribution to strengthening not just the general public’s trust in the media, but the country’s democratic process. 

Clement Mwai is a practicing lawyer and the Media Ombudsman of Tanzania.

The mediator has powers to be the complainant, jury, judge and hangman.

Though we have a lot of ground to cover since the mid-1990s, when the media landscape in the country was liberalised, there is still a long way to go. And this applies to both the legal and regulatory framework and the professional and ethical standards in the country. The EFN Code of Ethics, adopted in 2009, has been the general principles of ethical behaviour expected of journalists in a constitutional democracy (see box). It is also the addressers of the diverse press and means journalists report on the 19th century and have continued to focus on them in various other areas.

3.1 Right of Reply

The right of reply is important because it provides citizens with a means to communicate their views and have their concerns addressed. The right of reply is a fundamental right and should be guaranteed to all citizens. The right of reply is an important component of free speech and should be protected. The right of reply is a fundamental right and should be protected. The right of reply is a fundamental right and should be protected. The right of reply is a fundamental right and should be protected. The right of reply is a fundamental right and should be protected.
The principles of the Windhoek Declaration on Promoting an Independent and Pluralistic Press are still relevant 25 years after its adoption as a political authority in Africa continues to undermine media freedoms in its efforts to control the press. 

Edetaen Ojo, Executive Director of Media Rights Agenda, an NGO that monitors and defends freedom of information and other human rights online, particularly the right to freedom of expression.

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The Windhoek Declaration has proven that journalists can come together in solidarity to react against restrictive laws and regulations. It has also become a powerful lobbying tool. It kick-started the liberalisation of media in Africa.
A year in the life of journalists in West Africa

AFRICA FREE PRESS

A report by the Media Foundation for West Africa

Across West Africa, critical journalists have had to flee their homes after being targeted for their work. They have been arrested, beaten, interrogated, shut down by the government, and interrogated. In 2013, there have been a number of cases of journalists being arrested and detained for questioning by government authorities. Since the beginning of 2013, 19 journalists from different countries in the region have been arrested and detained for questioning by their respective authorities.

In February, 20 journalists from different countries in the region were arrested and detained for questioning by their respective authorities. In December, 20 journalists from different countries in the region were arrested and detained for questioning by their respective authorities.

In addition, journalists have been beaten, threatened, and wrongfully detained. The Media Foundation for West Africa has documented 21 cases of journalists being arrested and detained in the past year.

The media in West Africa is facing a number of challenges, including a lack of press freedom, government propaganda, and the Mediterranean region's pressing need for a radical change in the media landscape.

The key to stopping attacks on journalists is to end impunity for the perpetrators of these crimes. They are also attacks on the right of citizens to full and accurate information on public affairs. In the absence of such information, every society and every member of society that journalists are able to do their job.
National broadcasters in Africa: The politics of non-reform

The transformation of state broadcasters into public broadcasters as envisaged by the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights included such principles as the Declaration of Principles of Press Freedom in 1993. Despite this, the issue of media freedom in Africa continues to be a contentious one, with many states and governments maintaining tight control over the media.

In most African countries, state broadcasters have a monopoly on the airwaves and are considered to be organs of the state. This has led to a situation where the media is used as a tool for propaganda and control, rather than as a platform for public debate and participation.

In some countries, such as Kenya, tentative steps taken by a newly appointed government have been met with opposition. In others, where state broadcasters have been officially created to provide a voice for the public, they have failed to do so due to the political influence of the ruling party.

Many politicians regard independent media as a source of both good news and坏 news. They use it to their advantage when it suits them, but try to control or suppress it when it does not.

The rise and fall of public broadcasting in South Africa

The SABC was one of the last remaining state broadcasters in South Africa, operating under the provision of the Broadcasting Services Act of 1999. The SABC’s mandate was to provide public service broadcasting in South Africa, with the aim of serving the interests of all South Africans.

However, in the late 1990s, under the influence of the African National Congress (ANC), the SABC began to be used as a tool of the party’s propaganda. The ANC’s first democratic elections in 1994 saw the rise of the SABC as a powerful instrument in the hands of the new government.

In 2004, the SABC was declared a national asset, and its management was transferred to a board of directors appointed by the Minister of Communications. This move was seen as a step towards greater independence for the SABC.

In 2010, the SABC was again under scrutiny, with allegations of corruption and mismanagement. The broadcaster was fined for failing to meet its obligations to the public.

In 2014, the SABC was once again under fire, this time for its coverage of the FIFA World Cup. The broadcaster was criticized for its handling of the event, with some journalists accusing it of being biased in favor of the home team.

In 2017, the SABC was again in the news, this time for its coverage of the Zuma government. The broadcaster was criticized for its reluctance to cover the corruption scandal surrounding the president.

In 2018, the SABC was once again hit by scandal, this time for its coverage of the state capture trial. The broadcaster was criticized for its handling of the story, with some journalists accusing it of being biased in favor of the ANC.

In 2019, the SABC was once again under scrutiny, this time for its coverage of the Covid-19 pandemic. The broadcaster was criticized for its handling of the story, with some journalists accusing it of being biased in favor of the government.

In 2020, the SABC was once again hit by scandal, this time for its handling of the 2020 Budget. The broadcaster was criticized for its handling of the story, with some journalists accusing it of being biased in favor of the ANC.

In 2021, the SABC was once again under scrutiny, this time for its coverage of the 2021 Local Government Elections. The broadcaster was criticized for its handling of the story, with some journalists accusing it of being biased in favor of the ANC.

In 2022, the SABC was once again hit by scandal, this time for its coverage of the 2022 World Cup. The broadcaster was criticized for its handling of the story, with some journalists accusing it of being biased in favor of the home team.

In 2023, the SABC was once again under scrutiny, this time for its coverage of the 2023 National Budget. The broadcaster was criticized for its handling of the story, with some journalists accusing it of being biased in favor of the ANC.

In 2024, the SABC was once again hit by scandal, this time for its coverage of the 2024 Local Government Elections. The broadcaster was criticized for its handling of the story, with some journalists accusing it of being biased in favor of the ANC.

In 2025, the SABC was once again under scrutiny, this time for its coverage of the 2025 World Cup. The broadcaster was criticized for its handling of the story, with some journalists accusing it of being biased in favor of the home team.

In 2026, the SABC was once again hit by scandal, this time for its coverage of the 2026 National Budget. The broadcaster was criticized for its handling of the story, with some journalists accusing it of being biased in favor of the ANC.

In 2027, the SABC was once again under scrutiny, this time for its coverage of the 2027 Local Government Elections. The broadcaster was criticized for its handling of the story, with some journalists accusing it of being biased in favor of the ANC.

In 2028, the SABC was once again hit by scandal, this time for its coverage of the 2028 World Cup. The broadcaster was criticized for its handling of the story, with some journalists accusing it of being biased in favor of the home team.

In 2029, the SABC was once again under scrutiny, this time for its coverage of the 2029 National Budget. The broadcaster was criticized for its handling of the story, with some journalists accusing it of being biased in favor of the ANC.

In 2030, the SABC was once again hit by scandal, this time for its coverage of the 2030 Local Government Elections. The broadcaster was criticized for its handling of the story, with some journalists accusing it of being biased in favor of the ANC.

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In 2032, the SABC was once again hit by scandal, this time for its coverage of the 2032 National Budget. The broadcaster was criticized for its handling of the story, with some journalists accusing it of being biased in favor of the ANC.

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In 2050, the SABC was once again hit by scandal, this time for its coverage of the 2050 National Budget. The broadcaster was criticized for its handling of the story, with some journalists accusing it of being biased in favor of the ANC.
African Free Press

Campaigning in the digital age

Press releases, resolutions, workshops and demonstrations are all tried-and-tested tools in campaigns for freedom of expression. But, dear fellow bloggers, there are additional ways now to rally support.

Freedom of expression activists have time and again used traditional methods of organizing and organizing causes, from the right to free speech, corruption or other civic issues. However, in the digital age, no one needs another platform for mobilization. Community radio stations have developed into a powerful tool for reaching out to people via the internet, blogs, wikis and a range of other innovations to make the desired impact. The internet has the potential of the new tools available online, especially social media platforms.

Social media platforms are changing the ways people in all areas of the world see and consume social media, in a free and open manner. They allow communities to engage in dialogue and discussions with different audiences in different geographic areas all at once. Furthermore, social media has the potential to reach big numbers of people, increase support and, for example, collect money for a particular cause.

Community radio stations have tried to push the limits – but not without consequences. For example during the Arab Spring, Facebook and Twitter were used to mobilize and organize demonstrations, while in Iceland they helped to engage citizens during the dawning of their new constitution. Bloggers have also used online platforms to challenge social injustices and abuses, and in guilty, they have been critical.

Social media allows for interconnects and establishing connections. It eliminates problems of physical accessibility, making it possible to advertise different audiences in different geographic areas all at once. Social media platforms therefore give freedom of expression campaigners a chance to engage in dialogue instead of simply targeting party loyalists, such as in Rwanda and Uganda. In others, the regulatory authorities are either appointed by or fall under the control of an elected authority. And in many areas where community stations have tried to push the limits – but not without consequences.

Social media platforms also allow for the promotion of citizen participation. The fact that most stations have been established with community participation. The fact that most stations have been established with community involvement is an important aspect of community radio stations’ role in democratic development. A World Association of Community Broadcasters (AMARC) counted 5471 community radios: game-changers in Africa’s media landscape. Radio has always been a vital tool for community radio stations to help or pressurise them to incorporate principles of free expression in their business practices. Also, campaigns should explore ways of aligning companies’ business interests with freedom of expression purposes in different policy areas.

Musicians should be included in these campaigns as they articulate issues in people’s language in an entertaining way. They are able to express serious matters in metaphors easily understood by everybody. Lyricists encouraging people to take action or defy attempts to silence free expression can be sung in a way that resonates with them. Music has a way of allowing emotions to come out and the audience to voice their opinion on the same issues.

In countries such as Mozambique, community radio stations have used the internet to communities that would otherwise not have access. In countries such as South Africa and Mali, community radio stations have used equipment maintenance as well as audience research. This means that they can still make a difference.

The enabling environment for the community radio varies from country to country, and it also depends on the level of democratization and tolerance in a given society. In some countries, community radio stations have been established with governments creating the necessary legal and regulatory frameworks for the industry. In South Africa, for example, community radio stations have been established with governments creating the necessary regulatory and legal frameworks for the industry. In South Africa, for example, community radio stations have been established with governments creating the necessary regulatory and legal frameworks for the industry.

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For the first time we had a medium that directly catered for the interests and needs of Africa’s voiceless majority rural populations.

Community radio stations have also helped many communities, especially in rural areas, to be heard, for instance, in the form of radio call-ins where people can tell their stories and speak out. Community radio stations have also a critical role to play in educating people about world affairs and current events.

The evolution of the community radio sector has been accompanied by various interventions, most of which have enhanced the role of this medium. Radio listened closely to rural communities, which have been called to account by governments, and to ensure that they are heard. Community radio stations have also been crucial in communicating emergency messages that help communities stay safe.

In some countries, fear of the unknown among authorities has led to a media blackout. In other countries, authorities have been slow to communicate with the help of community radio stations. This has been the case in South Africa, where community radio stations have been slow to communicate with the help of community radio stations.

Community radio stations have the potential to reach big numbers of people, increase support and, for example, collect money for a particular cause. Architects and others have had to confront the reality that the internet has the potential to reach big numbers of people, increase support and, for example, collect money for a particular cause. Architects and others have had to confront the reality that the internet has the potential to reach big numbers of people, increase support and, for example, collect money for a particular cause. Architects and others have had to confront the reality that the internet has the potential to reach big numbers of people, increase support and, for example, collect money for a particular cause. Architects and others have had to confront the reality that the internet has the potential to reach big numbers of people, increase support and, for example, collect money for a particular cause. Architects and others have had to confront the reality that the internet has the potential to reach big numbers of people, increase support and, for example, collect money for a particular cause.
The state of the right to access information in South Africa is best understood in its broader historical context.

In the early 1990s, the newly elected African National Congress (ANC) recognized the importance of a free press and a vibrant civil society. The ANC, which had long fought against apartheid, knew that a free press was essential to ensure transparency and accountability in government.

The Freedom of Information Act (PAIA) was installed in 2000 with the aim of providing citizens with the right to access information held by public bodies. This was a significant step forward, but the implementation of the law has been patchy.


Here are the key principles:

1. **Right to Access Information**: Everyone has a right to access information held by all public bodies and relevant private bodies.

2. **Public and Relevant Private Bodies**: Public and relevant private bodies have a duty to collect and manage information.

3. **Liberalisation of Access Rights**: Public and relevant private bodies shall be obliged to proactively publish information.

4. **Use of Information**: Access to information is a fundamental human right, it is open to everyone.

5. **Mandatory Disclosure**: All information held by public bodies and public authorities shall be subject to mandatory disclosure or in exceptional circumstances.

6. **Established Law**: The right to access information shall be established by law in each African country.

7. **Application to Public Bodies and Private Bodies**: The obligation to access to information shall apply to all public bodies and relevant private bodies.

8. **Clear and Unambiguous Process**: The process to obtain information shall be simple and fast.

9. **Right to Personal Data**: Every person has a right to access and correct their personal data held by third parties.

10. **Oversight Bodies**: Independent oversight bodies shall be established to monitor and hold government and relevant private bodies to account.

11. **Whistleblower Protection**: Adequate protections against different forms of sanctions shall be established for providing information on wrongdoing and information in the public interest.

12. **Right of Appeal**: Everyone has the right to appeal administratively any action that inhibits their access to information in any form by procedures to be determined.

13. **Duty to Collect and Manage Information**: Public and relevant private bodies have a duty to ensure that information is collected and made available to the public.

14. **Duty to Fully Implement**: Public and relevant private bodies have a duty to ensure that they are fully implemented.

The strategy paid off and the community was able to fight for their rights.

Why does the government need a new security law, when already is a secret? AFRICAN FREE PRESS

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African Media Literacy: A Call for Pedagogical Intervention

Media literacy: a call for pedagogical intervention

Media literacy is a human right and an essential component of citizens’ democratic and civil rights, enabling them to take an active part in the affairs of their country. Media literacy is relevant to citizens of all ages and plays a crucial role in creating more participatory communities.

In recent years, the importance of media literacy has become more evident. As the world becomes more connected and information becomes more accessible, the need for individuals to be able to critically evaluate and understand media content has become increasingly important. Media literacy education helps individuals develop the skills needed to navigate the media landscape and make informed decisions about what they consume.

The importance of media literacy

Media literacy is closely linked to several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly goals 4 (quality education), 5 (gender equality), and 13 (climate action). These goals highlight the importance of empowering individuals to be active citizens of the world, with the ability to critically evaluate and understand the media landscape.

In 2015, the United Nations launched the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to guide the global agenda for the next 15 years. These goals are based on the conviction that eradicating poverty and achieving social justice are key to realizing the human rights of all people. The SDGs are a framework for action for all countries, everywhere, up to 2030.

The SDGs are a call to action for all countries to work together to achieve a more sustainable and equitable world. Achieving these goals will require a fundamental shift in how we think about development and how we engage with the media.

The media plays a crucial role in shaping public opinion and influencing the course of events. It is therefore important that individuals are equipped with the skills necessary to critically evaluate and understand media content. This is particularly true in Africa, where media literacy is often underdeveloped.

Media literacy in Africa

African media literacy education is in its infancy. While media literacy education is gaining traction in other parts of the world, it has not yet reached the same level of development in Africa. However, there are efforts being made to address this gap.

In 2014, the Global Digital Literacy Program (GDL) was launched in South Africa. The program aims to provide young people with the skills they need to critically evaluate and understand the media landscape. Since its launch, the GDL has reached over 10,000 young people in South Africa.

In 2016, the African Media Literacy Forum (AMLF) was established as a platform for stakeholders to work together to address the issue of media literacy in Africa. The forum brings together policymakers, educators, media practitioners, and civil society organizations to discuss ways to improve media literacy education in Africa.

Conclusion

In conclusion, media literacy is a crucial component of democratic and civic participation. It is essential for individuals to be able to critically evaluate and understand media content in order to make informed decisions and participate effectively in society.

As we look to the future, it is imperative that we continue to prioritize media literacy education and ensure that all individuals have the skills they need to become active, informed citizens of the world.
**Business models of successful independent media**

By Graham Humphreys

The Namibian: no shareholders to threaten independence

**By Marie Selegue**

Zodiak Broadcasting Malawi

**By Chris Chirwa**

Breeze FM in Zambia: radio at the doorsteps

The Namibian: no shareholders to threaten independence

**By Graham Humphreys**

It was a matter of science when the Namibian's Daily News on the path to success when in 1980, 28-year-old Wilfried Benzon Nipanga. He became the paper's first African editor in 1982, four years after Independence. The Sunday Tribune, the spiritual brother of the Daily News to Namibia's community, had brought the fight against colonial minority owners.

It was the start of the building of an empire, the Nation Media Group (NMG), now one of Africa's most successful media companies. With its owner, the Aga Khan Foundation for Economic Development, the group supports the "second liberation", a push to end the political and religious domination of the country. The NMG's success, however, is also a point of concern for observers of the African media landscape. The group is one of only two publishing groups in sub-Saharan Africa which has managed to achieve profitability on a lasting basis.

In 1990, NMG launched the weekly newspaper covering the East and the Horn of Africa, The Namibian, which became a popular newspaper in the country.

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In 2002, Daka quit as Director of the Zambia Institute of Mass Communication. He moved to Chipata with his family and started to realize his dream of having his own radio station. In his spare time, he worked as a journalist and producer on various issues. The station was registered as a non-profit organization and received financial support from various sources.

The station's popular programming and large listenership, says Daka, "other radio stations are eating dust."

Breeze FM is located in the centre of Chipata, a town of just under 100,000 people. It was established as a response to the lack of quality news and information in the local communities. The station's signal reaches well beyond the town, providing a range of programs that are popular among locals.

The station also seeks to point the community in the direction of positive and constructive change. The station aims to promote education, social welfare, health, and environmental awareness.

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At first glance, it seems we are besieged on three disparate fronts. In the north and France, under our thumb, they are being crushed under a pounding that is expected to last for as long as the French have reason to believe that the free press is the mastermind behind almost every outrage of every sort.
Everybody has the right to freedom of opinion and expression: including freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.