

Newsletter

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#eRIGHTS
#Digital Rights
#SaferOnlineSpaces

About the e-RIGHTS Project

Enhancing Digital Rights in Nigeria (e-RIGHTS) project is a European Union (EU), Canadian Fund for Local Initiative (CFLI) and UNESCO GMDF funded project, implemented in Nigeria by Avocats sans Frontières France in partnership with the Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD) and Spaces for Change (S4C).

The project is aimed at promoting the rights of Nigerians in the digital sphere, harnessing opportunities and addressing challenges provided by new technologies.

The project will respond directly to the needs of Nigerian youths, activists, journalists, online news platforms, bloggers, social media influencers, human rights defenders, and active citizens to have access to a free and open internet. [Click here to learn more](#)



e-RIGHTS Project Trains Judges and Lawyers in Nigeria on Digital Rights

In a significant step towards advancing digital rights in Nigeria, Avocats Sans Frontières France (ASF France), in collaboration with the Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD) and Spaces for Change (S4C), recently conducted capacity-building workshops for judges and lawyers in Abuja and Lagos. The sessions, held from March 10th to 14th, 2025, were part of the EU-funded e-RIGHTS project, which promotes and safeguards human rights in Nigeria's evolving digital environment.

A total of 32 legal professionals, 16 from each state, participated in the training, which covered freedom of expression online, digital privacy, enforcement mechanisms, and legal implications of violations such as internet shutdowns. Delivered through a blend of expert-led presentations, case law analysis, and scenario-based simulations, the workshops equipped participants with both theoretical and practical tools to defend digital rights.

During the opening session, Ivan Paneff, ASF France board member, and Wynfreda Achu-Egbuson, Programme Manager at the EU Delegation to Nigeria and ECOWAS, highlighted the urgency of equipping legal actors to respond to the challenges posed by digital technologies, especially amid growing concerns around surveillance and censorship. They emphasized the judiciary's critical role in upholding justice and the rule of law in the digital age.

Participants praised the training's clarity, relevance, and practical orientation. Many noted that it enhanced their understanding of digital rights in Nigeria's legal context and expressed confidence in their ability to influence reforms, adjudicate digital rights cases, and contribute to a safer, rights-respecting digital space.

Through initiatives like this, the e-RIGHTS project continues to promote legal empowerment, advocacy, and stakeholder engagement to ensure that Nigerians—especially youth, journalists, and activists—can safely exercise their rights in the digital sphere.





e-RIGHTS Project Trains Security Agencies and Journalists on Digital Rights and Press Freedom

As part of efforts to advance digital rights in Nigeria, ASF France, in partnership with CITAD and Spaces for Change, hosted a 2-day workshop for security agencies and journalists in Abuja on March 24–25, 2025. Held under the EU-funded e-RIGHTS Project, the training promoted a safer, more inclusive digital space. Sessions covered press freedom, ethical reporting, digital surveillance, and balancing national security with human rights. By fostering dialogue between media and security actors, the workshop supports a more rights-respecting digital environment in Nigeria.



ASF France hosts Situation Room for Journalists, Activists and Security Agencies to Strengthen Digital Rights in Nigeria

On May 20, 2025, Avocats Sans Frontières France (ASF France), under the EU and UNESCO GMDF-funded e-RIGHTS Project, hosted a Situation Room Dialogue in Abuja to foster trust and improve collaboration between security agencies and the media.

The event brought together representatives from the Nigeria Police Force, DSS, DIA, and journalists nationwide to discuss challenges such as digital surveillance, misinformation, and arbitrary arrests. Participants explored ways to protect press freedom and ensure safer working conditions for journalists.

ASF France Country Director, Angela Uwandu Uzoma-Iwuchukwu, emphasized the media's accountability role, while CSP El-Mustapha Sani reaffirmed the police's commitment to transparency and journalist safety.

Implemented with CITAD and S4C, the e-RIGHTS Project continues to champion digital rights and press freedom across Nigeria.



e-RIGHTS Project at the West African Internet Governance Forum (WAIGF) 2025

On May 23, 2025, Avocats Sans Frontières France (ASF France), under the EU-funded e-RIGHTS Project, hosted a high-level panel session at the West Africa Internet Governance Forum (WAIGF) in Abuja.

Themed “Enhancing Digital Resilience: Navigating Online Threats and Privacy Risks in the Digital Age,” the session explored digital rights, data privacy, legal frameworks, and emerging technologies. Experts shared practical insights on safeguarding online freedoms and building resilience across West Africa’s digital space.



e-RIGHTS Project Advances Digital Rights Through Strategic Advocacy

As part of ongoing efforts to promote and protect digital rights in Nigeria, the e-RIGHTS project recently conducted a series of high-level advocacy visits to key stakeholders in the legal, media, and technology sectors.

Our delegation engaged the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) and the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), emphasizing the urgency of legal safeguards and press freedom in the digital age. We also visited the National Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (NCAIR) to align on ethical AI and responsible innovation.

These engagements mark important steps in shaping a more inclusive and rights-respecting digital ecosystem.

Take Advantage of our Pro-bono Legal Aid!

Through the e-RIGHTS Project, ASF France is offering FREE legal aid to individuals facing violations of their digital rights; whether it's cyberbullying, online gender-based violence, unlawful surveillance, or freedom of expression violations.

Know your rights. Defend your space.

Are you a Victim of Digital Rights Violations?

- Unlawful digital surveillance
- Restriction of free speech online & digital services
- Arrests / harassment due to online communication, media reporting or social activism.

The e-RIGHTS Project can help you with free legal services

Reach out to us on;

+234 701 061 9353

legalassist.ng@avocatsansfrontieres-france.org





Report Digital Rights Violations: Closing Civic Spaces Platform now Live

The e-RIGHTS project has launched the 'Closing Civic Spaces Platform' for reporting digital rights violations—ranging from censorship to cyberbullying. Help protect online freedoms.

Report incidents here:

<https://erightslearning.org/report-cases/>

Let's make digital space open and safe.



Strengthening Legislative Support for Digital Rights: e-RIGHTS Project Deepens Engagement with National Assembly

As part of its mission to protect digital rights in Nigeria, the e-RIGHTS project intensified legislative engagement with key members of the National Assembly.

In three crucial visits, the project team met with Hon. Akin Rotimi, Spokesperson of the House of Representatives, and twice with Hon. Stanley Adedeji Olajide, Chair of the House Committee on ICT and Cybersecurity. Discussions focused on:

- Strengthening legal safeguards for online expression and privacy
- Addressing online harms, especially against women and vulnerable groups
- Promoting inclusive, rights-based digital legislation
- Enhancing collaboration between civil society and lawmakers

These engagements highlight the critical role of the National Assembly in shaping a digital policy environment that protects and empowers all Nigerians.

The e-RIGHTS project remains committed to supporting strong legislative action on digital rights.



"Shaping Tomorrow Online: Students Lead the Way in Digital Rights Advocacy"



National Finale of the 'Say No to Cyberbullying' Digital Rights Video Competition for Secondary Schools

The national spotlight shone on young digital rights advocates as the e-RIGHTS Inter-School Digital Rights Competition concluded its grand finale in Abuja.

Avocats Sans Frontières France, in partnership with Spaces for Change (S4C) and CITAD, is proud to announce Sonmori Comprehensive Secondary School (Lagos) as the winner of the national finale! Their exceptional performance demonstrated not only knowledge but passion for promoting human rights in the digital space.

We also celebrate our brilliant finalists:

- Government Secondary School Wuse Zone 3 (Abuja FCT) - 2nd position
- Alvana Model College (Imo) - 3rd position
- Government Girls Science and Technical College (Kano)
- Government Secondary School Wuse Zone 3 (Abuja FCT) - 4th position

The competition, held under the EU-funded e-RIGHTS project, brought together bright minds from across Nigeria, fostering awareness, dialogue, and youth leadership around pressing digital rights issues.

Together, we are raising a new generation equipped to shape a safer, more inclusive digital future.



Upcoming Activities – Innovative Ways to Enhance Digital Rights in Nigeria.

In the Next Quarter, the e-RIGHTS Project Will:

- Release a new series of advocacy videos by e-RIGHTS digital rights champions, aimed at shaping positive online behavior among Nigerian social media users and promoting responsible digital citizenship.
- Deepen engagement with members of parliament to advocate for stronger legal protections around digital rights, including online safety, data privacy, and freedom of expression.
- Participate in the upcoming session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) in Banjul, The Gambia, to amplify Nigeria's voice in continental conversations on digital freedoms and policy alignment.
- Host the e-RIGHTS Digital Rights Conference, a high-level gathering of stakeholders from government, civil society, media, and tech to discuss key digital rights issues, emerging challenges, and collaborative solutions for a safer digital space in Nigeria and West Africa.



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