

# Newsletter

## Featuring

- Strengthening Public Awareness on Digital Rights and Justice
- Situation Room Dialogue on Civic Space and Accountability
- Advocacy at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)
- Building Capacity to Counter SLAPPs and Strengthen Democratic Institutions in Lagos
- High-Level Residential Legislative Retreat
- Celebrating Women's Voices: Digital Women Video Competition
- Building Capacity to Counter SLAPPs and Strengthen Democratic Institutions in Abuja

**#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](#)



Funded by  
the European Union

**AVOCATS  
SANS  
FRONTIÈRES  
FRANCE**



CENTRE FOR INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT



SPACES FOR CHANGE | S4C

## Strengthening Nigeria's Digital Future Through Legislative Leadership



In November 2025, the project, in partnership with Paradigm Initiative (PIN), successfully organized a high-level residential legislative retreat in Lagos, bringing together key actors responsible for shaping Nigeria's digital governance framework.

The retreat convened 18 Federal Legislators, comprising 10 Senators and 8 Members of the House of Representatives alongside 4 senior legislative clerks. The objective was to strengthen lawmakers' technical understanding of digital rights and support the development of rights-based, forward-looking digital legislation in Nigeria.

The retreat was formally opened by Distinguished Senator Shuaib Salisu Afolabi, Chairman of the Senate Committee on ICT and Cybersecurity, and Honourable Stanley Adedeji Olajide, Chairman of the House Committee on ICT and Cybersecurity, both of whom delivered keynote opening remarks. Both leaders emphasized the urgent need to balance innovation, national security, and the protection of fundamental freedoms in an increasingly digital society.

A major highlight of the retreat was the technical review of the Nigerian Digital Rights and Freedom Bill as well as the National Intelligence Bill. Legislators engaged in in-depth, evidence-based discussions on safeguards for privacy, freedom of expression, oversight mechanisms, and accountability in intelligence and digital regulation frameworks. The review process was enriched by technical input from European experts from DG CONNECT in Brussels, who provided comparative insights and shared international best practices on digital governance and human rights protection.

Through expert-led sessions, peer exchange, and practical legislative analysis, the retreat strengthened lawmakers' capacity to enact legislation that safeguards citizens' rights while addressing emerging digital and security challenges. It also fostered stronger collaboration between policymakers, civil society, and international partners in shaping Nigeria's digital future.



## Advocacy at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)

In October 2025, the project participated in the 85th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) in Banjul, The Gambia, advancing continental advocacy on digital governance and human rights.

The project convened a panel session themed **"AI and Human Rights in Africa: Navigating the Future of Governance and Development,"** which examined the human rights implications of artificial intelligence and the need for rights-based regulatory frameworks across Africa. During the session, a Policy Brief on AI and Human Rights in Africa was produced and distributed to Commissioners, state representatives, and civil society stakeholders.

The team also hosted a side event titled **"Freedom of Expression and Digital Surveillance in Africa"** at the Senegambia Hotel. The discussion addressed the growing impact of digital surveillance on civic space and media freedom. The event was attended by the Hon. Minister Dr. Ismaila Ceesay, Minister of Information, Media and Broadcasting Services, highlighting the importance of multi-stakeholder engagement in safeguarding digital rights.

Through its participation at ACHPR, the project strengthened its regional advocacy efforts and contributed to shaping rights-respecting digital governance across Africa.

## ASF France holds Situation Room Dialogue on Civic Space and Accountability

On 11 September 2025, the project convened a Situation Room dialogue, bringing together key stakeholders to examine pressing issues affecting civic space, accountability, and human rights protection.

The session had 30 participants, with equal gender representation (15 women and 15 men) drawn from government authorities, journalists, legal experts, and digital rights activists in Abuja, fostering balanced and inclusive discussions. Participants engaged in open dialogue on emerging challenges, shared experiences from their respective sectors, and explored collaborative approaches to safeguarding civic space and promoting rights-based responses. The Situation Room reinforced trust-building, coordination, and collective problem-solving among stakeholders.





## e-RIGHTS Project Builds Capacity to Counter SLAPPs and Strengthen Democratic Institutions

As part of efforts to safeguard press freedom and protect civic space, the project conducted Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation (SLAPP) trainings for journalists in Lagos and Abuja, strengthening the protection of 54 journalists, 28 in Lagos and 26 in Abuja (17 women and 37 men).

The trainings equipped participants with practical skills for safe and responsible reporting, identifying legal intimidation tactics, and effectively responding to SLAPP lawsuits. Beyond capacity building, the project provides free legal defence to journalists affected by SLAPPs. During this period, two cases were formally referred to the project the case of Barr. Chinedu Agu and that of the NUJ Chairman. The project took on both cases, providing legal representation and strategic support, and successfully secured their freedom.

By combining preventive training with direct legal intervention, the project continues to reduce the chilling effect of SLAPPs and strengthen a resilient, protected media ecosystem in Nigeria.

## "Tech Not Terror: Say No to Online Gender-Based Violence"

e-RIGHTS  
Enhancing Digital Rights in Nigeria

FRONTIERES  
FRANCE

### Women's Digital Rights Video Competition #EndTFGBV

#16DaysOfActivism #DigitalRightsForHer #WomenUnmuted #eRIGHTS

- ELIGIBILITY:** Open to ONLY Nigerian Women aged 18 & above
- SUBMISSION:** Post your video on Instagram, tag @asf\_france\_nigeria and use the hashtags; #eRIGHTS #DigitalRightsForHer #WomenUnmuted #16DaysOfActivism. Scan to submit the link to the post.
- DEADLINE:** 21st November, 2025

#### CHALLENGE

Record a video of not more than 3 minutes addressing the theme "Tech, Not Terror: Challenging Technological Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV)".  
Tip - Be Creative, Speak-out against TFGBV

Submit your post via Office

Forms



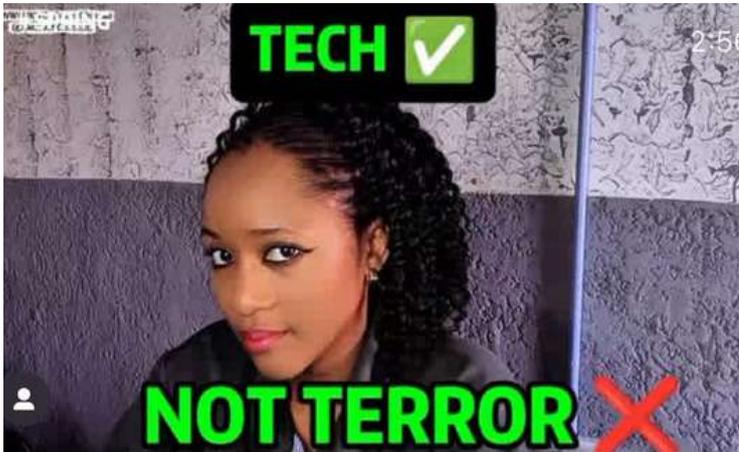
**1st Prize** NGN 500,000    **2nd Prize** NGN 250,000    **3rd Prize** NGN 100,000    **4th - 10th** NGN 50,000

### Celebrating Women's Voices: Digital Women Video Competition

As part of activities marking the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, the project implemented the Digital Women Video Competition, an initiative designed to amplify women's voices and promote gender-responsive digital advocacy.

The competition invited women and young girls to create short videos addressing key issues such as online harassment, digital surveillance, cyberbullying, freedom of expression, and the safe use of digital platforms. Through creative storytelling, participants highlighted lived experiences, proposed solutions, and called for stronger protections to ensure that digital spaces are safe, inclusive, and empowering for women.

# "Tech Not Terror: Say No to Online Gender-Based Violence"



Beyond raising awareness, the competition served as a capacity-building and empowerment platform, encouraging participants to use digital tools responsibly and strategically for advocacy and social change. It also fostered confidence, leadership, and visibility for women navigating online spaces.

The winner was officially announced on 10 December 2025, marking the final day of the 16 Days of Activism. The announcement symbolized the project's continued commitment to tackling online gender-based violence and strengthening women's participation in digital spaces.

Through this initiative, the project continues to promote safer online environments while elevating women as active contributors and leaders in shaping Nigeria's digital future.

We also celebrated and awarded cash prizes to the top 10 winners. [Click here](#)



## Providing Free Legal Aid to Victims of Digital Rights Violations

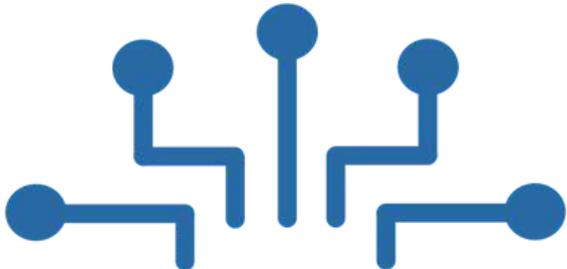
The project continued to provide free pro-bono legal assistance to victims of digital rights abuses across Nigeria.

During this period, legal support was provided in 18 high-profile cases involving journalists, lawyers, and activists targeted under the Cybercrimes Act. Through strategic intervention, the project successfully prevented arbitrary detention in 80% of these cases.

One notable example is the case of Barr. Chinedu Agu, who was arrested by the Imo State Government for a Facebook post criticizing governance. The project intervened and secured his freedom.

The project also advanced two cases before the ECOWAS Community Court of Justice and handled one internet shutdown case, reinforcing regional and national protection for digital rights.





# e-RIGHTS

Enhancing Digital Rights in Nigeria



Funded by  
the European Union



Canada Fund for Local Initiatives  
Fonds canadien d'initiatives locales



The e-RIGHTS is co-funded by the European Union, Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) and UNESCO, and implemented by Avocats Sans Frontières France in Nigeria, in partnership with Spaces for Change (S4C), and the Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD).

The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of ASF France and do not necessarily reflect the position of the donor.