

Newsletter

Featuring

- e-RIGHTS partners conduct digital rights training for activists in Kano and Lagos States with the support of the European Union.
- ASF France hosts training for judges and lawyers from the FCT & Kano State on digital rights with the support of the European Union.
- Inaugural meeting of digital rights expert group
- ASF France sensitises over 2000 students on Online SGBV with the support of the Embassy of France in Nigeria
- Contributing to Public Law & Policy
- Raising Awareness of Young People on Digital Rights
- ASF France hosts the second e-RIGHTS steering committee meeting.

#eRIGHTS
#Digital Rights
#SaferOnlineSpaces

About the e-RIGHTS Project

Enhancing Digital Rights in Nigeria (e-RIGHTS) project is a European Union 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](#)



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ASF France, CITAD & Spaces for Change Train Journalist & Activists on Digital Rights in Kano and Lagos States

The e-RIGHTS project prioritised the training and empowerment of 55 activists and journalists in Kano and Lagos States on the 22nd - 23rd of August 2023 and 13th - 14th December 2023 respectively in recognition of the crucial role these groups play in safeguarding the civic space, digital rights and utilizing digital technologies and spaces for dissemination of information. They were equipped with the knowledge on digital security and skills needed to navigate the digital landscape securely and resiliently. This training empowered them to continue their vital work with greater confidence and protection.

The training was led by The Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD) in Kano State, and Spaces for Change in Lagos State.



ASF France Holds Digital Rights Training for Judges and Lawyers from FCT & Kano State

Given the strategic role of Judges and Lawyers in ensuring the enjoyment of digital rights of Nigerian citizens, through the e-RIGHTS project, ASF France trained 39 Judges and Lawyers from the FCT, Abuja and Kano on the 6th - 7th of November 2023 and 9th - 10th of November 2023 respectively, ensuring that the judicial and legal actors are equipped to handle digital rights cases with greater understanding and sensitivity.

This training delivered by experts from France has set the tone for the provision of free legal aid to victims of digital rights violations and the development of the legal jurisprudence on digital rights thematic in Nigeria.





ASF France hosts the Inaugural Digital Rights Expert Group Meeting

To drive systemic change, the eRIGHTS project established on the 22nd October 2023, the first ever multi-stakeholder group of 26 digital rights experts, carefully chosen to represent diverse perspectives on digital rights policy making in Nigeria. This group drawn from the academia, government regulating agencies, tech companies, civil society and the media will play a vital role in influencing and drafting a comprehensive policy guide on digital rights in Nigeria. This document will serve as a crucial roadmap for future policy decisions and advocacy efforts on the thematic.



ASF France Sensitises over 2000 students in FCT on Online Sexual & Gender-based Violence (OSGBV)

In collaboration with the Embassy of France in Abuja, the project on the 4th and 5th of December, 2023 sensitised over 2,030 secondary students (1,100 girls and 930 boys) on the dangers of online Sexual and Gender based Violence (OSGBV) as part of the project activities to mark the 2023 16 days of activism against gender-based violence.

The Students of Lycée Français Marcel Pagnol d'Abuja, Government Secondary School (GSS) Jabi and GSS Wuse 2 were trained on various forms of online sexual and gender-based violence. They were also trained on preventive mechanisms, while they took a stand against OSGBV



Contributing to Public Law & Policy

On the 22nd of November, 2023 the Senate Joint Committees on ICT & Cybersecurity and National Security & Intelligence held a Public Hearing with stakeholders to contribute to the amendment of the Cybercrime (Prohibition, Prevention, etc.) Act 2015[1]. The e-RIGHTS project submitted a memorandum for the amendment of the act particularly calling for a review of Section 24 of the Act which has been used to harass, intimidate, arrest and prosecute journalists and active citizens for posts made against government officials.



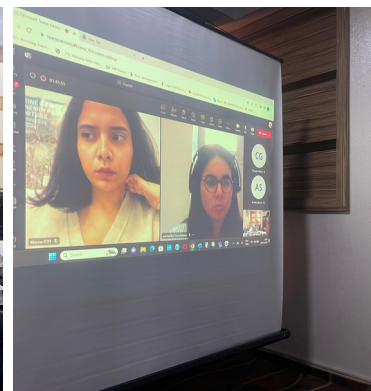


Raising Awareness of Young People and Children with Special Needs on Digital Rights

Between November and December 2023, the e-RIGHTS project implemented by Avocats Sans Frontières France in partnership with the Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD) and Spaces for Change (S4C) trained 827 students across 10 schools in Lagos and Kano States on digital rights.

The program was aimed at raising the awareness and knowledge of students on protective mechanisms that enhance their access and safety on the internet.

To ensure inclusivity, the same trainings were also carried out for Children with special needs in Kano State to empower them with digital rights knowledge and ensure they have access to a free and open internet



ASF France hosts the second e-RIGHTS project steering committee meeting

On the 8th of November 2023, ASF France convened the second project steering committee meeting in Abuja, Nigeria. The hybrid meeting was attended by project implementing organisations, partners and critical stakeholders.

The project steering committee meeting provided a platform to review the project outcomes so far in line with pre-set targets and mitigate implementation challenges while developing and adopting strategies aimed at ensuring efficient project delivery.



Upcoming Activities

- Training for lawyers and Judges on International legislation and EU standards on Digital Rights in Lagos and Imo State.
- Launch of the upgraded Closing Civic Spaces e-platform to enable reporting and tracking of digital rights violations in West Africa under the e-RIGHTS project.
- Release of advocacy videos by e-RIGHTS / digital rights social advocates.
- Third e-RIGHTS steering committee meeting.
- e-RIGHTS digital rights content creation contest for women.
- e-RIGHTS digital rights content creation contest for secondary school students.
- Technical working meetings for digital rights expert group to draft digital reform policy guide to strengthen digital rights in Nigeria



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The e-RIGHTS is funded by the European Union 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).

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