

WHAT TO DO IF SOCIAL MEDIA, SPECIFIC WEBSITES OR THE INTERNET IS BLOCKED IN MALAWI

As Malawi goes to the polls on 21st May 2019, there is the possibility of social media and internet shutdowns. If and when shutdowns happen, Paradigm Initiative recommends these steps to take in an event of website blockages, social media shutdown, and internet shutdowns.

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1. TO CIRCUMVENT OR ACCESS BLOCKED WEBSITES

Install TOR browser



Tor Browser will allow you to access blocked websites and to surf the web anonymously
<https://www.torproject.org/download/download.html>

Download trusted Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) to access blocked websites and apps

| PSIPHON | LANTERN | TUNNELBEAR |
|--|---|--|
|  |  |  |
| AVAILABLE ON | AVAILABLE ON | AVAILABLE ON |
| MOBILE <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Android 4.4 o superior▶ iOS 10.2 o superior | MOBILE <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Android 4.1 o superior | MOBILE <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Android 4.1 o superior▶ iOS 8 o superior |
| DESKTOP <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Windows (XP/Vista/7/8/10) | DESKTOP <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Windows (XP/SP/3)▶ OSX 10.8 o superior▶ Ubuntu | DESKTOP <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Windows 7 o superior▶ MacOS 10.10 o superior |
| DOWNLOAD AND USE https://psiphon.ca/ | DOWNLOAD AND USE https://getlantern.org | DOWNLOAD AND USE https://www.tunnelbear.com/ |

Also available as browser extension
Chrome | Firefox | Opera

2. VERIFY AND TEST BLOCKED WEBSITES, APPS, AND SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

Testing for website censorship is important for the media freedom community. Censorship activities flourish when they are not documented and exposed.

Install the OONI app to test for blocked websites



Make sure to turn off your VPN before testing for blocked websites using OONI

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.openobservatory.ooniprobe>

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/ooni-probe/id1199566366>

3. WHAT IF THE INTERNET IS COMPLETELY SHUT DOWN?

- If the entire Internet is shut down, it is important to keep other lines of communications like telephone, SMS text, and radio open .
- Even if there's complete internet outage, you can set-up to update your Facebook and Twitter using SMS.

To enable SMS updates on Twitter, follow these steps:

<https://help.twitter.com/en/using-twitter/create-twitter-account-mobile>

To enable SMS updates on Facebook, follow these steps:

<https://www.ogbongeblog.com/2011/01/how-to-activate-facebook-text-messages.html>

4. DON'T FORGET TO IMPLEMENT DIGITAL SECURITY PRACTICES

Elections are often when governments unleash intense media censorship and when journalists, activists, human rights defenders, and civil society groups find it risky to do their work. Implementing digital security measures such as having good passwords, avoiding free wifi spots *and* others are crucial for your safety.

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LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO ENSURE DIGITAL RIGHTS ARE
PROTECTED AS #MALAWIDECIDES

For more information please contact

Paradigm Initiative's Digital Rights team at media@paradigmhq.org or call [+260954165363](tel:+260954165363)

