

# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



@ParadigmHQ

January - March 2022



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# COMMUNITY CORNER

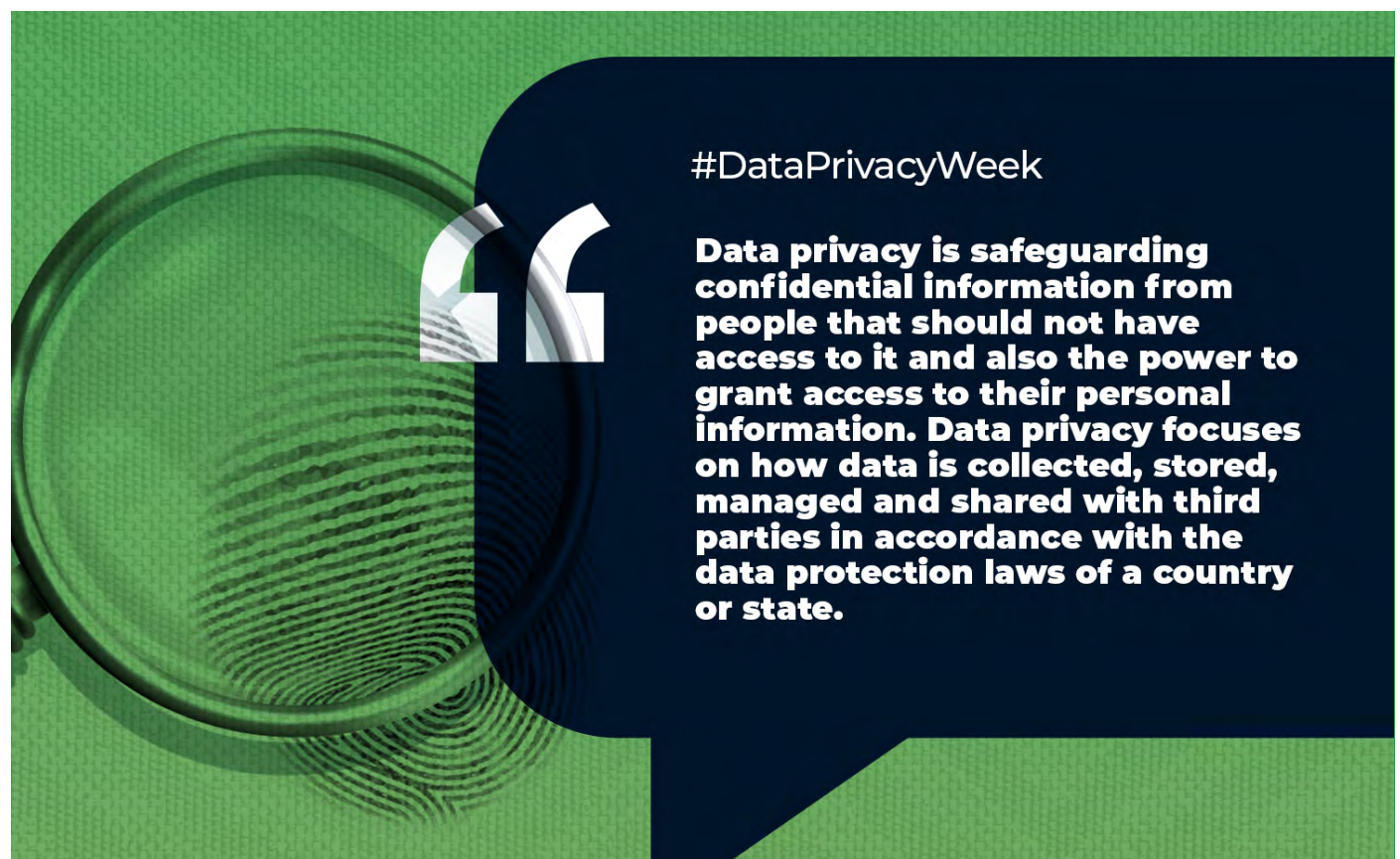
## International Data Privacy Week: The State of Data Privacy in Africa

Paradigm Initiative joined the international community to commemorate the International Data Privacy Week from January 24 -28. As part of the commemoration, we held a Twitter space conversation with various actors across Africa on the subject. Listen to the Twitter [Spaces Recordings](#).

The conversation revealed that there is a lag in processing data on governments' part in addition to the absence of dedicated legislation for data protection. Across Africa, people are experiencing similar issues in terms of data privacy which

ranges from a lack of awareness of what personal data is and what the right to privacy entails.

As a result, it was recommended that authorities be independent of the government to enforce existing laws. We also shared various reports that speak to the protection of data and institutions that are in place.







# DigiTalks with Focus Tour:

## A New Advocacy in Strengthening Digital Rights

From February 15 to March 18, Paradigm Initiative hosted a series of digital rights advocacy sessions dubbed Digi-Talks with Focus across 9 African countries around the short film 'Focus'. The film toured Cameroon, Malawi, Kenya, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Tanzania, and Zambia.

Each session featured the screening of Focus, a look at the findings of the respective country's Londa report, an open conversation on the state of digital rights and inclusion, and debates aimed at enhancing digital rights in the host countries.

Read more about Digi-Talks [here](#).





Pictures from Digtalks with FOCUS across 9 African Countries



## NRC Learning Call on Freedom of Expression and Content Moderation



**PARADIGM INITIATIVE**

**zoom** Register Here: <https://bit.ly/NRCWebinar5>

# Net Rights Coalition Webinar:

## Balancing Freedom of Expression and Content Moderation

**Tuesday 29th March 2021** **01:00 pm WAT**

**The meeting will serve** To provide a platform for understanding the human rights considerations arising from content moderation and to enhance the ability of members of the NRC to advocate for content moderation policies that promote human rights.

**Moderator** Thobekile Matimbe  
Community Manager, Paradigm Initiative.

**Speakers**

<b>Nicola Aitken</b> Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Meta.	<b>Padraig Hughes</b> Legal Director Media Defence	<b>Bulanda Nkhawani</b> Senior Officer, Programs Paradigm Initiative	<b>Nnenna Paul-Ugochukwu</b> Chief Operations Officer Paradigm Initiative
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The first Net Rights Coalition webinar held in March delved into the topic: Balancing Freedom of Expression and Content Moderation.

Nicola Aitken from Meta kicked off the session with an elaboration of the community standards put in place by Meta to create a space of expression for users using the principles of, privacy, safety, authenticity and dignity to review content shared. She also spoke on the community standards for Meta's content moderation which include, removing content that goes against the principles, publishing quarterly reports that speak to content violations for that period, and reducing the dissemination of low-quality misinformation through limited distribution.

Nicola further shared Meta's human rights considerations to content moderation which

include commitments that speak to violations that digital rights defenders may have experienced. Read more on that [here](#).

Padraig Hughes of Media Defence, the second speaker at the webinar believes that governments should not have complete power to regulate content on social media platforms if there is to be a balance between content moderation and freedom of expression.

The webinar also featured a Ripoti showcase explaining why it was created, how it works and what can be reported. Learn more about Ripoti at [ripoti.africa](http://ripoti.africa).

# DRIF22: Towards a Digitally Inclusive and Rights Respecting Africa

The image consists of two promotional graphics for DRIF22. The top graphic is a yellow banner with the Paradigm Initiative logo, the DRIF22 logo, and text indicating virtual sessions from April 12th to 14th and in-person sessions from April 20th to May 20th. The bottom graphic is a green poster with the DRIF22 logo, the text 'Virtual Registration is now Open', a large yellow exclamation mark, a QR code, and the registration link <https://bit.ly/Drif22>. It also includes the dates '12th April - 20th May 2022' and the theme 'Towards a digitally inclusive and rights respecting Africa'. Logos of partner organizations like Luminate, Wikimedia Foundation, and Ford Foundation are shown at the bottom right.

The Digital Rights and Inclusion Forum (DRIF) – 2022 runs from April 12 to May 20. This year's theme is 'Towards a Digitally Inclusive and Rights Respecting Africa'.

DRIF is the annual digital rights and inclusion rendez-vous that brings together like-minded organisations, activists, academia, legislature, and policymakers within the digital ecosystem. During DRIF, issues plaguing the digital sphere in Africa like data privacy, affordable Internet, gender and ICTs, disability rights and ICTs, health surveillance during COVID-19 times, and Internet shutdowns are debated and discussed.

The virtual sessions will run from April 12 to April 14 and from April 20 to May 20. Paradigm Initiative and its Country Partners will hold a series of 17 in-person events in Namibia, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe,

Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Cameroon, Senegal, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, The Gambia, Nigeria, Somalia, and Ghana.

DRIF22 is expecting over 500 delegates and participants for 28 days to unpack its theme 'Towards a digitally inclusive and rights-respecting Africa' and the state of digital rights and inclusion in Africa through virtual sessions and 17 in-person sessions.

Register and follow the DRIF22 conversations [here](#).



# Southern Africa



## DRL Policy Setting Workshop on Internet Law and Policy

With support from the Department of Human Rights and Labor (DRL), and in partnership with the Bloggers of Zambia (a non-profit enterprise working in Internet Governance and Digital Rights, Media Rights and Freedoms) we organised a two-day Policy Setting Workshop on Internet Law & Policy with CSOs in Zambia.

The sessions at the event revolved around the context of ICT Policies in Zambia, the processes, instruments, laws and the main actors, both local and international, that affect ICT Policy shaping in Africa, and the Cyber Crimes and Cyber Security Act as well as other laws that affect the internet Space in Zambia.

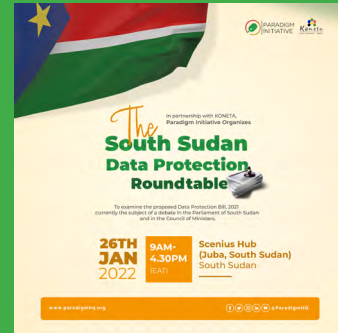
Speakers at the event called on Members of Parliament to legislate on behalf of the people.

"Freedom of Expression is the engine of democracy; without it, democracy cannot function."

In response, Hon Raphael Mabenga - Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Media & ICTs, said, "it is important for CSOs to give us as much information as possible. There were lacunas in the Bill that was passed and that need to be rectified. CSOs are pushing an open door, the committee is ready to listen to them. There is a lot of fake news that is going around and it is very damaging and MPs should not pass laws that are going to benefit them, but should pass laws that will benefit generations to come."

The participants were then taken through some of the key terms, positives and negatives of the Cyber Laws in Zambia.

# East Africa



## Paradigm Initiative Applauds the Government of South Sudan on its Proposed Data Protection Bill

On Wednesday, January 26, Paradigm Initiative and like-minded partners such as the National Communications Authority (NCA) South Sudan, and KONETA (a digital rights organization in South Sudan), brought together lawyers, journalists, members of civil society and private sector, active private citizens, and other actors in a round table advocacy effort to hold conversations and analyze South Sudan's proposed law - Data Protection Bill, 2021 currently being debated in parliament.

The event supported by the Global Disinformation Index (GDI) was aimed at sensitizing the public on the contents of the Bill, identifying loopholes that may exist, and recommending better provisions to law and policymakers to ensure it safeguards the interest of the people.

During the session, Advocate Reech Malual, a Consultant at the NCA for the South Sudan Data Protection Bill drafting, informed participants that Members of Parliament especially the Select Committee on ICT matters will put in their expertise in ensuring the Bill goes through Public Participation. He mentioned that concerns of any kind can be submitted to the Council of Ministers during any of the public participation forums that will be held at a later date.

Paradigm Initiative appreciates the great work by the government in coming up with this law that seeks to safeguard digital rights and digital inclusion in South Sudan. We laud the efforts of all the stakeholders who worked to ensure the drafting of this Bill and hope the Bill sees the light of day for the benefit of all the people of South Sudan.



## Artificial Intelligence in Kenya Stakeholder Engagement

Paradigm Initiative recently organized an AI Policy Roundtable at New Sarova Stanley in Nairobi, Kenya to discuss and validate the Policy Brief - Artificial Intelligence in Kenya, put together by Jackeline Akello. The Policy Brief highlights Artificial Intelligence in Kenya generally as well as identifies shortcomings that exist in the AI Sector in Kenya.

Several stakeholders, digital rights enthusiasts, Artificial Intelligence experts, lawyers, tech companies such as Amazon, organizations within the digital ecosystem in the likes of Internet Society of Kenya, Article 19 Eastern Africa, CIPIT, and Active Citizens all

converged for the round table hybrid event with both in-person and virtual participants. Discussions were centered around the need for Kenya to take advantage of the internet revolution in line with its ICT Policy.

Participants shared views about the document and highlighted some important elements to be added. These included AI Risks such as creating unemployment in the era of robotics, nano-technology, and the internet of things.

Click [HERE](#) to read the Policy Brief.

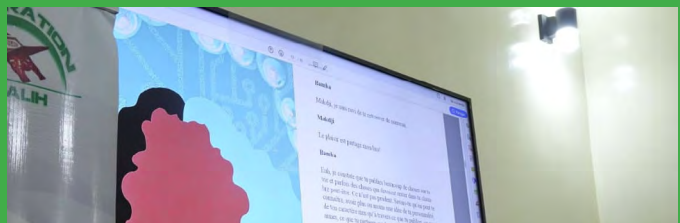
## DRL Policy-Shaping Workshop in Tanzania



From 14 – 17 February, Paradigm Initiative with the support of the US Department of State: Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, & Labor ([DRL](#)) organized a civil society policy-shaping workshop in Tanzania. The seminar brought together NGOs to discuss policies

and legislation related to digital rights. Stakeholders from academia, the private sector, advocates, the media, active citizens/ bloggers, and the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority also contributed to the discussions.

# Francophone Africa



## LIFE in Senegal Graduates First Cohort of Beneficiaries

After 8 weeks of intense I.T and entrepreneurship training, 19 students acquired skills in Microsoft and Google productivity tools, internet efficiency, digital security, digital marketing, graphic design and life skills. To end the training, a closing ceremony was held to bid farewell to the participants, and completion letters were awarded.

The closing ceremony featured a graduation ceremony for the first cohorts of the LIFE

training in Senegal and a workshop for girls to be immersed in digital skills.

Initiated under the LIFE programme, the digital skills workshop for girls was organized to strengthen their capacity and to reflect on the importance of girls' involvement in the digital space. Over the three days, 33 girls were trained in digital marketing and digital security.



# Anglophone West Africa



## PIN Sensitizes Actors Through Its Digital Rights Academy and Litigation Clinic

The week of March 15 saw professionals across several sectors gathering in Abuja, Nigeria for Digital Rights Academy. The Digital Rights Academy (DRA) and Litigation Clinic is an event where various stakeholders are brought together to build their capacity to understand, advocate, defend and litigate digital rights on the continent.

The three-day event which ran from Tuesday, March 15 to Thursday, March 17 comprised sessions that were prepared to enhance the knowledge of the professionals spanning several sectors such as the government, civil societies, media, legal practitioners, and academia in issues affecting the digital space.

Day one of the Digital Rights Academy featured conversations around Digital Rights and what it entails (including; data privacy, women's rights online, freedom of expression and data protection), digital Inclusion for disadvantaged groups, privacy and surveillance and collaborative interventions for digital rights violations using Ripoti as a

case study.

Day two examined the nexus of internet shutdowns and freedom of expression. Participants were also introduced to digital security within the purview of network security, device security, application security and physical security. The third session of the day focused on the impact of AI on human rights, the potential ramifications, and recommendations for the problems identified. The last session capacitated participants on coalition building, networks and platforms in the digital space.

For the third day, legal practitioners were taken through the legal landscape for digital rights in Africa. There was a litigation surgery where the participants were exposed to mechanisms for litigating digital rights matters in regional and sub-regional courts. In the last session, participants were taught how to prepare Freedom of Information requests (FOI) and its role in digital rights advocacy.

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# Report on External Events

## UN World Data Forum

On 18 February, Paradigm Initiative Executive Director, Mr Gbenga Sesan spoke at the UN World Data Forum event where he and other panelists discussed unlocking the value of data for all. In defining features of inclusive data systems, he emphasized that data systems should be built from the bottom-up and multistakeholder data should have each stakeholder in mind. The panel recommended that data governors should consider lived experience while designing systems, and involve the people who are being directly affected by policy decisions. Data systems should also include legal frameworks & innovative approaches, that capture the participation of everyone.

## Publications

### A Human Rights-Based Approach to Data

Paradigm Initiative's Community Manager, Thobekile Matimbe, authored an article - 'A Human Rights-Based Approach to Data' published by [Responsible Data](#). The article makes recommendations for a human rights-based approach to data protection through responsible data handling that ensures transparency from private companies and the enactment and implementation of data protection laws. Read the full article [here](#).

### Assessing Data Protection In Nigeria: A Look At Biometric Identity, Surveillance, Encryption And Anonymity, And Cybercrimes

This [report](#) focuses on the impact and effectiveness of the Nigerian data protection regulatory framework across different thematic areas including digital and biometric identity, surveillance, encryption and anonymity, cybercrime and cybersecurity, and government registration.

The regulator's multifaceted roles in the framework, the challenges militating against enforcement and regulatory reforms, and the efforts and accomplishments of the data protection regulator are emphasised. Recommendations on the proper future direction of the landscape are also proffered. The Nigeria Data Protection Regulation Performance Report 2019-2020 reveals that despite the developing status of data protection, a blueprint is being established for increased efficiency in the coming years.

### The Legislative Journey towards a Comprehensive Data Protection Framework in Nigeria: Assessing the Regulatory and Legislative Attempts to Enact a Data Protection Law

This report focuses on [Nigeria's legislative and regulatory journey towards enacting comprehensive data protection legislation](#). The recommendations, amongst others, note that there is a need for a comprehensive legal framework for personal data protection in Nigeria and that the enactment of such legislation should involve the collaboration of the government, experts, and relevant stakeholders.

The report finds that there has been a long legislative journey by the Nigerian government to enact comprehensive data protection legislation. As a country, Nigeria has not shown political commitment toward ratifying or ensuring compliance with African regional frameworks on data protection.

Existing data protection frameworks partly provide data protection provisions for Nigerians but they still reflect inadequacies that require review. There is secondary legislation providing bits and pieces of data protection provisions. However, because these frameworks were not originally made to regulate data protection, they contain insufficient provisions protecting personal data in Nigeria.





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"Connecting African youth  
with digital opportunities  
and ensuring digital rights  
for all."



What We do



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