

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



PARADIGM
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COMMUNITY CORNER



What We do

Digital Inclusion

We empower under-served youth with life-changing digital, life and business skills.

Digital Rights

In our modern world where life is increasingly lived across digital platforms, digital rights have never been more important

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DRIF22: Towards a Digitally Inclusive and Rights Respecting Africa

For 39 days, conversations around data protection and privacy, affordable internet, gender and Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), disability rights, health surveillance during COVID-19 times, and internet shutdowns were held to contextually unpack the theme, 'Towards a Digitally Inclusive and Rights-Respecting Africa' at the recently concluded Digital Rights and Inclusion Forum (DRIF22).

A total of 13 virtual sessions co-hosted by partner organisations epitomised the first phase of DRIF22. These partners include; Uhuru Tech Solution, Youth Hub Africa, Human Rights Journalists Network, BONews Service, Media Defence, Usmanu Danfodiyo University - Sokoto, Community Voices Zimbabwe, Africa Media and Information Technology Initiative (AfriMITI), Mozilla Foundation, Uzalendo Afrika Initiative, NamTshuwe Digital, and the Africa Internet Rights Alliance (AIRA).

Amongst notable personalities at the virtual sessions was Commissioner Lawrence Murugu Mute, Former Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa (2017-2020), at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. He delivered a keynote address at the opening session emphasising the need for inclusion and the importance of bridging the digital divide for marginalised groups.

The second phase of DRIF22 was the country in-person sessions held in Namibia, Zimbabwe, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ghana, Nigeria, Zambia, Angola, The Gambia, Malawi, Cameroon, South Sudan, Tanzania, Senegal, Central Africa Republic (CAR), Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia.

Read more about DRIF22 [here](#).



Londa 2021: Capturing the State of Digital Rights and Inclusion in 22 African Countries



To draw the curtain on DRIF22, Paradigm Initiative (PIN) on May 20th, 2022 held a press conference at Sarova Panafric Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya that brought together media practitioners, partners and some Londa21 researchers, to conclusively examine the 39 days of DRIF22, announce DRIF23, and officially launch Londa21, PIN's annual digital rights and inclusion in Africa report..

[Londa 2021](#) expands on last year's report with findings from 22 countries, examining privacy, freedom of expression, access to information, segmentation and exclusion, digital transformation, affordability, and gender. It further examines existing legislative frameworks, against the backdrop of a widening digital divide. The report captures the gaps and offers recommendations to achieve a digitally inclusive and rights-respecting Africa.

At the press conference, Paradigm Initiative's Executive Director Mr. 'Gbenga Sesan highlighted the importance of Londa in Africa and the need for groundbreaking rights-respecting frameworks saying, "Africa needs to make an urgent choice between focusing on clampdowns and maximising digital opportunities so we don't miss out on the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR). As Paradigm Initiative's 2021 Londa report shows, yet again, many of the 22 African countries featured in the report are too busy violating digital rights to focus on the digital opportunities that the COVID-19 pandemic has put a spotlight on their relevance." He added: "The report is timely as it assesses the state of digital rights and inclusion in Africa, and also provides recommendations on what each country must do to move towards realising the huge gains that rights-respecting and inclusive digital policies and practices bring."



NetRights Coalition Webinar Discusses Talks on the Gaps and Imperatives of Data Governance in Africa

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Net Rights Coalition Webinar:

Gaps and Imperatives of Data Governance in Africa

Thursday 23rd
June 2022

01:00 pm
WAT

Register Here:
<https://bit.ly/3QohN2f>

Facilitators

Kate Richards
Manager,
Global Partnership for
Sustainable Development Data's
Advocacy

Dr. Lukman Abdulrauf
Senior Lecturer,
Department of Public Law,
University of Ilorin.

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The 2nd edition of the Net Rights Coalition Webinar for 2022 was held on Thursday, 23rd June to discuss the gaps and imperatives of data governance in Africa as part of its objective.

Dr Lukman Abdulrauf from the University of Ilorin, Nigeria and Kate Richards from The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data facilitated the webinar. They spoke extensively about the concept of privacy and data protection in Africa and how data systems can be more inclusive.

Dr Lukman's presentation captured the definition and disparity between personal information, privacy and data protection. In his words, "Personal

information is the new currency of the digital age, and the need to collect information is higher. Data protection provides guidelines for the use of data. Its key principles include and are not limited to; lawfulness and fairness, purpose specification, data security, transparency, accountability and accuracy. Africa needs to be more interested in data governance now than ever, given the growing internet penetration rate." He also highlighted the gaps and ideals of data governance in Africa.

Kate Richard's presentation unpacked how data systems can be inclusive, citing data governance mechanisms and country perspectives from Kenya, Sierra Leone and Senegal.

Programs News



PIN Hosts Legislators and Stakeholders in Digital Rights and Freedom Bill Colloquium and Data Protection Workshop

As part of efforts to improve digital rights across Africa, we held a 2-day event in Abuja, Nigeria on April 13 and April 14, to assess and review the digital rights and freedom bill with legislators and also convened stakeholders in a data protection workshop in partnership with Meta.

The legislative engagement brought together representatives of the National Assembly and civil society organisations, to critically analyse the data protection landscape in Nigeria. The legislative engagement on data protection in Nigeria is a component of Paradigm Initiative's advocacy efforts towards enacting a Data Protection Act in Nigeria. Currently, Nigeria does not have primary data legislation.

Mr. Ridwan Oloyede (Co-Founder, Tech Hive Advisory) presented the journey to data protection frameworks in Nigeria, which

highlighted significant steps such as the introduction of the Computer Security and Critical Information Infrastructure Bill to the National Assembly in 2005 and the multiple unsuccessful attempts to pass the Data Protection Bill into law. He recommended prompt enactment of a data protection law and autonomy for the regulatory authority, explaining that this would ensure data protection, create redress mechanisms for violations of these rights; and facilitate trade, digital economy, and cross-border data flow.

Presentations were also made by 'Gbenga Sesan and Dr Ololade Shyllon, Meta's Privacy Policy Manager, on the need for a practical framework for data protection in Nigeria and global best practices on data protection.

Report Launch: Understanding Online Gender-Based Violence in Southern Africa

In partnership with Meta, CIPESA, Centre for Human Rights, NamTshuwe Digital, Gender Links for Equality & Justice, Policy and Internet Society, Namibia Chapter, PIN co-organised the launch of the report 'Understanding #OGBV in Southern Africa.' The event was held in Lusaka, Zambia on May 31.

The report launch featured a Keynote Speech from the Zambian Minister of Technology and Science, Honourable Felix Mutati, who spoke on the Ministry's efforts in revising the ICT Policy and Cybersecurity Act which will address the growing challenge of Gender-Based Violence in the country.

During the panel session, 'Mitigating Online Gender-Based Violence in Zambia, Positioning the Best Approach', it emerged

that; most perpetrators of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) are ignorant of the crime, and it is critical that members of the public are well sensitised about what it means and how it is a violation of human rights. Panelists also noted that GBV is a societal problem and in order to address it, there should be collaboration amongst Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), government, media, tech giants and the general public.

In the final session, Ms. Suzan Elsayed from Meta gave a presentation on the organisation's Approach to Women's Safety, which involves policies, partnerships and safety tools to protect its users across platforms. The report can be accessed [here](#).



L.I.F.E Legacy: The Evolution of a Mission

"After an encounter of not having access to a computer lab, I surpassed that and finally got into one. I had no idea it was a computer I just knew it was important and so a few years later, I decided we're going to do the same thing with young people. So I was invited to a community to come and talk to young people and when we got there, typically, people ask questions about what can you do with the computer. Can you do this? Can you do that? One of the questions I got was how can this help me to make money?"

Looking at the impact stories on how far we have come with the LIFE Program, I can only say, change is a good thing, it gives you hope and helps you earn an income. it also literally changes your outlook to life and how you look. So in those 15 years, that's what we've done and now we believe that what we've done in 15 years for the next 15 to 50 years we need to do 100 times more than that and I say that because even if we used to beg people to understand what technology was about before we don't need to say that anymore because of the impact that is happening.

It is now 15 years later, and we are here with the chance to demonstrate the power of technology. We've connected hundreds of young people, going forward we believe that the numbers that need to be connected are in their millions. if we're able to reach 10 million young people in next 15 years what it means is that we've been able to reach at least 50 million people including their siblings and their parents and other family members." - 'Gbenga Sesan, Executive Director, Paradigm Initiative.

LIFE is an acronym that stands for Life Skills, ICTs, Financial literacy, and Entrepreneurship. The program uses a deferred payment training model and positive peer pressure to transform the lives of underserved youth in Africa, through interventions in underserved communities. They are then connected to internships, online work, or entrepreneurial ventures with a high possibility of earning immediate and sustainable income.

For the last 15 years, Paradigm Initiative has been running this program through our training centers in Nigeria and from 2007 to date, Over 5000 young persons have benefited directly and indirectly with numerous [impact stories](#) from our digital Inclusion programs across the regions where we have been working.

"Collaboration is the name of the game, we go far when we go together. Collective effort always outweighs individual action because most times what looks like individual action is actually several people behind the scenes. Several processes coming together usually

parts you know, moving parts that we don't see or iterations of specialised work." - Nnenna Paul-Ugochukwu, PIN's Chief Operating Officer, during the LIFE Legacy Program Launch.

In 2020, we scaled the LIFE program (as it was formerly known) through local partners in Nigeria to build capacity in more communities than we originally operated in. We hosted engagements across the continent observing and noting the strong desire in our 15 years of existence, of individuals and organisations striving to promote digital inclusion in their communities but lacking the support to do so. This is why we need partnership in the ecosystem to support each other, hence the evolution of the L.I.F.E Legacy Program.

The launch of this new undertaking has brought together mission-aligned organisations. They include; Ajegunle Business School, Vision Incubation Hub, DigiCon Academy, Teens Can Code, Koneta Hub, and Asikana Network to carry on the mission of transforming livelihoods towards achieving a digitally inclusive Africa.

On May 30, the first set of partners were taken through an orientation of the program and processes by PIN's Program Manager, Mr. Tosin Abolaji, who equally shared the L.I.F.E curriculum, design and communications strategy, and monitoring and evaluation indicators.

DRL Workshop in Chad

In partnership with the Council of Pan-Africanists of Chad (COPAT) and support from the U.S State Department-Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, & Labor, we organised the second series of a two-day training workshop for leaders of civil society, the media and academics for capacity building in the analysis of public internet policies in Chad.

The workshop was held in N'Djamena between June 27 and 28, 2022. The training

was facilitated by a Paradigm Initiative team with assistance from country experts, led by Mr. Boye Adegoke, Mr. Rigobert Kenmogne, Mr. Samuel Ojezele, Mr. Keoul Bolngar and Mr. Madja Takya Emmanuel.

15 participants were in attendance and the facilitators took them through topics that include; ICT Policy in Chad: Policy Instruments and laws, building coalitions for digital rights advocacy and Using M & E Tools for Effective Advocacy.



LIFE In Senegal

The beneficiaries of the 2nd cohort of the LIFE program in Senegal graduated on June 4 with thirteen participants receiving their certificates. Our partners, Mrs Penda Ndiaye Diallo of Génération Saalih, Mr Oumar Bayo Fall of the National Agency for the Promotion of Youth Employment and Mr Abdourahmane Deme of Pole Emploi were in attendance

to hand out completion certificates to the graduands.

Training of the 3rd cohort of 26 is currently underway with participants being immersed in Life, ICT, financial readiness and entrepreneurial skills.



DRL Workshop Holds in Goma, DRC

On May 25 and 26, PIN and Rudio International convened stakeholders, digital rights actors, members of the media, and the academia in an advocacy workshop supported by the U.S State Department-Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, & Labor.

Members of the aforementioned groups were trained on digital rights and their role in ensuring policies are enforced, and rights respected generally. PIN's Executive Director, Mr. 'Gbenga Sesan, during his presentation on Advocacy Communications, took participants through the stages and processes of advocacy communications using the; Action (change, reform, improve)

and Target (policy, practice, institution, power relations, impact) Strategy.

Facilitators at the workshop included PIN's Senior Program Manager, Boye Adegoke, Rudio International's Executive Director, Arsene Tungali, PIN's Chief Operating Officer, Ms. Nnenna Paul-Ugochukwu, and PIN's Program Officer, Francophone Africa, Mr. Rigobert Kenmogne. Together they enlightened participants about digital rights and internet freedoms, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) policies in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and building coalitions, trust and the advocacy track for digital rights legislation in Africa.

Events

PIN's Participation at RightsCon 2022

PIN participated in six sessions at the annual RightsCon forum hosted by Access Now. The 11th edition of the forum ran from June 6 to June 10, 2022, and we were represented by Mr. 'Gbenga Sesan, Ms. Thobekile Matimbe, Community Manager, Mr. Rigobert Kenmogne, Program Officer, Francophone Africa, Ms. Khadijah El-USman, Program Officer, Anglophone West Africa, and Ms. Bulanda Nkhowani, Senior Program Officer, Southern Africa.

Our session topics cut across digital rights violations, content moderation and inclusion for AI systems.

Publications

Annual Impact Report 2021



Over the course of the 2nd quarter, we published our [Annual Impact Report](#). It highlights our achievements and activities, from DRIF21, the PIN Festival Senegal, to our program consolidation and research output.

Assessing the United Nations Cybertreaty process

In June 2014, the African Union (AU) published and adopted the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection (nicknamed the 'Malabo Convention') which addresses electronic transactions, personal data protection and cybersecurity and cybercrime in the region.

Out of the 55 AU states, only 14 countries have signed and five have ratified the Convention.

This data is perhaps an insight into the nature and degree of participation by African states in the procedure for formulating cybercrime and cybersecurity-related international instruments. Learn more about the United Nations Cybertreaty Process unpacking it from an African perspective [here](#).

Artificial Intelligence in Sub-Saharan Africa: Ensuring Inclusivity

The report '[Artificial Intelligence in Sub-Saharan Africa: Ensuring Inclusivity](#)' by our DRILL Fellow, Koffi Yeboah, reveals the level of inclusivity there is in AI and the need for discussions around inequality in the adoption of AI in developing countries.



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



What We do



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