

INFORMATION ACTION BRIEF

A RESOURCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

UN SDG 16 **peace, justice and strong institutions***

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



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ADVANCING PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS WITHIN AN INFORMATION CONTEXT

WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

Create, provide access to, and manage information (e.g., acquire, organize, preserve, etc.) to advance and ensure peace, justice, and strong institutions for all.



* <https://sdgs.un.org/>

WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

Information holds the power to educate and inform people and institutions so that they can make wise and judicious decisions. The lack or underreporting of information on international/regional/local homicide, violence against women and children, human trafficking, sexual and ethnoracial hostilities among other forms of injustice are a threat to advancing peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. Moreover, to address these threats, including information insecurity, misinformation and disinformation, information is necessary for building effective, accountable and trustworthy institutions at all levels in order to protect fundamental freedoms and bring justice to the people. For example, Milkovich reports “There is a hacker attack every 39 seconds,” and “Only 38% of global organizations claim they are prepared to handle a sophisticated cyber attack.”^[i]

[i] <https://www.cybintsolutions.com/cyber-security-facts-stats/>

HOW IS THIS RELATED TO INFORMATION?

The goals to advance peace, justice, and strong institutions depend upon information, its access, organization, management, dissemination, literacy, and use. In order to increase participation of most vulnerable groups using information and communications technologies, the delivery and processing of information need to be designed using responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative approaches. Information professionals, thus, need to consider how their users may come from diverse cultural backgrounds and need to be approached and served equitably and in culturally-specific ways. The following examples are illustrative of how information on particular issues is used and/or relevant to address the challenges inherent in the stated goals.



“WE NEED RELIABLE AND BETTER DATA ON CHILD MIGRANTS TO PROTECT THEM AND GUARANTEE THEIR BEST INTERESTS.”

International Organization for Migration Director General William Lacy Swing
https://www.unicef.org/media/media_102647.html

Information Access and Women: Information institutions (e.g., cultural memory agencies, schools, government, companies, etc.) can make available authoritative sources of legitimate information to advance/further equality, equity, human dignity, and justice for women around the world, promoting free and unfettered access to information. For example, to enhance information on women, United Nations Women, an entity dedicated to global gender equality and female empowerment, makes available “Facts and figures: Ending violence against women”^[ii]. Through collaboration with community-based organizations and governmental bodies, information professionals can develop culturally-specific information and have greater impact toward advancing peace, justice and strong institutions.

Media and Information Literacy: Information professionals play a key role in developing universal literacy and the promotion of other literacies that create access and opportunity for all, promoting a peaceful society. Information organizations and stakeholders can provide information in diverse formats (e.g., multiple languages), and offer media and information literacy services.

ICT Use and Civil Society: Information and communication technologies (ICTs), including social media, can be used to empower civil society in democratic processes, human rights, governance and greater citizen participation and transparent political processes. Information professionals can create an informed citizenry by providing equitable access to information and ICTs in support of democratic and participatory governance.

[ii] <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures>



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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- Designed by Clara M. Chu.

WHAT CAN I DO?

Actions for social transformation in Practice[P], Service/community engagement[S], Education[E] and Research[R]

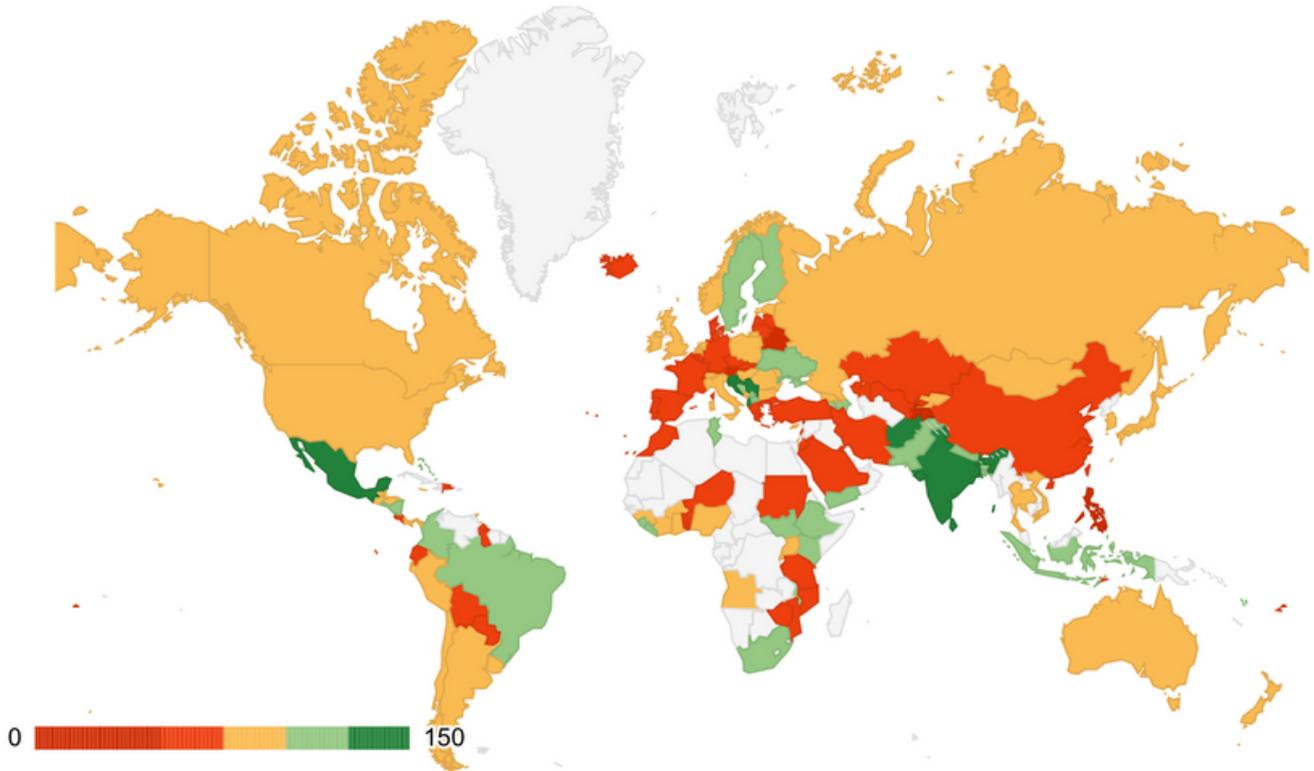
- 1.[P] Gather information-related evidence on government decisions and laws related to SDGs to take actions and resist injustices and abuse of power
- 2.[P] Identify best practices of efforts that are getting made to promote progressive changes related to the SDG topics
- 3.[P, S, E] Promote access to information; free and unfettered
- 4.[P, S, E, R] Design, build, and implement ICT systems to promote easy access to information in a way that is accessible to all (languages, accessibility, etc.)
- 5.[P, S] Provide access to information in a safe environment (e.g., through libraries that are safe physical spaces; through online information platforms that protect personal information and secure from hacking).
- 6.[S] Develop and promote awareness-raising campaigns for peace and opposing violence (e.g., domestic violence)
- 7.[P] Deliver relevant information services to all equitably, regardless of abilities, age, color, education, ethnicity, geography, gender, gender identity, income, language, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, and other forms of prejudice.
- 8.[S, R] Develop an inventory of human rights institutions to build alliances with information organizations around the world on topics represented in the SDGs
- 9.[S] Strengthen advocacy by the information professions for vulnerable communities.
- 10.[P, S, E, R] Facilitate change in entrenched information processes through disrupting dysfunctional patterns of institutional bias and guarantee freedoms for all.

SUMMARY

In all that we do as information professionals, there is an ethos of social justice and responsibility that permeates our core values and professional practice. Information and cultural heritage organizations play a key role in leading societal impact and community development. This ethos drives our actions and activities towards promoting peace, justice, and strong institutions for all.

INFORMATION ACCESS AND FREEDOM INFOGRAPHIC

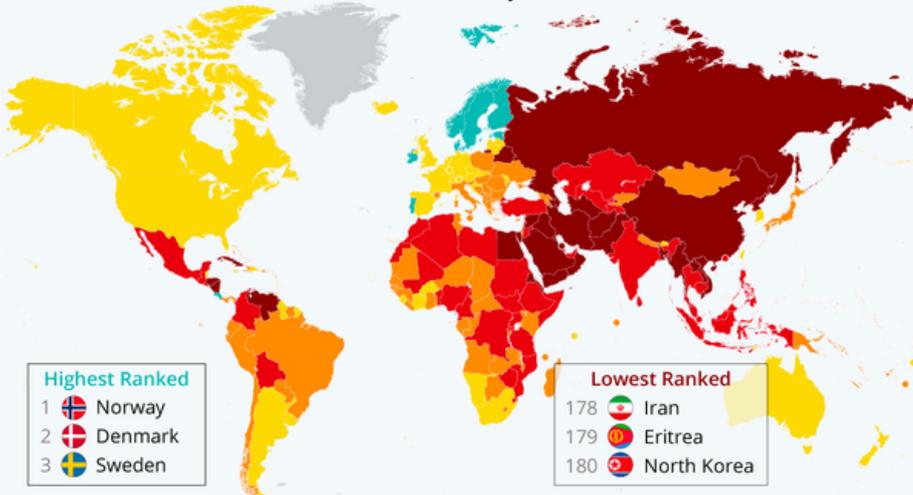
Global Right to Information (RTI) Rating - strength of the legal framework for the right to access information held by public authorities based on 61 discrete indicators



The State of World Press Freedom

Countries ranked by level of press freedom in 2022

■ Good situation
 ■ Satisfactory situation
 ■ Noticeable problems
■ Difficult situation
 ■ Very serious situation



Source: Reporters Without Borders World Press Freedom Index

SOURCES

Graphics

1. Access Info Europe and the Centre for Law and Democracy. <https://www.rti-rating.org/>
2. <https://www.statista.com/chart/13640/press-freedom-index/>

