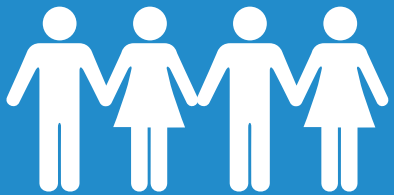


WHAT IS CIVIC SPACE



FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION

'The right to freely associate, join or establish a civil society organisation or group.'

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

'The right to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.'



FREEDOM OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY



'The right of civil society to exercise legitimate dissent through peaceful forms of protest as well as organize meetings and hold demonstrations to forward matters of common interest and protection in these activities from undue interference.'



THE RIGHT TO SPEAK OUT, ORGANISE, AND TAKE ACTION



CIVIC SPACE AROUND THE WORLD



In 2015 one or more of the core civil society freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly were seriously violated in at least 109 countries.

FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION

CIVICUS Civil Society Watch Report

- In 85% of countries, the freedom of association was the most frequently violated
- In 2/3rds of the countries listed, the right to freedom of expression was violated

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION



Press Freedom Index 2016

- North Africa/Middle East is the region where journalists are most constrained
- In 2016 countries in political crises fell in the rankings. The biggest deterioration was in South Sudan
- Namibia is Africa's best ranked country for press freedom- journalists are safe, media landscape is diverse, constitution guarantees media freedom and there are no restrictions placed on the internet.
- All indicators show a decline in press freedom from 2013-2016 with every continent seeing its score decline.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY



Statement from the Special Rapporteur, June 2016.

- "Let me emphasize that the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association unequivocally include the right to assemble and associate for political purposes... This may pose a threat to the Government's hold on power, but this should not be confused with a threat to the State itself. The former is democracy at work; the latter is how autocracies work."
- "People have an instinctive need to take part in the societies in which they live – to have some control over their destinies, to voice their discontent and to improve their lives. Assembly and association rights allow them to do this, and in a peaceful manner."