



Report on: Online Training on Digital Rights and Online Advocacy – 5th March 2025 on zoom

1. Introduction

The rapid expansion of the internet and digital technologies revolutionized communication, access to information, and participation in society. However, this digital transformation also raised challenges regarding the protection, respect, and promotion of rights in the online space. Digital rights became essential for safeguarding privacy, freedom of expression, access to information, and the right to participate in online spaces without discrimination.

Alongside digital rights, online advocacy emerged as a powerful tool for promoting social change and influencing policy decisions in the digital world. The "Re-centering the Civic Internet Through Partner Engagement" project, implemented by Oxfam Uganda and the Center for Constitutional Governance (CCG), aimed to address these concerns by conducting online training modules on digital rights and online advocacy. The training sought to equip individuals, particularly Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Civic Activists, Human Rights Defenders, Communities and Civil Society Representatives, Tech Companies, and Government Authorities, with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate the digital space responsibly and advocate effectively for digital rights.

2. Objectives

The primary objective of the online training modules on digital rights and online advocacy was to equip participants with the tools to:

- Introduction to Digital Rights.
- Online Freedom of Expression.
- Online Privacy and Data Protection.
- Online Advocacy Strategies.
- Digital Security and Safety.



3. Participants

The training was attended by the following categories of participants:

- Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)
- Civic Activists and Human Rights Defenders
- Communities and Civil Society Representatives/Members
- Tech Companies
- Government Authorities
- Media Professionals

4. Facilitators

The training was facilitated by the following experts:

- **Dr. Tolit Charles Atiya:** A digital rights and security expert.
- **Chris Okidi:** CEO of Kampala Analytica, Consultant in Public Law, Political Economy, and Digital Philosophy.

5. Delivery Methodology

The online training modules were delivered through an easily accessible digital platform, enabling participants from across the world to engage with the content at their convenience. The delivery format included:

- Expert-led video lectures in the fields of digital rights and online advocacy provided participants with foundational knowledge.
- Quizzes and assessments were incorporated to track participant progress and comprehension throughout the training.

6. Training outcomes

Upon completion of the online training modules, participants were expected to:

- Gained a comprehensive understanding of digital rights, including the fundamental rights people had when using digital technologies.
- Explored the balance between freedom of expression and the need to prevent hate speech, misinformation, and harmful content online.



- Developed a deep understanding of data privacy, including the risks associated with personal data collection and surveillance by both state and non-state actors.
- Learned how to use digital platforms, social media, and online campaigns effectively for advocacy, raising awareness, and driving social change.
- Mastered essential digital security practices, including methods for securing online identities, using encryption, and avoiding common cyber threats.

7. Challenges Encountered

Several challenges were encountered during the online training session:

- Some participants faced difficulties with internet connectivity, which affected their ability to fully engage in the session.
- There were instances of audio or video lag during the session, impacting the flow of discussions.
- The large number of participants made it challenging to manage time effectively, especially during discussions.

8. Recommendations

Based on the feedback and observations from the training, the following recommendations were made to improve future Zoom-based training sessions:

- Increase the session length to allow more time for discussions and deeper engagement.
- Provide pre-session reading materials to help participants prepare and enhance their understanding of the content before the training.
- Incorporate more interactive tools, such as virtual whiteboards and collaborative exercises, to encourage active participation.
- Offer follow-up resources for participants to continue learning and implementing the knowledge gained during the training.

9. Conclusion



The online training on digital rights and online advocacy was a crucial step in empowering individuals, particularly youth, to take active roles in shaping the future of the internet and digital technologies. By equipping participants with the knowledge and skills to protect their digital rights and advocate for policy reforms, the training contributed to fostering a responsible, ethical, and inclusive digital ecosystem. These training modules will continue to support efforts toward a more just and equitable digital world.

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