



GLOBAL PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY SESSION ON CIVIC SPACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Under Pressure - Human Rights and Civic Space in the Digital Era



Tuesday, September 21, 2021
4:00-5:30 pm (GMT/UTC)
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ABOUT THE EVENT

Today, human rights and civic space are under pressure globally. In many countries around the world, repressive laws and policies restrict fundamental freedoms of expression, participation, assembly and association. In spite of their vital role in the social and democratic fabric of their countries, civil society networks, activists and human rights defenders face intimidation and attacks, both online and offline.

This interactive joint panel, involving experts from CIVICUS, Forus and CPDE, will allow the current situation of human rights and civic space around the globe to be explored, with a specific focus on civic space in the digital era. While new technologies have helped civil society to grow, activists to mobilise and grassroots movements to unite, panellists and participants will debate what the risks and opportunities ahead are, and how they can best be addressed.

Participants will be encouraged to share their stories from the frontline of social change and to spark debates about the current global situation of human rights and civic space. The discussion will examine the experiences of activists and civil society organisations on the ground. Finally, it will explore how digitalization could affect the future of protest.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

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AGENDA



4.00: Introduction by Moderator ([Jyotsna Mohan Singh, Asia Development Alliance](#))

4.05: Current global trends relating to civic space and human rights ([Mandeep Tiwana, CIVICUS](#))

4.20: How can civil society around the world respond to threats to civic space and human rights? ([Marita Gonzalez, CPDE Co-Chair](#))

4.27: An overview of civic space and human rights from the Balkans ([Biljana Spasovska, CPDE Regional Coordinator for Europe and Executive Director of the Balkan Civil Society Network for Development](#))

4.34: The challenge of creating an enabling digital environment for civil society globally ([Deirdre de Burca, Advocacy Coordinator, Forus](#))

4.41: Innovative global civil society campaigns on civic space and human rights ([Bibbi Abruzzini, Media and campaigns, Forus](#))

4.50: Q&A with participants

Key Questions:

- What can governments/civil society/the private sector do to better defend & promote civic space & human rights globally?
- How can these actors ensure that digitalization does not reduce but rather expands civic space online ?

5.20: Summary of key insights & recommendations ([Jyotsna Mohan Singh, Asia Development Alliance](#))

5.30: Finish

JOIN THIS INTERACTIVE PANEL TO SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES OF HUMAN RIGHTS, CIVIC SPACE AND DIGITALIZATION PROCESSES AROUND THE WORLD!

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