

CHARM DIGEST

ABOUT CHARM

CONSORTIUM FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND MEDIA IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (CHARM)

aims to promote and protect human rights, civic space and media freedoms in Sub-Saharan Africa. CHARM is a partnership of CIVICUS, Civil Rights Defenders, DefendDefenders, Fojo Media Institute, The Wits Centre for Journalism, Réseau des Femmes Leaders pour le Développement, and Magamba Network. The partnership acknowledges the role that a free and active media and civil society have in the protection of robust democracies and the promotion of national development.

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JOIN CHARM: No Excuse for GBV!

Dear CHARM stakeholders,

As we unite for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV), let us amplify our collective voice against all forms of abuse and discrimination.

This year's theme, "No Excuse," emphasizes our unwavering commitment to eradicating GBV and fostering a world where every individual is treated with dignity and respect.

In a world where excuses often overshadow accountability, it's time to break the silence and challenge the status quo. No more justifications for abuse. No more turning a blind eye. No more allowing harmful behaviors to persist unchallenged.

Together, we can create a world where respect, dignity, and equality prevail. Each one of us has a role to play in dismantling the structures that perpetuate violence. Whether you're an advocate, survivor, ally, or community leader, your voice matters.

This 16-day journey is an opportunity for us to raise awareness, educate, and inspire change. Let's engage in open conversations, share resources, and support one another. Remember, there is no excuse for abuse.

In solidarity,
CHARM Coordination Team
DefendDefenders



As #CHARM we support all efforts to end #GBV. We advocate for the implementation of policies that put an end towards #GBV and the prosecution of the perpetrators.



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We received two very important visitors at our office at Defend Defenders! Anki Wood and Søren Østergaard Sørensen from Fojo Media Institute met us at our office on 21st November 2023. It was a rich discussion where we sat to analyze the impact of CHARM Africa in influencing the media spaces. Anki took us through a study titled "BARRIERS TO WOMEN JOURNALISTS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA." The study is a joint publication by Fojo Media Institute (Fojo) and African Women in Media (AWiM) which was made as part of the project, Consortium for Human Rights and Media in Africa (CHARM). The study surveyed 125 women journalists from 17 different African countries.



Members of the Coordination team after a meeting with FOJO staff. The meeting was a great analysis of our impact as a project and on the future partnership possibilities of CHARM project



CHARM Coordination team during the staff retreat.
L- R: Patrick Dowan (M&E) Stanley Wobusobi (M&E) Maria Kaddu (Project Coordinator) Joyce Kimani (Communication Officer) and Proscovia Nyamutono (Senior Finance Officer)

The CHARM Coordination team participated in the Defend Defenders Annual retreat held from 23rd-24th November 2023. The retreat was a good platform to showcase the work we are doing as a consortium and discuss what the seven partners bring on board. From the onset, there was a lot of interest on our approach towards promotion of civic space and capacity building for activists and journalists. DD protection team appreciated our support towards ensuring that HRDs at risk receive aid and are well protected. We pledge to continue with the good work we are doing, through the support of all our partners!

"Journalism is about courage; we should not be following the crowd. We can quote what they are saying but does that mean that we support them when they are not right?"

Hamadou SY
Editor



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The African Investigative Journalism Conference, which took place at the Wits university, Johannesburg from 20-22 November 2023. This remains an important event that celebrates the finest of Africa's investigative journalism.

As CHARM we continue to support free and independent media across Africa, while strengthening capacities of journalists and media houses in unearthing corruption and misuse of power in the region.

This year, #AIJC launched the inaugural African Investigative Journalist of the Year Award. Kenyan Journalist Tom Odula won the award for reporting that showed compassion in dealing with the victims in his shocking exposé titled Sex for Work: The True Cost of Our Tea.



Kenyan journalist Tom Odula became the first winner of the African Investigative Journalist Award.



Participants at the AWIM conference in Kigali, Rwanda

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Maria Kaddu,
Project Coordinator - CHARM

On 20 December 2023, over 200 people unanimously agreed to adopt the Kigali Declaration in Kigali, Rwanda! The Kigali Declaration on the Elimination of Gender Violence in and through Media in Africa was the climax of the #AWIM conference that took place on 30 Nov – 1st December 2023. Dr Yemisi Akinbobola, the CEO of AWIM, pointed out that this is an action plan that sets a minimum standard for all stakeholders that impacts how media functions concerning African women and how gender-based violence is discussed in media.

“By being signatories, they are saying they will abide by these minimum standards set for them as stakeholders by the Declaration.” Dr Yemisi .



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