



Dear Colleagues,

Warm greetings from Kampala, Uganda.

September was an especially active month for CHARM, marked by extensive preparations for the full team meeting for all our seven partners. The planning included numerous consultations, engagements, and the exchange of innovative ideas and suggestions. On behalf of the entire team, we extend our sincere gratitude for your unwavering support throughout this process.

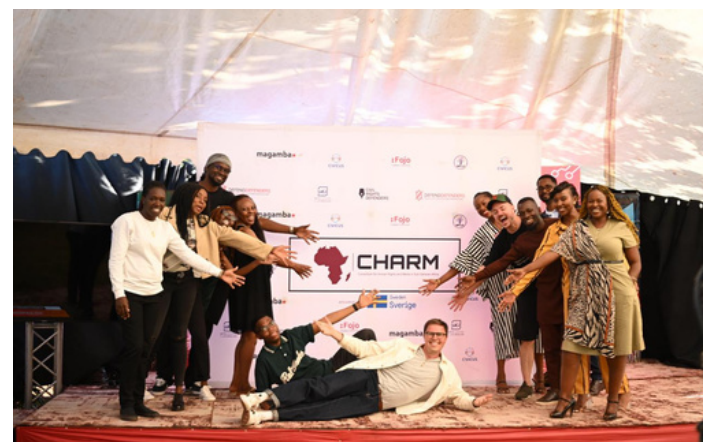
The annual Hub Unconference was successfully held at Moto Republiq in Zimbabwe, attracting a substantial audience and fostering engaging discussions on the role of artificial intelligence in advancing democracy and good governance. Panelists from various regions shared their insights, and our partners, DefendDefenders, led a compelling session addressing online violence against women across the continent. The accompanying photographs vividly capture the essence of the event.

Additionally, the African Journalism Education Network (AJEN) convened its third in-person roundtable meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, on 26 August 2024. This gathering also featured the Adenauer Media Lecture on 27 August 2024, as part of this year's program. This event marked a significant milestone, taking place approximately one year after our second meeting in Kigali, Rwanda, and it was met with great success, attracting numerous participants from various journalism schools and practitioners from news media organizations.

Wishing you an enjoyable reading experience.

Sincerely,

The Coordination Team



Participants at the Hub Unconference in Moto Republiq, Zimbabwe. The conference brought together the best brains in the digital world across Africa.





CHARM

Consortium for Human Rights and Media in Sub-Saharan Africa

UNHUB CONFERENCE ATTRACTS YOUNG PEOPLE FROM ACROSS AFRICA.

From 24- 25 October 2024, Magamba Network hosted prominent figures in the digital space at the Open Data Africa Summit for 2024, during the Shoko Festival's Hub Unconference. This conference, a key initiative under CHARM, explores innovative strategies for leveraging open data to promote social impact and sustainable development across the continent.

Participants engaged in stimulating discussions, shared collaborative ideas, and delivered impactful presentations that underscored the significance of transparency and accessibility in driving transformative change through technological advancements.

Themed "LevelUP," the topics of the day encompassed advancements in artificial intelligence, climate justice, civic technology, and the creative economy. This event served as an important platform for examining how AI will influence daily economic challenges.

The discussions highlighted the ways in which civic technology is already enhancing democracy in Africa, particularly through platforms that facilitate mass civic education and open dialogue among youth on social media. Initiatives like these encourage citizens to actively engage with content and play a vital role in holding governments accountable, particularly regarding budgetary allocations.

Another noteworthy topic addressed the use of innovative digital strategies to enhance public understanding of climate change, emphasizing the pivotal role of youth in climate action.

Emma Nabwire, Defend Defenders Digital Training Lead, emphasized that women remain strategically targeted in incidents of online violence.

She pointed out that responses to this violence are often insufficient, with society lacking both awareness and effective strategies to tackle these issues.

"How are we handling policies? Are perpetrators being held accountable for their actions? Does law enforcement possess the necessary training to manage cases of online violence, particularly given its impact on mental health? How are we addressing the mental health of individuals who have experienced online bullying?" she questioned, stressing that "we must not only focus on protection but also on the recovery and well-being of those affected."

Dr. Millie Phiri, General Manager, The Conversation expressed concern over the increasing violence against women journalists.

"At present, we cannot assert that there is adequate legislation addressing online violence. I have witnessed journalists leaving the country, withdrawing from social media, and attempting to block harassers. Journalists are taking various measures on their own, but these efforts are insufficient. What is required is greater solidarity and support from institutions to assist female journalists in developing legislation or frameworks that provide protection against such violence," Dr. Millie Phiri, General Manager, The Conversation, stated.

This conference served as a vital forum for addressing these pressing issues and fostering collaboration among stakeholders dedicated to promoting a safer and more equitable digital environment.

UNHUB CONFERENCE 2024



UnHub Conference- 2024





Nairobi hosts AJEN Conference

The annual Africa Journalism Education Network (AJEN) meeting convened in Nairobi on 26 August 2024, at The Aga Khan University. This two-day event hosted by the Graduate School of Media and Communications revolved around the theme “Sustainable Journalism Education: Rising Through the Tide of a Media and a Planet in Crisis.”

The meeting drew over 70 participants, predominantly journalism educators from across sub-Saharan Africa, and focused on the importance of teaching journalism in the face of rapid changes and the ongoing climate crisis. The agenda featured a keynote address, panel discussions, workshops, and dedicated time for organizational matters. Attendees included practitioners from various news media organizations representing Tanzania, South Africa, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Somalia, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Eswatini, Sweden, Norway, and Germany.

The event was honored by the presence of Mr. Sebastian Groth, the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Kenya, who delivered a presentation titled “Journalism Education Today: Harnessing the Passion, Innovation, and Creativity of the Youth for a Sustainable Future.” A notable highlight was a roundtable session with UNESCO, where Misako Ito, the Regional Advisor for Communication and Information in Africa, shared insightful solutions to the challenges posed by media and climate crises, inspiring future endeavors.

The final session centered on organizational matters, with AJEN officials providing updates on ongoing projects and discussing strategies for expanding the network’s membership. Delegates from Rwanda, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Zimbabwe attended with support from the Johannesburg office of the Fojo Media Institute, which had representatives present as well. Additionally, CHARM sponsored several delegates for the event.



Delegates during the AJEN Conference in Nairobi, Kenya





Upcoming events:

The Annual Africa Investigative Journalism Conference (AIJC) will be held at the Wits School of Journalism in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 30 October to 1 November 2024. We cordially invite you to participate in this premier journalism event on the continent. The conference will feature a distinguished array of media industry professionals, investigative journalists, fact-checkers, media development organizations, and content creators. For further details, please check the updated poster.

The Hackathon is scheduled to take place on 18-19 October 2024 in Banjul, Gambia. We have received an overwhelming response, with 120 applicants participating in the competition. This event is significant as it will enable the consortium to explore digital spaces in the promotion of human rights. The coordination team, along with four of our partners, has collaborated to bring this initiative to fruition. We will keep you informed about the outcomes of the event in our upcoming edition.





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.

CHARM is funded by:



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