Digital Rights in Africa

The role of NHRIs in protecting rights in the digital age.

Digital rights are human rights in the digital age.

They include freedom of expression, privacy, and access to information.

NHRIs play a critical role in ensuring these rights are protected both offline and online.

#DigitalRights are #HumanRights

NANHRI
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Réseau des Institutions Nationales Africaines des Droits de l'Homme

EMERGING THREATS

Over 15 African States have implemented internet shutdowns since 2024.

Often during elections, unrest, or examinations.

NHRIs are key to monitoring, reporting, and responding to these violations.

REGIONAL COMMITMENTS

Africa has adopted frameworks on freedom of expression, internet governance, and data protection.

NHRIs support the implementation and accountability of these commitments at national level.

CHALLENGES FOR NHRIs

- Limited digital rights expertise
- Weak digital complaint systems
- Inadequate digital security capacity

These challenges hinder NHRIs' ability to effectively protect rights in the digital space.

STRENGTHENING NHRI ACTION

- Build capacity on digital rights and AI
- Digitalise complaint handling systems
- Strengthen legal and policy review
- Support protection of HRDs online

Strong NHRIs are essential for rights-respecting digital governance.

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ENNHRI European Network of National Human Rights Institutions

Asia Pacific Forum

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