

# Right to Information

From

## Around the World

Issue: 205

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### ***RTI; another victim of COVID-19:***

Right to information is an essential right of every citizen through which other social and political rights are protected. This fundamental right is now a victim of state-imposed lockdowns amidst the COVID-19 crisis making it harder for people to reach public departments to get information. Many public offices have been unfunctional for quite some time now. States where RTI legislation has a moderate history, RTI activists are making sure to safeguard the transparency and accountability by reminding state institutions of the importance of people's participation to tackle the current crisis. Pakistan on the other hand can learn from the examples set by India; the launching of RTI helpline in India Punjab which can be proven to be fruitful in current times. Citizens all over the world are faced with this issue. RTI activists are, continuously, making efforts to ensure the provision of this fundamental right. And, this will be continued until the very implementation of Right to Information.

Sudan

[Access to information under seize in South Sudan](#)

Sudan Tribune

Unfortunately, some key officials of the recently established Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (RTGoNU) have become parsimonious with the information....

Scotland

[Relief as opposition parties move to restore information rights](#)

The Ferret

In April the Scottish Government forced through changes in emergency coronavirus legislation allowing public bodies a fivefold extension....

Bangladesh

[RTI/FOI Acts: Another Victim of the Covid-19 Pandemic](#)

The Daily Star

The physical closure of most public offices makes it difficult to implement this law. But while alternative arrangements were made for many essential services to continue....

USA

[Pandemic is no time to deny the public's right to know](#)

The River Report

Access to government contracts was made even more difficult by a 2015 Supreme Court ruling in Boeing v. Paxton. Senate Bill 943....

India

[RTI helpline launched in Punjab](#)

Outlook India

The helpline will be accessible to all citizens, including government officials representing public authorities, from 10 am to 4 pm on all working days....

Scotland

[Freedom of information laws have failed to keep pace with public services'](#)

Evening Express

During an evidence session before the inquiry in December, parliamentary business minister Graeme Dey said the functions of private companies....

Ghana

[RTI, beacon of hope?](#)

News Ghana

The law is to provide for the implementation of the constitutional right to information from both public and some private institution for the protection....

India

[Unraveling the truth about the RTI Act](#)

Inventiva

The right to information is the right of the people of India. The government needs to act transparently and be held for the things that it does....



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India

[Information commissions aren't helping citizens enough during lockdown](#)

The Wire

An assessment of the functioning of the Central Information Commission (CIC) and the State Information Commissions (SICs) done by Satark Nagrik Sangathan....

Great Britain

[Why are British politicians so scared of transparency?](#)

Open Democracy

The public have a right to know how the government reached conclusions on its pandemic response, and how and where their money is being spent.....