

# Right to Information

From

## Around the World

Issue: 202

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### ***Information access and Pandemic:***

COVID-19 pandemic is creating public health and economic crisis all over the world. Governments are taking speedy decisions to tackle the problems coming up with this crisis. Citizens are also encouraged to take precautions and play along with their states' governments. Although good decisions require good information yet, most of the governments are restricting public information and justify it with COVID-19 emergency. Many activities have been restricted by many states so they can focus on grave situations but providing public with the information that can help in fighting the current pandemic is a vital function that many states aren't performing. One thing that states can ensure is the provision of information through online platforms. Online mechanisms to file freedom of information requests and in response getting the information can be made easy for citizens. COVID-19 is a world problem and there is no denying in states' actions to confront the current pandemic but states' also need to realize that Right to Information (RTI) is a fundamental right of a citizen and they should be given liberty to exercise this right.

Scotland

[Warning that coronavirus bill could weaken public scrutiny](#)

The Ferret

FoI campaigners are alarmed at proposals to delay deadlines for public agencies to respond to FoI requests fivefold....

India

[CIC moots digital hearings of RTI matters after coronavirus lockdown ends](#)

The Hindu

Chief Information Commissioner Bimal Julka on Tuesday convened a full commission meeting using one of the digital platforms which can connect about 40 people....

Romania

[Romania's state of emergency raises media freedom concerns](#)

BalkanInsight

Campaigners are warning that media freedom could be curbed in Romania by state-of-emergency provisions that allow the shutdown of websites....

Ghana

[Curbing misinformation in a COVID-19 era; Ghana's approach](#)

My Joy Online

As today marks exactly one year after Parliament of Ghana passed the monumental Right to Information Law in Ghana....

Pakistan

[An internet shutdown is keeping Coronavirus information from millions in Pakistan](#)

Slate

As the coronavirus spreads across the world, the internet is a primary platform to share news and communicate precautions.....

Sri Lanka

[Transparency International Sri Lanka calls for public disclosure of documents on presidential pardon](#)

Colombo Page

Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL) has called upon the government to publicly disclose all relevant documents....

Nigeria

[MRA inducts Federal Ministry of Information into 'enhanced FOI hall of shame', pledges legal action against it](#)

The Nigerian Voice

In a statement issued in Lagos, MRA described as a national embarrassment the inability of the Ministry charged with leading and coordinating the country's public communications....

Canada

[Access to information systems across Canada slowed by COVID-19](#)

CBC Canada

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As governments across the country move to offer essential services only due to COVID-19, some are warning of delays in processing access to information requests....

Armenia

[Media advocate initiative urges Armenian MPs to reject freedom of information bill](#)

Panorama

A draft amendment to the Armenian Law on Freedom of Information has been submitted, which was developed by the Ministry of Environment. According to the version.....

Indonesia

[Little transparency in COVID-19 outbreak](#)

Human Rights Watch

The authorities have been charging people under abusive criminal defamation laws for their online comments about the coronavirus and the government's response....

India

[How state officials violate Nigeria's Freedom of Information Act](#)

Premium Times

A decade after the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act was passed in the country, no fewer than 16 states are yet to domesticate it or create comparative and parallel mechanisms....