

# Right to Information

From

## Around the World

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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.

United Kingdom (UK)

[Joint statement on safety of journalists and access to information during the COVID-19 crisis](#)

Gov.uk

Free, independent and pluralistic media play an indispensable role in informing the public during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.....

Bangladesh

[RTI in the time of coronavirus](#)

The Daily Star

The Covid-19 pandemic, sowing misery across the world, has thrown the role of the state into stark relief. No entity but the government can command....

USA

[The right of access to information in the time of COVID-19](#)

JDSUPRA

This straightforward declaration by the California Supreme Court bears repeating during the COVID-19 health crisis. ....

India

[Over 15.000 judicial operators trained on freedom of expression, access to public information and the safety of journalists](#)

India Education Diary

This will bring the number to more than 15.000 judicial operators, including judges, civil servants of the judicial powers, public prosecutors, public defender's offices....

Canada

[Access to Information in the context of a global pandemic](#)

OIPC

As a global community, we recognize that resources may be diverted away from usual information rights work. Public organizations will rightly focus their resources.....

India

[What happens to RTIs during the lockdown?](#)

The Quint

While hearing of cases have resumed partially, the processing and response to RTI queries has come to a complete halt....

Brazil

[Even with a law, São Paulo's municipalities are not fulfilling citizens' right of access to information](#)

Global Voices

Diadema's lack of transparency is not an isolated case and is the reality for residents of almost half of São Paulo's metropolitan region....

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Australia

[Joint statement on transparency and access to information during COVID-19 outbreak](#)

Miraaj News

The OAIC recognizes the severe impact of the current COVID-19 outbreak on our community and around the world....

Nepal

[Civil society leaders demand promotion of right to information](#)

The Himalayan

Civil society leaders have appealed to all levels of government and public bodies to be responsible towards the people by further promoting the right to information....

USA

[COVID-19 also threatens right to know](#)

Palestine Herald

The federal Freedom of Information Act of 1967 cements the public's right to request records from any federal agency.....