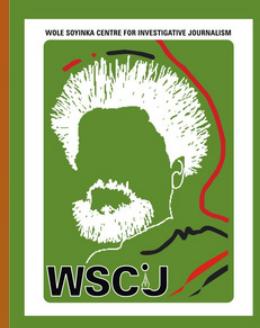


Civic Space Guard Conference



'Hushed voices and the media's defence of the civic space'

#CivicSpaceGuard

Thursday, 28 April 2022 | Lagos | Nigeria

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Bukola Samuel-Wemimo – Moderator

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Juliana Francis, Programme Manager, WSCIJ

A vibrant civic space is compulsory for democracy

Denying rights to freedom of expression is detrimental to the growth of any society. However, we often find those who hold power in trust get jittery about the checks and balances a robust civic space guarantee. Hence, those in authority often work to hush voices that disagree. When there is an attempt to repress or suppress the people, the media along with other custodians of the rule of law have a duty to speak out.

Among those who hold authorities accountable, the media leads. Within the media, investigative reporters are duty bearers. This position makes journalists and media houses premeditated targets of actions that restrict freedom of expression despite the several laws that uphold this fundamental human right.

Still, a vibrant civic space is compulsory for democracy, good governance and social justice which those vying for positions of authority often promise to win elections, but conveniently forget once they get into office. The government of, for, and by the people, cannot be with hushed voices and attacks of people's freedom to speak, associate, dialogue, debate, question, organise and protest.

As we build up to World Press Freedom Day on 3rd May, this platform provides an avenue for respectful and balanced conversations on the who, what, where, when, how, why and so what, of hushed voices in the civic space and the role of the media in the mix. We hope to contribute to efforts to mitigate the shrinking civic space and provide avenues for progressive participation in governance because hushed voices cannot deliver on the promises of social justice.

Motunrayo Alaka
Executive Director/CEO, WSCIJ



Meet the panellists



Victoria Ibezim-Ohaeri
Executive Director
Spaces for Change

Victoria Ibezim-Ohaeri is a lawyer and a South by South West (SXSW) 2013 honouree, 2015 and 2016 Desmond Tutu Fellow. She is the founder and director of research and policy at Spaces for Change (S4C).



Inibehe Effiong
Principal Counsel
Inibehe Effiong
Chambers

A public interest and human rights lawyer, Inibehe Effiong, is the Principal Counsel of Inibehe Effiong Chambers, a litigation and human rights-centred law firm. He has instituted several cases in court to protect the rule of law and the rights of Nigerians.



Debo Adedayo
'Mr Macaroni'
Entertainer and
brutality survivor

Debo Adedayo popularly known as Mr Macaroni is a Nigerian actor, comedian, entrepreneur, social media influencer and entertainer. In October 2020, Debo joined the EndSARS protest against police brutality in Nigeria. He was arrested along with other protesters.



Dooshima Abu
Multimedia journalist
BBC Africa

A journalist with the BBC Africa, Dooshima Abu reports on humanity, local and international politics, health and security among others. One of her outstanding reports was the Nyanya bomb blast. Dooshima was assaulted by security operatives while covering a protest in front of the Benue State House.



Benjamin Hundeyin
Public Relations Officer
Lagos Police Command

Benjamin Hundeyin is the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) for the Lagos State Command. He formerly served as PPRO at the Zone 2 Command Headquarters in Onikan, Lagos. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Language from the Lagos State University (LASU) and a Master of Science degree in Legal Criminology & Security Psychology from the University of Ibadan (UI).



Olukunle Akinrinade
Head, Weekend
Crime Desk
The Nation Newspaper

The Head, Weekend Crime Desk of The Nation, Olukunle Akinrinade is a 2014 and 2021 Soyinka Laureate and was pronounced the 2021 Investigative Journalist of the Year at the 16th Wole Soyinka Award for Investigative Reporting. Before joining The Nation as Senior Correspondent in 2010, Akinrinade was the Assistant Features and Lifestyle Editor with News Star.



Bukola Wemimo-Samuel
News anchor and
reporter
Channels TV

Bukola Samuel-Wemimo is a media personality and broadcast journalist. She is a news anchor at Channels Television. She was the host of a political TV show, 'Fireworks' on TVC News. Bukola has won several awards including the Nigerian Broadcasters Award, 2017; Presenter of the Year, City People Entertainment Award; and winner of the television category, Wole Soyinka Award for Investigative Reporting in 2020.

Moderator

About the Civic Space Guard Project & WSCIJ

The Civic Space Guard is an intervention that fortifies the position of the media as an independent protector of the civic space. The project will increase public awareness of the laws for and against the sanctity of the civic space. The initiative includes an award to celebrates investigative reporters, conversations with stakeholders on the state of the civic space investigative stories and resource development.

The project supported by the MacArthur Foundation, the Luminate Group, the Open Society for West Africa and the Ford Foundation, is an initiative of the Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Journalism (WSCIJ).

WSCIJ is a not-for-profit, non-governmental organisation, with a vision to expose corruption, regulatory failures, and human rights abuses with the tool of investigative journalism to achieve social justice.

Partners

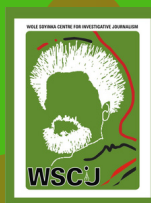
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WSoyinkaCentre

Investigative reporting is the vital force for the restoration of human dignity. – Wole Soyinka