



CIVICUS LENS

PERSPECTIVES FOR A CHANGING WORLD

MARCH 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

We're excited to announce the publication of our 2025 State of Civil Society Report, offering comprehensive analysis of key global trends, their impact on human rights, and civil society responses. Access the full report [here](#) and share it widely within your networks! It's also available in [French](#) and [Spanish](#).



Our report offers a civil society perspective of the world as it stands today: one plagued by crises, including of human rights and democratic values, and one where an embattled civil society faces a growing resourcing crisis. But despite increasing restrictions on civic space, civil society continues to work hard to hold the line.

In a realigning global landscape marked by the rise of right-wing populism, autocracy, sickening violence, climate inaction and economic inequality, this report documents both the challenges and the inspiring responses of civil society activists and organisations worldwide. Through their persistent efforts and against the odds, they continue to carry the torch for the vision of a more peaceful, equitable and sustainable world. Our report draws extensively from the articles and civil society interviews published by CIVICUS Lens over the past year. Access some of our latest updates from the links below.

Please visit our website for our latest stories and contact us at research@civicus.org with your feedback or suggestions.

Your engagement strengthens our collective impact – please share this newsletter with your networks and encourage them to [subscribe](#). Thank you for your continued support!

ARTICLES



INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT HOLD PHILIPPINES STRONGMAN TO ACCOUNT
Rodrigo Duterte, the tyrannical former president of the Philippines, is now in detention in the Netherlands awaiting trial at the International Criminal Court (ICC). [Read more](#)



HUMAN RIGHTS UNDER FIRE IN THE DRC
The current offensive by the Rwanda-backed M23 rebel group in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo has caused thousands of deaths and widespread displacement. [Read more](#)



PANDEMIC TREATY: A RACE AGAINST TIME
Five years since the start of the devastating COVID-19 pandemic, efforts to establish a pandemic treaty continue. [Read more](#)



BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS: A DECADE OF STRUGGLE FOR CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY
After a decade of negotiations, the process to establish a legally binding treaty on business and human rights is showing signs of progress but continues to face significant obstacles. [Read more](#)



TRUMP AND MUSK TAKE THE CHAINSAW TO GLOBAL CIVIL SOCIETY
Donald Trump's US foreign aid freeze has triggered a global humanitarian crisis. With over US\$40 billion in funding suddenly halted, lifesaving healthcare programmes are collapsing, democracy initiatives are shutting down and vulnerable communities are being abandoned. [Read more](#)

INTERVIEWS



Alma Mustajbašić | SERBIA

'Student protests have sparked solidarity, empathy and a renewed belief in collective action'



Franco Giandana Gigena | ARGENTINA

'Civil society is pushing for transparent, rights-centred AI governance'



Taulant Hoxha | KOSOVO

'Civil society works day in and day out to build democracy'



Viviana Krsticevic | USA

'The exclusion of women limits the options and talent available to lead the OAS'



Miguel Gomes Antonio | NAMIBIA

'Legal rights must translate into real protections, and the fight for marriage equality must continue'



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