

# NEW SEASON OF CIVICUS VOICES PODCAST OUT!



6 NEW EPISODES FOCUSED ON  
FREEDOM OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY



We're back with powerful conversations, fresh perspectives, and inspiring stories from changemakers around the world. And guess what? The first episode is out now! Don't miss this exciting start to the season, tune in and be part of the conversation.



CIVICUS Voices is a podcast that amplifies the voices of people, communities, and organisations defending civil liberties and human rights. In this six-part series, we'll hear from civil society experts and grassroots activists about their experiences, challenges, and successes in defending this fundamental right.

In the season opener, we explore how protests drive change by disrupting the status quo and challenging injustice. This episode highlights powerful examples of successful protest movements, from abortion rights victories in Latin America to Black Lives Matter in the USA and the Tunisian Revolution, demonstrating how people-powered action leads to real, positive change.

## MEMBER FEATURE

### New Oxfam Report: Personal to Powerful – Holding the Line for Gender Justice

Thirty years after the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA), Oxfam's new briefing highlights broken promises and unfulfilled commitments by states. As world leaders prepare to review their BPfA pledges, they must reject the rise of anti-rights movements and their misuse of human rights language, which threatens to undo the hard-won progress of feminist and LGBTQIA+ movements. [Read more here](#)

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM CIVICUS

The slashing of US aid funding by figures such as Donald Trump and Elon Musk, along with cuts or planned cuts in international support from several European states, threatens to sever the lifeline of a civil society already in critical condition. As CIVICUS has learned from activists and grassroots groups, shifting and volatile donor priorities are among the top challenges they face, alongside limited resources for strategy and restricted funding.

The recent USAID funding cuts have had a significant impact on civil society actors and organisations around the world. Tais Siqueira, Coordinator of CIVICUS's Local Leadership Lab, has written a powerful piece on the issue, offering important reflections on the role of philanthropy in supporting local leadership. [Read the full article here](#). If your organisation has been affected, we invite you to share your experiences and ideas in our survey ([links below](#)).

[English](#) | [French](#) | [Spanish](#)



The new CIVICUS Monitor Watchlist highlights serious concerns regarding the exercise of civic freedoms in Democratic Republic of the Congo, Italy, Pakistan, Serbia and the United States of America. [Read more](#)



We're excited to share the launch of the State of Civil Society Report 2025, this Thursday, 20 March! This year's report identifies key global and regional trends in civil society action, from movements for democracy and climate justice to struggles for human rights, equality, and inclusion. [Read more](#)



We are at CSW69! The 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women is in its second week, and we've been actively participating in conversations and discussions on advancing gender equality, women's rights, and the gender transformative agenda. [Read more](#)

### CIVICUS BOARD ELECTIONS: NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

The election process to bring on board new Board members is now officially open. This presents an opportunity for CIVICUS members and partners to be involved in the governance of the Alliance and in steering the implementation of the 2022 – 2027 CIVICUS strategic plan.

30 June 2025 marks the end of Board service for three Board members and the possible start of a second three-year term for five Board members, if re-elected. We are searching for up to eight committed, diverse, and passionate civil society leaders who will join the remaining Board members to govern the CIVICUS Alliance from July 2025 to June 2028.

[NOMINATE](#)

## RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES

### The Maputo Protocol Unpacked: A Toolkit for Young Change-makers

Women's rights organisations are joining forces to launch a new toolkit that will transform Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) advocacy. This toolkit is designed to help young Africans understand and engage with the most powerful legal instrument for women's rights on the continent. Whether you're part of a youth organisation or simply eager to learn more about the world's most comprehensive women's rights treaty, join the online event and discover much more! [Signup here](#)

### How Women's Movements Lead Demands for Democracy Amid Backlash and Politicised Religion

ODI's latest report reveals how women's movements are leading the charge for democracy, especially in contexts of shrinking civic space and rising authoritarianism. Despite their critical role, these movements face growing backlash from politicised religion. Drawing on interviews with activists across diverse religious and political contexts, the report explores how religious politics fuels resistance to gender equality and threatens democratic institutions. [Check it out](#)

## GET INVOLVED

### STAND WITH IRANIAN WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Imprisoned. Tortured. Sentenced to death – for standing up against oppression.



Women human rights defenders in Iran are being unjustly imprisoned simply for demanding freedom and equality. It's time to raise our voices & stand in solidarity.

[Sign the petition](#) calling for their immediate release!



### Call for inputs: Share Insights on Human Rights Defenders and Climate Justice

The Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders is seeking input for her upcoming report to the UN on human rights defenders working on climate change and a just transition. If you are involved in this area or have relevant insights, we encourage you to share your experiences. [Deadline: 30 April 2025](#)



### Terms of Reference: WordPress-Joomla! (CIVICUS-Lens) Integration Project

The primary objective of this consultancy is to develop and implement an integration system between our WordPress and Joomla! websites to enable seamless content sharing between platforms. [Apply](#)

[Audit: Request for Proposal](#)  
CIVICUS is soliciting proposals from firms to undertake the following for the period July 2024 – June 2025 financial year and the for the four subsequent fiscal years. [Apply](#)