



**OPEN KNOWLEDGE  
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INITIATIVE**

# **ADVOCACY AND EMPOWERMENT FOR CIVIC SPACE IN NIGERIA**

Project Report on Key Activities of Safeguarding  
Freedom of Association and  
Assembly in Nigeria.

## **PROJECT REPORT**



OpenKnowDevelopment



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# ABOUT US

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Open Knowledge Development Initiative is a non-profit organization established in 2020 with a broad mission to drive positive societal change. Our focus is on empowering people and communities by equipping them with the knowledge, tools, and technologies necessary to create meaningful transformations. We believe that by providing people with the resources and voice they need, they can become the driving force behind sustainable development. A key area of our work involves creating awareness about human rights in Nigeria, thereby ensuring that people understand their rights and are empowered to advocate for themselves. Through education and advocacy, we aim to foster a society where accountability and transparency thrive. We are committed to building a more informed and responsible society, one that transcends boundaries and where knowledge serves as the foundation for lasting change.





## SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

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The Advocacy and Empowerment for Civic Space aimed to safeguard the rights to freedom of assembly and association (FoAA) in Nigeria, which are under threat due to restrictive legislation and government actions. The advocacy focused on engaging grassroots movements, civil society organizations, policymakers, and the general public. Key activities included stakeholder workshops, the development of a Communications Strategy Manual on FoAA advocacy, media campaigns, and multi-stakeholder meetings to raise awareness of these threats, enhance legal knowledge, and push for reforms to protect these essential rights. The project sought to amplify the voices of civil society organizations and grassroots movements, fostering a culture of advocacy and empowerment across Nigeria. Through promoting the fundamental freedoms of association and assembly, it aimed to equip stakeholders with the necessary knowledge and skills to advocate effectively for their rights. Through a combination of physical and online workshops, awareness campaigns, research papers, and advocacy meetings, the project raised awareness about legal restrictions, built capacity for impactful advocacy, and mobilized support for democratic principles.

## KEY ACTIVITIES

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Workshops on Legal Mechanisms and  
Communication Strategies for Advocacy

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Media Campaign and Communication  
Strategy Manual

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Research Paper on Freedom of Assembly  
and Association (FoAA)

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Multi-stakeholder advocacy meetings on  
safeguarding FoAA

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## Workshops on Legal Mechanisms and Communication Strategies for Advocacy

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Enhanced legal knowledge of FoAA among participants and the development of tailored communication strategies. The workshop was well-attended by key stakeholders, including the branch Chairman of the Nigerian Bar Association, as well as prominent civil society organizations and government institutions. The workshop was reported on by Africa Independent Television, including participant feedback on the session.



# Media Campaign and Communication Strategy Manual

2

The media campaign engaged diverse civil society groups, achieving thousands of interactions, particularly through the use of local languages to enhance reach. A comprehensive Communication Strategy Manual has been developed, offering a practical guide for advocacy related to the freedom of assembly and association. This manual will continue to serve as a valuable resource for ongoing advocacy efforts.



## Research Paper on Freedom of Assembly and Association (FoAA)

3

An in-depth research paper on the status of Freedom of Assembly and Association (FoAA) in Nigeria has been successfully completed. The paper explores existing legal frameworks, recent developments, and challenges faced by civil society organizations and human rights defenders. Also, vital recommendations have been provided in the document.



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TOP MENU

MENU

### LEGAL MECHANISMS FOR ADVOCACY IN NIGERIA BY BENJAMIN SATI ESQ, MCIARB (UK)

Open Knowledge Development Initiative > Blog > Uncategorized > LEGAL MECHANISMS FOR ADVOCACY IN NIGERIA BY BENJAMIN SATI ESQ, MCIARB (UK)



(BEING A PAPER PRESENTED BY BENJAMIN SATI ESQ, MCIARB (UK) ON ADVOCACY AND EMPOWERMENT FOR CIVIC SPACE IN NIGERIA, ORGANISED BY OPEN KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE)

#### INTRODUCTION

The paper shed more light on the diverse range of social movements in Nigeria and the challenges they face, while also emphasizing the significant role played by social media, technology, and media advocacy in raising awareness and promoting human rights causes. It is indisputable that the provisions of the Nigerian Constitution are binding on governments, authorities and persons. Section 1 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 as amended provides: *The Constitution is supreme and its provisions shall have binding force on all authorities and persons throughout the Federal Republic of Nigeria.*<sup>[1]</sup>

To further express the superiority of the Constitution, Section 1(3) adds: *if any other law is inconsistent with the provision of this Constitution, this Constitution shall prevail, and that other law shall to the extent of the inconsistency be void.*<sup>[2]</sup>

Visit:

<https://okdinitiative.org/legal-mechanisms-for-advocacy-in-nigeria-by-benjamin-sati-esq-mciarb-uk/>

## Multi-stakeholder advocacy meetings on safeguarding FoAA

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A Critical advocacy meetings were successfully held with key policymakers, civil societies, government authorities, and legislators, which sparked interest in protecting Freedom of Assembly and Association (FoAA). Strategic engagements included discussions with the Solicitor General, a Magistrate Judge, and the Nigerian Bar Association—an essential body representing legal professionals across the country. We were privileged to have the legal research written by a highly respected lawyer and civil leader. Also, influential organizations like AGILE and key legislators were actively involved.

