



BROUGHT TO YOU BY



RIGHTSCON
JUNE 7 – 11, 2021
MEDIA KIT

Last Updated: June 8, 2021

Welcome to your RightCon 2021 media kit! For the second time, **RightsCon** will take place entirely online — from **Monday, June 7** to **Friday, June 11, 2021**. We're excited to have you join us at the 10th anniversary edition of the world's leading summit on human rights in the digital age.

MEDIA CONTACTS

All enquiries: press@accessnow.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION	2
Privacy at RightsCon	2
Identifying as Press	2
Permission and Attribution	2
Filming, Photography, Screen Recording, and Screenshots	3
LOGISTICS	3
Connecting with Participants	3
Social Media	3
OPPORTUNITIES FOR COVERAGE	4
Press Briefings	4
Program highlights	7
Video Highlights	7



BROUGHT TO YOU BY



GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION

*We ask all media pass holders to take careful note of the following policies and guidelines for participating at RightsCon 2021. Failing to abide by these rules could result in a violation of the **RightsCon Code of Conduct** and revocation of access to the event. Please also review the **participant guide** for an in-depth look at how to navigate RightsCon 2021 and connect with the RightsCon community.*

Privacy at RightsCon

For the second year in a row, RightsCon will take place online. Our guiding principles and practices continue to remain strong, and we are committed to a summit that reflects and celebrates the diversity of the issues we cover. We will continue to work towards creating safer and more inclusive spaces for participation.

Many members of the RightsCon community face considerable risk in their work to defend human rights — both online and off — and when it comes to the extent of participation and identity, we encourage everyone to make their own choices, and set their own boundaries. All media pass holders must respect the privacy of everyone in the RightsCon space, and only share quotes or other representations of individuals with their clear, informed consent. In short: always ask first.

Identifying as Press

It's important to let people know who you are! If you are attending RightsCon 2021 as media, you will be required to identify as **press** in your profile, and by adding "**PRESS**" to your display name. This should be done by accurately filling out your participant profile, and choosing **press** in the dropdown menu. You are required to identify as **press** at all times while logged into the RightsCon 2021 platform, and when approaching RightsCon 2021 participants — including in social spaces and private meetings.

Adding "**PRESS**" to your display name will also make it easy for participants to find you on the **Participants** list and connect with you through the in-platform chat if you choose to enable the feature.

Permission and Attribution

It is your responsibility to obtain permission from participants and speakers to be quoted, and to ensure appropriate attribution is given. At the start of each session, it will be made clear if and how speakers can be quoted. Safety is paramount, and speakers who have their profile anonymized **cannot** be described in a level of detail that would make them identifiable.

We encourage you to confirm with session moderators in advance what rules apply, such as Chatham House rule, or if something is off the record. If you arrive late to a session, do not assume it is on the record, as the attribution rules may have already been clarified.



BROUGHT TO YOU BY



Filming, Photography, Screen Recording, and Screenshots

Please be cautious if taking images, screenshots, or any recordings, and be sure to inform yourself on how open any session is before capturing image or sound. Generally, sessions such as **Fireside Chats** and **Panels** are open to all participants, and attendees may wish to document the interactions in some way. However, many sessions with limited or closed participation — including **Community Labs**, **Strategy Sessions**, **regional meet-ups**, and **private meetings** — should not be recorded in any manner without explicit consent from participants and session organizers. If recording of any kind is welcome, the session facilitator will make that clear at the beginning of the session. If you miss the beginning of the session or the facilitator does not address the issue, do not assume consent.

LOGISTICS

Connecting with Participants

RightsCon is all about connecting with people, and this year we're continuing to support your engagement with participants, speakers, and each other. As well as the **discussion boards** and in-platform **chat feature** debuted last year (going live on June 7), 2021 will also host **Social Hours** for less formal engagement.

Social Hours are hosted in an integrated platform and provide flexible, informal space for meeting others on a variety of topics, including through social or creative activities, games and icebreakers, to drop-in hours with funders and company leaders, and more. Every day of RightsCon will host several **Social Hours**, each of which will open for 60 minutes and will feature virtual "tables" that seek to replicate the feel of meeting new and old friends over coffee breaks in an in-person summit.

Other **new options** include **Free Play** events that are centered on games, wellness, and culture, and **After Dark** events that include live performances and film screenings that create fun, relaxed atmospheres.

And don't forget to utilize social media! Many participants will be engaging on Twitter through **#RightsCon** and will include their social media accounts in their participant profiles.

Access Now staff are available to help facilitate connections with speakers and other RightsCon participants upon request. Please direct all media requests to press@accessnow.org. We will notify media pass holders of **major releases** and **press briefings** throughout the event.



BROUGHT TO YOU BY



Social Media

RightsCon action will be taking place via Twitter, so be sure to follow, and tag [@RightsCon](#) and [#RightsCon](#), when sharing your pieces, chatting with participants, and seeking follow-up connections during and after the event. Want more? Other **#s** to follow and engage with include:

- [#DigitalCooperation](#)
- [#VaccinePassports](#)
- [#KeptOn](#) & [#InternetShutdowns](#)
- [#WhyID](#)
- [#PetsOfRightsCon](#)
- [#WhereAreYouRightsCon](#)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COVERAGE

Press Briefings

We have updated our format for press briefings, and this year invite you to video call in, and ask your questions directly to participants. These sessions are **exclusive** for media pass holders, but will be recorded and made publicly available after RightsCon.

05:30 ET/09:30 GMT/11:30 CET, June 8 - [#KeptOn for democracy: elections and internet shutdowns](#)

Internet shutdowns during elections are an attack on democracy. People in these countries are plunged into darkness, while those outside cannot scrutinize what they can't see. Importantly, it's very difficult for journalists and human rights defenders to do their jobs.

Halfway through 2021, the world has witnessed authorities impose internet shutdowns during presidential elections in Uganda and the Republic of the Congo, immediately after elections in Niger, throughout an ongoing military coup in Myanmar, and to quell nationwide protests in India. And with elections in countries with a history of internet shutdowns such as Ethiopia, Iran, and Russia, on the horizon, this topic needs the world's attention.

This press briefing brings together experts who live through, and fight against, internet shutdowns at the most critical of times, creating space to address specific situations, highlight experiences, and pose solutions and suggestions to embolden the fight to [#KeptOn](#). Through a live video platform, members of the media will get the opportunity to ask pressing questions.

Speakers:

- Iria Puyosa, Researcher & Consultant in Social Media and Politics, Universidad Central de Venezuela



BROUGHT TO YOU BY



- Richard Mulonga, Founder & CEO of Bloggers of Zambia
- Amir Rashidi, Director of Digital Rights and Security at Miaan Group, Iran
- Harold Adjaho, President of Internet Society, Benin Chapter

Moderators:

- Felicia Anthonio, #KeepItOn Lead at Access Now
- Melody Patry, Advocacy Director at Access Now

This session will be recorded and made publicly available. [Link to program.](#)

07:15 ET/13:15 CET/19:15 MYT, 10 June - [New government, old tactics: laws abused to throttle online expression in Malaysia](#)

A new emergency law in Malaysia is criminalizing the publication and dissemination of “fake news” online — paving the way for government censorship. In March 2021, the government implemented the Emergency (Essential Powers) (No.2) Ordinance, reintroducing provisions from the heavily-criticized and now-defunct Anti-Fake News Act 2018 — a law repealed for expanding executive powers to curtail online dissent. This backslide on human rights reflects a return by the current Malaysian administration to the former government’s tactics to limit freedom of expression and information.

Amidst political instability as parliament remains suspended, and Malaysia heads towards potential general elections, contempt of court, sedition, and communications laws are targeting human rights defenders and independent media platforms.

This press briefing brings together local and global experts to provide insights and recommendations to strengthen solidarity in advocacy against this trend, and explore what this oppressive trend means for online expression in Malaysia, and beyond. Through a live video platform, members of the media will get the opportunity to ask the pressing questions.

Speakers:

- Wathshlah Naidu, Executive Director of Centre for Independent Journalism (CIJ)
- Steven Gan, Editor-in-Chief and Co-Founder of Malaysiakini
- Edmund Bon, lawyer at AmerBON Advocates, Malaysia representative at AICHR
- Fahmi Reza, artist and activist

Moderator:

- Nalini Elumalai, Malaysia Program Officer at Article 19

This session will be recorded and made publicly available. [Link to program.](#)



BROUGHT TO YOU BY



**06:00 ET/12:00 CET/15:30 IST, June 11 - What's happening in India's online space?
Combatting an epidemic of censorship**

Online censorship in India is constantly evolving. The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated a shift online, then a virulent wave of the virus this year sent many Indians to the internet in search of essential resources such as oxygen cylinders, intensive care beds, and vaccines. The unprecedented surge in online activity called for greater protection of users' rights on the internet. But that's not what the people of India got, and today we're witnessing authorities continue to tighten the grip on online space.

In February 2021, the government implemented new intermediary rules under the Information Technology Act — ringing alarm bells, and seeing challenges in courts. The rules carry dangerous provisions that jeopardise privacy and freedom of expression, and come against a repressive backdrop of social media censorship where posts related to COVID-19 relief efforts, volunteering initiatives, and government criticism, are being taken down without notice or explanation. It is getting increasingly difficult for journalists to do their job.

This press briefing brings together human rights experts from India, and the world — such as **David Kaye, Independent Chair of the GNI, former UN Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Speech** — to provide insight, explore solutions to strengthen advocacy, unpack the layers of policy implications, and outline exactly what these ever-changing oppressive measures mean for human rights in India, and the region. Through a live video platform, members of the media will get the opportunity to ask pressing questions.

Speakers (UPDATED):

- David Kaye, Independent Chair of the GNI, former UN Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Speech
- Sushant Sinha, Founder of Indian Kanoon
- Deborah Brown, Senior researcher and advocate on digital rights at Human Rights Watch
- Siddharth Varadarajan, Founder and Editor at the Wire, and member of the Digital News Publishers Association
- Gayatri Khandhadai, Asia Policy Regional Coordinator at Association for Progressive Communication

Moderators:

- Ria Singh Sawhney, Asia Pacific Policy Fellow at Access Now
- Raman Jit Singh Chima, Senior International Counsel and Asia Pacific Policy Director at Access Now

This session will be recorded and made publicly available. [Link to program.](#)



BROUGHT TO YOU BY



Program Highlights

See the full RightsCon Online [program](#) and [speakers list](#).

This year's program isn't just big, it's important. We're hosting over 500 live and pre-recorded sessions cutting across 20 program categories and nine intersecting themes, from **gender justice**, to **public health** and **disability rights**.

- **RightsCon 2021 Opening Ceremonies** — Access Now | Syrian Archive | U.N. Special Rapporteur on the right to health | Telenor
- **Fireside chat: Vijaya Gadde and Berhan Taye** — Twitter | Internews
- **Fireside chat: Agnès Callamard and Irene Khan** — Amnesty International | U.N. Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression
- **Free speech gatekeepers in the Middle East: automation, content moderation, and the power to delete** — Middle East Institute Cyber Program | New America's Open Technology Institute
- **Ballots, bots, and BS: How to restore trust in American elections** — Center for Democracy & Technology (CDT)
- **New horizons in migration, policing and tech surveillance** — Grassroots Leadership | Just Futures Law | Mijente
- **Reshaping resistance and resilience in the Amazon: Indigenous and local peoples strategies to build power in COVID19 times** — Hivos | Digital Democracy (DD) | Articulation of the Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB) | Union of People Affected by Texaco's Petroleum Operations (UDAPT)
- **Track my period, not my data! Making femtech accountable** — IT for Change | Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN)
- **Diversity and inclusion beyond youth tokenism** — Success Capital Organisation
- **Exporting digital threats to democracy: regulating tech platforms abroad and its impact in Africa** — Lawyers Hub Kenya
- **Digital gender divide and COVID-19: what prospects for women's political participation in Africa?** — Big Steps Outreach Network (BONET)
- **Facial Recognition and the Private Sector: strategies to protect civil and consumer rights** — Brazilian Institute for Consumer Protection (IDEC)
- **Syria: The Most Documented Conflict in History and How Tech is Pursuing Justice** — Human Rights Foundation (HRF) | The Syria Campaign (TSC)

Video Highlights

Missed something? Want to double check a quote? Many recordings from this week's sessions will be shared via our [YouTube channel](#), and will be available long after RightsCon online has ended. Notable sessions so far include:



BROUGHT TO YOU BY



- **RightsCon 2021 Opening Ceremony** with Brett Solomon, Executive Director, Access Now; Hadi Al Khatib, Executive Director, Mnemonic and Founder, Syrian Archive; Dr. Tlaleng Mofokeng, U.N. Special Rapporteur on the right to health; Rita Skjærvik, Senior Vice President, Strategy & External Relations, Telenor; Nikki Gladstone, RightsCon Director, Access Now; Javier Pallero, Policy Director, Access Now; Melody Patry, Advocacy Director, Access Now; and Daphne Ugarte, Participant Experience Coordinator, Access Now.
- **Fireside chat with Matthew Prince**, Co-Founder and CEO Cloudflare, **and Joyce Hakmeh**, Senior Research Fellow, Chatham House.
- **Fireside chat with Cory Doctorow**, Activist, Author of *Attack Surface*, **and Beatriz Busaniche**, Director, Fundación Vía Libre

Have a great RightsCon 2021!