

forus

The Forus Communicators' Series

“Spot It, Stop It, Tell It”: The Misinformation Response Lab

English/Français/Español/Português

5 NOVEMBER

13:00 - 14:30 UTC

English/Français/Español/Português

This event will be **simultaneously interpreted** in **English, Spanish, Portuguese and French** by the following members of the Forus Interpreters and Translators Pool.Please click on the globe button to select the language in which you would like to listen to this meeting.

Cet événement sera **interprété simultanément** en **français, anglais, portugais et espagnol** par les membres ci-dessous du Pool d'interprètes et de traducteurs de Forus. Veuillez cliquer sur le bouton en forme de globe pour sélectionner la langue dans laquelle vous souhaitez écouter cette réunion.

Este evento será **interpretado simultáneamente** en **español, francés, Portugués e inglés** por los siguientes miembros del Pool de Intérpretes y Traductores de Forus. Haga clic en el botón con forma de globo terráqueo para seleccionar el idioma en el que desea escuchar esta reunión.

Este evento contará com **interpretação simultânea em inglês, espanhol, português e francês**, a cargo dos seguintes membros do Grupo de Intérpretes e Tradutores do Forus. Clique no botão com o globo para selecionar o idioma em que pretende ouvir esta reunião.



Wendy Dubreuil
English<>Français
Paris



Giovanna Lucato
English<>Português
Sao Paulo



Carolina Valezzi
English<>Français
Mexico City



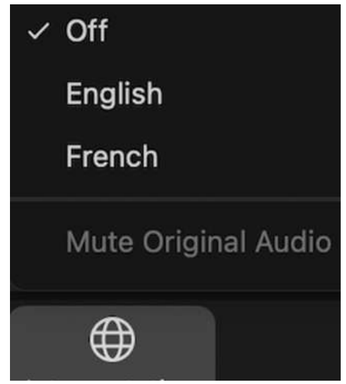
David Helguera
English<>Español
Mexico City



Elizabeth B. Beckmann
English<>Español
Mexico City



Gabriela Cleefi
English<>Português
Mexico City



Data Confidentiality

During this Forus event, we will be using artificial intelligence to capture key points and next steps. If there are sensitive topics where you'd prefer to exclude AI capture, please inform the meeting host. Data collected will be exclusively used for creating the event summary and will not be shared with third parties or employed for any other purposes.

Confidentialité des données

Lors de cet événement, nous utiliserons l'intelligence artificielle pour capturer les points clés et les actions à venir. Si vous souhaitez exclure l'utilisation de l'IA sur des sujets sensibles, veuillez le signaler à l'animateur.ice. Les données collectées seront exclusivement utilisées pour créer le résumé de l'événement et ne seront pas partagées avec des tiers ou utilisées à d'autres fins.

Confidencialidad de datos

En este evento de Forus, utilizaremos inteligencia artificial para captar los puntos clave y los pasos a seguir. Si desea excluir el uso de inteligencia artificial en temas delicados, por favor, hágaselo saber al moderador/a. Los datos recopilados se utilizarán exclusivamente para crear el resumen del evento y no se compartirán con terceros ni se emplearán para otros fines.

Confidencialidade dos dados

Durante este evento Forus, utilizaremos a inteligência artificial para registar os pontos principais e os passos seguintes. Se houver tópicos sensíveis em que prefira excluir a captura de IA, informe o anfitrião da reunião. Os dados recolhidos serão utilizados exclusivamente para criar o resumo do evento e não serão partilhados com terceiros ou utilizados para quaisquer outros fins.

The Forus Communicators' Series

"Spot It, Stop It, Tell It": The Misinformation Response Lab

Thursday
5 NOVEMBER

Start From
13:00 UTC



Lena Muhs
Forus EU SEE Researcher



Natali Carvalho
Journalist - Forus Journalism Programme Fellow



Nfor Hanson Nchanji
Journalist-Forus Journalism Programme Fellow







The Forus Communicators' Series

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WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

"Spot It, Stop It, Tell It"



BIBBI ABRUZZINI
FORUS

Keep in mind

NGOs face increasing disinformation/misinformation campaigns, especially in contexts where stakeholders with specific political agendas seek to undermine them.

They will not be able to counter all these actions, but ensuring that they communicate credible, quality, shared and accepted data and testimonies by the populations they work with will allow them to mitigate the impact of these campaigns as much as possible.

Prepare to share with the group

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English

IDENTIFY A MISLEADING OR HARMFUL NARRATIVE AFFECTING CIVIL SOCIETY AT YOUR NATIONAL OR REGIONAL CONTEXT, INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, HUMAN RIGHTS OR DEVELOPMENT.

IDENTIFY **WHO** SPREADS OR AMPLIFIES IT, **WHAT** FEARS OR NEEDS IT EXPLOITS, ITS EMOTIONAL HOOK, THE EVIDENCE THAT SUPPORTS OR CONTRADICTS IT, AND **WHO** COULD RESPOND CREDIBLY. **BE READY TO SHARE THIS WITH THE GROUP!**

Español

IDENTIFICA UNA NARRATIVA ENGAÑOSA O PERJUDICIAL QUE AFECTE A LA SOCIEDAD CIVIL, LA COOPERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL, LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS O EL DESARROLLO EN TU CONTEXTO.

IDENTIFICA **QUIÉN** LA DIFUNDE O LA AMPLIFICA, **QUÉ** MIEDOS O NECESIDADES EXPLOTA, CUÁL ES SU GANCHO EMOCIONAL, LAS PRUEBAS QUE LA RESPALDAN O LA CONTRADICEN, Y **QUIÉN** PODRÍA RESPONDER DE FORMA CREÍBLE. **¡PREPÁRENSE PARA COMPARTIR ESTO CON EL GRUPO!**

Français

IDENTIFIEZ UN DISCOURS TROMPEUR OU PRÉJUDICIABLE AYANT UN IMPACT SUR LA SOCIÉTÉ CIVILE, LA COOPÉRATION INTERNATIONALE, LES DROITS HUMAINS OU LE DÉVELOPPEMENT DANS VOTRE CONTEXTE.

IDENTIFIEZ **QUI** LE DIFFUSE OU L'AMPLIFIE, **QUELLES** PEURS OU **QUELS** BESOINS IL EXPLOITE, SON ARGUMENT ÉMOTIONNEL, LES ÉLÉMENTS FACTUELS QUI L'ÉTAYENT OU LE CONTREDISENT, ET QUI POURRAIT Y RÉPONDRE DE MANIÈRE CRÉDIBLE. **SOYEZ PRÊTS-ES À PARTAGER CELA AVEC LE GROUPE !**

Português

IDENTIFICA UMA NARRATIVA ENGANOSA OU PREJUDICIAL QUE AFETE A SOCIEDADE CIVIL, A COOPERAÇÃO INTERNACIONAL, OS DIREITOS HUMANOS OU O DESENVOLVIMENTO NO TEU CONTEXTO.

IDENTIFICA **QUEM** A DIVULGA OU AMPLIFICA, **QUE** RECEIOS OU NECESSIDADES ELA EXPLORA, O SEU APELO EMOCIONAL, AS PROVAS QUE A SUSTENTAM OU A CONTRADIZEM E **QUEM** PODERIA RESPONDER DE FORMA CREDÍVEL. **ESTEJAM PRONTOS-AS PARA PARTILHAR ISTO COM O GRUPO!**

STRATEGIES

Misinformation, prebunking and debunking

MISINFORMATION ABOUT CIVIL SOCIETY AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION RARELY SPREADS SIMPLY BECAUSE SOMEONE SEES ONE FALSE CLAIM. IT OFTEN WORKS BY BUILDING A BROADER NARRATIVE

THESE NARRATIVES CAN SPREAD THROUGH SEVERAL MEANS AND FOR CIVIL SOCIETY THE CHALLENGE IS TWOFOLD



PREBUNKING & DEBUNKING

PREBUNKING

MEANS PREPARING PEOPLE IN ADVANCE. WE EXPLAIN COMMON MANIPULATION TECHNIQUES SUCH AS FALSE DILEMMAS, MISLEADING COMPARISONS OR EMOTIONAL FRAMING, SO AUDIENCES ARE BETTER EQUIPPED TO RECOGNISE THEM.



DEBUNKING

MEANS RESPONDING AFTER A SPECIFIC MISLEADING CLAIM HAS APPEARED. WE EXPLAIN WHAT IS WRONG OR MISSING, PROVIDE RELIABLE EVIDENCE, AND MAKE THE ACCURATE INFORMATION EASY TO UNDERSTAND.



RESOURCES - FORUS MISINFORMATION STRATEGIES

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Digital Enquirer Kit

The Digital Enquirer Kit is an e-learning course that guides learners through lessons on how to prevent the spread of misinformation, available on the free platform *atingi.org*. The course covers topics including media literacy, verification, and ho...

Tactical Tech



The Africa Facts Network

Established in 2017, the Africa Facts Network is a growing community of 58 fact-checking organisations working across more than 35 countries on the continent. From North to South, East to West, and Central Africa, our members collaborate t...

Africa Check · Apr 23



Visual Verification Tips: Mis/Disinformation in Africa

Guide created by WITNESS Africa to address misinformation and disinformation trends on the African continent using visual verification tips.

Library



Dicas de deteção de IA

À medida que a IA generativa avança, as ferramentas de detecção são essenciais para verificar conteúdos audiovisuais e combater os riscos da mídia sintética. Este guia de dicas compartilha práticas eficazes de jornalistas e verificadores de fatos.

Library



Observatorio de mujeres sobre desinformación y género. Centro de recursos

Como parte del proyecto "Combatiendo la Manipulación de Información Dirigida a Candidatas Mujeres durante Procesos Electorales en América Latina", este espacio reúne los principales documentos, hallazgos y recursos desarrollados durante la...

Fundación Multitudes



Caja de Herramientas sobre desinformación en América Latina y el

La Caja de Herramientas sobre Desinformación en América Latina y el Caribe, desarrollada por Chequeado y la red LatamChequea con el apoyo de la UNESCO, es un recurso integral para combatir la

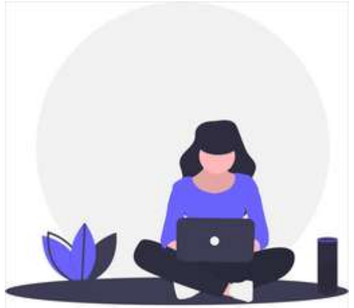
unesco.org · Mar 7, 2025



Check Lab

Check Lab es un espacio de consulta para abordar el ecosistema desinformativo con claridad y respaldo científico. Una guía en constante actualización para entender el fenómeno con datos y mirada crítica.

LatamChequea



Découvrez les initiatives francophones de lutte contre la désinformation

Au cours des dernières années, et notamment avec la pandémie de Covid-19 qui a amené avec elle son lot de fausses rumeurs, de nombreuses initiatives ...

CDEL



The disinformation landscape across Europe

You will find on this page country factsheets that highlight the disinformation landscape across EU Member States.

EU DisinfoLab



Full Fact

Not sure what to believe? Full Fact checks the claims you see online and in the news, helping you spot misinformation and get the facts that matter.

FullFact



InVID Verification Plugin

A verification "Swiss army knife" helping journalists to save time and be more efficient in their fact-checking and debunking tasks on social networks.

InVID project



External research and resources

UNHCR Information Integrity Toolkit

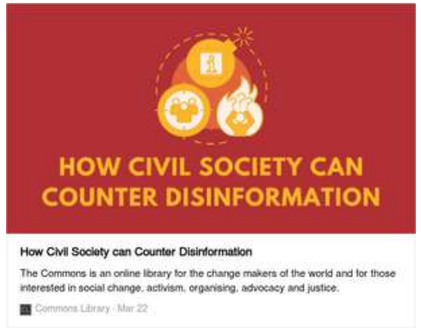


Information integrity

We will discuss the recent International Panel on the Information Environment (IPIE) report and what its findings mean for the humanitarian sector. Topics include how people now find information, the right to know, information integrity and the role of ...

CDAC Network

RESOURCES - FORUS MISINFORMATION STRATEGIES





Share in the chat!

English

NAME ONE TOOL, TACTIC OR RESOURCE YOU USE TO MONITOR NARRATIVES OR PLAN RESPONSES (SOCIAL LISTENING, MESSAGE TESTING, RAPID-RESPONSE PROTOCOLS)

Español

NOMBRA UNA HERRAMIENTA, TÁCTICA O RECURSO QUE UTILICES PARA HACER UN SEGUIMIENTO DE LAS NARRATIVAS O PLANIFICAR RESPUESTAS (ESCUCHA EN REDES SOCIALES, PRUEBAS DE MENSAJES, PROTOCOLOS DE RESPUESTA RÁPIDA).

Français

CITEZ UN OUTIL, UNE STRATÉGIE OU UNE RESSOURCE QUE VOUS UTILISEZ POUR SUIVRE LES DISCOURS OU PRÉPARER DES RÉPONSES (ÉCOUTE DES RÉSEAUX SOCIAUX, TESTS DE MESSAGES, PROTOCOLES D'INTERVENTION RAPIDE).

Português

INDIQUE UMA FERRAMENTA, TÁTICA OU RECURSO QUE UTILIZE PARA ACOMPANHAR AS NARRATIVAS OU PLANEAR RESPOSTAS (MONITORIZAÇÃO DAS REDES SOCIAIS, TESTE DE MENSAGENS, PROTOCOLOS DE RESPOSTA RÁPIDA)



Share

JOIN WITH THE GROUP

N'HÉSITEZ PAS À PARTAGER AVEC LE GROUPE !

¡NO DUDEN EN COMPARTIRLO CON EL GRUPO!

SINTAM-SE À VONTADE PARA PARTILHAR COM O GRUPO!



PRESENTATION

GLOBAL TRENDS

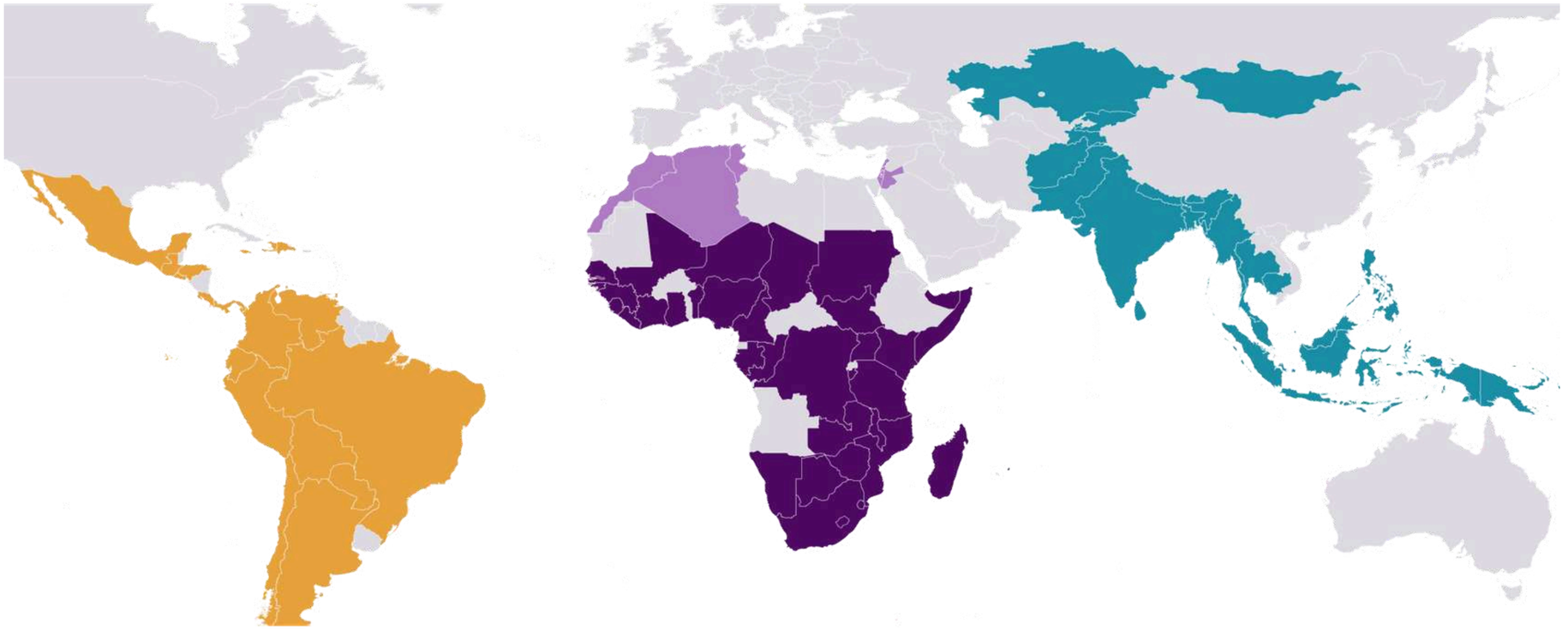
- LENA JOINED THE FORUS TEAM IN JANUARY 2025 AS RESEARCHER FOR THE EU SUPPORTING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY (EU SEE) PROJECT. SHE HAS PREVIOUSLY WORKED IN VARIOUS PEACEBUILDING AND HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDING AS A HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVER ACCOMPANYING HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS UNDER THREAT IN THE PHILIPPINES. AS A HUMAN RIGHTS AND APPLIED PEACE RESEARCHER, SHE HAS ENGAGED IN COMMUNITY-BASED ACTION RESEARCH FOCUSING ON INDIGENOUS SELF-DETERMINATION, THE EFFECTS OF SECURITIZATION ON CIVIL SOCIETY, AND CIVIL SOCIETY STRATEGIES TO REVERSE THE SHRINKING CIVIC SPACES TREND. LENA HOLDS A MASTER OF ARTS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS FROM THE UN-MANDATED UNIVERSITY FOR PEACE IN COSTA RICA AND A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES FROM UNIVERSITY COLLEGE MAASTRICHT, THE NETHERLANDS. SHE IS BASED IN DAVAO CITY, THE PHILIPPINES.

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LENA MUHS
EU SEE RESEARCHER (FORUS)

Coverage: 82 active countries in four regions



82

active countries,each with a national Network Member

- Sub-Saharan Africa
- Americas and the Caribbean
- Asia and the Pacific
- Middle East and North Africa

Products: from real-time signals to annual assessment

NEAR REAL TIME

Alerts

Triggered by a single high-impact event or a series of events. Six types, negative and positive.

1,038 alerts to date

ANNUAL

Enabling Environment Snapshots

Concise state of play per country: trend, key events, challenges and opportunities .

208 published

ANNUAL

Country Focus Reports

Expert panel scores each of the six principles, plus qualitative analysis of dr vers.

90 published

Updated: 15 October 2026

EU SEE EVIDENCE ON MISINFORMATION

forus

P5
Supportive public culture and discourses on civil society

- MISINFORMATION SEEKING TO DELEGITIMIZE CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS AS:
  - INFLUENCED BY OR PROMOTING FOREIGN INTERESTS
  - BEING TROUBLEMAKERS CAUSING DIVISION AND CONFLICT
  - BEING ANTI-GOVERNMENT, CO-OPTED BY OPPOSITION
- MARGINALIZED GROUPS/SENSITIVE TOPICS DISPROPORTIONATELY TARGETED

IMPACT: POLARIZES DISCOURSES | REDUCES PERCEPTION & TRUST IN CIVIL SOCIETY | INHIBITES CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

P6
Access to a secure digital environment

- DIGITAL SPACES ENABLE HIGH-VOLUME, INTENSITY, AND VIRALITY OF MISINFORMATION
- COORDINATED AMPLIFICATION OF DISCOURSES THROUGH BOT ACTIVITY AND MANIPULATION OF ALGORITHMS TO PROMOTE OR SUPPRESS INFORMATION AND NARRATIVES
- AI-GENERATED MISINFORMATION

IMPACT: MARGINALIZATION OF DISCOURSES | ONLINE THREATS & HATE SPEECH | UNDERMINES FACTS-BASED DIALOGUE

MISINFORMATION'S IMPACT ON THE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

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MISINFORMATION AFFECTING OTHER ASPECTS OF THE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

- ENCOURAGES OR LEGITIMIZES HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION AND VIOLENCE AGAINST CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS
- USED TO JUSTIFY RESTRICTIVE LAWS AND POLICIES, INCLUDING RESTRICTIONS ON ACCESSING FOREIGN FUNDING
- CAN UNDERMINE VALUES OF PARTICIPATION AND DELIBERATION
- LAWS TO FIGHT MISINFORMATION USED TO CRIMINALIZE CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS

MISINFORMATION INTERSECTING WITH DETERIORATING ENVIRONMNET

- INDEPENDENT JOURNALISTS FACING BUDGET CUTS, CRIMINALIZATION, EXCLUSION, AND MISINFORMATION
- REDUCED ACCESS TO FUNDING OFTEN MEANS REDUCED CAPACITY TO RESPOND TO MISINFORMATION

UNCERTAIN INFORMATION ENVIRONMENT ALSO AFFECTS CIVIL SOCIETY REPORTING AND MONITORING

P1
Respect and protection of fundamental freedoms

P2
Supportive legal and regulatory framework

P3
Accessible and sustainable resources

P4
Openand responsive State

CIVIL SOCIETY STRATEGIES (APART FROM COMMS)

forus

- INVESTIGATION INTO STATE-SPONSORED NETWORKS SPREADING MISINFORMATION
- REPORTING TO INTERNATIONAL MECHANISMS E.G. UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS
- LEGISLATION REGULATING PLATFORMS
- LEGISLATION REGULATING AI
- CIVIC EDUCATION
- DIGITAL LITERACY PROGRAMS
- MONITOR AND DETECT TRENDS EARLY

What else?
What strategies have you used?

What we measure: six enabling environment principles

P1
Respect and protection of fundamental freedoms

P2
Supportive legal and regulatory framework

P3
Accessible and sustainable resources

P4
Openand responsive S tate

P5
Supportive public culture and discourses on civil so cie ty

P6
Access to a secure digital environment

Why it matters for desks

D e-ris king
AML/CFTrules, bank account freezes and foreign funding laws show up under resources and the legal framework

Business environment
Thesamelegalcertainty,ruleof law and digitalsignalsmattertoinvestors and Global Gateway partners

Flagging issues
Comparable, principle-based evidence to raise concerns in a structured, non-anecdotal way

Q & A

JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

REJOIGNEZ LA CONVERSATION !

¡ÚNASE A LA CONVERSACIÓN!

JUNTE-SE À CONVERSA!





Forus Journalism Programme

Forus announces the selection of ten talented journalists — including dynamic pairs from Africa and Latin America — for the Forus Journalism Fellowship, a new initiative under its #PositiveNarratives campaign. This global fellowship brings…

Forus

forus CONNECT SUPPORT INFLUENCE

JOURNALISM FELLOWSHIP



Borso Tall
Senegal



Sanjog Manandhar
Nepal



Stefanny Paola Peña Sevilla
Venezuela



Nfor Hanson Nchanji
Global



Tina Charisma
Global



Hawa Ibrahima
Mali



Natali Carvalho
Brazil



Innocent Kiiza
Uganda



Maggie Morett
Mexico



Innocent Buchu
Democratic Republic of the Congo



Florence Inyabuntu
Burundi



Paul Antoine Matos
Mexico

PRESENTATION

Digital Misinformation

- NATALI CARVALHO IS A JOURNALIST, COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGIST, AND COMMUNITY MOBILISER BORN IN BEBERIBE (CE). A GRADUATE OF THE FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF CEARÁ WITH A POSTGRADUATE DEGREE IN DATA JOURNALISM FROM INSPER, SHE IS A COMMUNITY ANALYST AT THE AZMINA INSTITUTE, WHERE SHE LEADS DONATION CAMPAIGNS AND ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES THAT SUPPORT FEMINIST JOURNALISM. SHE HAS COORDINATED PROJECTS AT AGÊNCIA BORI, BRINGING SCIENCE AND JOURNALISM TOGETHER, AND HAS WORKED AS A REPORTER AT ÉNOIS AND DIÁRIO DO NORDESTE.



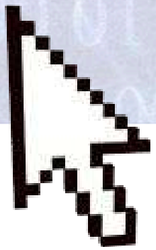
NATALI CARVALHO
FORUS JOURNALISM FELLOW



A violência política de gênero e o poder das plataformas digitais colocam em risco a participação democrática

81%

dos casos de violência política registradosna internet no primeiro turno de 2026 tiveram mulheres como vítimas.
Terra de Direitos e Justiça Global





8,8 milhões

de brasileiras relataram ter sofrido violência digital nos 12 meses anteriores à pesquisa de 2025.
DataSenado e Instituto Nexus

O QUE ESTÁ EM JOGO?

- Quem consegue falar e ser ouvido no ambiente digital.
- Quem está mais exposto à violência, à desinformação e ao silenciamento.
- Quem define as regras de circulação da informação.



ALGORITMOS, IA E O MITO DA CENSURA

“Censura é o que acontece hoje frequentemente na internet: as plataformas aumentam ou diminuem o alcance de um post, colocam ou retiram contas do ar, proíbem conteúdos, sem nenhum tipo de debate público. O que a gente vivencia hoje é uma censura privada, não discutida, imposta a partir de termos de uso que você nem tem escolha se aceita ou não”, explica Helena Martins, pesquisadora da Universidade Federal do Ceará

O PROBLEMA NÃO É APENAS O CONTEÚDO FALSO. É O SISTEMA QUE O DISTRIBUI.

Amplificação

A lógica do engajamento pode ampliar conteúdos nocivos e ataques.

Automação

A IA pode facilitar ataques e reproduzir vieses, inclusive na moderação.

Opacidade

Faltam transparência e acesso aos critérios das plataformas.

Silenciamento

Ataques coordenados e moderação desigual podem restringir vozes.



PARA ALÉM DE DENUNCIAR, CONSTRUÍMOS ALTERNATIVAS



Produzir evidências

A QuitérIA, do Instituto AzMina, utiliza IA para apoiar o acompanhamento legislativo a partir de uma perspectiva feminista.

Identificar padrões de violência

A Sentinela, do VoteLGBT, trabalha com tecnologia para apoiar a identificação e a documentação de ataques contra pessoas LGBTQIA+.

Acolher e proteger

Redes como o Plantão Colmeia oferece acolhimento e orientação para pessoas atingidas pela violência política digital.

Disputar o desenho da tecnologia

Organizações como Olabi investem em formação, educação midiática e inclusão de mulheres negras na tecnologia para redesenhar coletivamente o ambiente digital.



É PRECISO REIMAGINAR E TRANSFORMAR O SISTEMA

A resposta à desinformação não pode se limitar a corrigir conteúdos. Precisamos disputar quem controla a tecnologia, quais interesses ela serve e que futuros ela torna possíveis.

REGULAÇÃO DAS PLATAFORMAS E EDUCAÇÃO

“Uma regulação dificilmente dará conta de corrigir as nossas assimetrias históricas, as nossas diferenças sociais, as nossas questões de desigualdade socioeconômica e é por isso que a gente tem que manter a nossa luta em diferentes frentes. Há um longo trabalho, tanto no âmbito das regras sobre moderação de conteúdo, quanto na responsabilidade das plataformas no combate ao discurso de ódio, e a outras violências que estão no contexto online”, explica Ana Bárbara Gomes, diretora do Instituto de Referência em Internet e Sociedade (IRIS)



Natali Carvalho

Jornalista e coordenadora de comunidades na Revista AzMina

natali.carvalho@azmina.com.br

PRESENTATION

Building solidarity

- DRIVING IMPACT THROUGH MEDIA, HUMANITARIAN ACTION & DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT, NCHANJI HANSON NFOR IS AN ACCOMPLISHED JOURNALIST WITH OVER 15 YEARS OF EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE ACROSS THE MEDIA LANDSCAPE AND NGOS. CURRENTLY SERVING AS THE EDITOR FOR CNA, HE HAS BUILT A DISTINGUISHED CAREER SPANNING TELEVISION, RADIO, AND NOW ONLINE JOURNALISM, MASTERING DIVERSE PLATFORMS TO DELIVER COMPELLING NARRATIVES. A TWO-TIME AWARD WINNER, RECOGNIZED AS BOTH THE "MOST COURAGEOUS JOURNALIST" AND "BEST TV PRESENTER," NCHANJI HANSON NFOR IS CELEBRATED FOR IMPACTFUL REPORTING AND AN UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO TRUTH.



NFOR HANSON N.
FORUS JOURNALISM FELLOW

How Civil Society Organisations Can Counter Misinformation and Build Solidarity



Presented by Forus Journalism Fellowship Alumnus | ComsForUs

Nfor Hanson Nchanji, MBA

Journalist, media and communications expert

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for the invitation.

I will be exploring how civil society organisations protect civic space, respond to digital threats, and defend democratic participation.

This will come directly from the experience I had as a Forus Journalism Fellow. An experience to which I owe gratitude to Forus for choosing me as a Fellow last year.

I had three case studies that offered practical lessons on misinformation, public trust, and communication, concerning CSOs I interacted with.



CASE STUDY 1

Paradigm Initiative, Nigeria

In their work, Paradigm Initiative discovered that, Digital threats can harm civic participation through misinformation and manipulation.

They created a digital literacy project that expanded through **Ripoti** (digital rights reporting) and **Ayeta** (digital security toolkit).

Key lesson: Equip people to question sources and verify information before sharing.



CASE STUDY 2

Nigerian Network of NGOs (NNNGO)

Protecting digital credibility.

In my discussion with them, they noted that there have been website attacks and hijacking of social media handles, especially during times like the EndSARS protests. This further weakens communication and trust.

Solutions: They organised capacity-building meetings, reported attacks, and escalated issues with platforms and authorities.

Key lessons: There was a need to secure communication channels (building robust passwords and systems) and authenticate information to maintain public trust.



CASE STUDY 3

Togo and Senegal

Building solidarity beyond charity.

In my article, “The Collective Shield: West Africa Civil Society’s United Front Against Restrictions on Civic Space
— Case of Togo and Senegal,”

I examined how organisations responded to restrictions on civic participation.

How they responded: In Togo, FONGTO organised capacity-building workshops when street protests were banned.

In Senegal, CONGAD participated in the “Aar Sunu Election” campaign to mobilise civil society actors.

WACSI also supported documentation of violations in Togo and helped amplify concerns through regional and international mechanisms.



Lessons

Our stories should portray civil society organisations and communities not simply as victims needing assistance, but as active participants defending rights and shaping change.
Documenting their actions with evidence helps audiences understand both the challenges and the responses. Global solidarity should be framed around shared responsibility, mutual learning and cooperation, rather than a one-way relationship between donors and beneficiaries.



These examples point to three priorities:

Equip people to recognise misinformation, protect the credibility of communication channels, and tell evidence-based stories that recognise people’s agency.

Countering misinformation is not only about correcting false claims. It is also about building trust, explaining evidence clearly and creating narratives that encourage understanding rather than division.
Our responsibility is to tell the fuller story: one grounded in facts, attentive to people’s experiences and focused on shared solutions.

SUMMARY

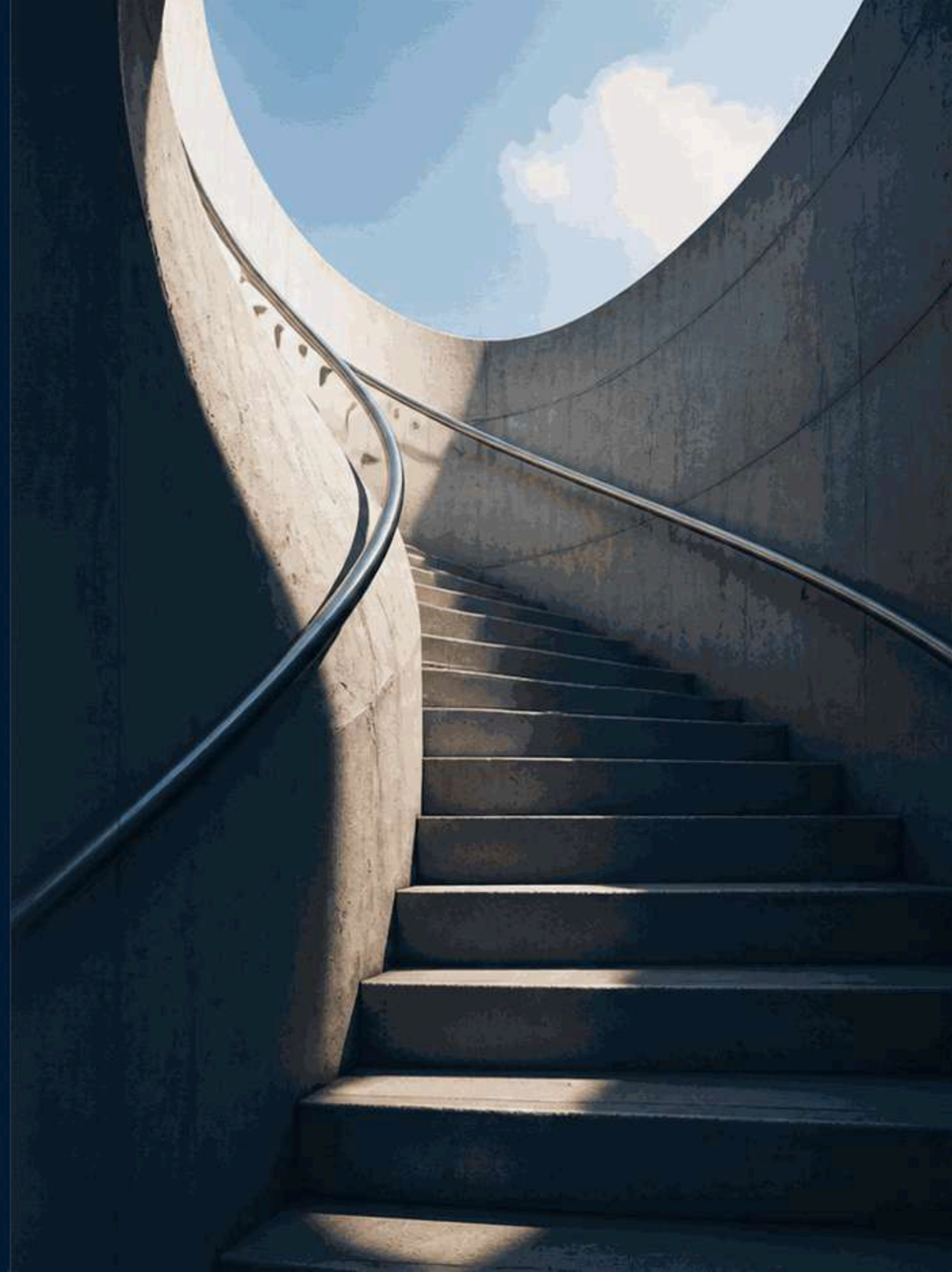
FOUR-POINT SUMMARY

SPOT IT : Paradigm Initiative: Build digital literacy and help people recognise misinformation and manipulation.

STOP IT : NNNGO: Strengthen digital security and protect the credibility of organisational communication.

TELL IT : Evidence-based journalism: Verify information, document developments and explain the evidence clearly.

REFRAME IT : Togo and Senegal: Highlight civil society agency, collective action and solidarity based on shared responsibility.



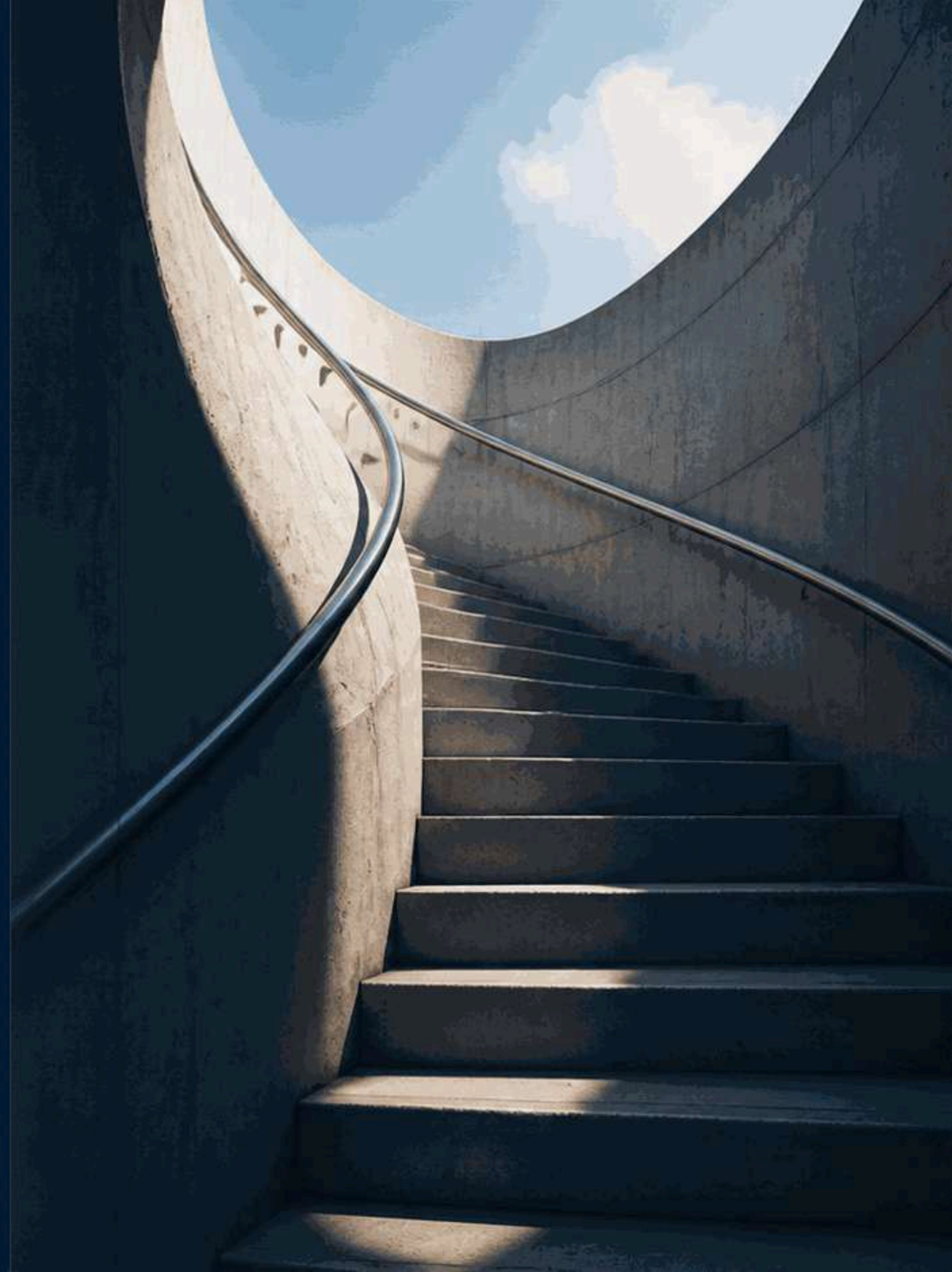
CONCLUSION

Stronger Together. Truth Builds Trust.

Countering misinformation is more than correcting false claims.

It requires building trust, clear evidence communication, and narratives fostering understanding.

Our responsibility is to tell fuller, fact-based stories that honour people’s experiences and shared solutions.



Thank You

Thank you for your attention.

Civil society is stronger they act together.



Q & A

JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

REJOIGNEZ LA CONVERSATION !

¡ÚNASE A LA CONVERSACIÓN!

JUNTE-SE À CONVERSA!



SCENARIO: FOREIGN-FUNDED CSOS ARE PUSHING AN EXTERNAL AGENDA

A national civil society platform publicly raises concerns about restrictions on civic space and calls for greater government accountability. Soon afterwards, posts begin circulating on social media claiming that the platform and its member organisations are funded by foreign donors to promote foreign interests and impose an agenda that does not reflect national values or citizens' priorities.

The narrative gains traction. Some people question the platform's legitimacy, members worry about reputational risks and journalists ask whether its advocacy positions are dictated by donors. There are also genuine public questions about how the platform is funded, how priorities are decided and to whom it is accountable.



SCENARIO: A CSO'S PUBLIC STATEMENT ON VIOLENCE DURING PROTESTS IS TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT

A civil society organisation publishes a statement following a police intervention during a peaceful demonstration. It calls for an independent investigation and urges authorities to respect the right to peaceful assembly.

A short excerpt from the statement is shared widely online, accompanied by claims that the organisation is defending violence and encouraging public disorder. The original statement, which explicitly condemns violence, receives far less attention.

The organisation is asked to explain its position and staff members receive abusive comments. Journalists request clarification, while members debate whether the organisation should issue a public response or avoid amplifying the controversy.



HOW WOULD YOUR PLATFORM RESPOND ? *5 minutes*

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What is one message or concrete action your platform could take in response to this situation?
You don't necessarily have to respond publicly. Think about what would help your platform address the narrative, reduce its impact and strengthen trust.

- Communication: Would a public clarification, a factual explainer or a conversation with journalists help?
- Network action: Could you brief your members, agree on shared messages or coordinate how members respond to questions?
- Transparency and accountability: Could you proactively share information about your funding, governance, decision-making or accountability mechanisms?
- Relationships and trust: Who could help explain your platform's role credibly – members, community leaders, partners, journalists or other trusted voices?
- Internal preparedness: Do you need a common response protocol, a rapid information-sharing channel or clearer guidance for members?
- Listening and engagement: Could you organise conversations with affected communities or critics to better understand the concerns behind the narrative?

Identify one concrete response or action at platform level. If you choose to communicate publicly, draft a two- or three-sentence response. If you choose not to respond publicly, explain what you would do instead and why.

Quel message ou quelle action concrète votre plateforme pourrait-elle mettre en place pour répondre à cette situation ?
Vous n'êtes pas nécessairement obligé·e de réagir publiquement. Réfléchissez à ce qui pourrait aider votre plateforme à faire face à ce discours, à en limiter les effets et à renforcer la confiance.

- Communication : Une clarification publique, un message factuel ou un échange avec des journalistes pourraient-ils être utiles ?
- Action au sein du réseau : Pourriez-vous informer vos membres, définir des messages communs ou coordonner la manière dont ils répondent aux questions ?
- Transparence et redevabilité : Pourriez-vous partager de manière proactive des informations sur votre financement, votre gouvernance, vos processus décisionnels ou vos mécanismes de redevabilité ?
- Relations et confiance : Qui pourrait expliquer de manière crédible le rôle de votre plateforme – vos membres, des responsables communautaires, des partenaires, des journalistes ou d'autres voix de confiance ?
- Préparation interne : Avez-vous besoin d'un protocole de réponse commun, d'un canal de partage rapide de l'information ou de consignes plus claires pour vos membres ?
- Écoute et dialogue : Pourriez-vous organiser des échanges avec les communautés concernées ou les personnes critiques afin de mieux comprendre les préoccupations à l'origine de ce discours ?

Identifiez une réponse ou une action concrète à mettre en place au niveau de votre plateforme. Si vous choisissez de communiquer publiquement, rédigez une réponse de deux ou trois phrases. Si vous préférez ne pas ré

¿Qué mensaje o acción concreta podría llevar a cabo su plataforma para responder a esta situación?
No necesariamente tienen que responder públicamente. Piensen en qué podría ayudar a su plataforma a abordar esta narrativa, reducir su impacto y fortalecer la confianza.

- Comunicación: ¿Sería útil publicar una aclaración, compartir información basada en hechos o conversar con periodistas?
- Acción en la red: ¿Podrían informar a sus miembros, acordar mensajes comunes o coordinar cómo responden a las preguntas?
- Transparencia y rendición de cuentas: ¿Podrían compartir de manera proactiva información sobre su financiación, gobernanza, toma de decisiones o mecanismos de rendición de cuentas?
- Relaciones y confianza: ¿Quién podría explicar de manera creíble el papel de su plataforma: sus miembros, líderes comunitarios, organizaciones aliadas, periodistas u otras voces de confianza?
- Preparación interna: ¿Necesitan un protocolo común de respuesta, un canal para compartir información rápidamente o directrices más claras para sus miembros?
- Escucha y diálogo: ¿Podrían organizar conversaciones con las comunidades afectadas o con quienes expresan críticas para comprender mejor las preocupaciones que están detrás de esta narrativa?

Identifiquen una respuesta o acción concreta que podrían llevar a cabo a nivel de la plataforma. Si deciden comunicarse públicamente, redacten una respuesta de dos o tres frases. Si prefieren no responder públicamente, expliquen qué harían en su lugar y por qué.

Collective session





CONTINUING ENGAGEMENT

member-to-member announcements group

forus



JENNIFER FRANCO RODRÍGUEZ
FORUS

CONNECT DIRECTLY WITH THE WHOLE NETWORK: THE MEMBER-TO-MEMBER COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

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WHAT IT IS

- AN EMAIL GROUP WHERE ANY **FORUS MEMBER CAN WRITE TO THE WHOLE NETWORK**. EACH MESSAGE IS **AUTOMATICALLY TRANSLATED** AND SHARED IN ENGLISH, FRENCH, SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE, AND REPLIES ARRIVE STRAIGHT IN YOUR INBOX.

ALREADY HAPPENING

- RED ENCUENTRO (ARGENTINA) LAUNCHED A REFLECTION ON ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO GENERATE RESOURCES. AROUND 25 MEMBERS JOINED THE CONVERSATION, WHICH LED TO TWO SELF-ORGANISED CALLS IN OCTOBER.
- MEMBERS LET OTHERS KNOW WHEN THEY ARE ATTENDING AN INTERNATIONAL EVENT, SO THEY CAN MEET THERE OR COORDINATE POSITIONS.

HOW COMMS TEAMS CAN USE IT

- **SHARE YOUR CAMPAIGNS** AND INVITE OTHERS TO JOIN OR AMPLIFY THEM
- **EXCHANGE** TOOLS, TEMPLATES AND RESOURCES THAT WORK FOR YOU
- **PROPOSE JOINT INITIATIVES**
- **ASK PEERS** HOW THEY HANDLED A COMMUNICATION CHALLENGE

FUTURE POSSIBILITIES

- IF THERE IS ENOUGH INTEREST, WE COULD OPEN A DEDICATED GROUP FOR COMMUNICATIONS, A SPACE FOR COMS4US TO KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING BETWEEN CALLS.



Help shape the future of our network!

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2026 Forus Network Survey

Members · Impact · Mapping

Enquête 2026 du réseau Forus

Membres · Impact · Cartographie

Encuesta 2026 de la Red Forus

Miembros · Impacto · Mapeo

Pesquisa Rede Forus 2026

Membros · Impacto · Mapeamento

Your opinion is very important for us!
¡Su opinión es muy importante para nosotros!
Votre avis est très important pour nous !

Please take **20 seconds** to **tell us how satisfied you are** with today's meeting! **Scan the QR code** or **click on the link in the chat box**

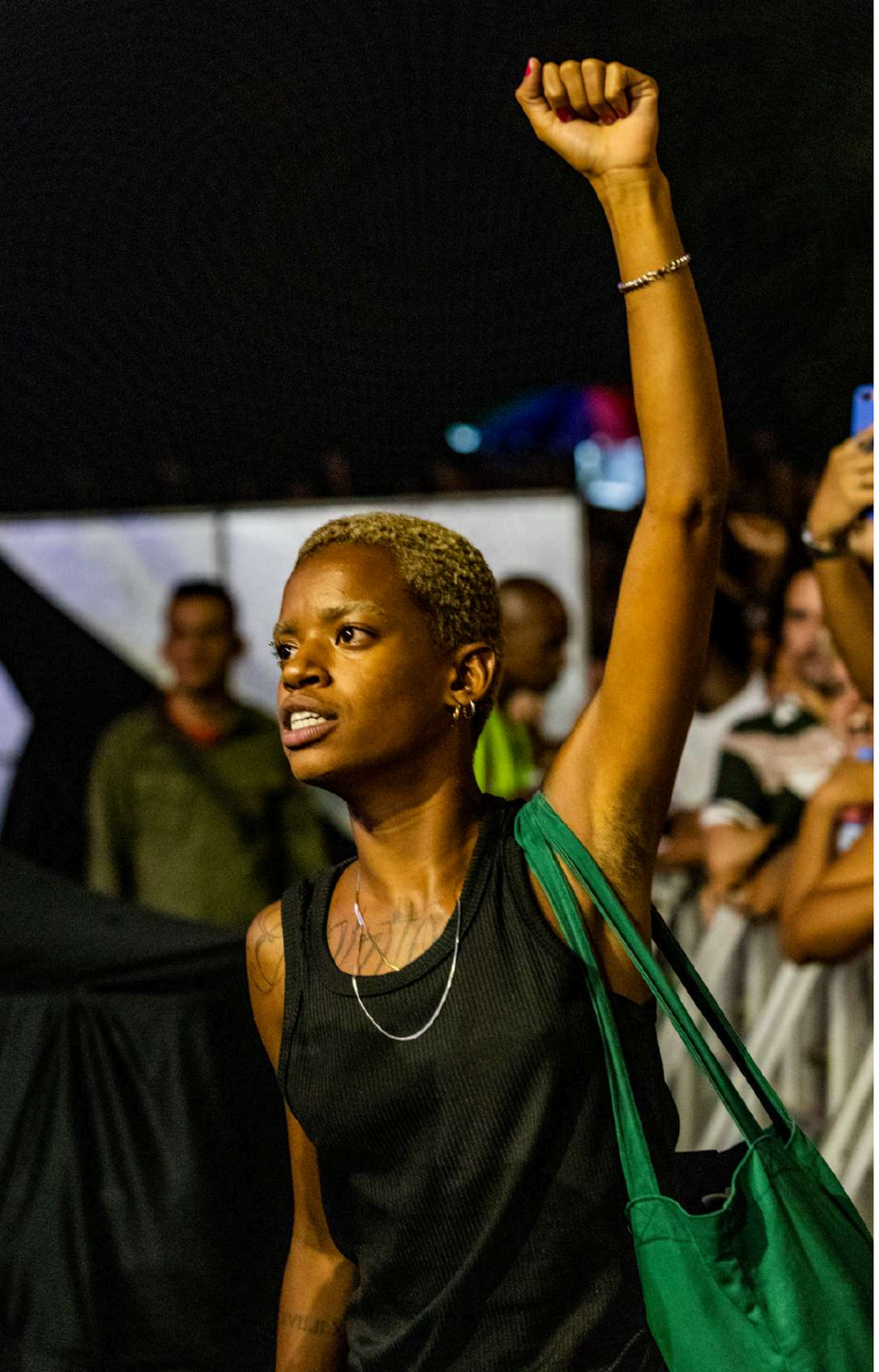
Your feedback enables us to continuously plan and adapt our activities in accordance with the opinions of our members and partners, ensuring that they align with their needs and expectations.

Merci de donner votre avis sur la réunion **en 20 secondes !**
Scannez le Code QR ou **cliquez sur le lien dans la chat box**

Vos retours nous permettent de planifier et d'ajuster nos activités en continu, en tenant compte des avis de nos membres et partenaires, afin de répondre à leurs besoins et attentes.

Por favor, ¡tómese **20 segundos** para indicarnos su nivel de satisfacción con la reunión!
Escanee el código QR o **haga clic en el enlace en el cuadro de diálogo**

Su opinión nos permite planificar y adaptar continuamente nuestras actividades de acuerdo con las opiniones de nuestros miembros y socios, asegurándonos de que se ajusten a sus necesidades y expectativas.



Thank you for your participation!
Merci de votre participation !
¡Gracias por su participación!

Thanks to the interpreters for enabling effective multilingual communication & dialogue within the Forus network.

Consult upcoming Forus events
Consulte los próximos eventos de Forus
Consultez les prochains événements de Forus
https://www.forus-international.org/events

www.forus-international.org
contact@forus-international.org