

21st CENTURY COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT
FOR YOUTH & WOMEN INITIATIVE

CEYWI

28 SEPTEMBER 2026

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION



THEME: “Upholding Information Integrity in the Digital Age:
The role of access to information in addressing information disorder”

*Reliable information builds trust, strengthens democracy,
and empowers communities.*

INFORMED PEOPLE | STRONGER COMMUNITIES | A MORE INCLUSIVE WORLD

PRESS RELEASE • FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**International Day for Universal Access to Information 2026**

Abuja, Nigeria – September 28, 2026

As the world commemorates the International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI) 2026, the 21st Century Community Empowerment for Youth and Women Initiative (CEYWI) joins stakeholders, civil society organizations, governments, media professionals, development partners and communities around the world in reaffirming the importance of universal access to accurate, reliable and timely information.

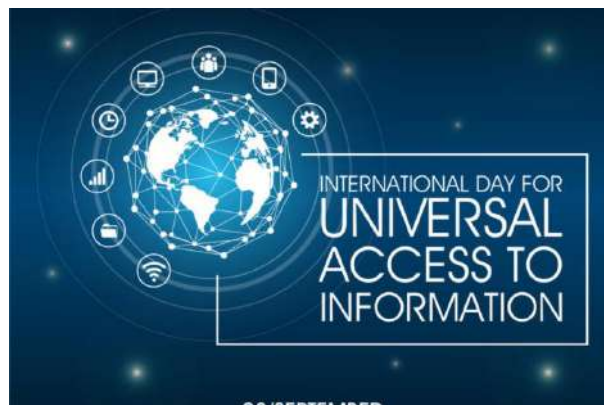
Observed annually on 28 September, the International Day for Universal Access to Information recognizes the importance of the public's right to seek, receive and use information. UNESCO identifies access to information as an important foundation for transparent, accountable and inclusive societies, particularly as people increasingly depend on digital platforms for news, education, public services and civic participation.

The 2026 theme, "Upholding Information Integrity in the Digital Age: The Role of Access to Information in Addressing Information Disorder," draws attention to the growing importance of trustworthy information in an increasingly connected world.

THE GROWING CHALLENGE OF INFORMATION DISORDER

The digital revolution has transformed the way people create, access and share information. Social media, online news platforms, messaging applications and other digital technologies have made it possible for information to reach millions of people within seconds.

While this connectivity has created enormous opportunities for education, communication and participation, it has also created an environment in which inaccurate, misleading, manipulated or false information can spread rapidly.



In a hyper-connected world, the integrity of information has never been more critical.

Information disorder can affect how individuals understand important issues, make decisions and interact with one another. It can contribute to confusion, undermine trust in legitimate sources and make it more difficult for communities to distinguish reliable information from misleading content.

For young people, women and communities that increasingly depend on digital platforms for information, strengthening the ability to access, understand and critically evaluate information is particularly important.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION IS PART OF THE SOLUTION

Access to information is not simply about having information available. It is also about ensuring that people can obtain information that is accurate, timely, accessible, understandable and relevant.

When people can access reliable information from credible sources, they are better positioned to make informed decisions, participate meaningfully in their communities and hold institutions accountable.

UNESCO notes that access to information can support transparent, accountable and inclusive societies, while its 2026 work on information integrity highlights the need to safeguard authentic, reliable and traceable information and address misinformation, disinformation and manipulated content.

KEY MESSAGE

Reliable information builds trust, strengthens democracy, and empowers communities. Access to accurate information is a cornerstone of informed participation and inclusive development.

THE ROLE OF DIGITAL AND MEDIA LITERACY

Addressing information disorder requires more than simply providing information. People also need the skills to evaluate, interpret and responsibly share what they encounter online.

Media and information literacy can help individuals ask important questions:

- Who produced this information?
- Is the source credible?
- What evidence supports the claim?
- Can the information be verified through other reliable sources?
- Is the information current and presented in its proper context?
- Could sharing it cause harm or confusion?

Developing these skills can help communities become more informed and responsible participants in the digital environment.



In the digital age, critical evaluation of information is as essential as access itself.

CEYWI'S COMMITMENT

At the 21st Century Community Empowerment for Youth and Women Initiative (CEYWI), we recognize that access to reliable information is closely connected to community empowerment and meaningful participation.

Our commitment to youth and women empowerment extends beyond creating opportunities. It also involves supporting communities with knowledge and information that can help individuals understand their rights, make informed decisions and participate meaningfully in matters affecting their lives.

We therefore encourage young people, women, community leaders, civil society actors, media professionals and other stakeholders to promote responsible information sharing and strengthen a culture of verification and critical thinking.

WHAT CAN WE ALL DO?

STOP. CHECK. VERIFY. SHARE RESPONSIBLY.

We encourage individuals to:

- Seek information from credible and authoritative sources.
- Verify important claims before sharing them.
- Check the date, source and context of information.
- Be cautious of sensational or misleading content.
- Avoid spreading unverified claims.
- Encourage respectful dialogue and responsible digital participation.
- Support access to information for people who may face barriers to obtaining it.

A CALL FOR STRONGER INFORMATION ECOSYSTEMS

Building a healthier information environment requires collective responsibility — from governments promoting transparency, media upholding accuracy, platforms and educators supporting literacy, to individuals becoming informed and responsible users of information. CEYWI calls for continued efforts to promote access to reliable information, strengthen digital and media literacy, and encourage responsible information sharing.

CONCLUSION

Information has the power to educate, empower and connect communities. When it is inaccurate or deliberately misleading, it weakens public trust. Ensuring universal access to reliable information — and the skills to critically assess it — is essential to building informed, resilient and inclusive communities.

On this International Day for Universal Access to Information, CEYWI reaffirms its commitment to empowering communities through knowledge and meaningful participation.

Let us uphold information integrity. Let us verify before we share.

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ABOUT CEYWI — 21st Century Community Empowerment for Youth & Women Initiative is a humanitarian, not-for-profit NGO founded in 2012. It serves as a platform for good governance and societal development through policy advocacy for inclusive participation and people-centered research towards sustainable peace and development. Incorporated with the Corporate Affairs Commission on 7th November 2014 (CAC/IT/NO73348). CEYWI holds UN Special ECOSOC Consultative Status. Target groups: Youths, Women and People with Disability.

Member of CS-SUNN, Nigerian Network of NGOs, TMG, WACSO, African Caucus NGOs on Social Development, UNCAC Coalition and the UN NGO Committee on Social Development.

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