

# Strengthening Participative Democracy and Civil Society when building Post-Corona World

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Participation Right

**Smart Response = Meaningful Engagement**



European Center for  
Not-for-Profit Law



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# Turning a pandemic into a pretext to quash dissent

- COVID 19 ECNL/ICNL Civic Freedoms Tracker:
  - Over 280 measures in more than 145 countries affecting civic freedoms
  - Most affected: expression, assembly, participation



*Now, more than ever, the voices of people need to be heard. Civil society and grassroots groups are instrumental in building and maintaining trust and can help ensure targeted and candid feedback on COVID-19 measures to improve responses.*



# Right to Participate – A Smart Thing to Do

- Right to participate in public affairs – Art. 25 of the [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#)
- Public participation in health-related decision making is a part of Right to the Highest Attainable Standard of Health – Art. 12 of the [International Covenant on Economic Social Cultural Rights](#)

- **GAPS:**
- State of emergency should include participation right
- No tools or appropriate frameworks for “emergency participation”



# TO BE CONSULTED OR NOT? THAT IS NOT THE QUESTION!



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*During COVID-19, public participation in decision making is more crucial than ever because we need measures that respond with our actual needs. We need measures that do not affect the public disproportionately, in particular women and other marginalized individuals and groups. Participation builds trust in the tailored measures and higher compliance, as this is needed in our joint efforts to protect health and lives!*

**So far, we see measures being adopted without public consultations, including new laws and amendments not always linked to the pandemic. The UN and European standards recognize the right to participation and their guidelines underline that:**



## **WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO TAKE PART IN DECISION-MAKING OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES!**

*Through:* accessible and inclusive consultative mechanisms, that consider those most affected, in particular women and other marginalized individuals and groups; supported with financial and human resources, empowered with media education and digital literacy programmes for general public and officials.

# Right to Participate – A Smart Thing to Do

- Public can help identify flexible and smart solutions that respond to the most urgent needs on the ground.
- **What happens when governments (don't) listen?**  
Positive and negative examples of Covid-19 responses!

Examples of initiatives led by CSOs during Covid-19 – **civil society are finding ways to organize relief efforts**, provide aid and services in remote areas, monitor human rights abuses and are raising awareness about human rights in the context of emergencies.

CSOs are **adapting** their work online and finding novel ways to crowdsource data and assistance.



# How can states support participation in emergency?

1. Open new avenues for participation, feedback and reach out to those most at risk and those most likely to be excluded
2. Existing channels of participation, at local, national and international levels are maintained and expanded - also online!!
3. Rapid human rights impact assessment to ensure respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.



*In a nutshell:*

*Collaboration*

*Transparency*

*Access*



# Contribuez à la consultation du collectif #LeJourAprès

JE PARTICIPE !

Les ateliers

La consultation

Le hackathon

## 11 thèmes à discuter

Thème 1 - "Le plus important, c'est la santé !": quel système de santé demain ?

Thème 2 - "Métro, boulot, robot": quel monde du travail voulons-nous ?

Thème 3 - "A consommer avec modération": vers une société de la sobriété ?

Thème 4 - "Des liens plutôt que des biens": comment retisser des solidarités ?

Thème 5 - "Éducation et jeunesse": comment construire une société apprenante ?

Thème 6 - "L'homme face à la machine": peut-on humaniser le numérique ?

Thème 7 - "Une démocratie plus ouverte": comment partager le pouvoir ?

Thème 8 - "L'avenir de nos territoires": quel nouveau contrat pour les renforcer et préserver leur diversité ?

Thème 9 - "L'Europe dans le monde": comment recréer une solidarité européenne et internationale ?

Thème 10 - "Notre richesse est invisible": comment mieux évaluer le bien-commun ?

Thème 11 - "Le nerf de la guerre": quel financement & quel nouveau partage des richesses ?

- Committees
- All committees A-Z
- Joint Select
- Human Rights**

Role of the Committee

### News

Inquiries and other work

Legislative Scrutiny

Publications

Formal Minutes

Remedial orders

Contact us



# COVID-19 response scrutinised to ensure human rights are upheld



19 March 2020

**The Government will need to take unprecedented powers to keep us safe in the coronavirus epidemic. However, they will also need to take into account the implications for a whole range of Human Rights issues; from our right to life through to the right to demonstrate, freedom of belief, the right not to be discriminated against, the right to family life and more. As such, the Joint Committee on Human Rights has important work to do at this time.**

- [Inquiry: The Government's response to COVID-19: human rights implications](#)
- [Background Paper](#)
- [Joint Committee on Human Rights](#)





# Ngaba I-Covid itshintshe ubomi bakho?

Sixelele ukuba butshintshe njani ubomi bakho?

Sazise ngokugqibezela uphando lwethu  
<https://hsrc.datafree.co/r/HSRCCOVID19>

#COVID19

#UniteZA

#21daylockdownSA



Street Talk

South African Communities' Understanding of and response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Outbreak

## NGOS ARE WORKING FOR COVID-19 PREVENTION IN COORDINATION WITH LOCAL ADMINISTRATION – K M ABDUS SALAM, DIRECTOR GENERAL, NGO AFFAIRS BUREAU



April 15, 2020 / bnnrc /

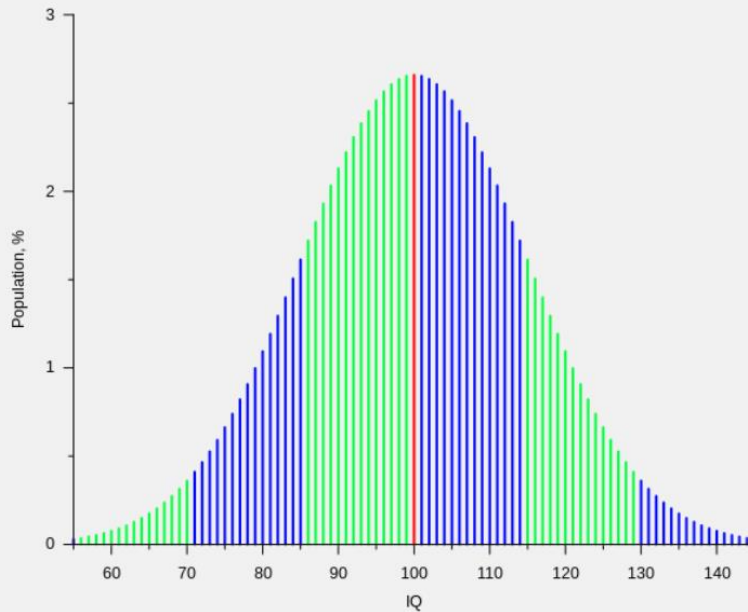
Mr. K M Abdus Salam, DG NGO Affairs Bureau highlighted in an exclusive interview with Bangladesh Community Radio Stations organized by BNNRC that NGOs are working for COVID-19 Prevention in Bangladesh in coordination with local administration.

He has mentioned that COVID-19 is a world pandemic; NGOAB has taken some preparatory initiatives after the direction of Honorable Prime Minister and after consultation with honorable Cabinet Secretary and honorable Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister for prevention of COVID-19 in Bangladesh.

NGOs have been performed some awareness raising activities including leaflet distribution, miking, washing of hands and distribution of hand sanitizer at the preliminary stage. Now they are distributing food to the workless people living with hardship. Side by side the NGOs are working on health issues are working with the direction and coordination with Directorate of Health Services (DGHS) of Bangladesh Government. In this way the NGOs are working with different activities for prevention of COVID-19.



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## Why

### At a global level

Because COVID19 has infected large populations in Europe and USA, medical supplies that are necessary for doctors who will be in contact with COVID19 patients and help citizen protect themselves are short in availability. They are NOT possible to produce and import from countries that normally supplied them. Therefore, solutions will be necessary to prevent the virus from spreading and to protect our communities and families



## What

- Mobilize national and local actors that can provide solutions
- Adopt creative measures to utilize the resources available for that which will become scarce : **Personal protective equipment (PPE)**
- Provide clear consistent product blueprint to makers to ensure quality and consistency
- Create connected communication channels between production and demand



# THANK YOU!

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Stichting



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