

# UNWANTED WITNESS



Bi-Annual Newsletter





# UNWANTED WITNESS

"Amplifying Voices, Changing lives"



Prepared by :  
Unwanted Witness

The Unwanted Witness is a civil society organization (CSO) that was established to respond to the gap in effective communication using various online expression platforms.

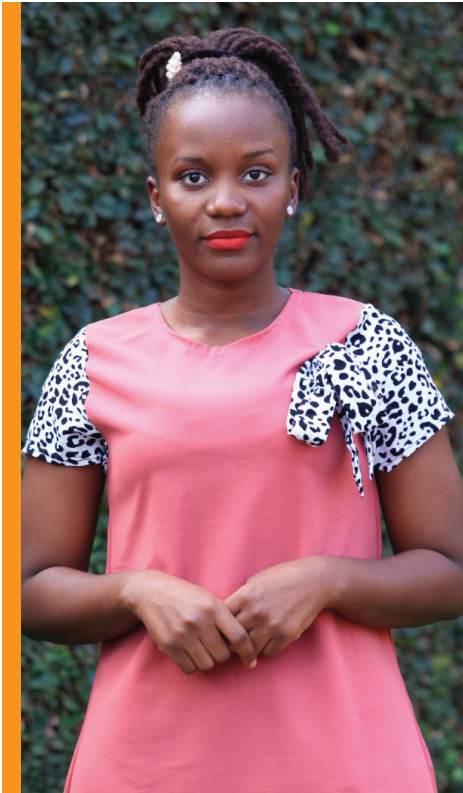
# Inside

Unwanted Witness Bi-Annual Newsletter 2023

UNWANTED WITNESS REPORT	1
THE DATA PROTECTION WEEK	2
THE DIGITAL INCLUSION AND AMPLIFIED PROJECT	5
THE LAUNCH OF THE PRIVACY SYMPOSIUM ROAD MAP	8
THE UNWANTED WITNESS PRIVACY BOOT CAMP	10
UNWANTED WITNESS ICT WEBINAR	14
WEST AFRICAN PRIVACY REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT	16
COURTESY VISITS	18
PARTNERS	21
GALLERY	22

# Editorial

## Welcome to the Unwanted Witness Newsletter



Dear valued readers,

We are delighted to present the inaugural edition of the Unwanted Witness Bi-annual newsletter, encompassing the months of January, February, March, April, May, and June 2023. Our dedicated team has been ceaselessly working to bring you the latest developments in the realms of digital rights, online privacy, data protection, and digital inclusion.

Our journey commenced in January with the successful organization of a data protection training session, followed by our active efforts in promoting digital inclusion, advocating for data protection, and championing safer internet practices.

Within this issue, you will find a section titled “Updates,” providing a glimpse into our recent activities. We also share accounts of our courtesy visits, showcasing our valued interactions. Furthermore, we highlight noteworthy contributions from our esteemed partners. As we move forward, we plan to introduce additional regular features to our newsletter, ensuring a rich and diverse reading experience.

We cordially invite you to immerse yourself in the contents of our newsletter, taking a few moments to explore our latest initiatives, events, and campaigns. Your support and feedback are immensely appreciated as we strive towards creating a more secure and inclusive digital world.

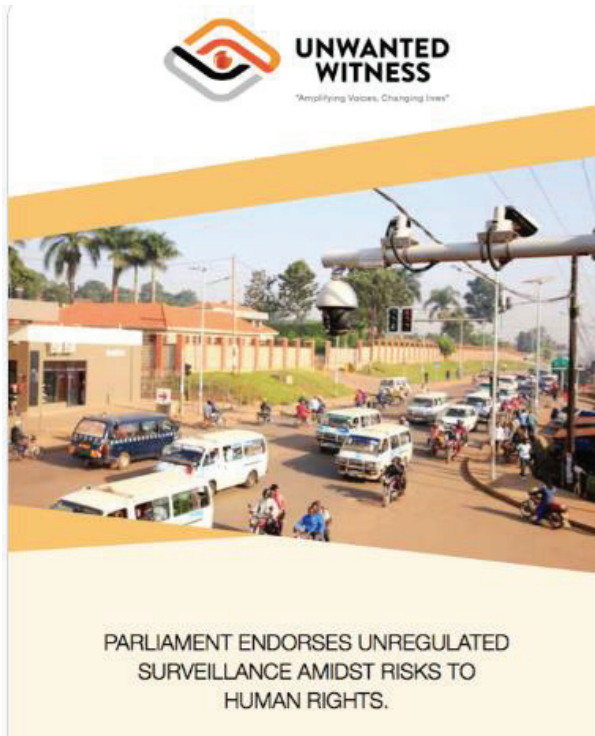
Thank you for your continued engagement and connection.

Warm regards,

**Mmeeme Leticia Luwenz**

Communications and Advocacy Lead

Unwanted Witness



## Unwanted Witness Report Exposes Parliament's Endorsement of Unregulated Surveillance, Putting Human Rights at Risk

### *Unwanted Witness Report Exposes Parliament's Endorsement of Unregulated Surveillance, Putting Human Rights at Risk*

Launching our 2023 journey with great momentum, we kicked off the year by igniting a powerful social media campaign centered around our report titled “Parliament Endorses Unregulated Surveillance Amidst Risks to Human Rights.” This pivotal campaign sets the tone for our latest newsletter, showcasing our dedication to shedding light on the critical issue of unregulated surveillance and its potential impact on human rights.

As the government's oversight arm, the Parliament lacked awareness of the contractual specifics between the Ugandan government and Huawei, as well as the procurement procedures employed. Adequate procurement practices are vital to uphold the integrity of public spending and ensure the effective delivery of public functions. The absence of redress mechanisms for Ugandans who may be aggrieved or violated by the system continues to breed human rights abuse.

Uganda, like many nations worldwide, seeks to expand its surveillance capabilities and harness the potential of data to enhance public services. This often tempts countries to engage private technology companies through public-private partnerships.

The installation of CCTV cameras in Kampala began in July 2018, driven by the objective of assisting the Uganda Police and other security agencies in combating the escalating crime rates. It's important to note that the CCTV surveillance systems are monitored by the police.

**READ MORE:** <https://www.unwantedwitness.org/download/Surveillance-State-Parliament-Endorses-Unregulated-Surveillance.pdf>

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**UNRAVELING  
DATA  
PROTECTION:  
UNWANTED  
WITNESS**

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# PRIVACY SCORECARD REPORT

Kenya & Uganda

**NOV 2022**

*The 2022 Privacy Scorecard Report between Uganda and Kenya*

## Unraveling Data Protection

From the 23RD of January to the 31st of January, our office was quite busy with very many activities going on, we begun the data protection week with a social media campaign about our 2022 Privacy Scorecard Report.

The Privacy Scorecard Report is an important tool for assessing the privacy practices of companies and organizations.

The 2022 privacy scorecard is a buildup on the Privacy Scorecard Report of November. The 2021 Privacy Scorecard is a data protection compliance monitoring tool focusing on Ugandan data collectors.

Our Scorecard report assessed the performance of the following sectors: The Social Sector, e-commerce, financial, telecom, and government agencies against five indicators. The indicators were: Practicing robust data security, compliance with privacy best practices, disclosure of relevant information to data subjects, mentioning third parties with whom personal data is shared, and mentioning the nature and quality of information shared with 3rd parties.

**The 2022 privacy scorecard is a buildup on the Privacy Scorecard Report of November. The 2021 Privacy Scorecard is a data protection compliance monitoring tool focusing on Ugandan data collectors.**



*A group photo of the Data Protection Training Participants in January*

On the 27th of January 2023, we organized a successful data protection training that trained 24 data protection officers. Our training covered eleven comprehensive Data Protection Units, which were presented by our expert trainers Allan Sempala Kigozi, Head Legal, and Head of Programs at Unwanted Witness, and Chris Kalema, Digital Inclusion Lead at Unwanted Witness. They provided insightful and practical information on data protection, which was well received by the participants.

Many of the participants were not well-versed in Data Privacy and were unaware of the existence of the Data Protection Law. As Paul Rukundo candidly expressed, “We have laws in the country, but unfortunately, some like the Data Protection Law remain unknown to us. This training has been an eye-opener for me, and I realize how crucial it is crucial to have knowledge about such law.

“Our training was designed to help NGOs and Civil Society Organizations comply with data protection laws, regulations and safeguarding privacy of the individuals they serve and work with.” Said Allan Sempala Kigozi, Head Legal and Head of Programs at Unwanted Witness

Still on the 27th of January 2023 we had a twitter space to discuss the findings of the 2022 Privacy Scorecard Report and draw insights on the need for data privacy and data protection in Uganda plus discuss the extent to which the data protection act and privacy act 2019 has been implemented in Uganda. The space informed Ugandans about data security, data privacy and



*Our Executive Director Mrs. Dorothy Mukasa attending the Personal Data Protection Conference on 31st of January 2023*

elaborated the findings of the 2022 scorecard report.

The twitter space had different experts in the field of data privacy and data protection such as Mrs. Stella Alibaateese the Director of the Personal Data Protection Office, Chris Kalema the digital and inclusion lead at Unwanted Witness, Allan Sempala Kigozi, the Head Legal and Head of Programs, Madam Ahumuza Diana the Head of PILAC

After the data protection training and the twitter space, we continued with our social media campaign about the Privacy Scorecard Report and disseminated it on our platforms through our social media cards.

On the 31st of January we were privileged to be part of the Conference by The Personal Data Protection Office as it celebrated the data protection month of January. Our office was represented by our Executive Director Madam Dorothy Mukasa, Chris Kalema the digital and inclusion lead and Allan Sempala Kigozi the Head Legal and Head of Programs at Unwanted Witness.

## Number of trained data protection officers

21 Male participants

22 Female participants





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# AMPLIFIED: EMPOWERING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES THROUGH DIGITAL INCLUSION TRAINING IN EASTERN UGANDA



# Amplified: Empowering Persons with Disabilities through Digital Inclusion Training in Eastern Uganda

The Month of February had a number of activities but our main project was the Amplified.

The 'Amplified' project seeks to promote inclusiveness, civil and social rights, and fundamental liberties among women, persons with disabilities, youths, older persons, faith-based groups, and the wider community in Eastern Uganda.

This year's edition of the project aimed at amplifying the work and voices of Persons with

Disabilities (PWDs) in the Rwenzori region through the use of technology and Digital Advocacy skills. In Uganda, Article 21(1) of the Constitution upholds Uganda's commitment to safeguarding equality and freedom from discrimination for all including Persons with Disabilities.

In 2020 the government of Uganda adopted its 3rd National Development Plan whose one of the key stated goals is to increase ICT penetration and use of ICT services for social and economic development.

In complementing the government of Uganda to achieve this key milestone, Unwanted Witness through its Digital Inclusion and Innovation

programme has supported persons with disability groups in rural Eastern Uganda with ICT end-user services as well as ICT knowledge and skills.

Supported by the Canadian government, Unwanted Witness boarded six (6) district disability unions onto the digital space. The union serve a population of Persons with Disabilities in the Eastern region. Besides improving access and usage of ICTs by Persons with Disabilities, the initiative aims at enabling PWDs to participate fully and equally in the information society.

Persons with Disability groups received web-based platforms, social media and training on safety and management of websites, as well as desktop computers with internet subscription.

We want to thank the Unwanted Witness because they have provided computers to our District Unions and an internet subscription for a full year for each District Union's Website. We expect that the District Unions could have mobilized enough resources to continue paying for the website. "Says John Chris Nisiima, Director of Programs, National Union of Disabled Persons In Uganda.



*In the photo Chris Kalema, the Amplified Project lead, Isaac Matovu and Chris Nisiima handing a computer set to Mbale District Union one of the DU beneficiaries of the Amplified Project Protection Conference on 31st of January 2023*



*Mr. Kasango Stephen together with the Programme Coordinator Mugerwa David participating from Iganga District Union during the Amplified Project training by Unwanted Witness at Rocy Hotel in Mbale- Uganda on February 13th 2023.*



## World Safer Internet Day

The 7th of February 2023, is a world celebrated day known as the internet safer day. The 7th of February 2023, is a world celebrated day known as the internet safer day. This year was the 20th edition of the campaign. At Unwanted Witness, we value this day because it speaks so much about our work.

Our social media campaign included activities such as tosilika. The #Tosilika campaign seeks to encourage and empower survivors of online gender-based violence against women and girls to speak up, to sensitize authorities about the issue and to sensitize perpetrators about the effects of their actions in violating the victims; women and girls.

Tosilika is a Luganda word meaning “Don’t be silent.” In our context, the word means; Don’t be silent about online violence against women and girls. The campaign encourages people to be active bystanders, to report and to speak up against those perpetrating the vice of online violence against women and children.

The social media campaign still shared our works from the 16 days of activism, our BEERAMU campaign in line to data protection and data privacy and the YES TO COMPLIANCE.

We equally shared our research in in line to online violence and creating a safe internet for everyone

Our report weak legal and institutional framework report that shows how the weak legal framework is hindering justice for survivors of online violence in Uganda.

You can read the report here <https://t.co/h7EWOraFJk> and our policy paper, Technology Facilitated Violence, explains why justice must be served for the survivors of online based violence.



## Launch of the Privacy Symposium Africa 2023 Roadmap

On the 3rd of April, Unwanted Witness together with the Data Protection Office of Mauritius virtually launched the roadmap to the fifth edition of the Privacy Symposium Africa. The launch involved handing over the hosting privileges from Ms. Immaculate Kassait the Data Protection Commissioner of the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner-Kenya to Ms. Drudeisha Madhub the Data Protection Commissioner of the Data Protection Office of Mauritius

“Today marks the day we hand over the Privacy Symposium Africa to Ms. Drudeisha Madhub the Data Protection Commissioner of the Data Protection Office of Mauritius. As we prepare to hand over the mantle of the Privacy Symposium Africa to the next host, I would like to thank the participants who made the previous edition a success, your contributions have invaluable shaped the Data Protection in Africa.” Said Ms. Immaculate Kassait

She equally thanked the Unwanted Witness team for working tirelessly to make the previous Privacy Symposium Africa a successful one.

According to Mrs Drudeisha Madhub, the PSA is an essential platform for data protection commissioners, experts, and stakeholders to share knowledge, exchange ideas, and collaborate on promoting data privacy and innovation in Africa. She adds that it has played a crucial role in shaping the discourse around data protection in our continent.

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“With great humility and excitement, I accept the mantel of hosting the next Privacy Symposium Africa, I am honoured to be entrusted with the responsibility, and I would like to express my gratitude to Ms Immaculate Kassait the Data Protection Commissioner from the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner of Kenya and for successfully hosting the 2022 Privacy Symposium Africa edition. She has set a very high bar and I am committed to building this legacy and taking it to the next level.” Says Mrs Drudeisha Madhub

She added that as the next host, she is committed to organizing a Privacy Symposium Africa that will be formative, engaging and impactful.

“I look forward to working with Unwanted Witness, partners and all stakeholders to create an exciting and meaning full event, my vision for the Privacy Symposium Africa is to foster more significant collaborations, promote best practices in data protection, and chart a course for the future of data privacy in Africa. I believe that the PSA can play a crucial role in promoting innovation, economic growth, and social development while respecting individual privacy rights,” says Mrs Drudeisha Madhub

Mrs Drudeisha Madhub also called upon different data protection commissioners, experts and stakeholders to participate in the upcoming Privacy Symposium Africa in Port Louis.

While giving her opening remarks, Mrs Dorothy Mukasa the Executive Director of Unwanted Witness Uganda said they are more than thrilled to witness the growth of the Privacy Symposium Africa and the event shall continue to provide an unforgettable experience for everyone that is involved. She said that this year’s edition is designed to provide a unique approach to data protection.

“We will explore the topics, do a sectoral lens and get deeper into specific privacy concerns that affect the different industries including health care, education, finance, media and others. We have created a fantastic lineup of speakers who are ready to share knowledge with the different people attending the Privacy Symposium Africa 2023.” Says Ms Dorothy Mukasa the Executive Director of Unwanted Witness

The 5th edition of the Privacy Symposium Africa will be organized by Unwanted Witness, and Hosted by the Data Protection Office of Mauritius in Port Louis from 7th to 9th November 2023 and data protection.





**THE FIGHT FOR  
PRIVACY RIGHTS:  
A MOOT COURT  
COMPETITION**



*Judge Judith Aboto, Doctor Diana Ahumuza, Madam Dorothy Mukasa, and Jonathan Areeba, the 2022 best mooter*

## The Fight for Privacy Rights: A Moot Court Competition

Privacy is a fundamental right that is becoming increasingly important in the digital age. With the rise of technology, there is an increased risk of privacy violations, making it necessary for society to have a robust legal framework in place to protect individuals' personal information. In recognition of the importance of privacy law, Unwanted Witness and the Public Interest Law Clinic of Makerere University have organized the second edition of a privacy moot court competition to promote education and awareness on the topic.

The upcoming Unwanted Witness Privacy Moot Court Competition is set to bring together law students around the country to argue and address contemporary issues related to privacy and personal data protection. The competition, which is designed to provide a platform for participants to showcase their legal skills and knowledge of privacy law, is scheduled to take place for two days on the 21st and 22nd of September, 2023 at Makerere University Law School, and promises to be a highly anticipated event.

This year's edition will be held under the theme "Balancing Privacy Rights and National Security: Navigating the Impact of Surveillance Laws on Individual Freedoms."

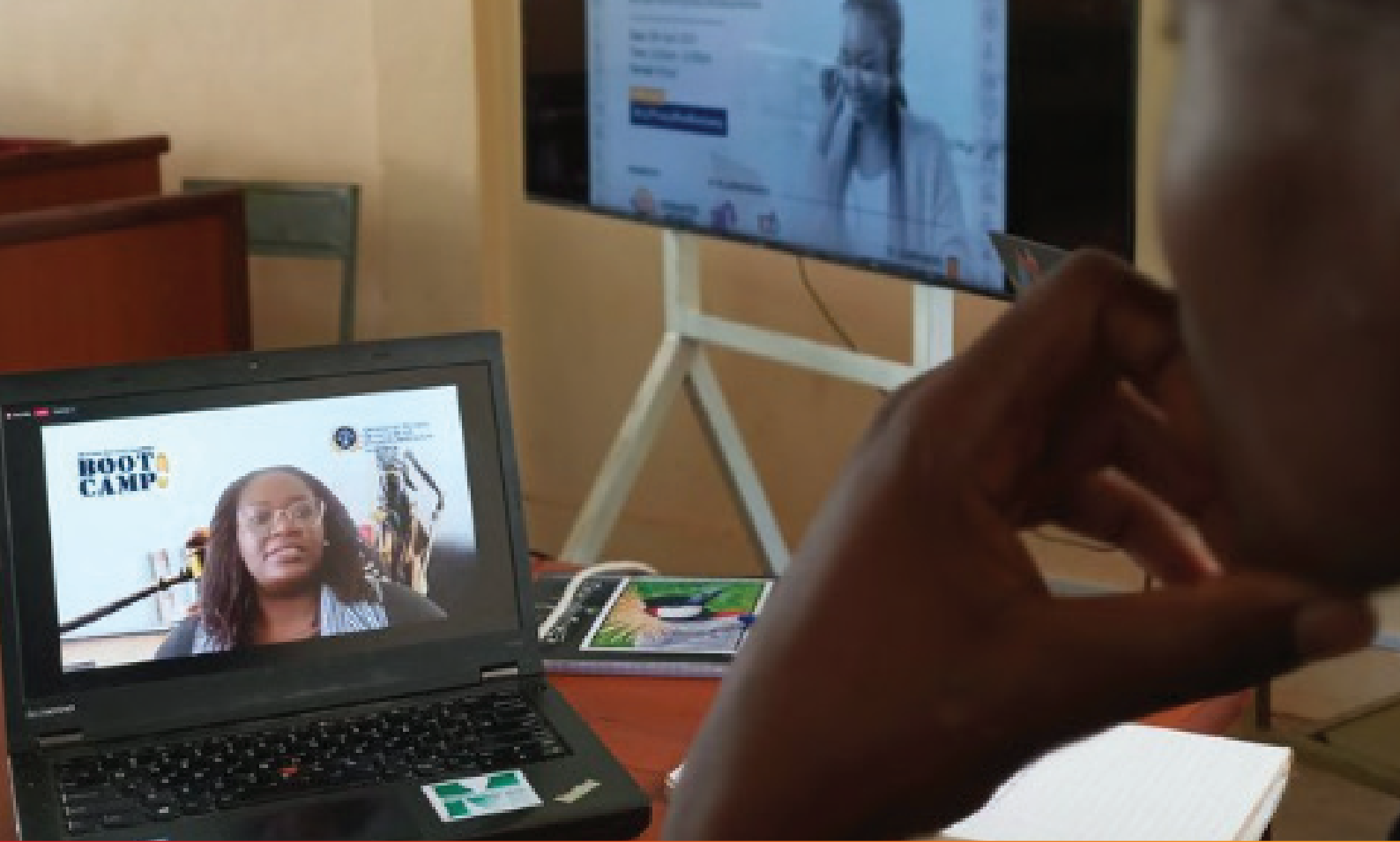
This theme will explore the tension between the need for national security and the protection of individual privacy rights, particularly in the context of surveillance laws. It will consider questions such as: How much surveillance is too much? What are the limits on government surveillance? How can individuals and organizations protect their privacy in an age of increasing digital surveillance?

The moot court competition will require participants to argue from both perspectives, representing different stakeholders such as government agencies, private companies, and civil society organizations. Participants will also be tasked to propose practical solutions that balance national security concerns with the protection of privacy rights.

The competition will consist of several rounds of oral arguments and written submissions. The

oral arguments will be based on a fictional case scenario, which will test participants' legal knowledge, research skills, and advocacy abilities. The written submissions will also be based on the same scenario and will be evaluated based on their quality, accuracy, and clarity.

The final round of the competition will feature the top teams from the previous rounds and will provide an opportunity for participants to showcase their skills in front of a panel of distinguished judges. The judges, who are highly experienced privacy law practitioners, will evaluate the arguments based on their legal accuracy, persuasiveness, and presentation skills. The final round of the competition will be the grand finale, where the top teams from the previous rounds will face off in a high-stakes argument. The winners of the competition will be determined by the panel of distinguished judges, who will evaluate the oral arguments based on their legal accuracy, persuasiveness, and presentation skills.



*A participant listening to a facilitator during the boot camp*

## Expert led boot camp equipped law students for the upcoming uw privacy moot court Competition 2023

**O**n the 28th of April we organized a virtual boot camp for the participants for the Unwanted Witness Privacy Moot Court Competitions. The Boot Camp was a one-day intensive training program designed for registered mooters of the Unwanted Witness Privacy Moot Court Competition. The training commenced at 10:00 am and attracted attendees from several Universities in Uganda, with an impressive turnout of nearly 80 participants. Esteemed legal and privacy experts shared their extensive knowledge and provided valuable training to equip the participants with insightful guidance.

The boot camp served as a preparatory training ground for the annual Competition, which seeks to provide law students with a platform to engage in critical thinking, legal reasoning, and advocacy skills. The program consisted of lectures, group discussions, practical exercises, and moot court simulations. The boot camp was facilitated by experienced legal practitioners, human rights activists, and academics who are not only knowledgeable in the field of data protection, privacy,

and human rights, but also moot court.

The boot camp was moderated by experienced legal practitioners, human rights activists, and academics who are not only knowledgeable in the field of data protection, privacy, and human rights but also have experience in participating and presiding over several moot court competitions.

According to Allan Sempala Kigozi the Head of Programs at Unwanted Witness, the winning team for this year's Privacy Moot competition will not only win a prize of two million Ugandan Shillings and the coveted trophy but also win a trip to Mauritius to attend the Privacy Symposium Africa 2023

"I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight the exciting prize for this year's winning duo. The winners will not only receive a coveted trophy but also a cash prize of 2 million Ugandan shillings and a fully paid trip to Port Louis-Mauritius to attend the 5th Privacy Symposium Africa. This is a unique opportunity for the winners to network with privacy experts, attend



**UNWANTED WITNESS**  
**NEWSLETTER 2023**

informative sessions, and gain further insights into the current privacy landscape across Africa.” Says Allan Sempala Kigozi

According to the Head of Programs at Unwanted Witness, Mr. Sempala Allan Kigozi, the moot considers this case because it raises legal and ethical issues relating to data privacy, surveillance, and state power. He added that the case also raises concerns about the legitimacy of the contracting process, the competency of the contractor, and the safety and security of the data collected.

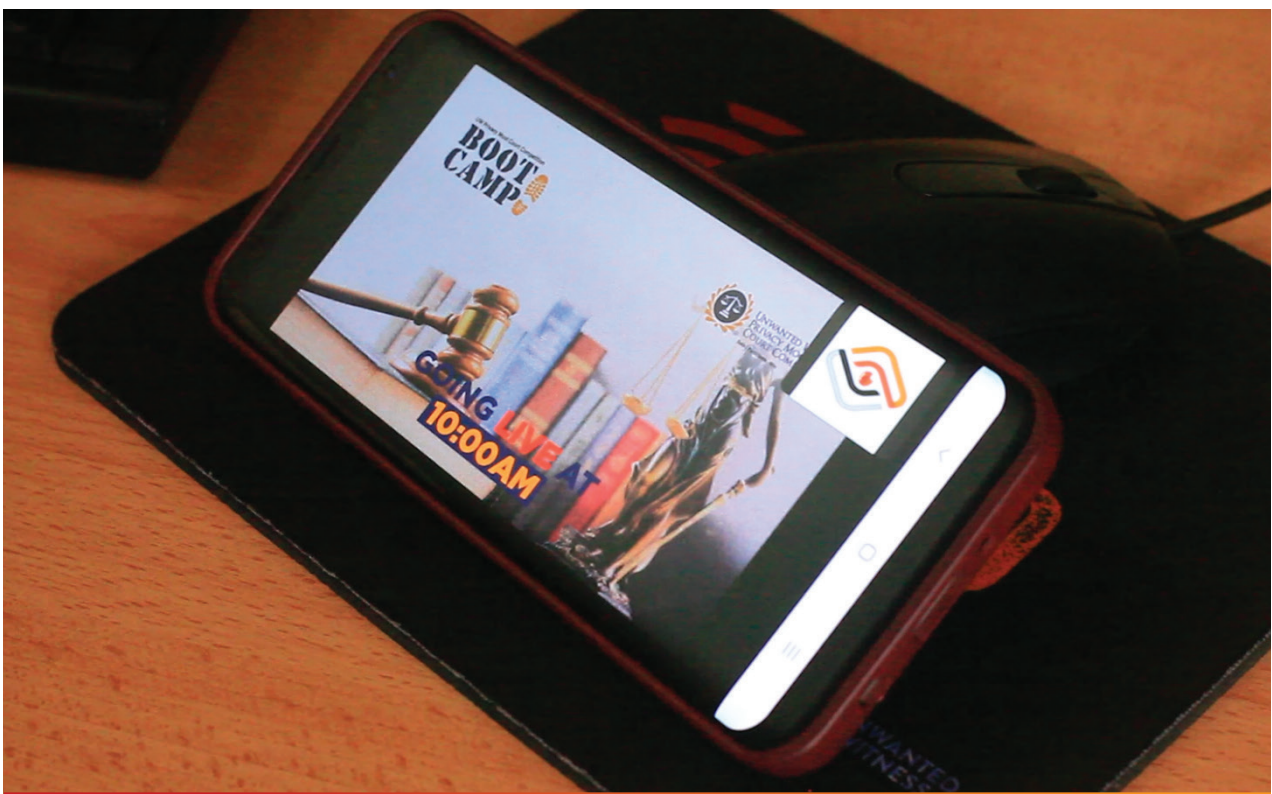
Grace Bagaya, one of the attendees of the boot camp said the session on the advantages of mooting was so helpful. “I have learnt that through mooting, one gain not only the ability to argue convincingly but also the invaluable skill of listening attentively. “says Grace Bagaya

“The Boot Camp was an excellent opportunity to learn from the best in the legal profession. The sessions were engaging and interactive, with the experts encouraging participation and questions from the participants. I appreciated the emphasis on memorial writing and I learned so much about how to present a compelling argument in front of a judge. “says Mugeserwa Mark Martin a participant for the UW Privacy Moot 2023

This year’s moot competition is held under the theme “Balancing Privacy Rights and National Security: Navigating the Impact of Surveillance Laws on Individual Freedoms.”

The Unwanted Witness Privacy Moot Court Competition is scheduled to take place for two days on the 21st and 22nd of September, 2023 at Makerere University Law School, and promises to be a highly anticipated event.

“I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight the exciting prize for this year’s winning duo. The winners will not only receive a coveted trophy but also a cash prize of 2 million Ugandan shillings and a fully paid trip to Port Louis-Mauritius to attend the 5th Privacy Symposium Africa. This is a unique opportunity for the winners to network with privacy experts, attend informative sessions, and gain further insights into the current privacy landscape across Africa.” Says Allan Sempala Kigozi





## Unwanted Witness ICT Webinar illuminated Uganda’s Digital Divide and the Need for Greater ICT Investment and Digital Rights Safeguards

On Tuesday, June 13, 2023, Unwanted Witness organized a thought-provoking webinar on “Investment in ICT as an engine for the enjoyment of digital rights in Uganda.” The webinar aimed to gather recommendations that would lead to increased budget allocation for the Ministry of ICT and the ICT sector in the upcoming budget reading for the FY 2023/2024. With over 60 participants, including key stakeholders and sector heads, the event provided a platform for candid discussions on the current state of Uganda’s ICT sector, budget allocations, and their influence on the enjoyment of digital rights.

The Government of Uganda recognizes the crucial role of ICT in driving socio-economic transformation and has articulated a bold vision for the country’s digital future through the 2040 Digital Vision and National Development Plan 3. This vision seeks to leverage ICT’s transformative power to improve the lives of Ugandans, enhance economic competitiveness, and promote good governance and human rights protection.

However, Uganda faces significant challenges in bridging the digital divide and ensuring the protection of digital rights. The country has a low number of

social media users, representing only 4.3% of the population, and limited internet penetration at 24.6%. Compared to neighboring countries like Rwanda and Kenya, Uganda’s budget allocation for the ICT sector is relatively low. In the financial year of 2022/2023, only 0.26% of the general budget was allocated to the ICT sector, and the projected allocation for the upcoming year is just 0.34%.

These limitations raise concerns about the hindrance to the enjoyment of digital rights by Ugandan citizens and the potential impact on good governance and human rights. Lucrezia Biteete, the IDEA project manager at GIZ Uganda and AU-EU D4D Hub – emphasized the crucial role of civil society in amplifying the voices of the people and ensuring that ICT investment is human-centric. She highlighted the importance of placing the needs and rights of human beings at the center of the process, as promoted by the European Union.

While Uganda has shown a proactive commitment to enhancing and investing in ICT, with notable initiatives led by the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, challenges remain. Dr. Martin Mubangizi, acting head of the UN Global Pulse Lab Kampala, highlighted the gap between government initiatives and citizens’

awareness and interaction with these instruments. Ms. Dorothy Mukasa, the Executive Director of Unwanted Witness Uganda, expressed concerns about conflicting actions and laws that undermine previous initiatives, such as Vision 2040, which positions ICT as an engine for development.

Drawing inspiration from Kenya, a leader in driving financial inclusion through digital finance solutions, Uganda can learn from its neighbor's success in leveraging private sector involvement to drive innovation and achieve societal and economic impact, despite challenges with internet connectivity. Kenya's multistakeholder approach, as exemplified by the Kenya ICT Action Network (KICTANet), has been instrumental in advocating for meaningful and affordable broadband connectivity.

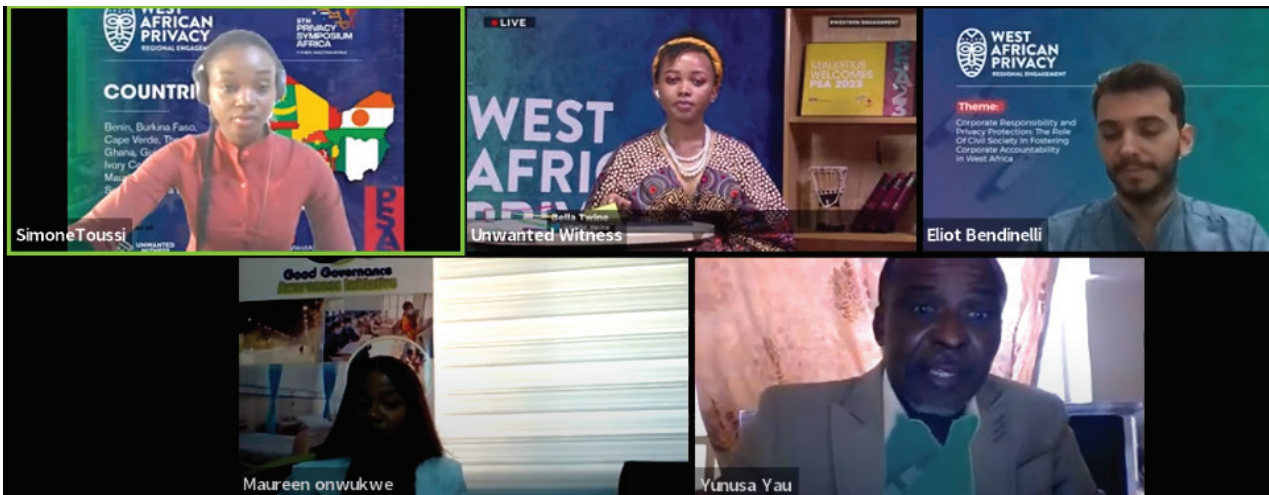
To realize Uganda's vision for a digital future, the country needs to prioritize the development of a robust digital infrastructure, including broadband connectivity, digital literacy, and e-government services. This requires significant investment in ICT infrastructure and human resource development, as well as the creation of an enabling policy and regulatory environment that promotes innovation, competition, digital inclusion, and digital rights.

As Uganda prepares for the budget reading on June 15, 2023, it is essential for stakeholders to recognize the importance of increased investment in the ICT sector. By allocating more resources and adopting a human-centric approach, Uganda can bridge the digital divide, protect digital rights, and harness the transformative power of ICT for the benefit of its people and the country's overall development.

In conclusion, the webinar on investment in ICT as an engine for the enjoyment of digital rights in Uganda shed light on the pressing need for greater ICT investment and digital rights protection. Uganda's vision for a digital future can only be realized through increased budget allocation, the development of robust digital infrastructure, and the creation of an enabling policy and regulatory environment. By learning from successful examples in neighboring countries and engaging civil society, Uganda can build a digital Uganda that prioritizes human-centric development, bridges the digital divide, and safeguards digital rights for all its citizens.

Watch the webinar recording <https://bit.ly/3JsBeFd>

**The Government of Uganda recognizes the crucial role of ICT in driving socio-economic transformation and has articulated a bold vision for the country's digital future through the 2040 Digital Vision and National Development Plan 3. This vision seeks to leverage ICT's transformative power to improve the lives of Ugandans, enhance economic competitiveness, and promote good governance and human rights protection.**



## Unwanted Witness Organized the West African Privacy Regional Engagement, Examining the Corporate Responsibility and Privacy Protection in West Africa.

On June 16th, 2023, Unwanted Witness organized the West African Privacy Regional Engagement, addressing corporate responsibility and privacy protection in West Africa. The engagement also shed light on the crucial role played by civil society in promoting corporate accountability.

The Engagement was held virtually and structured as a panel discussion, featuring experts in corporate responsibility, privacy protection, and civil society activism. The Engagement was titled “Corporate Responsibility and Privacy Protection: The Role of Civil Society in Fostering Corporate Accountability in West Africa.” It commenced at 12:00 pm WAT and 2:00 pm EAT.

The speakers for the engagement were Eliot Bendinelli the Director of Privacy International’s Corporate Exploitation Programme, Y. Z. Ya’u: Director at the Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD), Maureen Kelechi Onwukwe the Executive Director and Founder of the Good Governance Awareness Initiative (GGAI), and Simone Toussi the Francophone/Central Africa Project Officer at the Collaboration on International ICT Policy for East and Southern Africa (CIPESA).

“The West African Privacy Regional Engagement is a precursor to the Privacy Symposium Africa 2023.

We all know how critical the right to privacy is, it is a fundamental human right and we as Unwanted Witness get conversations and engagements through regional platforms like the West African privacy regional engagement help in shaping and getting conversations on issues of privacy and data protection in the different regions.” Said Dorothy Mukasa the Executive Director of Unwanted Witness

The webinar delved into a wide range of critical topics, including an overview of Corporate Responsibility and Privacy Protection in West Africa, the vital role of Civil Society in promoting corporate accountability, the challenges faced by Civil Society in holding corporations accountable, strategies for strengthening Corporate Responsibility and Privacy Protection, and provided valuable recommendations for policymakers and stakeholders.

“Civil Society organizations play a crucial role in analyzing data protection and ensuring corporations comply with legislation. In countries like Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Gambia, where specific legislation may be lacking, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) provides a binding data protection act for member states. Through diligent monitoring, civil society can safeguard people’s privacy rights and hold corporations accountable for respecting those rights.” Said Simone Toussi, Francophone/Central Africa Project Officer

**UNWANTED WITNESS**  
**NEWSLETTER 2023**

According to Eliot Bendinelli, through persistent efforts and rigorous research, Civil Society can apply pressure on companies for corporate accountability and privacy protection through complaint mechanisms. He added that the desk and technical research methods enable civil society to delve into the data practices of ad tech firms and file complaints accordingly.

In today's digital age, the importance of privacy protection cannot be overstated. With the increasing use of technology and the collection of personal data by corporations, individuals are becoming more concerned about the security and integrity of their private information.

“Privacy protection goes beyond compliance; it is an essential business asset. Companies must realize that prioritizing data privacy not only builds trust with customers but also fuels business growth. The lack of understanding about its significance hinders corporate responsibility in safeguarding customer data, hindering both the potential for business expansion and the protection of privacy rights.” Said Y. Z. Ya'u: Director at the Centre for Information Technology and Development

According to Maureen Kelechi Onwukwe the Executive Director and Founder of the Good Governance Awareness Initiative and one of the speakers, Corporate responsibility entails understanding the rights of individuals and responsibly handling the data entrusted to organizations. She added that Privacy protection should not be a mere checkbox, but a strategic policy that fosters trust and growth.

The West African Privacy Regional Engagement served as a prelude to the highly anticipated 5th edition of the Privacy Symposium Africa, set to take place in Port Louis, Mauritius, from November 7th to 9th, 2023. These initiatives are organized by the Unwanted Witness in collaboration with the Data Protection Office of Mauritius.

Watch the webinar recording

<https://www.youtube.com/live/j1Uuh09S8rU?feature=share>

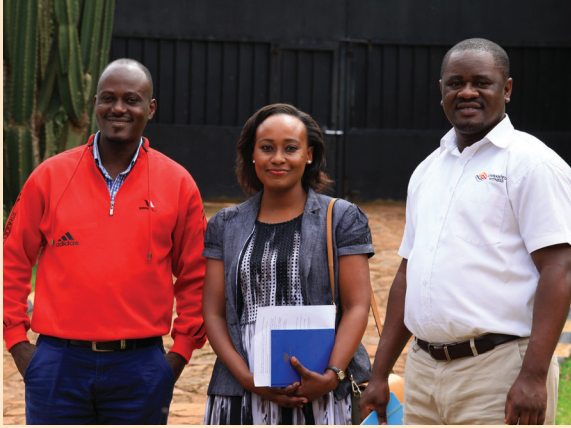
**“Privacy protection goes beyond compliance; it is an essential business asset. Companies must realize that prioritizing data privacy not only builds trust with customers but also fuels business growth. The lack of understanding about its significance hinders corporate responsibility in safeguarding customer data, hindering both the potential for business expansion and the protection of privacy rights.”**

**-Said Y. Z. Ya'u**

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# COURTESY VISITS

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*Isaac Matovu the business and human rights lead Jacqueline Kasoma Kawumi, Programme Component Manager GIZ Uganda and Allan Sempala Kigozi the head legal*

Jacqueline Kasoma Kawumi, Programme Component Manager - Civil Society in Uganda Support Programme at GIZ Uganda, recently paid a courtesy visit to the Unwanted Witness offices. During her visit, Jacqueline expressed her admiration for Unwanted Witness's commitment to promoting good governance in Uganda through their advocacy for digital rights and privacy.

Unwanted Witness was thrilled to receive Jacqueline and share with her their current initiatives and projects aimed at empowering civil society and promoting digital rights in Uganda. Jacqueline was particularly impressed by the organization's efforts to engage with policymakers and advocate for the creation of data protection laws in Uganda. She emphasized that GIZ Uganda shares the same commitment to promoting good governance and empowering civil society in the country.

The meeting ended on a high note, with both parties expressing their desire to continue working together to create a better digital landscape in Uganda. Unwanted Witness thanked Jacqueline for taking the time to visit and for the support that GIZ Uganda has provided to their organization. They also expressed their enthusiasm for future collaborations with GIZ Uganda and other like-minded organizations that are working to promote digital rights and privacy in Uganda.

It was a positive and productive meeting that strengthened the bond between the two organizations and paved the way for future collaborations.

On March 30, 2023, the Executive Director of Unwanted Witness, Mukasa Dorothy, and her team visited Mrs. Stella Alibateese, the Executive Director of the Personal Data Protection Office (PDPO), to explore potential areas of collaboration between the two organizations. The meeting was an opportunity for both parties to discuss their experiences and challenges in implementing data protection laws and regulations in Uganda.

During the meeting, Unwanted Witness and PDPO identified several potential areas of collaboration, including joint advocacy campaigns to raise public awareness about data protection rights and obligations, and capacity-building initiatives to help individuals and organizations comply with data protection laws and regulations.

The two organizations also discussed their respective roles in the implementation of the recently enacted Data Protection and Privacy Act, which aims to protect individuals' privacy rights and ensure the secure processing of their personal data.

The meeting ended on a positive note, with both parties expressing their commitment to collaborating on initiatives that promote and enforce data protection laws in Uganda.



*A group photo with the Unwanted Witness Team and the PDPO Office, centered are the two Directors, Ms. Stella Alibateese and Ms. Doroty Mukasa*



*Allan Kigozi, Head of Programs at Unwanted Witness with Drudeisha Madhub, the data protection commissioner of Mauritius.*

As the preparations for the PSA 2023 continue, our Head of Programs, Allan Sempala, embarked on a crucial mission. He paid a courtesy visit to the Data Protection Commissioner of the Data Protection Office in Mauritius, Ms. Drudeisha Madhub. This was an essential meeting as we are partnering with the Data Protection Office of Mauritius to host the event.

The 5th edition of the Privacy Symposium Africa will be organized by Unwanted Witness and Hosted by the Data Protection Office of Mauritius in Port Louis from

7th to 9th November, 2023.

The Privacy Symposium Africa provides a unique opportunity for stakeholders in the privacy and data protection space to network, learn from experts, and share insights on the latest trends and challenges facing the industry. Attendees of the Privacy Symposium Africa 2023 will also have the chance to participate in interactive sessions and master classes on a range of topics related to online privacy and data protection.





*Our Amplified banner that has the Amplified logo and the logo of the Canadian Embassy*

## Partners

Over the past six months, we've had the privilege of collaborating with esteemed organizations, each playing a crucial role in our success. Special mention goes to the Canadian Embassy and the National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda (NUDIPU) for their invaluable support in the Amplified Project. We also partnered with the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) for Data Protection Training and joined forces with the Makerere School of Law and the Public Interest Law Clinic for the Unwanted Witness Privacy Moot Court

Competitions 2023. Our Platinum Partners for the UW Privacy Moot 2023 are Civil Rights Defenders. Additionally, we were proud to collaborate with Hewlett Foundation and the Data Protection Office of Mauritius for the 5th Edition of the Privacy Symposium Africa. These partnerships have been instrumental in advancing our mission, and we eagerly anticipate future collaborations that will further our cause.



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## **The Unwanted Witness**

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