**A Common Future**

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[**www.acommonfuture3.blogspot.com**](http://www.acommonfuture3.blogspot.com)

**www.dignitytelevision.com**

**Press Release**

*25/11/13/for immediate release*

**Pioneer Human Rights News Television for Central Africa Launched in Bamenda**

A new TV Channel dedicated to the promotion and protection of human rights in Cameroon and other Central African Countries has been launched in Bamenda this November 25, 2013. The TV Channel known as *Dignity* *Television* is launched as part of activities marking this year’s 16 Days of Activism to End Gender-based Violence in society. The Television channel which is principally web-based is a product of *A* *Common* *Future* *Human* *Rights* *Film* *and* *Arts* *Festival*, a Bamenda-based human rights Organization that works to transform lives and build common frontiers by ending violence against women, girls and children.

According to the promoter of the project, Gwain Colbert Fulai, who doubles as Executive Director of *A* *Common* *Future* and publisher/editor of *the* *Colbert* *factor newspaper* andblog, *Dignity* *Television* [www.dignitytelevision.com] is intended to bring voices of victims of human rights violations and abuse seldom heard to the global online community. ‘The online channel functions on the understanding that those who have suffered violations do not need to remain silent and that society becomes more healthy when they tell their stories in their own words and in their own way’, Gwain says. On why he choosed to run but a web television Gwain Colbert disclosed that such a decision was arrived at after discovering that the Internet offered unprecedented opportunities for the realization of human rights, and continues to play an increasingly important role in our everyday lives.

The promoter of the initiative maintains that ‘many people, especially women and youth in enclave communities in the Central African zone suffer in silence from various forms of human rights abuses that people in other parts of the world take for granted’. The online human rights TV is an appropriate and innovative solution to this problem as it streams real life stories from the victims as told by them. Although these categories of people are the ones at the centre of social change in most communities as seen from the Arab Spring, in countries like Cameroon, Chad, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Central Africa Republic, and Congo, their voices are hardly ever heard. The few media houses that even reach out to them tell their stories do so in an approximative manner given that they themselves lack adequate training and equipment to do such challenging work.

Onthemeritsoftheproject*,* thepromoterholdsthat *DignityTV* provides free services to individuals, NGOs and civil society actors working in the domain both at the point of entry and at the point of viewing. In streaming live accounts from victims as well as human rights films and documentaries on far ranging issues like rape, trafficking, incest, homosexuality, HIV/AIDS, breast ironing, political victimization and so on, we bring the global online community to take immediate action and call perpetrators to order, be they state or non-state actors. By empowering voices hardly heard, Dignity Television maintains a sacred space on the web where all who are present share the values enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 and its subsequent developments. Intended to be the first port-of-call for human rights activists and international policy makers in over 25 countries around the world, DignityTV would from 2014 provide a very prominent visibility in terms of Human Rights web presence to all human rights actors.[See www.dignitytelevision.com]

Through this project, we intend to drive home the point that affordable Internet access is today a basic human rights like portable water, electricity and health. The United Nations, in fact, recently declared that Internet access was a human rights like any other and that disconnecting people from the Internet was a violation of human rights. The advantage we have on not going wrong on this project is the increasing interest on internet as a primary source of news. In the 90s only about 0.03 per every 100 persons had access to internet. Today about 1.27 per every 100 persons around the globe have access to internet. With such growth expected to be continued, an estimated 2.7 billion people will be hooked up to the internet by the end of 2013. The findings come in an annual report by the United Nations agency for International Telecommunication Union (ITU) called *Measuring the Information Society 2013*. The rapid expansion of mobile broadband in recent years was picked out by the report as a key development, with 50 per cent of the world's population now covered by a 3G network. Yet, developing countries and especially countries in Central Africa zone are doing to little to see to it that its citizens benefit from this basic human rights.

Beyond the regular streaming of human rights news especially in the domain of violence against women, girls and children, *dignityTV* woulddevote a greater part of its advocacy to promoting internet rights especially to women and youth [See Internet Rights Principles Campaign attached]. As part of activities marking this year’s 16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against women, under the theme: ‘From Peace at Home to Peace in the World, Let’s End Militarism and Violence Against Women’ *dignitytelevision* invites victims of human rights violations of any sort, NGOs and civil society actors working in the domain across the Central African Zone to report them to the Bamenda Office for recording and streaming. For any further enquiries and alerts contact us at info@dignitytelevision.com or acommonfuture1@yahoo.com

Gwain Colbert Fulai

[www.dignitytelevision.com](http://www.dignitytelevision.com)

[www.acommonfuture3.blogspot.com](http://www.acommonfuture3.blogspot.com)

www.freetocharities.org.uk/acf

**Internet Rights Principles and Coalition Campaign: [IRP campaigns]**

**10 Internet Rights & Principles**

This document defines ten key rights and principles that must form the basis of Internet governance. They have been compiled by the **Internet Rights and Principles Dynamic Coalition (**[**IRP**](http://www.internetrightsandprinciples.org)**)**, an open network of individuals and organizations working to uphold human rights in the Internet environment. The principles are rooted in international human rights standards, and derive from the coalition’s emerging Charter of Human Rights and Principles for the Internet.

The Internet offers unprecedented opportunities for the realization of human rights, and plays an increasingly important role in our everyday lives. It is therefore essential that all actors, both public and private, respect and protect human rights on the Internet. Steps must also be taken to ensure that the Internet operates and evolves in ways that fulfill human rights to the greatest extent possible. To help realize this vision of a rights-based Internet environment, the 10 Rights and Principles are:

**1) Universality and Equality**

All humans are born free and equal in dignity and rights, which must be respected, protected and fulfilled in the online environment.

**2) Rights and Social Justice**

The Internet is a space for the promotion, protection and fulfillment of human rights and the advancement of social justice. Everyone has the duty to respect the human rights of all others in the online environment.

**3) Accessibility**

Everyone has an equal right to access and use a secure and open Internet.

**4) Expression and Association**

Everyone has the right to seek, receive, and impart information freely on the Internet without censorship or other interference. Everyone also has the right to associate freely through and on the Internet, for social, political, cultural or other purposes.

**5) Privacy and Data Protection**

Everyone has the right to privacy online. This includes freedom from surveillance, the right to use encryption, and the right to online anonymity. Everyone also has the right to data protection, including control over personal data collection, retention, processing, disposal and disclosure.

**6) Life, Liberty and Security**

The rights to life, liberty, and security must be respected, protected and fulfilled online. These rights must not be infringed upon, or used to infringe other rights, in the online environment.

**7) Diversity**

Cultural and linguistic diversity on the Internet must be promoted and technical and policy innovation should be encouraged to facilitate plurality of expression.

**8) Network Equality**

Everyone shall have universal and open access to the Internet’s content, free from discriminatory prioritization, filtering or traffic control on commercial, political or other grounds.

**9) Standards and Regulation**

The Internet’s architecture, communication systems, and document and data formats shall be based on open standards that ensure complete interoperability, inclusion and equal opportunity for all.

**10) Governance**

Human rights and social justice must form the legal and normative foundations upon which the Internet operates and is governed. This shall happen in a transparent and multilateral manner, based on principles of openness, inclusive participation and accountability.

 **Get involved with developing the IRP Charter at** [**www.irpcharter.org**](http://irpcharter.org/wpcharter/)**, follow us at** [**@netrights**](http://twitter.com/netrights) **on Twitter or join the Internet Rights and Principles** [**Facebook group**](http://www.facebook.com/internetrightsandprinciples)**.**