



Executive Committee Joint Statement

The International Conference of Information Commissioners (ICIC), in accordance with the objectives set out in the Johannesburg Charter, has acted as an international voice to reaffirm -- through several declarations -- the importance of access to information laws to foster greater public confidence in government. Openness and transparency, and the proactive exchange of information are essential to allow citizens to improve their understanding of public decision-making.

Amidst the complex social and political scenario that the people of Afghanistan is enduring, the Executive Committee members of the ICIC on behalf of our international network, stand in solidarity with the Access to Information Commission of that country, its members and their families, as well as with the entire Afghan community.

Information Commissioners play a critical part in safeguarding the values of the right of access to information, holding those in positions of power and authority accountable, and ensuring the protection of Human Rights. Today, **the ICIC has a greater responsibility and challenge to promote and protect access to information and those defenders of this right, such as journalists, government access officials, and members of civil society.**

As an international network, we must join forces and continue to work tirelessly to increase the quality of our democracies, protect Human Rights, empower the population and translate the right to know into benefits for our societies.

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