

UNWANTED WITNESS



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



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Welcome to the Official *Unwanted Witness* Newsletter

Dear friends,

It's halfway through the year already! Can you believe it? From tackling challenges to celebrating victories including attainment of resolutions for some. The past six months have been filled with electrifying events and advocacy, and we cannot wait to dive into what the rest of the year has in store for us. Thank you for being part of our journey. Unwanted Witness has had a productive first half of 2024. Let us revisit some of the highlights;

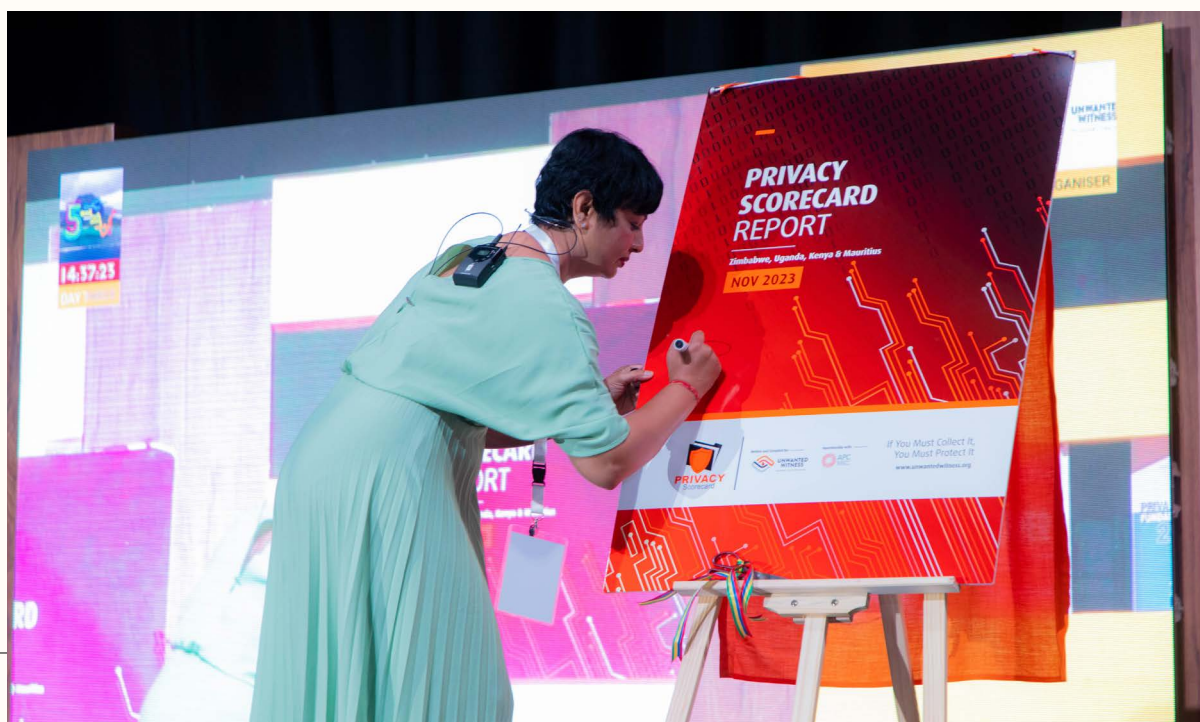
HIGHLIGHTS

Data Privacy Month

As 2024 began, Unwanted Witness Uganda celebrated Data Privacy Month with events emphasizing privacy, data protection, and digital rights. A key highlight was the release of the 2023 Privacy Scorecard Report, revealing compliance challenges in Uganda, Kenya, Mauritius, and Zimbabwe, with overall compliance remaining below 50% across

the three reviews 35% (2021), 45.5% (2022) and to 47.3%(2023). [Read more](#)

We also contributed to webinars discussing national data strategies and data protection. There were inspiring dialogues in which voices from different countries came together to show their dedication to advancing digital rights and advocating for stronger data protection laws.



HIGHLIGHTS



Privacy Scorecard Dissemination

On 29th February 2024, Unwanted Witness Uganda hosted a breakfast meeting at Hotel Africa, Kampala, and spotlighted industry trends in the latest 2023 Privacy Scorecard Report. This report, which was

first launched at the 5th Privacy Symposium Africa, assesses compliance with data protection laws among data collectors and processors in Uganda, Kenya, Mauritius, and Zimbabwe. Visit our site for details unwantedwitness.org



HIGHLIGHTS



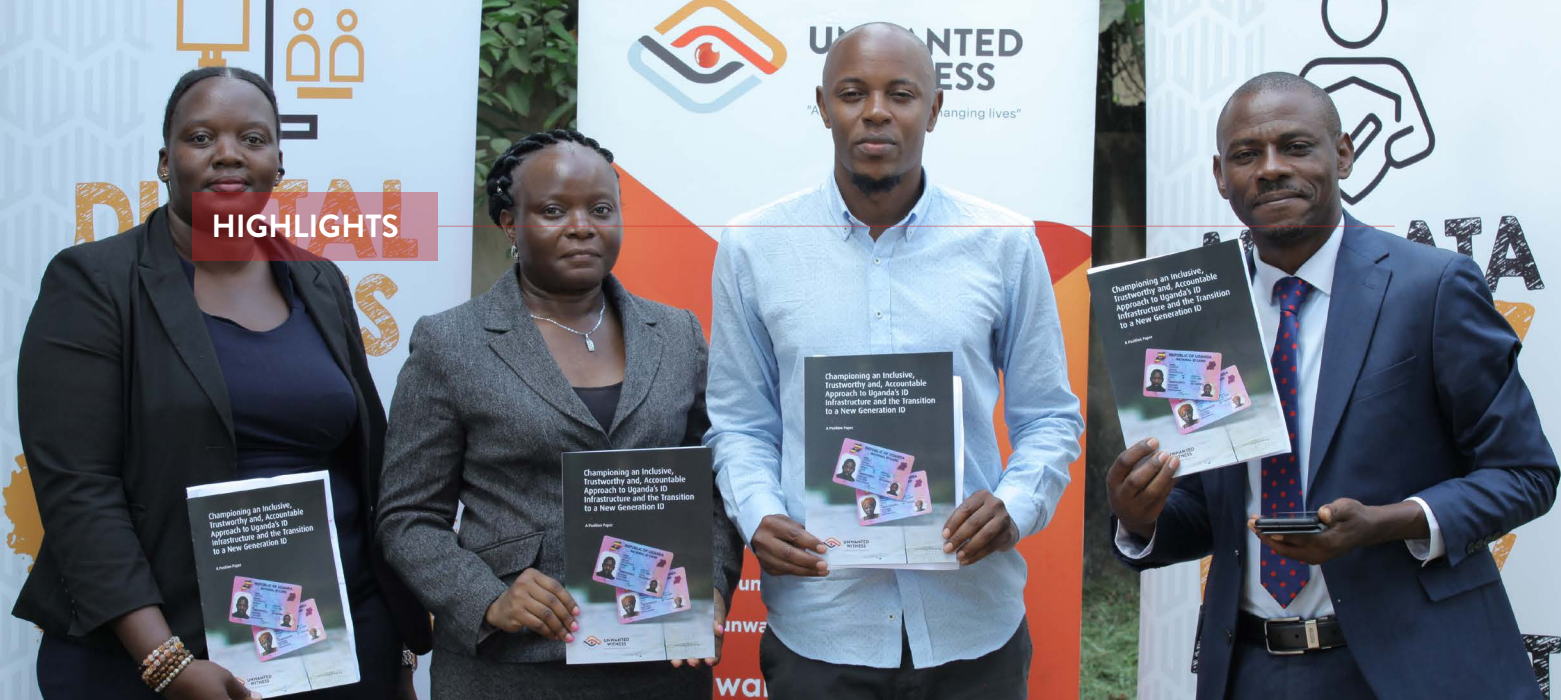
Unwanted Witness Privacy Moot Court

We launched the 3rd Unwanted Witness Privacy Moot Court on March 20, 2024, at the Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU) – Kampala Campus. This year's theme, "Safeguarding Electoral Integrity: Upholding Voter Privacy in Democratic Processes," emphasizes the importance of voter privacy in democratic engagement. Universities from Uganda and Kenya will debate issues like biometric technology in voter registration and data protection laws.

Moot Court Boot Camp: Participants of the 3rd Un-

wanted Witness Privacy Moot Court Competition participated in a training Boot Camp on the 3rd and 10th May 2024. The Boot Camp, conducted in two phases helped to prepare the mooters for the competition. It focused on crafting persuasive written submissions and honing oral advocacy techniques. Legal experts and experienced advocates facilitated these virtual sessions. Participants gained practical insights and simulated competition experience. [Read more here.](#)





Launch of our Position Paper on Uganda's ID Infrastructure

In April 2024, Unwanted Witness Uganda supported citizens demanding accountability from telecom service providers through the #DataTheftExhibition, which highlighted unfair data depletion practices by writing a statement to the telecom companies. [See details](#)

Reflecting on our advocacy efforts since 2016, we have consistently challenged telecom practices and called for regulatory oversight. This initiative reaffirms our commitment to advocating for digital rights and consumer interests. We stand ready to work with stakeholders to hold telecom companies accountable.





Engagements

We have been proactive in our participation across a spectrum of African workshops, conferences, and industry discussions, fostering meaningful engagements and collaborations. These platforms have enabled us to contribute significantly to regional dialogues on crucial issues such as data governance, privacy, and digital rights.

Allan Sempala, Head of Legal and Programs participated in the 2024 APC Community Gathering in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Organized by the Association for Progressive Communications (APC), this event focused on advancing advocacy for gender justice, environmental sustainability, and digital inclusion through the internet and digital technologies.

His participation helped inform the collective reflections aimed at guiding APC's advocacy efforts in 2024 and 2025. The event aimed to provide strategic direction and actionable propositions to strengthen APC's engagement in key advocacy processes, reinforcing our commitment to promoting digital rights and social equity worldwide.

Herbert Brenan Kafumbe, our Head of Content and Media, represented Unwanted Witness at a strategic policy workshop titled 'Advancing Data Governance and Policy in Africa.' Hosted by the African Union Commission, the workshop focused on integrating and harmonizing data governance across the continent. Kafumbe highlighted our advocacy initiatives, including the Privacy Scorecard and UW Privacy Symposium, during various panel discussions.

The event convened stakeholders from academia, civil society, and think tanks to exchange insights and strategies aimed at ad-

vancing data policy in Africa. Particularly, we were able to lead discussions on 'cross border data safeguards and the challenges thereof'

Barbra Ampaire, our Communications and Advocacy Lead, actively engaged at the Connected Africa Summit 2024. This influential gathering went beyond conventional boundaries, serving as a strategic platform to shape a digitally empowered future for Africa. Barbra's attendance highlighted our commitment to advancing digital rights and online freedoms, contributing to discussions that pave the way for unprecedented growth, prosperity, and innovation across the continent.

We hosted champions from the Unwanted Privacy Moot Competition at our offices for a capacity-building session. This initiative focused on providing mentorship and equipping these participants with essential knowledge in data protection and privacy. Led by our Head of Programs and Legal, Allan Sempala, the session emphasized critical skills in data collection and protection, offering invaluable tips for success in the legal realm.

Our steadfast dedication to nurturing legal minds and advancing expertise in privacy and digital rights is evident. Witnessing these young talents flourish and gain profound insights is not just a milestone but a testament to our ongoing mission. This initiative represents a pivotal stride in our relentless pursuit to empower future leaders in law and privacy, ensuring they are prepared to make significant impacts in their respective fields.





6th Privacy Symposium Africa Unveiled

On April 30, 2024, we successfully launched the 6th Privacy Symposium Africa (PSA) in Kampala, Uganda. The launch marked a significant milestone in our efforts to advance privacy awareness and promote best practices in data protection. The symposium will take place in Harare, Zimbabwe, from November 19th to 21st, 2024, under the theme “Bridging Policy, Technology, and Societal Dynamics”. Read more about the launch and the upcoming symposium: <https://privacysymposiumafrica.com>

HIGHLIGHTS



Championing Citizens' Call for Telecom Transparency

In April 2024, Unwanted Witness Uganda supported citizens demanding accountability from telecom service providers through the #DataTheftExhibition, which highlighted unfair data depletion practices by writing a statement to the telecom companies. [See details](#)

Reflecting on our advocacy efforts since 2016, we have consistently challenged telecom practices and called for regulatory oversight. This initiative reaffirms our commitment to advocating for digital rights and consumer interests. We stand ready to work with stakeholders to hold telecom companies accountable.

Advocating For Privacy In The National Census Exercise

In April, Unwanted Witness took a strong stand on privacy and data protection concerns related to the upcoming national population census. In a statement issued on April 15, 2024, we urged the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) to ensure the security and confidentiality of personal data collected during the exercise. We emphasized the need for robust encryption, strict access controls, and comprehensive privacy impact assessments. Additionally, we called on UBOS to update its registration status with the Personal Data Protection Office to “Active,” to reinforce public trust in the census process. [Read our statement](#)



OPPORTUNITIES IN FOCUS


UNWANTED WITNESS
 PRIVACY MOOT COURT COMPETITION
Done. Participate. Win.

Pre-Moot CONFERENCE 2024

Theme:
 Safeguarding Electoral Integrity: Upholding Voter Privacy in Democratic Processes.

Date: Thursday 12th September, 2024
Time: 8:30am-11:30am (CAT)
Location: Daystar University-Nairobi Campus

Register to attend:
freda@unwantedwitness.org or wallace.mbugua@icj-kenya.org

Organized By:  UNWANTED WITNESS

In Collaboration With:  icj  DAYSTAR UNIVERSITY  Kenya Judicial Service Foundation  AFMPANGA

Participation in our Pre-Moot Conference

The groundwork for our annual Moot Court Competition has been laid successfully. We now eagerly anticipate the commencement of the competition in September 2024. The competition will include a Press Conference and Pre-Moot Conference at Daystar University Nairobi Campus on September 11 and 12, 2024 respectively, and climax in the grand finale on September 20, 2024, at the same venue. [Visit our website](#)



Attend The Privacy Symposium Africa 2024

Registration is now open for the highly anticipated Privacy Symposium Africa, launched on April 30th, 2024. This high-level three-day event is scheduled to take place from November 19th to 21st, 2024 in Harare, Zimbabwe. This year's Symposium embraces a hybrid format, ensuring accessibility for a wider audience. We eagerly anticipate welcoming participants from across Africa. [Register now on our website to secure your place](#)

Stay Informed and Engaged: Follow us on social media for the latest updates on these exciting events and our ongoing work. Additionally, visit our website for more information and to discover ways to become actively involved. Let us collaborate in building a more secure and equitable digital landscape for all.

The Unwanted Witness

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