

International Right To Know Day 2014

International Right to Know Day was established to mark the founding of the Freedom of Information Advocates Network on 28 September 2002. It is being celebrated around the world this year as well with events on every continent.

The aim of International Right to Know Day is to raise awareness of every individual's right of access to information held by government and public bodies: from the right to know how elected officials are exercising their power, to how taxpayers' money is being spent.

Last year many events were organised around the globe, including a book presentation, activist and citizen workshops, film screenings, radio programmes, conferences on local access to information laws, awards ceremonies and ombudsman events!

If you want to learn more about these events, and those from previous years, please take a look at <http://www.foiadvocates.net>

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If you are still not sure what to do ...

Take a look at the FOI Advocates
Network website

<http://www.foiadvocates.net>

for more information about what members are doing and what you can do ... we can also put you in touch with the local access to information organization in your country ... and please, send us your reports and press cuttings so that we can make our Right to Know Day Map as full as possible this year!

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28th
September



It's your right!
What do you want
to know?

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If you are a public servant or elected member of government:

Ask yourself you are doing to help promote open government ... find out what the department you work in is doing to be more open ... think about how you can manage information better so that it's easier to provide to members of the public ... put some more information on your website so that the public has a better idea about what you are doing ... and if your country has an access to information law, talk to the people in your department who are responsible for giving out information and find out what you can to do help them respond to requests within the timeframes established by law!

If you are an individual:

File a request for information, write a letter to your local newspaper, ask your local town hall to put up notices telling people about the right to information, or ask them to put more information on their website, get your friends talking on social media about the right, write to your local council or to your member of parliament and ask them what they are doing to promote government transparency!

If you are an NGO / civil society organization:

Hold an event, a debate, an award ceremony, write a press release ... hold a discussion with a local community group or in the local school ... print up posters and t-shirts and hand them out in the streets ... get people involved and, best of all, get them exercising their rights by filing request for information!



If you are a teacher or pupil:

Have a discussion in class about the right to know and why open government is important ... think of some requests you can file with your local authority or with a government body such as the Ministry of Education ... find a local issue that you would like to know more about such as the quality of the drinking water or the budget for the sports centre and file requests for more information!

If you are an Information Commissioner:

Join in the publicity for the day by holding an event or issuing a press release ... hold a competition that will encourage openness such as the best government website or the department with the fastest average response time for answering requests ... publicize examples of information disclosure that has helped strengthen the relationship between the public and the government ... send a memo to government departments reminding them that 28 September is International Right to Know Day and emphasizing that transparency is nothing to be afraid of because everyone is doing it!

If you are a journalist:

Write an article about Right to Know Day around the world and/or about local transparency issues ... if you have never filed a request before using your national access to information law, now is the time to start, and then make a story out of what happens!

If you are a librarian or write an Internet blog:

You already understand the value of information, so make sure you inform your members/readers about Right to Know Day!