



# @RIGHTS CON25 Taipei

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## **RightsCon 2025 Report: Advancing Human Rights in the Digital Age**

The 13th edition of the global summit on human rights in the digital age, **RightsCon 2025**, was held in **Taipei, Taiwan**, from **February 24 to 27, 2025**, at the **Taipei International Conference Center (TICC)** and online, organised by Access Now. This was the first time the hybrid summit was hosted on the Asian continent, drawing over **10,000 participants from 150 countries**. Attendees included **activists, technologists, policymakers, journalists, philanthropists, researchers, business leaders, and artists**, engaging in more than **450 sessions** exploring the intersection of **human rights and technology**.

### **A Brief History of TAIPEI**

Taipei, the beautiful and vibrant capital of Taiwan with a rich blending indigenous culture, Chinese influence and modern innovation was originally inhabited by the Ketagalan people. The city's charm lies in its fusion of the past and future, making the city a captivating tourist destination for urban beauty, history and culture, with iconic landmarks like Taipei 101, historic sites like Longshan Temple, National Palace Museum, and Yangmingshan National Park, the serene Elephant Mountain trails for nature lovers, not to forget Taipei's night markets. The hospitality of its people creates a lasting impression

## About IRISE

**Organization Name:** Initiative to Resist Institutional Slavery and Exploitation (IRISE) IRISE is a registered non-profit organization dedicated to the empowerment and liberation of women, girls, and young people. Our focus is on advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), promoting education, economic empowerment, environmental sustainability, community building, and human liberation. We are committed to ending institutional slavery and exploitation through a holistic approach that addresses the root causes of inequality and injustice.

IRISE's work centers on improving sexual and reproductive health and rights, with a particular emphasis on reducing stigma, and combating gender-based violence. Our initiatives have made significant impacts in rural, low-income, and crisis-affected communities across Nigeria, fostering both emotional and physical healing. By collaborating with faith-based organizations, grassroots movements, women leaders, international partners, and local governments, IRISE seeks to shift harmful practices, transform social norms, and influence policies for lasting change.

### **Leveraging Technology to Revolutionize SRHR and GBV Education/Advocacy**

In today's digital age, IRISE is transforming how Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) education is delivered and advancing the fight against gender-based violence. Our work intersects with technology by harnessing artificial intelligence (AI) to break barriers and expand access to vital information.

Through AI-driven platforms, we create personalized learning experiences, ensuring individuals receive accurate, relevant, and timely SRHR knowledge. These tools allow us to reach diverse communities—especially those in marginalized areas—offering interactive, accessible, and culturally sensitive content.

Beyond education, technology supports our advocacy by analyzing trends, improving outreach, and strengthening data-driven decision-making in human rights initiatives. We utilize technology to amplify voices, connect individuals with support systems, and drive behavioral and policy changes.

## The Significance of RightsCon for IRISE and CSOs

RightsCon is recognized as the **leading global conference** addressing human rights challenges in the digital era. For organizations like **IRISE** and **civil society organizations (CSOs)** working on **gender equality, gender-based violence (GBV), and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)**, the summit provided a critical platform to explore solutions, strengthen networks, and drive impactful advocacy. The **discussions on misinformation, online safety, digital inclusion, and feminist technologies** are particularly relevant for advancing the rights of **women and marginalized communities in Nigeria and beyond**.

## Key Sessions and Insights

### Opening Ceremony (February 24, 2025)

The conference was inaugurated at **9:00 AM** in the **Plenary Hall of TICC**, with an official welcome speech by **Nikki Gladstone, RightsCon Director**, alongside other notable speakers such as **Raman Jit Singh Chima (Asia Policy Director, Access Now)**, **Alejandro Mayoral Baños (Executive Director, Access Now)**, **Adriana Fernández Calderón (RightsCon Senior Community Engagement Coordinator)**, and **Hsiao Bi-khim (Vice President of Taiwan)**.

### Sessions Relevant to Gender Equality, GBV, and SRHR

- **Silenced and Misled: The Twin Threats of Misinformation and Censorship in SRHR**  
This session examined the increasing challenges of **misinformation and censorship** surrounding **sexual and reproductive health and rights**, highlighting **actionable strategies** for activists, policymakers, and media professionals to combat digital misinformation and ensure **access to accurate health information**.
- **Mapping and Mitigating Online Gender-Based Violence in Africa**  
Led by **KICTANet**, this session explored the **prevalence, trends, and consequences of online GBV**, offering insights into **policy interventions and digital safety measures** for **women and girls in Africa**.
- **From Paint to Deepfakes: Intimate-Image Abuse Harming Women and Gender-Diverse People in Latin America**  
A critical discussion on the **misuse of deepfake technology and non-consensual image sharing**, which disproportionately affects **women and LGBTQ+ individuals**, and strategies to promote **legal protections and digital literacy**.
- **Anticolonial, Feminist, and Global South-Centered Digital Technologies: Placing Care at the Center**  
This session emphasized **feminist approaches to digital technology**, exploring **peer-learning models**, safety protocols, and the importance of integrating **care, solidarity, and movement-building in digital advocacy**.

- **What Strategies Can Prevent Online Hate from Fueling Offline Violence Against HIV-Affected Communities?**

This session examined how **online discrimination and hate speech** can escalate into **real-world violence**, particularly against **HIV-affected individuals**, and discussed **digital advocacy strategies to counter stigmatization**.

- **Empowering NGOs and Activists with Essential Cybersecurity Tools**

As digital activism grows, the risk of cyber threats also increases. This session provided **hands-on training for NGOs and activists** to enhance their **digital security and protect sensitive information**.

## **Other Notable Sessions**

- **Documenting Law Enforcement Agencies' Use of Advanced Technologies through Freedom of Information Requests**
- **Connectivity as Aid: Digital Inclusion or Digital Capitalism?**
- **Discourse, Data, Disinformation: Protecting Information Integrity**
- **The Ethical Dilemma of Content Moderation on Social Media Platforms**
- **Advocating for Democracy and Elections in Africa: Effective Advocacy and Closing the Digital Divide?**

## **Regional Meetups and Closing Ceremony (February 27, 2025)**

The final day of RightsCon featured regional meetups, allowing participants from different regions to strategize and build coalitions for continued collaboration. The closing ceremony included a panel discussion and a powerful call to action from Sara Alsherif for the safety of Laila and freedom for Alaa Abdel Fattah

The director of RightsCon, Nikki Gladstone and Naro Omo-Osagie officially announced that **RightsCon 2026** will be hosted in **Africa**, offering a new opportunity for African organizations like **IRISE**, its partners and CSOs to take a leading role in shaping global human rights conversations.

## **Conclusion**

RightsCon 2025 served as a **transformative space for advocacy, learning, and networking**, reinforcing the **critical role of digital rights in advancing gender equality, GBV prevention, and SRHR advocacy**. For **IRISE and CSOs**, the insights gained will **inform strategies, strengthen advocacy efforts, and foster collaborations** aimed at addressing **digital and human rights challenges in Nigeria and beyond**. The anticipation for **RightsCon 2026** in

**Africa** marks an exciting opportunity to bring these discussions closer to home, ensuring **African voices and perspectives remain at the forefront of global digital rights advocacy.**

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