

ANNUAL



REPORT

September 2024



Justice
expeerience

A collaborative, safe and international network to
strengthen and promote human rights

by Avocats Sans Frontières

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About

Justice ExPEERience has celebrated its **3rd anniversary** this summer! On this occasion, the network's coordination team is proud to introduce Justice ExPEERience Annual Report. This report covers the network's activities from August 2023 to August 2024.

Justice ExPEERience is a project developed by **Avocats Sans Frontières (ASF)** since 2020. It is an international network with a collaborative and secure online platform dedicated to the circulation of knowledge and the sharing of expertise in the field of human rights.

Let's take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed and continue to contribute every day to the existence of Justice ExPEERience, in particular the ASF teams and all the network members, as well as all the funders who have supported the project, in particular the Directorate General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (DGD), but also Wallonie-Bruxelles International, the Dutch Embassy in the DRC, the European Union (EU), the US Department of State (NEA) and the Kingdom of Belgium.



Belgique
partenaire du développement



FÉDÉRATION
WALLONIE-BRUXELLES



1 Introduction

Justice ExPEERience is both an **international network**, a **secure multilingual collaborative platform**, and **a community**, bringing together a diverse group of actors (lawyers, members of NGOs and civil society, researchers, activists, etc.) who are committed to advancing human rights and promoting access to justice and the rule of law worldwide.

Justice ExPEERience aims to develop **a network dedicated to collaboration and knowledge sharing**, while guaranteeing compliance with high standards in terms of **ethics, security and personal data protection**. The network hosts active communities of practice that work collectively on specific issues, including strategic litigation and advocacy efforts.



What's New with Justice ExPEERience?



1

Justice ExPEERience now counts **over 800 members** in **55 countries**, working towards the protection and promotion of **human rights, access to justice** and **social justice**. The network has organised a total of **14 webinars** on crucial issues such as preventive detention in Uganda or authoritarian drift in Tunisia.

2

The ExPEERience Map, funded by D4D Digital for Development, is a new project enabling members to **create and share maps on human rights violations**. The first map on **discrimination in Tunisia** is already online, with a second on **prisons in Morocco** in the pipes.

3

This year also marked the release of the network's **new website**. It aims at gathering **all the content** linked not only to the **platform**, but also to the **productions** and **knowledge** shared in the network. It makes them more **easily accessible**!



2 Network and Communities of Practice

The Vision Behind Justixe ExPEERience

Justice ExPEERience was created to **support ASF's mission**. As an international NGO specialized in promoting access to justice, defending human rights, and strengthening the rule of law, it is essential for ASF to rely on strong partnerships with civil society actors and coalitions to strengthen its expertise and the impact of its action.



Justice ExPEERience's purpose is therefore to uphold ASF in **implementing** its strategy, which is grounded in the need to learn from the actions and in the importance of local and international collaboration.

The network creates opportunities for **horizontal connections** between various human rights actors from different contexts around the world.

With this in mind, Justice ExPEERience promotes **the development of international networks**, the building of **coalitions**, and the creation of **communities of practice**.

The network helps **to forge links** between these actors, while upholding the highest standards of ethics and data security.

Since it was set up, the platform and its communities of practice have been used for **monitoring human rights violations**, engaging in **strategic litigation** and carrying out **advocacy work** at local, regional and international level.





Justice ExPEERience's Communities of Practice

Many communities of practice have been developed since the network's launch in 2020. They are rooted in **peer learning, ongoing collaboration and knowledge sharing**. By bringing together people from different backgrounds in communities of practice, Justice ExPEERience encourages horizontal capacity building (peer learning) and develops joint initiatives and concrete actions (litigation, advocacy, etc.).

Such collaboration is based on an immediate interest in acting in favour of a **common objective** and on **mutual trust** between the members of the group. The ability to mobilise the group to respond to its members' question and to move the collective project forward in the long term are good performance indicators.



A community of practice about detention in the DRC

Over the last few years, a community of practice, particularly active on Justice ExPEERience, has been working on the development of **strategic litigation in the field of detention in the DRC**. A procedure against the Congolese State has been established regarding prison overcrowding, inhumane and demeaning detention conditions, and the abusive use of arbitrary detention beyond the legal time limits. This procedure is accompanied by an advocacy campaign aimed at the media and local and national authorities.

To this day, the lawyers keep working together remotely, on Justice ExPEERience, to advance the litigation strategy and support it with an advocacy and communication strategy.



The ExPEERience Letter

The ExPEERience Letter is the bilingual network's newsletter. Sent monthly to all our members, its aims at **sharing, collecting, creating, and disseminating** the network's new research, activities, and events. It includes news analysis, **invitations** to events and conferences, and opportunities for work and collaboration within the network.

The ExPeERience Talks

The EXPeERience Talks are **webinars** regularly organized to **promote the dissemination of expertise and the sharing of knowledge** on issues suggested by network members. Last year, 5 ExPeERience Talks were held thanks to the commitment of network members in building expertise and sharing research on **key issues in the field of human rights**.

Protecting Indigenous Rights to Land and Natural Resources

Perspectives on the Carbon Market in Kenya

18 April 2024

Presented by: Jim India (ASF), Daniel Kobei (OPDP) and Xanne Bekaert (Researcher)

During this webinar, the speakers shared their perspectives on Indigenous rights to land and natural resources in Kenya. Through an analysis of the violations faced by the Ogiek communities, they explored **the relationship** between **Indigenous rights, environmental justice**, and **carbon markets**, highlighting the current challenges Indigenous communities face in addressing **climate change**.

Rendering Justice Without Courts?

Experiences of Community Justice in Ituri (DRC)

29 Feb 2024

Presented by: Julien Moriceau, Janvier Koko Kirusha (INANGA) and Johnny L. Amula (ASF)

The speakers presented the findings of a study aimed at identifying the synergies between **community justice mechanisms** and **judicial justice**, as well as understanding why individuals **choose one mechanism over the other** for different types of conflicts (such as land and identity disputes) in Ituri (DRC). This study provided insights into how community justice functions and highlighted the connections between stakeholders involved in dispute resolution processes at both the community and state levels.



**Watch the replays
of all the ExPeERience Talks
on our new website Justice ExPeERience !**

Pre-Trial Detention in Uganda

Learnings from a Study on knowledge, Attitudes and Practices

15 Feb 2024

Presented by: Lucie Benaiteau and Rashid Bunya (ASF East Africa)

The ASF team in Uganda presented the findings of a report on the **knowledge, attitudes, and practices of individuals involved in the criminal justice system regarding pretrial detention**, highlighting the underlying causes of procedural and constitutional rights violations.

The report observed that Uganda's legal framework on pretrial detention, including procedural and constitutional rights, is not always respected, and that many people involved in the criminal justice system experience **violations of their fundamental rights**, with the most vulnerable populations being the most affected.



Decriminalizing Poverty, Status, and Activism

A Global Emergency, an International Campaign

5 Oct 2023

Presented by: Arnaud Dandoy (ASF), Soheila Comninou (Open Society Foundations) Maria Jose Aldanas (FEANTSA) and Asmaa Fakhoury (ASF)

In this webinar dedicated to the presentation of **the Global Campaign for the Decriminalization of Poverty, Status, and Activism**, the speakers, who are members of the campaign, shared key findings on the criminalization of poverty in various contexts, as well as major observable trends. They also discussed initiatives in support of decriminalization efforts, focusing on examples from Tunisia, Morocco, and Europe.

Corporate Accountability and Human Rights

the Case of the Textile Industry in Tunisia

22 June 2023

Presented by: Zeineb Mrouki (ASF) and Nadia Ben Halim (consultant)

The speakers presented the findings of a recent study on corporate responsibility in human rights. They highlighted the **major obstacles** faced by workers in enforcing their rights, the **recurring violations** committed by certain textile companies, and the **lack of vigilance** within these companies. Other issues, such as **the sudden closure of multinational companies** without notice – leaving thousands of people unemployed without compensation of reparations – were also discussed.

The ExPEERience Map Project

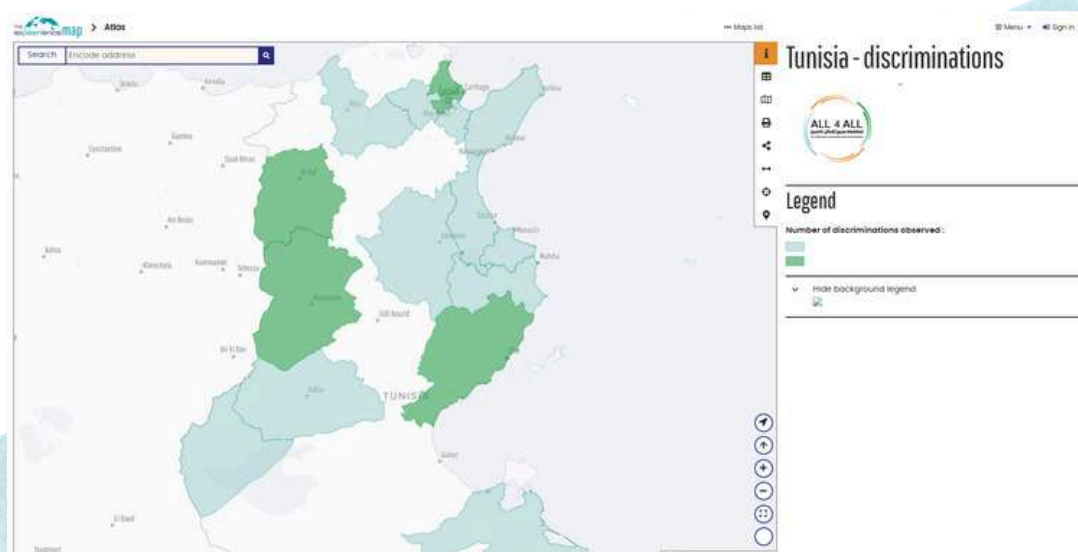
In 2023, ASF received funding from “D4D – Digital for Development” to develop the *ExPEERience Map* project. This interactive online map enables **the visualization of human rights violations** documented by Justice ExPEERience communities of practice through their research and monitoring activities accross various countries. The ExPEERience Map **makes this data visible and accessible to a broad audience**.

This project is part of a broader vision to make Justice ExPEERience a network and platform through which members can not only coordinate, collect, share and document rights violations, but also make this data accessible to **inform, raise awareness, and advocate** for critical issues.

 maps.justiceexperience.org 

The **first map on discrimination in Tunisia** is already online. This map displays by governorate, the number and type of discrimination cases recorded by ASF as part of the legal aid activities of the project “All 4 All – For the Right to Equality and the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination in Tunisia” led by Avocats Sans Frontières (ASF), the Association for the Promotion of the Right to Difference (ADD) and Minority Rights Group International (MRG).

Users can click on a governorate to view more detailed information about the cases, including the type of discrimination, the gender of the individuals facing discrimination and the status of the case.



3 Justice ExPeERience in Data

Justice ExPeERience network currently has over 800 members working on all five continents in support of human rights and access to justice. Members are invited not only to **share their knowledge, their experiences and expertise**. They also **work together in coalitions or communities of practice** on concrete projects for **monitoring human rights violations, strategic litigation, and advocacy actions**.

As of now*, Justice ExPeERience hosts:

**831**

Registered
members

**514**

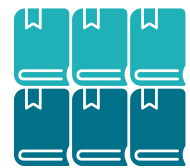
Active
members

**3662**

News and
comments

**306**

Active spaces

**4418**

Shared files

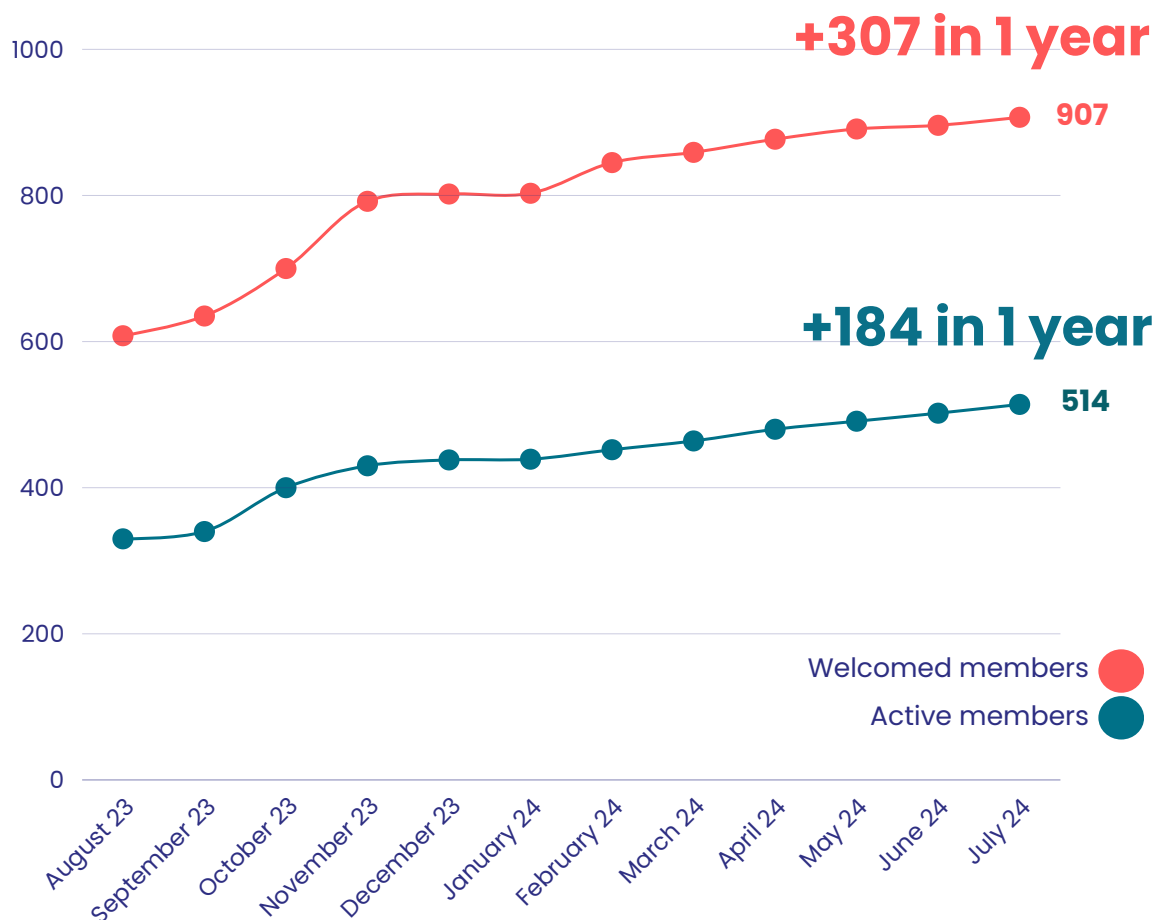


*September 2024 data

Number of Members between July 2023 and July 2024

Between July 2023 and July 2024, Justice ExPEERience welcomed **over 300 new members, of which 184 are active.**

This growth shows how well **the platform keeps meeting the need of ASF and its network.** Each new member helps to deepen the community's expertise by bringing in new perspectives.





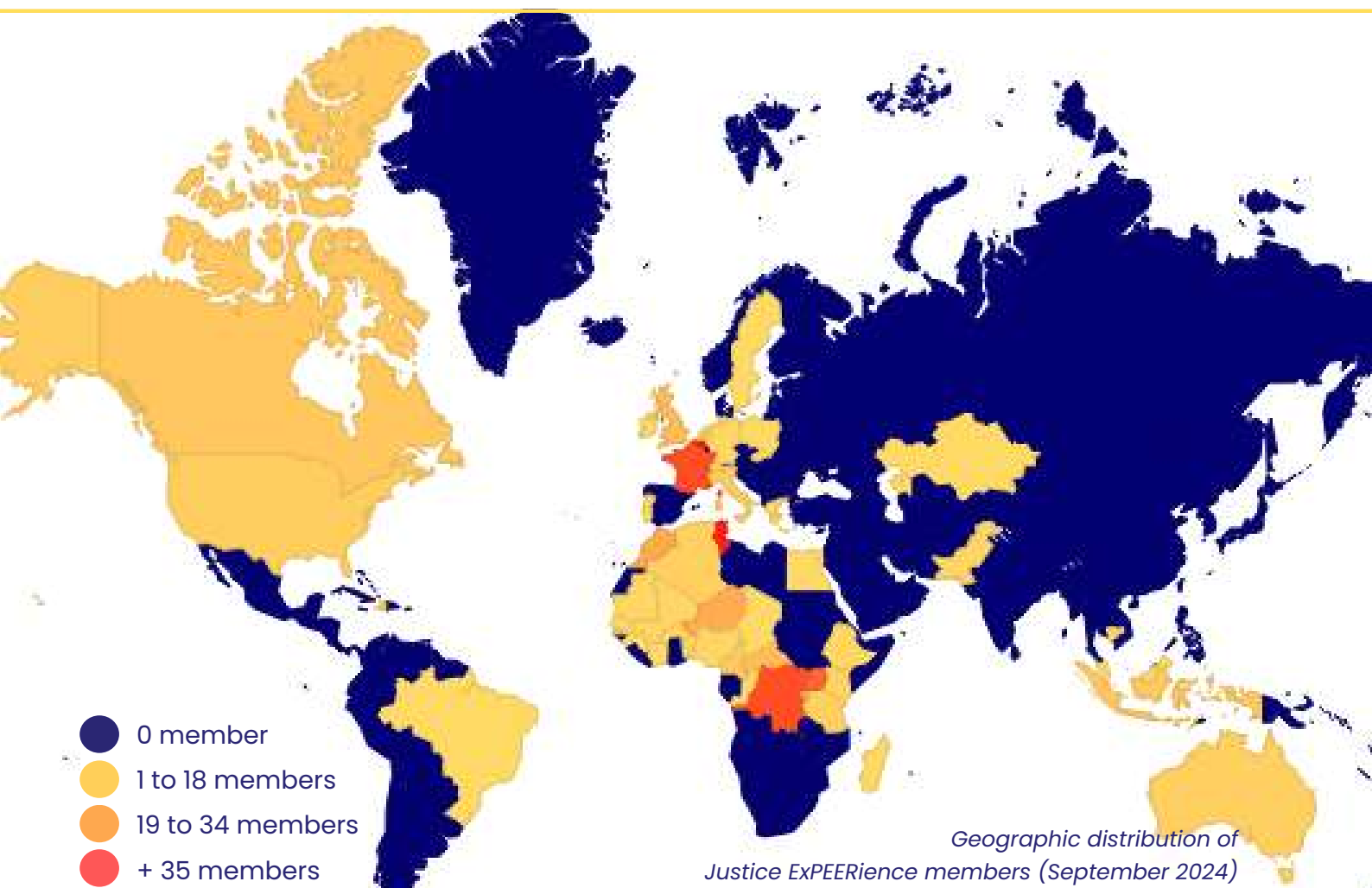
Geographic Distribution of Members

The Justice ExPeERience community now extends across all continents, with members in **55 different countries**, mainly in **DRC** (173), **Tunisia** (123), **Belgium** (103), **France** (56), **Uganda** (47), **Burundi** (35), **Morocco** (20), **Niger** (19) and **CAR** (13).

DRC
 **173**

Tunisia
 **123**

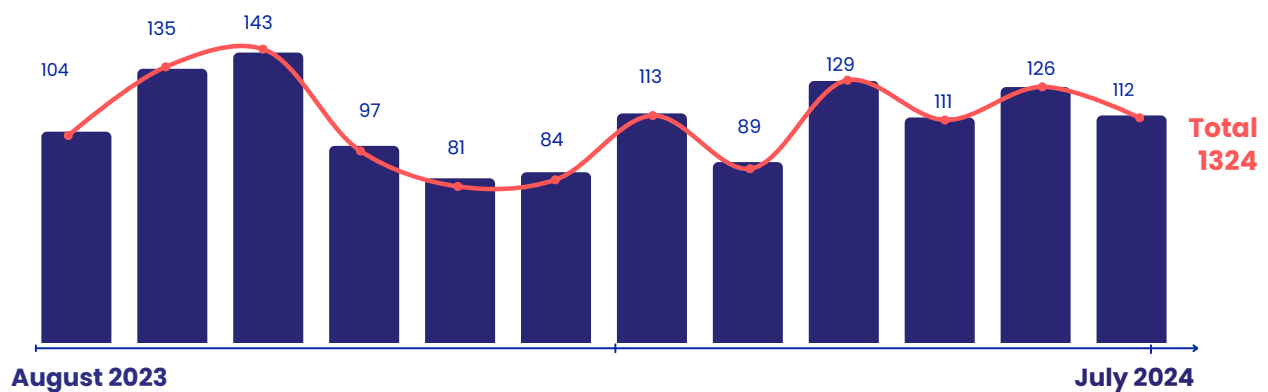
Belgium
 **103**





Numbers of News Items Published per Month

With an average of **112 news items published each month** over the past year, there is a sustained pace of information production, as well as **consistent engagement**. The platform is **regularly updated** by the network members.

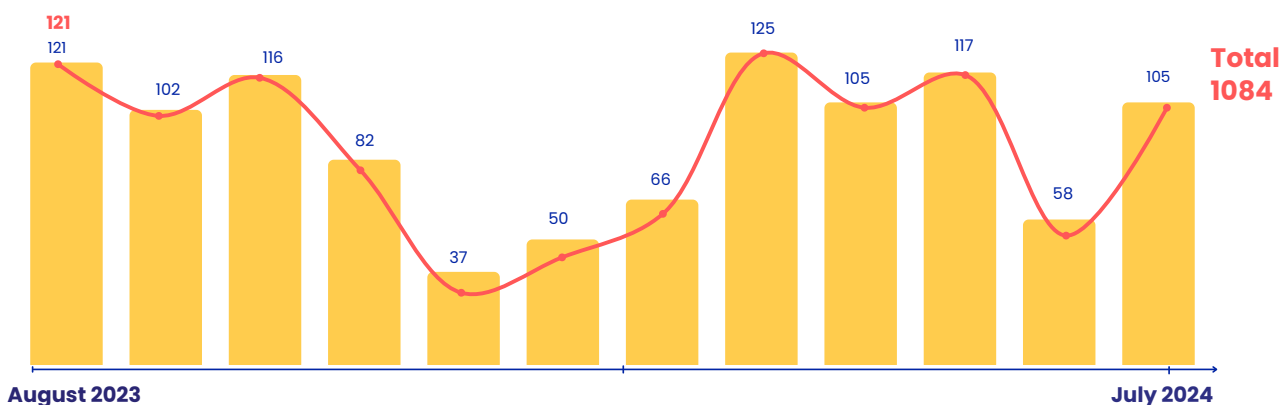


News is shared on a daily basis in public spaces dedicated to geographical issues, various legal themes, and areas of legal action. Confidential spaces are also available for collaborative work on more sensitive topics that require a private setting for discussion.



Number of Files Published per Month

The number of files published (an average of 90 documents per month, including studies, reports, analyses, and other resources) also reflects the network's commitment to **informing, collaborating, and mobilizing** its community through the 306 collaborative spaces related to different areas of action.



4 Justice ExPeERience's New Website

Since the launch of Justice ExPeERience, several communities of practice have been created to develop projects, research and advocacy in many countries. Network's members (researchers, activists, lawyers and civil society actors) share their expertise and experiences, both online and in the field. Knowledge and contents are being shared on the platform but not only.

The sharing of knowledge and content therefore **goes beyond the platform itself**. Since Justice ExPeERience's creation, **14 knowledge-sharing and research dissemination webinars** have been organized, numerous analyses have been produced and shared in the monthly newsletter. Many members have shared content, case law or research on the platform.

To make everything more **easily accessible**, we have created this new Justice ExPeERience website, **a bilingual resource** (available in **French** and **English**). It was designed to gather contents and knowledge shared on the platform.



Available at: justiceexperience.org





An easier way to log in and register to the platform



🔍 On this new site, users can both **log in** and **register** to the platform. By clicking on "**register**", you will be **redirected to the registration forms in French and English**. By clicking on "**log in**" you can **sign in directly** to use the Justice ExPeERience platform.

👁️ Easy access to user guides and video tutorials

On the '[Platform](#)' page you'll find regularly updated explanations of how the platform works. In particular, you can download the user guide in French and English, and watch video tutorials in French and in English.



📚 One place for all our network's knowledge

👥 In the 'Content' section you can **access the replays** all the network's webinar sessions, the ExPeERience Talks that have taken place since 2022 to share knowledge, projects and research on a wide range of human rights issues around the world.

🌐 In this same section, the "**ExPeERience Map**" page give you access to our new feature: The Map of Human Rights Violations. This tool will help communities of practice to share their knowledge on online interactive map.

📰 On the '**News**' page, we publish the monthly news analyses that are sent to network members in our monthly newsletter, The ExPeERience Letter.

📖 On the '**About**' page, you can read and download the Justice ExPeERience annual report, available in French and English.

5 Conclusions and Perspectives

This third year of activity allowed the **consolidation** for our network, in terms of membership and activity growth on the platform. The functionalities and resources available on the network have also been improved. The launch of **The ExPeERience Map** and the **new Justice ExPeERience website** were the highlights of this year.

Improvements and Next Steps

Numerous developments and improvements are still underway, thanks to close collaboration with Algoo's development teams. Current priorities include improving the **speed** and **responsiveness** of the Justice ExPeERience interface, along with user experience improvements, such as better notification functionality.

As we close out 2024, we are focusing on **an external evaluation of the Justice ExPeERience project and platform**. This evaluation will allow us to reflect on and learn from these first three years, setting us on the right path to continue our progress in 2025 with a well-informed and strengthened base.

In order to support further development and improvement of the platform, the Justice ExPeERience teams are also looking for **new fundings and partnerships** with existing organisations and coalitions to ensure the sustainability of the project in the long term !



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ASF

A project and
platform led by
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