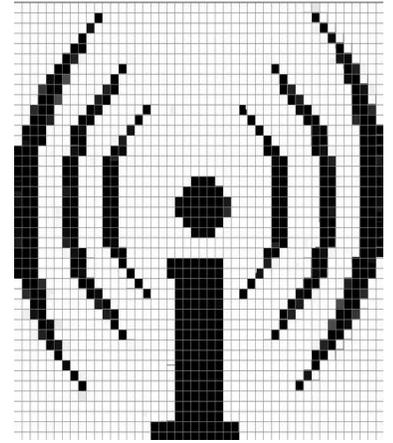


## Indymedia Africa Working Group • [imc-africa.mayfirst.org](http://imc-africa.mayfirst.org)

PLANS UNDERWAY FOR AN INDEPENDENT MEDIA CONVERGENCE  
AUGUST 4-15, 2015 ~ ACCRA, GHANA  
IN COOPERATION WITH THE WORLD ASSOCIATION OF  
COMMUNITY RADIO BROADCASTERS (AMARC)

*Your support is needed! Please join independent media organizers, media makers and communication technologists from four continents to construct an independent media convergence center to build participatory grassroots media organizing infrastructure in Africa this August — with a particular focus on radio and mobile telephony technologies.*



To donate online, visit [tinyurl.com/indyaccra2015](http://tinyurl.com/indyaccra2015)

For more information and planning updates, visit: [imc-africa.mayfirst.org/content/converge-accra](http://imc-africa.mayfirst.org/content/converge-accra)

**The context:** Grassroots media organizing offers a critical tool-kit for building:

- sustainable international solidarity with historically underprivileged communities
- effective support networks for journalists' safety
- community-based solutions for food security and climate change adaptation

**The opportunity:** This August, the World Association of Community Radios (known by its French acronym, AMARC) is holding its worldwide General Assembly in Accra, Ghana from August 10-14. As part of this effort, AMARC and the Independent Media Center (IMC) Africa Working Group are partnering with the goal of expanding access to face-to-face trainings in participatory media organizing skills to new media activists and aspiring producers.

**Working with AMARC, the IMC-Africa Working Group will organize its sixth Independent Media Convergence Center from August 4-15 in conjunction with AMARC's Accra Conference.** The Center will convene on August 4, just prior to the AMARC gathering, with a training to empower new radio journalists with critical technical and organizing skills. We will then join with the AMARC conference from August 10-14, creating an opportunity for these new media makers to network with and learn from the hundreds of experienced practitioners who will be in town from around the globe. Finally we will have a wrap-up session after the closing of the AMARC Conference.

We invite you to join us in this effort. We need donations of funds, equipment and expertise in order to support this process and make the convergence a reality. Our main costs are transportation and accommodation, as well as supplies and equipment. The IMC-Africa Working Group and AMARC need to raise funds for the tickets of 35 delegates who include media makers, human rights activists, university students and youth from Nigeria, Mali, Togo, Benin, Ambazonia, Kenya, Camerouns, Uganda, Rwanda, South Africa, Ghana, CongoDRC, Morocco and the Diaspora.

**Program details:** IMC-Africa Working Group organized the first Media Convergence Centers in 2004 and has since used major gathering as prompts to bring together grassroots organizers and communication technologists to different localities in Africa every couple of years to facilitate and resource grassroots media organizing. This model has allowed us the most effective way to unite with the movement as a whole, while still cultivating a specific identity amongst the grassroots independent media groups. The Media Convergence Centers operate as microcosms of a participatory society, democratically making decisions as to the details of this small community — from how to prepare our food, to who goes to cover what event, to what radio or websites we collaborate with. Using an “each-one-teach-two” community-based learning model, we coordinate intensive, hands-on training in community media and internet technology, with a special emphasis on training women and young people. Workshops address online publishing, street art, radio transmitter construction, and emerging Internet technology such as cell phone uploads and decentralized server management. Participants form lasting working relationships and networks both within the continent and across the globe.

In these convergence spaces we have been able to run workshops to demystify technology and help local community members to take ownership of the donated technology, as well as impart general capacity building in technical and organizational skills from a grassroots perspective. For this convergence, we will focus specifically on deploying community radio, mesh networking and online technology.

**History:** The Indymedia-Africa Working Group has organized five Independent Media Convergence Centers in conjunction with other events and projects to galvanize the spirit of creative and technical solidarity and put media organizing tools in the hands of the widest amount of people. Indymedia is an international alliance of grassroots media producers and

communication technologists that first convened to provide independent coverage of the 1999 protests against the WTO in Seattle, WA. In March 2004, the foundations Umverteilen in Berlin and XminusY in Amsterdam joined a handful of Indymedia collectives across the globe to fund the first Regional Alternative Media/Indymedia Conference in Africa in Dakar. The first of its kind, the Conference brought together some two dozen community organizers from Ambazonia (Cameroon), Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, the Canary Islands, Mali, Germany, Switzerland and Senegal starting the process of a grassroots networking of independent media makers. The effort was followed by the creation of an Indymedia Center two years later at the polycentric WSF in Bamako, Mali. Encouraged by these successes, we went on to organize a Convergence Media Center at the 2007 WSF in Nairobi, Kenya. This center brought together over fifty organizers from South Africa, Uganda, Zimbabwe, France, the US and Kenya. Participants shared skills, made media and even built two radio transmitters — one was used to launch Maseno University's Equator FM in Kenya, and the other donated to KOCH-FM in the Korogocho slum in Nairobi. That was followed by the indymedia Convergence at the 2011 World Social Forum in Dakar that provided a grassroots print and online coverage of the World Social forum as well as networking opportunity for some 60 delegates from 12 Africa, Germany, the UK and the US. In addition, we held a Convergence at the COP 17 Climate Conference in Durban, South Africa. Detailed reports of these convergences are available at [docs.indymedia.org/Local/WebHome#Africa](http://docs.indymedia.org/Local/WebHome#Africa).

<b><u>Budget for Convergence:</u></b>	Housing:	\$6,000
	Comms and Infrastructure:	\$4,000
	Food and Welfare:	\$3,000
	Transport (Local):	\$2,000
	Production	\$5,000
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$19,000</b>

<b><u>Budget for Travel:</u></b>	Plane Tickets	\$35,000
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*Many of our delegates cannot afford their own transportation without help. Our solidarity travel fundraising aims to enable all delegates to travel without regard to income differences. Travel costs range from \$400 to \$4000 per delegate. Please request a detailed breakdown.*

### **Partners:**

#### African Partners:

- Sahara Reporters
- The Way Forward Network (Amazonia)
- Indymedia Kenya
  - EquatorFM, Kisumu
  - Environmental Africa
  - FoodNotBombs Kenya
  - KOCH FM, Nairobi
- Indymedia Mali
- Radio Gurune (Ghana)
- Indymedia Niger Delta (Nigeria)
  - Kebetkache Women's Centre
  - CrossRiverWatch
  - Support Initiative for Sustainable Development (SISDEV)
- Indymedia Lagos – forming (Nigeria)
- Centre Culturel Mytro Nunya (Togo)

#### International Partners:

- AMARC
- National Campus & Community Radio Association (Canada)
- Black Alliance for Just Immigration
- Mayfirst / Peoplelink
- Deep Dish TV / Waves of Change
- Ciranda: International of Shared Communication

### **How to Donate:**

- In the United States, tax-deductible donations can be made online through Deep Dish TV — online at [tinyurl.com/indyaccra2015](http://tinyurl.com/indyaccra2015) or make checks payable to “Deep Dish TV” and send to 339 Lafayette St, New York, NY 10012. Please write “Accra 2015” in the memo line of the check, and on the envelope.
- Outside the US, donations can be made online via the National Campus & Community Radio Association (NCRA) at [tinyurl.com/ncra-indiegogo](http://tinyurl.com/ncra-indiegogo) or via mail directly to “AMARC” and mail to 2, Sainte-Catherine Est, Bureau 102; Montréal, Quebec, H2X 1K4 CANADA. Please write “Indy-Amarc Convergence” in the memo line of the check and on the envelope.

Direct questions to the fundraising committee: Sphinx ([sphynx@si.amarc.org](mailto:sphynx@si.amarc.org)), Moussa ([mcoule@gmail.com](mailto:mcoule@gmail.com)), Emem ([emembridget@yahoo.com](mailto:emembridget@yahoo.com)), Kofi ([kofilarweh@gmail.com](mailto:kofilarweh@gmail.com)), Fabian ([fab@in-no.org](mailto:fab@in-no.org)), Amy ([ald@riseup.net](mailto:ald@riseup.net)). You can get in touch with the entire working group directly by writing to [imc-africa@lists.mayfirst.org](mailto:imc-africa@lists.mayfirst.org).

**For more information and planning updates, visit: [imc-africa.mayfirst.org/content/converge-accra](http://imc-africa.mayfirst.org/content/converge-accra)**