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THE CARTER CENTER



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FOREWORD

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INTRODUCTION

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**Knowledge is power, and
 transparency is the remedy to the
 darkness under which corruption
 and abuse thrives.**

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ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT INFORMATION: AN OVERVIEW OF ISSUES

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WHY ACCESS RIGHTS MATTER

Access to government information is a fundamental right. It is the right to know what the government is doing, and to participate in the decision-making process. This right is essential for a democratic society. Without access to information, citizens cannot hold their government accountable. Access to information is also necessary for the effective functioning of government. It allows for better decision-making and more efficient service delivery. In addition, access to information is a key component of transparency and accountability. It helps to prevent corruption and promotes the public interest. Finally, access to information is a basic human right. It is the right to be informed about the actions of those who govern us.

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This paper was first written for The Carter Center's Transparency for Growth Conference, May 1999.

LIMITS TO ACCESS RIGHTS MUST BE DEFINED

As the world's population grows, the demand for information grows. Because of the increasing amount of information, governments are being asked to provide access to information. This is a new concept. A government is not supposed to be a secret. The burden was once on proponents of access rights to make a case for transparency; today, the burden is on the governments to make the case for secrecy.

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What institutions should be subject to an access law?

The institutions that should be subject to an access law are those that are involved in the government's activities. This includes the executive, legislative, and judicial branches. It also includes the public service, the media, and the private sector. The access law should be applied to all these institutions. This is because they all have access to information that is of interest to the public. The access law should be applied to all these institutions. This is because they all have access to information that is of interest to the public.

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The American approach requires institutions to show that disclosure of classified material would cause harm to national security.

What steps can be taken to control the cost of administering an access law?

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\$600.¹²

MECHANISMS FOR ENFORCING ACCESS

Access to information is a key to democracy
because it allows citizens to know what their
government is doing and to hold it accountable.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION: HOW IS IT USEFUL AND HOW IS IT USED?

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INFORMATION, DEMOCRACY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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THE SOUTH AFRICAN LAW

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The Objects of South Africa's Promotion of Access to Information Act 2000

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A System for Accessing Information

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“Information is the life-blood of our times; we need it to survive and to prosper, almost as much as we need oxygen to live.”

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There is no point in having a law that provides for the right to access to information, if there is not at the same time a clear and workable system of mechanisms to enable citizens to use the law.

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***New Access to Information Act is Attracting
Much Use: Bulgaria***

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The Duty To Be Proactive – Adopting a Right to Know Approach

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... the right to know approach ...
... the duty to be proactive ...
... the right to know approach ...

... the duty to be proactive ...
... the right to know approach ...
... the duty to be proactive ...
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For citizens, especially the poor, it is a chance to reclaim ground in their struggle for a more just existence.

CONCLUSION

... the duty to be proactive ...
... the right to know approach ...
... the duty to be proactive ...
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... the duty to be proactive ...
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**THE CARTER CENTER ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROJECT:
JAMAICA CASE STUDY**

Lara A. A.

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... the law, it will atrophy, thus diminishing the potential for open government and citizen empowerment.

Without persistent use of this law, it will atrophy, thus diminishing the potential for open government and citizen empowerment.

... As a result, the law will atrophy, thus diminishing the potential for open government and citizen empowerment.

LESSONS LEARNED

... The Commission on Access to Information, established in 2002, has been instrumental in the development of the law.

... The Commission on Access to Information, established in 2002, has been instrumental in the development of the law.

... The Commission on Access to Information, established in 2002, has been instrumental in the development of the law.

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***The government must see passage,
implementation and enforcement
of a vigorous access to information
law as a priority.***

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

Jimmy Carter (James Earl Carter, Jr.), was born on September 1, 1924, in Plains, Georgia. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1946. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1946 to 1953. He was elected Governor of Georgia in 1962. He was elected President of the United States in 1976.

THE CARTER CENTER AT A GLANCE

WHAT IS THE CARTER CENTER?

The Carter Center was established in 1982 as a non-profit organization. It is a 501(c)(3) organization that is dedicated to promoting human rights, democracy, and conflict resolution. The Center is named after Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter, who served as the 39th President and First Lady of the United States from 1977 to 1981. The Center's mission is to advance the interests of the people of the world through the promotion of human rights, democracy, and conflict resolution. The Center is a 501(c)(3) organization that is dedicated to promoting human rights, democracy, and conflict resolution. The Center is named after Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter, who served as the 39th President and First Lady of the United States from 1977 to 1981. The Center's mission is to advance the interests of the people of the world through the promotion of human rights, democracy, and conflict resolution.

WHAT HAS THE CENTER ACHIEVED IN 20 YEARS?

In its 20 years of operation, the Carter Center has achieved a wide range of accomplishments. The Center has been instrumental in the resolution of numerous conflicts, including the Iran Hostage Crisis, the Soviet-Afghan War, and the conflict in Cambodia. The Center has also been a leading voice in the promotion of human rights and democracy. The Center has supported the development of democratic institutions in over 100 countries. The Center has also been a leading voice in the promotion of human rights and democracy. The Center has supported the development of democratic institutions in over 100 countries. The Center has also been a leading voice in the promotion of human rights and democracy. The Center has supported the development of democratic institutions in over 100 countries. The Center has also been a leading voice in the promotion of human rights and democracy. The Center has supported the development of democratic institutions in over 100 countries.

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HOW IS THE CENTER STAFFED AND FUNDED?

The Carter Center is staffed by a team of over 150 professionals, including lawyers, diplomats, and human rights advocates. The Center is funded by a combination of private donations, grants, and income from its endowment. The Center's annual budget is approximately \$34 million. The Center is a 501(c)(3) organization that is dedicated to promoting human rights, democracy, and conflict resolution. The Center is named after Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter, who served as the 39th President and First Lady of the United States from 1977 to 1981. The Center's mission is to advance the interests of the people of the world through the promotion of human rights, democracy, and conflict resolution.

WHERE IS THE CENTER LOCATED?

The Carter Center is located in Atlanta, Georgia. The Center's main office is located at 100 Peachtree Street, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30309. The Center also has a regional office in Washington, D.C. The Center is a 501(c)(3) organization that is dedicated to promoting human rights, democracy, and conflict resolution. The Center is named after Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter, who served as the 39th President and First Lady of the United States from 1977 to 1981. The Center's mission is to advance the interests of the people of the world through the promotion of human rights, democracy, and conflict resolution.