Human rights groups are often confronted with enormous amounts of data and information, accumulating years’ or even decades’ worth of facts, observations, testimonies, research and materials that support the case for change.

To address this challenge, the open-source human rights documentation tool Uwazi was launched in 2017. Uwazi, which means ‘openness’ in Swahili, is a flexible web-based database application designed for human rights defenders to manage their collections of information, including documents, evidence, cases and complaints. More recently, Uwazi started to leverage machine learning to make human rights information even more accessible.

What can you do with Uwazi?

**Collect & Categorise**
- Capture and organise raw data, including text, documents, images and video.
- Add context to your information.
- Create templates to categorise and retrieve items.
- Use relationships to track complex cases.

**Store & Analyse**
- Store large amounts of information.
- Decide what information you share with the public.
- Search and filter for subsets of information.
- Analyse your content by displaying it in tables, graphs and maps.

**Collaborate & Protect**
- Receive information through public submission forms.
- Choose what you share with each collaborator or team.
- Ensure your information is safe by keeping an eye on all changes made.
- Protect your accounts with an extra security layer.

**Assess & Showcase**
- Build a public version of your collection.
- Tell stories with your data and show what matters.
- Export your information into commonly used formats.
- Share it privately for advocacy, litigation and accountability purposes.
What is Uwazi used for?

To date, Uwazi has been used for the following purposes:

• Preserving evidence related to an ongoing situation
• Managing complaints or cases for strategic litigation
• Compiling libraries of law, jurisprudence, reports or academic works
• Investigating a trove of public-interest documents
• Building an archive that preserves collective memory
• Monitoring and recording progress around policy implementation
• Collecting and sharing open-access educational resources
• Showcasing digitised art pieces or museum objects
• Cataloguing a collection of campaign or advocacy materials

Who can use Uwazi?

Uwazi can be customised for a variety of needs and users. The following groups of people are already using Uwazi in a number of ways:

• Human rights defenders
• Journalists
• Academics and researchers
• Museum workers and art curators
• Librarians and archivists
• Educators
• Lawyers
• Open knowledge activists

Interested in Uwazi?

Who creates Uwazi?

Uwazi is developed by an in-house team of software engineers at HURIDOCS, a global NGO, and we’re adding new features on a regular basis.

Get in touch!
Want to know how we can work together?
Get in touch with us at hello@huridocs.org

Support our work
Want to support a community-driven open-source tool to preserve truth and pursue justice?
Donate to HURIDOCS.

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