



NATIONAL NETWORK
For The Right
Of Access To Information

CIVIL SOCIETY

How will this law help civil society contribute to advancing greater transparency between the government and the public?

- This law will help civil society uncover the veil of secrecy within government while preserving the principles of equity and fairness in uncovering public information.
- This law will allow civil society to compare promises in political agendas with the actual achievements of the government and share this information with citizens.
- This law will allow civil society to more effectively monitor government decision-making, advance their capacity to engage in public debate and hold their government accountable.
- This law will enhance civil society's capacity to monitor the government's revenues, expenditures, and allocation of public resources.

How will this law help reduce corruption?

- This law will encourage public servants to comply with procedures and regulations therefore preventing them from hiding or destroying records – which are not easily detected.
- This law will provide a clear and workable system of mechanisms for civil society to gain access to public information and will reduce the need for bribery, petty corruption and “wasta”.
- All forms of government contracts and public procurement will be documented, justified and disclosed, thus reducing the government's ability to hide corruption.

Why should you support the law on access to information?

- Access to information is a basic human right for all citizens as per the Lebanese Constitution and international conventions and declarations.
- Access to information contributes to improving citizens' daily life.
- This law will facilitate your role as a watchdog of government institutions and a voice for people's concerns.
- Your support for this law will demonstrate your commitment to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, which was ratified by Lebanon on October 16, 2008.
- Your support for this law will increase your access to critical government records and documents that allow issue-based assessment of the performance of public officials.

The National Network for the Right of Access to Information (“Network”), a multi-sectoral group comprising parliamentarians, ministries, private sector associations, professional syndicates and non-governmental organizations, seeks to enhance transparency and accountability and to strengthen the rule of law and civic participation in Lebanon through access to information and protection for individuals who report corruption (“whistleblower protection”). The Network was formed on April 11, 2008 upon the initiative of the Lebanese Parliamentarians against Corruption (LebPAC), the Lebanese Transparency Association (LTA), and Association pour la Défense des Droits et des Libertés (ADDL), in collaboration with the American Bar Association (ABA) Rule of Law Initiative in Lebanon.

For more information, see www.a2ilebanon.net, www.khabrouna.net.