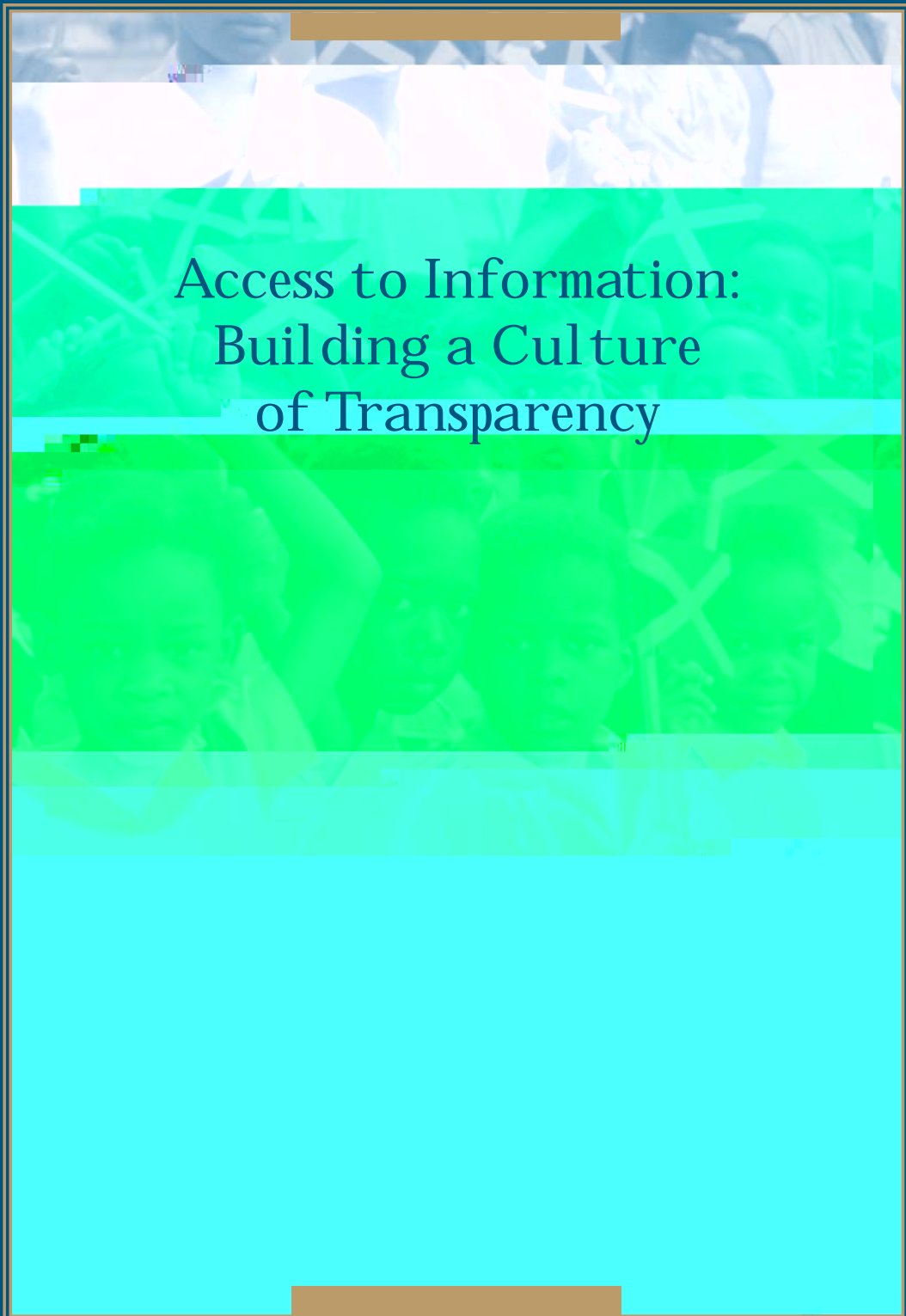


Access to Information: Jamaica



One Copenhill
453 Freedom Parkway
Atlanta, GA 30328

Phone: 404.525.4400
Fax: 404.525.4401



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Building a Culture of Transparency





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Building a Culture of Transparency

Transparency is a key element of good governance and is essential for building trust between citizens and their leaders. It involves making information about government activities, decisions, and processes accessible to the public. This can include financial records, procurement contracts, and the results of public consultations. Transparency helps to prevent corruption, promotes accountability, and ensures that public resources are used effectively. It also allows citizens to hold their leaders accountable and to participate more fully in the decision-making process. Building a culture of transparency requires a commitment from government officials and institutions to share information openly and honestly. This can be achieved through the implementation of transparency laws, the creation of independent oversight bodies, and the promotion of a culture of openness and accountability. Transparency is not just a goal, but a process that requires ongoing effort and commitment.

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Effective transparency is not just about making information available, but also about making it understandable and accessible to the public. This requires the use of clear and concise language, the creation of user-friendly websites, and the provision of training and support to citizens. Transparency is a key element of good governance and is essential for building trust between citizens and their leaders. It involves making information about government activities, decisions, and processes accessible to the public. This can include financial records, procurement contracts, and the results of public consultations. Transparency helps to prevent corruption, promotes accountability, and ensures that public resources are used effectively. It also allows citizens to hold their leaders accountable and to participate more fully in the decision-making process. Building a culture of transparency requires a commitment from government officials and institutions to share information openly and honestly. This can be achieved through the implementation of transparency laws, the creation of independent oversight bodies, and the promotion of a culture of openness and accountability. Transparency is not just a goal, but a process that requires ongoing effort and commitment.





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Establishment of the Access to
Secretary of State's Office Act





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Building a Culture of Transparency





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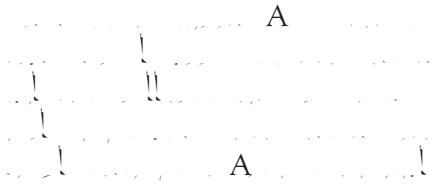
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Building a Culture of Transparency





The Role of Civil Society
The Carter Center



Building a Culture of Transparency

Transparency is a key element of good governance and is essential for building trust between citizens and their government. It is a process that involves making information accessible and understandable to the public. This includes financial information, decision-making processes, and the results of government actions. Transparency is not just about providing information, but also about ensuring that the information is accurate, timely, and easy to understand. It is a process that requires a commitment to openness and accountability. Transparency is a key element of good governance and is essential for building trust between citizens and their government. It is a process that involves making information accessible and understandable to the public. This includes financial information, decision-making processes, and the results of government actions. Transparency is not just about providing information, but also about ensuring that the information is accurate, timely, and easy to understand. It is a process that requires a commitment to openness and accountability.

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Building a Culture of Transparency





Key Considerations in Reforming the Act

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Key Considerations in Reforming the Act





Key Considerations in Reforming the Act

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Key Considerations in Reforming the Act

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| COMPARATIVE CHART: SELECT ACCESS TO INFORMATION LAWS | | | | | |
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Building a Culture of Transparency

**COMPARATIVE CHART: SELECT ACCESS TO INFORMATION LAWS
AND THE JAMAICA ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT OF 2002**

| ISSUE | JAMAICA* | MEXICO | TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO | SOUTH AFRICA | ONTARIO, CANADA |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|
| <p>Which documents are subject to automatic publication?</p> | <p>An initial statement of its organization and functions containing the information specified in the First Schedule, including: a description of the subject area of the public authority; a list of the departments and</p> | <p>The principle of publicity of information must be favored. With the exception of reserved or confidential information as provided in this law, the subjects compelled by the law must put at the public's disposition</p> | <p>The Public Authority shall publish a statement setting out: particulars of the organization and functions, indicating decision-making powers and other powers affecting the public; categories of documents in possession of the public authority; material prepared for publication and places where persons may inspect or obtain material; the</p> | <p>PUBLIC BODIES: description of its structure and functions; address, phone, fax, and e-mail of all information officers and deputy information officers; sufficient detail to facilitate a request for</p> | <p>Despite any other provision of this Act, a head shall, as soon as practicable, disclose any record to the public or persons affected if the head has reasonable and probable grounds to believe that it is in the public interest to do so and that the record reveals a grave</p> |





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Building a Culture of Transparency









Building a Culture of Transparency

**COMPARATIVE CHART: SELECT ACCESS TO INFORMATION LAWS
AND THE JAMAICA ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT OF 2002**

| ISSUE | JAMAICA* | MÉXICO | TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO | SOUTH AFRICA | ONTARIO, CANADA |
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| <p>Is there an exemption in the law with respect to the judicial process?</p> <p>E</p> <p>X</p> | <p>Not mentioned in the law.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedural strategies in judicial processes that are ongoing; • Judicial files or administrative procedures that have taken the form of a trial, where there has | <p>If its disclosure Act would, or would be reasonably likely to prejudice the fair trial of a person or the impartial adjudication of a particular case;</p> | <p>Records prohibited in terms of s. 60(14) in Criminal Procedures Act, if disclosure could reasonably be expected to prejudice effectiveness of methods, techniques, etc., of prosecution of alleged offenders; impede prosecution; or reveal lists</p> | <p>A head may refuse to disclose a record where the disclosure could reasonably be expected to deprive a person of the right to a fair trial or impartial adjudication.</p> |



COMPARATIVE CHART: SELECT ACCESS TO INFORMATION LAWS
AND THE JAMAICA ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT OF 2002

Country

Trinidad and Tobago

Jamaica

United States

United Kingdom

Canada

| Country | Trinidad and Tobago | Jamaica | United States | United Kingdom | Canada |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---------|---------------|----------------|--------|
| Access to Information Act | | | | | |
| Freedom of Information Act | | | | | |
| Right to Information Act | | | | | |
| Other | | | | | |





Building a Culture of Transparency





COMPARATIVE CHART: SELECT ACCESS TO INFORMATION LAWS AND THE JAMAICA ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT OF 2002

| ISSUE | JAMAICA* | MÉXICO | TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO | SOUTH AFRICA | ONTARIO, CANADA |
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| Are there any other provisions in law that provide access regardless of exemption? | Not mentioned in the law. | Information may not be classified when the investigation of grave violations of fundamental rights or crimes against humanity is at stake. | Not mentioned in the law. | Not mentioned in the law. | Not mentioned in the law. |
| Does the law stipulate a period of classification? | Yes. The exemption of an official document or a part thereof from disclosure shall | Yes. Information classified as restricted may remain as such for a period of up to twelve | Only with relation to exemption of Cabinet and deliberative process, which | Yes. A document may not be denied if it originated more than twenty (20) years | For documents related to deliberative process exemptions or advice and |
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Building a Culture of Transparency

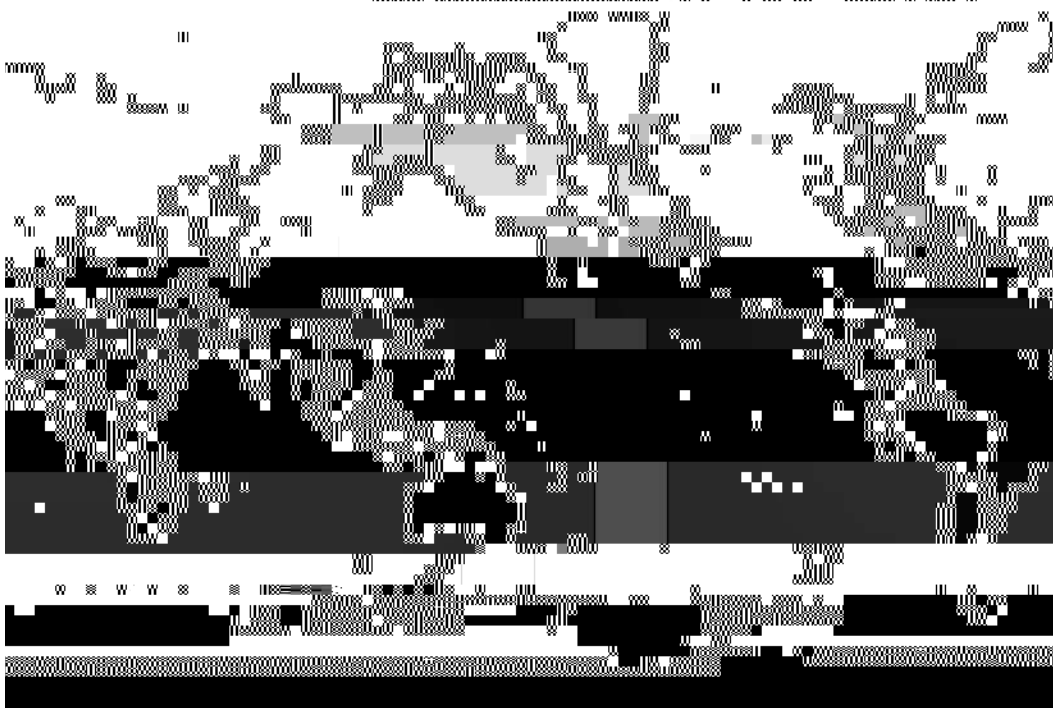
COMPARATIVE CHARTS: SELECT ACCESS TO INFORMATION LAWS



Building a Culture of Transparency

No Oversight or Intermediary Enforcement Body

National Freedom of Information Act



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Mechanisms for Monitoring and Enforcing

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Building a Culture of Transparency





Building a Culture of Transparency





Mechanisms for Monitoring and Enforcing

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Building a Culture of Transparency



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Freedom of Information and the BBC







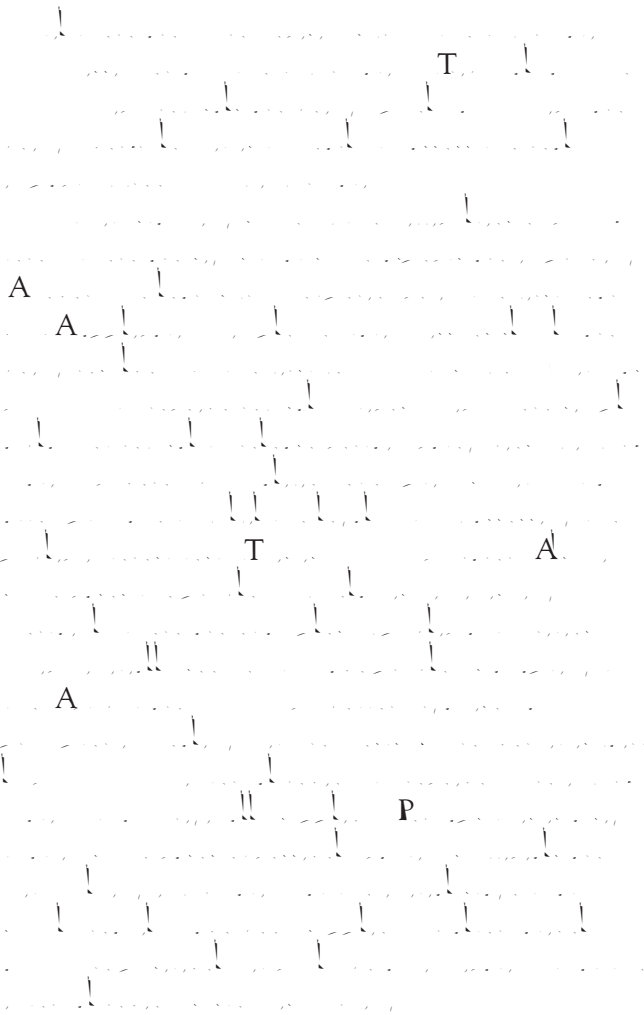
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Building a Culture of Transparency



Further Reading

Information Commissioner

[Information Commissioner](#)

Information Tribunal

[Information Tribunal](#)

Department of Constitutional Affairs

[Department of Constitutional Affairs](#)

Scottish Executive

[Scottish Executive](#)

Scottish Information Commissioner

[Scottish Information Commissioner](#)

House of Commons, Constitutional Affairs

Select Committee

[House of Commons, Constitutional Affairs Select Committee](#)

Campaign for Freedom of Information

[Campaign for Freedom of Information](#)

Constitution Unit, UCL

[Constitution Unit, UCL](#)

BBC

[BBC](#)

FOIA at the BBC

[FOIA at the BBC](#)

News Stories

[News Stories](#)

Guide to FOIA

[Guide to FOIA](#)





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Background of the Act

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1. The Act provides for the establishment of a Commission of Truth and Reconciliation (CT&R) to investigate and report on human rights violations that occurred during the apartheid era. The Commission is to be composed of members from various sectors of society, including the government, the private sector, and civil society.



Building a Culture of Transparency

Transparency is a key element of good governance and is essential for building trust and accountability in public institutions. It involves making information accessible and understandable to the public, and it is a fundamental principle of democratic governance.



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Implementation of the Act: South Africa



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State of Public Records Management Prior to the Act

Prior to the passage of the Act, public records management was largely a haphazard process. Many agencies had no formal policies or procedures in place, and records were often stored in a disorganized manner. This led to significant challenges in locating and retrieving information when needed.

The lack of standardized practices across different government departments further complicated the process. Each agency often developed its own unique system, making it difficult to share information and collaborate effectively.

Public records were often stored in physical formats, such as paper files and microfilm, which were not only space-consuming but also vulnerable to damage and loss. The absence of digital backup and archiving strategies posed a significant risk to the long-term preservation of government information.

The fragmented nature of record-keeping also hindered transparency and accountability. Citizens and oversight bodies often struggled to access records, leading to frustration and a lack of trust in government operations.

The overall state of public records management prior to the Act was characterized by inefficiency, inconsistency, and a high risk of information loss. The implementation of the Act was necessary to address these systemic issues and ensure the integrity and accessibility of government records.

The Act provided a framework for developing uniform standards and procedures for public records management. It emphasized the importance of digital preservation and the creation of a centralized system for tracking and managing records. This was a significant step towards modernizing government operations and ensuring that public records are properly maintained for future generations.

A major challenge in implementing the Act was the need for significant investment in technology and infrastructure. Many agencies lacked the necessary hardware and software to support digital record-keeping. Additionally, training staff on new systems and procedures was a complex task that required ongoing support and resources.



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Building a Culture of Transparency





Challenges and Successes in Implementing the Act

Positive Impact and Benefits of the Act

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Challenges and Successes in Implementing the Act

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Parliamentary Review of the Act

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Appeal Procedures for Access to Information

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Appeal Procedures for Access to Information Cases: The International Experience

c. Refusal to Provide or Amend Personal Records

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d. Issuance of a Certificate of Exemption

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Appeal Procedures for Access to Information

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Enforcement Under the Jamaica Access to Information Act

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Building a Culture of Transparency



Enforcement under the Jamaica Access to Information Act

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Building a Culture of Transparency





Building a Culture of Transparency

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Enforcement under the Jamaica Access to Information Act



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Building a Culture of Transparency







Building a Culture of Transparency

Transparency is a key component of trust and accountability in any organization. It involves being open about actions, decisions, and financials. Building a culture of transparency requires leadership commitment, clear communication, and a focus on ethical behavior. Organizations that embrace transparency can foster greater trust, improve decision-making, and enhance their reputation. This document outlines the importance of transparency and provides strategies for implementing it effectively.



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Building a Culture of Transparency



Building a Culture of Transparency





Building a Culture of Transparency





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Building a Culture of Transparency

A handwriting practice sheet for cursive letters and numbers. The page is divided into two main columns. The left column contains the letters A, T, A S, and E, each followed by a series of cursive strokes on a four-line grid. The right column contains the letters T, C, P, and A, each followed by a series of cursive strokes. The numbers 4000, 2000, and 3000 are also included, with the '0' being a cursive zero. A horizontal line is drawn across the middle of the page, with a small grey rectangular box centered below it. At the bottom of the page, there are three rows of cursive 'P' characters, each followed by a series of strokes. A grey rectangular box is located at the bottom center of the page.



Budget Transparency and Accountability

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The Strategy for Advocacy

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Building a Culture of Transparency

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Access to Information and Human Rights



Building a Culture of Transparency





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Access to Information and Human Rights





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Whistleblowing Protection



Building a Culture of Transparency

Whistleblowing and Access to Information Laws

Presented by [Dr. Robert M. O'Neil](#)
and [Dr. David Mervin](#)





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Building a Culture of Transparency



Building a Culture of Transparency

Transparency is a key element of good governance and is essential for building trust and accountability in public institutions. It involves the open and honest disclosure of information, particularly financial data, to the public. This document outlines the importance of transparency and provides practical steps for organizations to implement it effectively.



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Open Government: The Challenges Ahead





Building a Culture of Transparency

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Open Government: The Challenges Ahead



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Building a Culture of Transparency





Building a Culture of Transparency

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Building a Culture of Transparency

As the world's largest democracy, the United States has a unique opportunity to lead by example in building a culture of transparency. This is not just a goal for the government, but a goal for all of us. Transparency is the foundation of trust, and trust is the foundation of a strong society. We must embrace transparency in all our actions, from the way we govern to the way we interact with each other. Only then can we truly build a culture of transparency that benefits everyone.

As we move forward, let us remember that transparency is not just a means to an end, but a way of life. It is a commitment to openness, honesty, and accountability. It is a commitment to the values that have made our country great. Let us strive to be a nation that is truly transparent, and in doing so, we can build a better future for all.

An Ongoing Campaign

Transparency is not a one-time event, but an ongoing campaign. It is a continuous process of building trust and accountability. We must be committed to transparency in all our actions, no matter how small. We must be open to feedback and criticism, and we must be willing to make changes when necessary. Transparency is a journey, not a destination. It is a path that we must walk every day, and it is a path that we must walk together. Only then can we truly build a culture of transparency that benefits everyone.





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Building a Culture of Transparency

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