



## ***IFEX 2024 CONVENING: FROM NETWORK TO COMMUNITY CONCEPT NOTE***

In these past five years we have witnessed increasingly dramatic changes to the global landscape. With a backdrop of two major wars at center stage, climate crisis, increased targeting and murder of journalists, state sanctioned violence, oppression of vulnerable peoples, rampant misinformation, along with the growing mistrust of and disregard of international mechanisms, we know, only too well, how this plays out across our network of over 100 organisations.

The global framework in which we work is complex, unpredictable and demanding. We know the issues and we feel the pressure to address them collectively. Our hope is that this IFEX convening will serve to deepen our relationships with each other in order to better continue our work promoting and defending freedom of expression in the face of increasing oppression and repression.

To liberate our collective voices, we want to come together to deepen connections of care, collaboration, resistance, community and yes, healing. Let's turn to each other and acknowledge that it has been incredibly complex, heartbreaking and overwhelming to do our work in the current context.

This period is not without successes; we've also achieved a lot, gained new insights and persevered. We have knowledge and experience that need to be shared with one another. And we must identify and challenge current approaches that prevent us from being an even more powerful network of changemakers.

Our time together will serve as a unique opportunity. Less a conference, this convening is created to give time to affirm, build and renew connections. A time to grieve and also to dance with joy. A time for collective learning, meaningful dialogues and thoughtful strategic planning. A time to acknowledge that this network is a community. An active community that builds on our strengths and experience and supports each other in difficult times. As a network, we are unstoppable.

So, get ready, be present and join us! We are going to shake things up together in an experimental space intentionally designed to build alliances and relationships of care and connection. Together, we will shape the vision of the world we'll build while advancing existing political and institutional agendas with our smarts and our hearts.

Join us on 15 and 16 April 2024.