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Press Release

DIGITALISE YOUTH PROJECT LAUNCH

Heart of Hope Cameroon (HoHCa) is pleased to announce the official launch of the **Youth Democratic Engagement: Amplifying Youth Voices for Safe Digital Spaces (YODE-AYOVOSDIS)** project, a groundbreaking digital advocacy initiative that will empower young Cameroonians to shape safer, more inclusive, and democratic digital environments. With youth representing more than 60% of Cameroon's population, their exclusion from digital policy discussions has left them vulnerable to online harassment, misinformation, and digital exploitation. YODE-AYOVOSDIS seeks to reverse this trend by equipping over 300 young people aged 15–35 with the knowledge and tools to advocate for their digital rights, influence policy, and lead grassroots campaigns across the country. This initiative is powered by the Digital Democracy Initiative and implemented by HoHCa in partnership with Unity Foundation Cameroon (UFC) and Africa Needs Us Foundation (ANUF).

The project will run from August 2025 to April 2026 and will feature:

- Youth Advocacy Trainings in Yaounde, Bamenda, and Buea to build skills in digital rights, civic participation, foresight and future thinking, policy advocacy, and online safety.
- Regional Digital Policy Advocacy Forums, bringing together youth, government ministries, telecom providers, and civil society to dialogue on digital governance.
- A Digital Advocacy Fellowship Program supporting 30 young leaders to design and implement community-based advocacy initiatives.
- A National Stakeholder Roundtable where youth, ministries, parliamentarians, telecom operators, and CSOs will co-develop a Youth Digital Governance Roadmap for Cameroon.

"Our vision is simple but urgent: to ensure that young people are not just passive consumers of technology, but active shapers of the policies that govern their digital lives," said Sylvie Ngum Chiabi, CEO of Heart of Hope Cameroon.

The project is part of the wider Digitalise Youth project, implemented by the European Partnership for Democracy (EPD), AfricTivistes, Code for Africa (CfA), CFI Media Development, World Scout Bureau Africa Regional Office, Kofi Annan Foundation (KAF) and supported by the Youth Democracy Cohort to strengthen youth digital rights and democratic participation across Africa.

About Heart of Hope Cameroon (HoHCa):

HoHCa is a youth-led, non-profit organization that builds resilient communities through peacebuilding and foresight. Guided by its vision of "Opening Minds, Changing Lives for a Brighter Tomorrow," HoHCa promotes youth access to information, safe digital engagement, and democratic participation in Cameroon.