

News Item

## Two continents, two political systems — and two attempts to change how online media gets regulated | Nieman Journalism Lab

By Joshua Benton June 22, 2021

According to this year's index from Reporters Without Borders, the United Kingdom ranks No. 33 in the world when it comes to press freedom. Call it a low B on a letter-grade scale: well behind those curve-blowing Scandinavians, of course, but in the same ballpark as France or Spain.

Nigeria, meanwhile, comes in at No. 120, the rough equivalent of a D+. You aren't North Korea or Saudi Arabia, sure, but you're still at the back of the class.

You'll find similar results on the Democracy Index: the U.K. at No. 16 ("Full Democracy"), Nigeria at No. 110 (the lowest-ranking "Hybrid Regime," one slot away from "Authoritarian").

But these two countries, as different as they can be, are facing similar sets of questions about whether — and if yes, *how* and *how much* — to regulate online content. And they both seem to be coming down on the side of regulation, albeit it in different ways.

[...]

Source: Two continents, two political systems — and two attempts to change how online media gets regulated | Nieman Journalism Lab