

### #OGPCanada

### What is Open Washing ?

Open washing occurs when a process, product or data is called “open” to support transparency and accountability efforts but isn’t actually open.

- **In 2009**, Michelle Thorne (Mozilla) identified the concept of openwashing in the open source movement and defined as being similar to greenwashing.
- **In 2015**, Christian Villum (Open Knowledge Foundation) added to the definition by expanding on the difference between opening your data and simply making them available.

### Questions to open the floor

- How does a particular context encourage or discourage open washing?
- How does openness serve, or not serve, non-technical communities?
- How is a lack of openness tied to culture?
- What is our role as civil society organization/infomediary or government in tackling open washing?

### OGP and Open Washing

- What does open washing mean to you?
- Where in the OGP process do you identify an open washing issue? (e.g. open government discourse, building NAPs, implementation of commitments)
- Have you encountered examples where open washing has been acknowledged or has been resolved?
- Do you have recommendations on how to identify and tackle specific open washing issues?

### The Engine Room - 2016

Zara Rahman

#### When the openwashing is over: protecting the Right to Know

The open government and open data movement has steadily grown over the last few years. We are seeing governments once disinterested in publishing open data, race to do so.

<https://www.theengineroom.org/when-the-openwashing-is-over-protecting-the-right-to-know/>

### Web Foundation - 2016

Ana Brandusescu

#### #Openwashing... anyone?

Key takeaways raised by participants in the discussion about Open Washing during a session at the Open Exchange for Social Change Unconference, in October 2016.

<https://webfoundation.org/2016/10/openwashing-anyone/>

### Open Knowledge International - 2018

James McKinney, Oscar Montiel and Ana Brandusescu

#### Open Washing: digging deeper into the tough questions

Insights from IODC18, with a deep-dive into some of the issues and causes of open washing.

<https://blog.okfn.org/2018/10/25/open-washing-digging-deeper-into-the-tough-questions/>

#### Got more thoughts?

Send an email to Oscar

oscar.montiel@okfn.org