



PHI Philippine Press Institute
The National Association of Newspapers

Since 1964



**Photojournalists' Center of
the Philippines**

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MEDIA FREEDOM DECLARATION 2022

We, the undersigned media educators, practitioners, concerned individuals, policymakers and members of civil society hereby declare our commitment to the protection of media freedom and access to independent information.

Whereas, Freedom of Expression is a fundamental human right as stated in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948). “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.” (UDHR, 1948)

Whereas, Freedom of Expression is a fundamental prerequisite for all other freedoms including freedom of information and human rights;

Whereas, Section 4 of the Bill of Rights of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states: “No law shall be passed abridging the freedom of speech, of expression, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and petition the government for redress of grievances.”

Whereas, media freedom and access to independent information are vital elements to peace, democracy, transparency and accountability, sustainable development and gender-responsive growth;

Whereas, the free flow of word and image in the print, broadcast and online platforms allow people to make informed decisions and participate actively in public discussions about matters that affect their lives;

We hereby commit to do the following:

Ensure Filipino people, regardless of gender, political beliefs, social status and ethnicity, enjoy freedom of speech, association, peaceful protest and access to independent media and information;

Work in local, national and global levels to enhance the protection of journalists’ safety, stop the killing of media workers and end impunity;

Eliminate all forms of intimidation and harassment on media workers and work for the decriminalization of libel;

Hold the government accountable and guarantee the public’s right to information and access to government data;

Recognize the role of free and independent media in preserving peace, democracy, social justice and sustainable development;

Fight disinformation, misinformation and propaganda and encourage citizens to be responsible news consumers;

Provide decent work and social protection to media workers which are vital to their human development;
Address the problem of access to digital technology among media practitioners and citizens while at the same time pursue sustainable policies in the media.

Signed on the occasion of the World Press Freedom Day celebration on 2nd of May 2022, Manila.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Journalism Studies Association of the Philippines, Inc. (JSAP)

Philippine Press Institute (PPI)

National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP)

Photojournalists' Center of the Philippines

UP CMC Department of Journalism

UST Department of Journalism

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