

Our Stories, our Voices

A Global Declaration for Artistic Freedom, Cultural Diversity and cultural sovereignty

We, creators, professionals, companies, and organisations from the film and audiovisual sector, along with culturally engaged citizens, unite to **defend our right to tell our own stories** – stories rooted in our cultures, languages, and identities – and to ensure that people everywhere can continue to access and enjoy them.

For decades, governments and institutions around the world have **supported film and audiovisual creation through public funding, cultural policy and regulation** that foster independent productions and ensure that local stories not only exist but reach both local and global audiences.

Films and audiovisual works do not just fuel economic growth and global talent circulation, they reflect who we are as societies and envision who we could become. More than enriching our cultural lives, **they are essential to a healthy democracy**: they support freedom of expression and give voice to the diverse stories and perspectives of humanity.

Today, the support for independent film and audiovisual storytelling is under growing threat.

We are witnessing increasingly aggressive attempts by powerful political and corporate actors to dismantle the regulatory protections that ensure the diversity and accessibility of cultural expression.

This includes **direct challenges to essential protections** such as the Audiovisual Media Services Directive in the European Union, proposed local content obligations in Australia, screen quotas in Asia, and requirements that streaming services contribute to domestic production in Canada, among others.

These actions take place alongside **wider attacks on pluralism and freedom of expression**. If they succeed, it will become increasingly difficult for diverse voices to be heard, for the whole eco-system to create, produce, distribute, promote and exhibit films and audiovisual works successfully, and for local cultures to thrive.

We therefore firmly oppose any political, legal, or economic initiative that seeks to undermine national or **international rules designed to uphold artistic freedom and cultural diversity** in the film and audiovisual sector.

This includes the right of countries to **create and maintain their own cultural policies and regulatory systems**, which recognise the importance to own, control, and monetize our works' intellectual property. Such measures form the foundation of a healthy audiovisual ecosystem, allowing the economic value generated by creative works to benefit domestic creators, reinforcing the cultural sovereignty of local film and audiovisuals sectors around the world, and supporting the international circulation of diverse, independent film and audiovisual works.

We also strongly reaffirm the importance of the **UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions**, which marks its 20th anniversary this year. We urge our governments to reinforce its implementation, especially in the face of emerging challenges such as artificial intelligence, algorithm-driven platforms, and the growing dominance of global entertainment conglomerates.

We call on all governments to stand firm and safeguard the systems that support independent film and audiovisual creation so that culture, creativity, and democratic access to diverse stories for the screen can continue to flourish.

List of signatories:





Ardán
Ireland

**ARF/FDS - Swiss Association of
Directors and Screenwriters**

Switzerland



ARTSCENICO

Europe



**ASA (Association des Scénaristes
de l'Audiovisuel)**

Belgium



**ASSA - Association of Screenwriters
in Slovak Audiovisual Arts**

Slovakia



**Association des réalisateurs et
réalisatrices du Québec**

Canada



**Association québécoise de la
production médiatique – AQPM**

Canada



**Associations of Slovenian Film
Producers**

Slovenia



Audiovisual Training Coalition

Netherlands



Australian Directors' Guild

Australia



Australian Writers' Guild

Australia



**Australian Writers' Guild
Authorship Collecting Society**

Australia



AUSTRIAN FILMS

Austria



**Authors' Licensing & Collecting
Society (ALCS)**

United Kingdom



AVACI

Argentina



**Belarusian Independent Film
Academy**

Belarus



**Bulgarian Association Of Film, Tv
And Radio Scriptwriters – BAFTRS**

Bulgaria



**Bundesverband Locationscouts
e.V. (BVL)**

Germany



BUNDESVERBAND REGIE
Bundesverband Regie (BVR)

Germany



CEPI - European Audiovisual
Production Association

Europe



Canadian Media
Producers Association

CMPA – Canadian Media
Producers Association

Canada



Directores Argentinos
Cinematográficos

DAC

Argentina



DACIN SARA

Romania

deAuteurs,

voor auteurs, door auteurs

deAuteurs

Belgium



DERECHOS DE AUTOR DE MEDIOS
AUDIOVISUALES EGDPI (DAMA)

Spain



Deutsche Filmakademie (German
Film Academy)

Germany



društvo hrvatskih
filmskih redatelja
croatian film
directors' guild

DHFR

Croatia



DIRE

France



Directors Guild of South Africa

South Africa



Directors UK

United Kingdom

Dramatikerförbundet

Dramatikerförbundet – Writers
guild of Sweden

Sweden



Društvo DSR (Directors Guild of
Slovenia)

Slovenia



DSR Screenwriters Slovenia

Slovenia



Dutch Directors Guild

Netherlands



EESTI AUDIOVISUAALAUTORITE LIIT

Estonian Association of Audiovisual
Authors

Estonia



Estonian Filmdirectors Guild

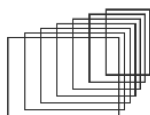
Estonia

EUROCINEMA

Association de producteurs
de cinéma et de télévision

EUROCINEMA

Belgium



EUROPEAN
FILM ACADEMY

European Film Academy

Germany

FAGA

**FAGA - FORO DE ASOCIACIONES DE
GUIONISTAS AUDIOVISUALES**

Spain



**Federation of European
Screen Directors**
Fédération Européenne des
Réalisateurs de l'Audiovisuel

**FERA - Federation of European
Screen Directors**

Europe



Film directors guild

Azerbaijan

gidoi

EUSKAL HERRIKO GIDOIGILEAK
GUIONISTAS DE EUSKAL HERRIA

GIDOI - Euskal Herriko Gidoigileak

Spain (Basque Country)



**European Coalitions
for Cultural Diversity**

European Coalitions for Cultural

Diversity

Belgium



FEDERACIÓN IBEROAMERICANA DE PRODUCCIÓN
CINEMATOGRAFICA Y AUDIOVISUAL

**Federación Iberoamericana de
Producción Cinematográfica y
Audiovisual, FIPCA**

Ibero-America



Federation of Film
Academies Europe

**Federation of Film Academies
Europe (FACE)**

Europe



FESAAL
FEDERACIÓN DE SOCIEDADES DE AUTORES
AUDIOVISUALES LATINOAMERICANOS

FESAAL

Argentina



FILMJUS

Hungary

EST. 2022

IDAA

ADVOCATES FOR

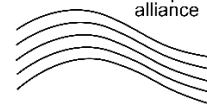
CIVILIZED
TRANSFORMATION
EQUILIBRIUM
HUMAN DESIGN

**Independent Directors Association
Africa**

South Africa

ecsa

European
composer & songwriter
alliance



**European Composer and
Songwriter Alliance (ECSA)**

Belgium



European Producers Club

France



FEDERATION OF
SCREENWRITERS
IN EUROPE

**Federation of Screenwriters in
Europe (FSE)**

Belgium



FILM & AUDIOVISUAL MARKETS IN EUROPE
ALLIANCE

**FILM AND AUDIOVISUAL
MARKETS IN EUROPE (FAME)**

Europe



Fipadoc

France



**IRISH
EQUITY**

Irish Equity

Ireland

LaScam*

LaScam

France



**Locarno
Film Festival**

Locarno Pro - Locarno Film Festival

Switzerland

m:brane

m:brane Forum

Sweden

mylab+

mylab

Asia



Network Scenarioschrijvers

Netherlands



Polish Film Academy

Poland



**Polish
Filmmakers
Association**

**Polish Filmmakers Association -
The Union of Audiovisual Authors
and Producers (ZAPA)**

Poland



**Gildia
Scenarzystów
Polskich**

Polish Screenwriters Guild

Poland

FEDERACIÓ
PROA
DE PRODUCTORES AUDIOVISUALS

PROA

Spain

PATE
PRODUCTORES AUDIOVISUALES

**Productores Asociados de
Televisión de España (PATE)**

Spain

PROG
PRODUCERS
OF GERMANY

PROG Producers of Germany

Germany

SACD

**SACD - Société des Auteurs et
Compositeurs Dramatiques**

France



**SCENARISTEN
GILDE**

Scenaristengilde

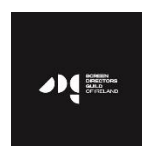
Belgium



**Screen Composers
Guild of Ireland**

Screen Composers Guild of Ireland

Ireland



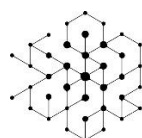
Screen Directors Guild of Ireland

Ireland



Screen Producers Australia

Australia



**Screen
Producers
Ireland**

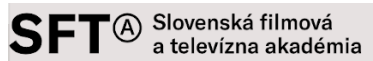
Screen Producers Ireland

Ireland

ASDF
ASOCIÁCIA
SLOVENSKEHO
DOKUMENTARNEHO
FILMU

**Slovak Documentary Film
Association**

Slovakia



**Slovenska filmova a televizna
akademia**
Slovakia



SMART 7
EUROPE



**Society of Audiovisual Authors
(SAA)**
Belgium



**SPI - Syndicat de la Production
Indépendante**
France



société des réalisatrices
et réalisateurs de films
SRF
France



**SSA - Société Suisse des Auteurs,
société coopérative**
Switzerland



**sunny side
of the doc**
Sunny Side of the Doc
France



**The Association of Danish Film
Directors**
Denmark



**U2R - Union des réalisatrices et
réalisateurs**
France



UFUS AFA PROTECTION
Serbia



Unie van Regisseurs
Belgium



**Union Syndicale de la Production
Audiovisuelle (USPA)**
France



**VDFK - Verband der deutschen
Filmkritik e.V.**
Germany



**Virke Norwegian Producers
Association**
Norway



Visual Effects Ireland (VFXI)
Ireland



**VLAAMSE ONAFHANKELIJKE FILLM
EN TELEVISIE PRODUCENTEN vzw**
Belgium



Writer's Guild of Ireland
Ireland



Writers Guild of Spain (ALMA)
Spain



**Zveza društev slovenskih filmskih
ustvarjalcev (The Slovenian
Federation of Filmmakers' Guilds)**
Slovenia