

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

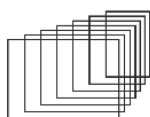
Estonia

EUROCINEMA

Association de producteurs
de cinéma et de télévision

EUROCINEMA

Europe



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



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

Belgium



European Producers Club

France



**FEDERATION OF
SCREENWRITERS
IN EUROPE**

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

Belgium



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

Europe



Fipadoc

France



**IRISH
EQUITY**

Irish Equity

Ireland

LaScam*

LaScam

France

m:brane

m:brane Forum

Sweden

mylab+

mylab

Asia



Netwerk Scenarioschrijvers

Netherlands



Polish Film Academy

Poland



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

Poland



Polish Screenwriters Guild

Poland



PROA

Spain



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

Spain



PROG Producers of Germany

Germany



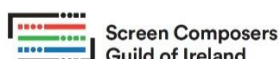
**SACD - Société des Auteurs et
Compositeurs Dramatiques**

France



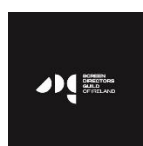
Scenaristengilde

Belgium



Screen Composers Guild of Ireland

Ireland



Screen Directors Guild of Ireland

Ireland



Screen Producers Australia

Australia



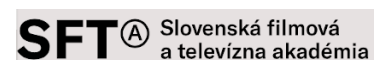
Screen Producers Ireland

Ireland



**Slovak Documentary Film
Association**

Slovakia



**Slovenska filmova a televizna
akademia**

Slovakia



SMART 7
EUROPE



société des réalisatrices
et réalisateurs de films

SRF
France



**The Association of Danish Film
Directors**
Denmark



Unie van Regisseurs
Belgium



**Virke Norwegian Producers
Association**
Norway



Writer's Guild of Ireland
Ireland



**Society of
Audiovisual
Authors**

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



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



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



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



Visual Effects Ireland (VFXI)
Ireland



Writers Guild of Spain (ALMA)
Spain



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



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



UFUS AFA PROTECTION
Serbia



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



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



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