

This policy paper is directed to the members of the United Nations Human Rights Council and the International Press Institute as an ally.

Executive Summary:

- Pieces of legislation such as those in the United States like the Global Press Freedom Act and International Press Freedom Act, both of 2021, aim to solve the problem of global journalistic stagnation and degradation but from a US-centric perspective.
- However, the greater world is in this current state of chaotic journalistic and political upheaval that necessitates novel, powerful programs — more aggressive than individual foreign policies — that promote the philosophies of free press and journalistic products in a universal manner.
- A more globalized voice enacting similar legislative principles on an international level would better empower, educate, and hold responsible countries that lack thriving journalistic practices, if they allow any at all. This could set the foundations for individuals promoting free press to thrive, produce content, and generally uphold the basic but crucial tenets of journalism.

Problem Definition:

- From journalism's supposed inception, the press has been innately intertwined with the workings of government and its officials — journalism established that those who make a vast majority of decisions for the public are *supposed* to be held accountable by their people.
- A perpetual problem with this idea is the unequal power distribution between citizens and government officials that permit silencing, prosecution, and persecution of journalists across the globe and through centuries to this day.
- Current worsening situations such as those in Myanmar, North Korea, Iran, Turkmenistan, arguably the United States, etc. point to a timely deterioration of free journalistic media globally — poking at press rights established in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Alternative Solutions/Policies:

- 1) Maintain the status quo, allowing for each country to attempt establishing their own policies that permit and advance journalistic practices for their own domestic citizens and global citizens.
- 2) Go about the problem from a privatized angle: encourage but leave the policy drafting to private news and journalistic rights organizations from across the world to educate and promote journalistic practices for individuals on the ground. This would work around the presence of government officials in the process and circumvent the governmental legislative process.
- 3) Set a legal and political global standard for the institution and execution of journalism and press media in each country and nation-state with help from allied news, bureaucratic, and special-interest organizations. This would stand as a strong, foundational legal framework that keeps individual governments transparently accountable for press allowance for risk of illegality.

Recommendations:

- The third alternative solution is recommended due to its feasibility and depth of influence, making it the more sustainable and reliable option in the long run.
- Current existence of individual globalizing policies to stimulate journalism regardless of citizenship or geographic standing — and officials yearning to encourage such ideas — acts as a buttress for a more potent global policy to retroactively highlight these individualized proposals.
- The UNHRC, IPI, and other relevant allied offices and organizations should propose a drafting of such a policy in an emergency session to be raised in the next session of the General Assembly as

allied organizations are tasked to help form a quasi-task force that oversees the future implementation of effective programs that will be monitored regularly and updated as-needed.