

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.

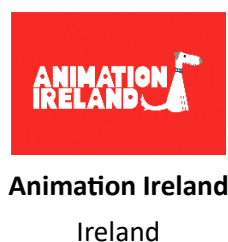
We therefore firmly oppose any political, legal, or economic initiative that seeks to undermine national or **international rules designed to uphold artistic freedom and cultural diversity** in the film and audiovisual sector.

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**
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 redateljica
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



**Estonian Association of Audiovisual
Authors**

Estonia



Estonian Filmdirectors Guild

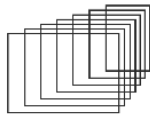
Estonia

EUROKINEMA

Association de producteurs
de cinéma et de télévision

EUROKINEMA

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
CINEMATOGRÁFICA Y AUDIOVISUAL

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

Ibero-America



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

Europe



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

Belgium



European Producers Club

France



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

Belgium



FESAAL
FEDERACIÓN DE SOCIEDADES DE AUTORES
AUDIOVISUALES LATINOAMERICANOS

FESAAL

Argentina



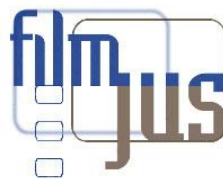
**FILM AND AUDIOVISUAL
MARKETS IN EUROPE (FAME)**

Europe



Fipadoc

France



FILMJUS

Hungary

EST. 2022

IDAA
ADVOCATES FOR

CHANGE
TRANSFORMATION
EQUALITY
HUMAN DIGNITY

**Independent Directors Association
Africa**

South Africa



Irish Equity

Ireland

LaScam*

LaScam
France



**Locarno
Film Festival**

Locarno Pro - Locarno Film Festival
Switzerland

m:brane

m:brane Forum
Sweden

mylab+

mylab
Asia



Netwerk Scenario-schrijvers
Netherlands



Polish Film Academy
Poland



Polish
Filmmakers
Association

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



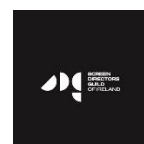
SACD - Société des Auteurs et
Compositeurs Dramatiques
France



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

SFT [Ⓐ] Slovenská filmová
a televízna akadémia

**Slovenska filmova a televizna
akademia**
Slovakia

 SMART7

SMART 7
EUROPE

SAA
Society of
Audiovisual
Authors

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

SPI
Le Syndicat
de la Production
Indépendante

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

| la | S | R | F |

société des réalisatrices
et réalisateurs de films

SRF
France

SSA société
suisse des
auteurs

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



sunny side
of the doc
Sunny Side of the Doc
France

**DANSKE
DANISH FILM DIRECTORS
INSTRUKTØRER** FILMDIR.DK

**The Association of Danish Film
Directors**
Denmark

U2R
UNION DES
RÉALISATRICES
& RÉALISATEURS

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

UFUS | AFA
ZAŠTITA ORGANIZACIJA
FILMSKIH
AUTORA SRBIJE

UFUS AFA PROTECTION
Serbia

 **UNIE VAN REGISSEURS** vzw
Unie van Regisseurs

Belgium

USPA Union
Syndicale
de la
Production
Audiovisuelle

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

VDFK VERBAND DER
DEUTSCHEN
FILMKRITIK e.V.

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

VIRKE
NORWEGIAN PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

**Virke Norwegian Producers
Association**
Norway

VFX
IRELAND

Visual Effects Ireland (VFXI)
Ireland

VOFTP
VLAAMSE ONAFHANKELIJKE
FILM & TELEVISIE PRODUCENTEN

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

WGI

Writer's Guild of Ireland
Ireland

alma
SINDICATO
DE GUIONISTAS

Writers Guild of Spain (ALMA)
Spain



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

Slovenia