



Country: Canada

Committee: SOCHUM

Agenda Item: Accomplishing Freedom of Press and Protection of Journalists
Within Conflict Zones

Delegate: İrem Yalçıneli

In Canada, it is strongly believed that media freedom remains an important part of democratic societies and essential to the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. People need free media to provide them with accurate information and informed analysis to hold governments to account. Media outlets in Canada are generally free of pressure from politicians, political parties, and political movements. It has been publicly acknowledged by the Canadian government that “media freedom remains an important part of democratic societies and essential to the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.” Canada has repeatedly demonstrated a legal commitment to freedom of the press, including “shield laws” to protect journalists and their sources.

Raising concerns about violations of freedom of expression, including freedom of the media, in bilateral and multilateral meetings are actively seen in Canada. These forums include UN General Assembly, the UN Human Rights Council, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and other international gatherings. Canada is also known to have placed 14th on this year’s World Press Freedom Index conducted by RSF. Taking this for an example, it is seen that acts and policies to protect the rights of journalists in Canada are active. Some examples are the JSPA, CRTC, CEA, etc. Currently, Canada funds media freedom projects in the Middle East and Africa. These projects encourage free press and freedom of speech internationally.

While Canada continues to demonstrate a strong commitment to international press freedom protections and practices, there is more room for progress, particularly with regards to press coverage involving the rights of indigenous peoples and land disputes. We, the government of Canada, suggest and support the fact that further enforcement of law should be applied in our country and globally to enhance the simple right of all citizens to express and reflect opinions freely by protecting all journalists from dangers and restrictions they may face worldwide, since they are the mirrors of true information and media.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/human_rights-droits_homme/freedom_expression_media-liberte_expression_medias.aspx?lang=eng

<https://www.canadaaction.ca/world-press-freedom-index-ranking>

<https://www.dwpv.com/en/insights/publications/2021/journalistic-sources-protection-act>

<https://www.lexpert.ca/news/legal-faq/media-law-in-canada-laws-for-media-and-the-public/387868#:~:text=In%20Canada%2C%20media%20law%20defines,is%20valid%20and%20legally%20sound>