

# World Television Day 2018

## Independence equals freedom

digital | fair | bargain

Today, we celebrate the World TV Day. The global community of broadcasting unions applauds the creativity, commitment and professionalism of all television workers of all professions around the globe who make programmes of information, entertainment and education 24H/365days.

Television informs viewers through news, documentaries, shows and other formats, making them aware of current societal issues and providing education through quality programming to citizens of all groups and ages. The diversity of entertainment continues to grow as public and commercial broadcasters increase investment in original premium content that talent and crew bring to the screens.

In the global digital economy, the peaceful and inclusive development of free societies requires a political independent, economically and socially sustainable dual TV ecosystem of public and commercial networks working alongside to provide quality programming to global citizens.

The ability of societies to make progress on the basis of fair and democratic processes depend on information that is independent, accurate, well documented and trustworthy.

The rise of attacks on TV networks and their staff by representatives of governments and political parties, attempts to curtail the political independence of public broadcasters by oppressive regulation and the undermining of the authenticity and credibility of news reporting constitute a threat to the independence of television and hence the freedom within democratic societies.

The independence of television is also in danger as threats against journalists and all television workers in news production are on the rise.

UNI MEI and its affiliates applaud the courage and resolve of so many journalists and all television workers who withstand political pressure, intimidation, harassment and violence.

These attacks must stop! The attackers must be brought to justice. Too many television workers have lost their lives, too many colleagues have been robbed of their freedom and too many women and men are pressured, intimidated and harassed in their daily endeavour to produce quality, independent and trustworthy news.

Our unions are committed to protect all television workers, their safety, independence and rights.

On today's World Television Day, the global community of media & entertainment unions affiliated to UNI Global Union representing television workers in more than 100 countries call on national governments, intergovernmental organisations, political parties and all organisations interacting with television workers to respect and protect the political independence of TV networks and the safety, freedom and rights of all workers who make television happen. Independence equals freedom!