Country: Finland

Commitee: SOCHUM (Social, Humanitarian

& Cultural Issues)

Agenta Item : Preserving Press Freedom

The Republic of Finland is the 5th country with the most freedom in press according to World Press Freedom Index (WPFI). Protecting press freedom, we uphold our shared values of democracy and human rights. Journalists must be able to cover issues without fear of harassment, intimidation, or violence. It is important to support good governance and make certain of that the public is fully informed. Free, independent media allow the public to make informed decisions, hold leaders accountable and hear a diversity of opinions free of government influence. We as Finland place great importance to press freedom.

Finland is historically known for its freedom of the press. In 1766, when still part of Sweden, it became one of the first countries in the world to legally recognize press freedom. Press freedom is considered as part of the right to freedom of expression and the right of access to information in Section 12 of the Constitution Press freedom is also recognized in Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), which was ratified by Finland in 1990. Specific legislation such the Act on the Exercise of Freedom of Expression in Mass Media contains detailed provisions on the exercise of freedom of expression in the media. Section 1 of the act notes that “interference with the activities of the media shall be legitimate only in so far as it is unavoidable, taking due note of the importance of the freedom of expression in a democracy subject to the rule of law” WPFI ranks 180 countries press freedom and according to this ranking 55 countries has problematic press freedom,42 countries has difficult press freedom and 31 countries has very serious press freedom issues. Out of 180 countries only 52 country has good or satisfactory press freedom. The last three places are occupied by Asian countries: [Vietnam](https://rsf.org/en/country/vietnam) (178th), which has almost completed its hunt of independent reporters and commentators; [China](https://rsf.org/en/country/china) ( 179th), the world’s biggest jailer of journalists and one of the biggest exporters of [propaganda content](https://rsf.org/en/unprecedented-rsf-investigation-great-leap-backwards-journalism-china%5D); and in the last place is [North Korea](https://rsf.org/en/country/north-korea) (180th). As seen even though Finland has not many issues on the matter of press freedom however in many counties it is still a problem and we would like to bring attention to this.

To ensure press freedom journalist should be protected by an independent global law and organization. Existing International treaties and agreements should be mandatory to all countries. Diplomatic channels and relationships should be used to advocate and impose consequences for non-compliance. Trained media members of countries with more press freedom should bring attention to countries with less press freedom. Civil organizations should be supported and protected by international laws, citizens should be educated about importance of press freedom and critical thinking skills to identify misinformation and propaganda. Corporations with. role in suppressing press freedom must be held accountable including tech companies that censor content or provide user data to repressive regimes.