

ADVOCACY FOR ARTISTS RIGHTS

WHAT IS ARTISTIC FREEDOM?

To be free from obstacles that impede “the flourishing of artistic creativity, that carry an aesthetic and/or symbolic dimension, using different media including, but not limited to, painting and drawing, music, songs and dances, poetry and literature, theatre and circus, photography, cinema and video, architecture and sculpture, performances and public art interventions, etc., irrespective of whether their content is sacred or profane, political or apolitical, or whether it addresses social issues or not”.

From the report (2013) of the UN Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Farida Shaheed

This hand out is intended for organisations involved in advocacy for artists rights.

KEY ACTIONS:

Participate in the mobilisation for artistic freedom

Support artists under persecution by hosting them in art spaces and help to strengthen their work

Act as an information hub for artistic freedom

MORE SPECIFIC TOOLS:

Safe havens

Encourage the creation of new safe havens and support the already existing ones

Lobbying

Think embassies, foreign ministries, EU institutions and the UN Special Rapporteur in the field of culture.

Petitions

Write official appeals and petitions and invite other organisations to join you in the process

Trials

Attend trials of artists prosecuted for their works.

LEARN TO ACT

Media

Engage with Media and make the best possible use of Social Media (see the toolkit for extra resources).

Join forces

Join trade unions, local or regional networks of artists. Connect with organisations dealing with human rights and free speech in your area.

Award artists at risk

Nominate artists at risk as award candidates (ex. Index of Censorship, Amnesty International, EP's Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought).

Organise

Participate in or set up a national body of artistic freedom. Monitor art freedom changes in your environment, share cases with artistic freedom networks/groups or HR organisations.

Rights Training

Provide artists rights training for your constituencies, and advocate for rights training at public events.