

SANEF celebrates 60th anniversary of the UN Human Rights Declaration

The SA National Editors' Forum joins democratic institutions throughout the world in celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations on December 10 1948. The declaration contains what is regarded as the key clause upholding freedom of expression and freedom of the Press - Article 19.

In its message of commemoration, the United Nations notes that the celebration is being held despite the knowledge that the provisions of the declaration “have remained largely unfulfilled even by the governments that promote them to their own citizens”.

In South Africa Foreign Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini will commemorate the day by interacting with the community at Msinga in Greytown, KwaZulu-Natal, where many human rights have been shattered in the past.

While applauding her for impressing the notion of human rights on that troubled community, Sanef urges the South African government to show by decisive action that it is one country that upholds the press freedom component of the declaration.

That would be achieved by President Kgalema Motlanthe refusing to sign the Films and Publications Amendment Bill and the Broadcasting Amendment Bill into law.

Both laws have been opposed as being contrary to Constitutional principles of media freedom and thus a contravention of the declaration.