



Association of Caribbean Mediaworkers

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MWAG STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY

The Media Workers Association of Grenada (MWAG) would like to highlight the need for greater public education on the role of the media in society as colleagues and media houses around the world observe World Press Freedom Day (WPF) May 3rd.

MWAG would like to propose the view, that Press Freedom as well as the perception that 'the press is free', will be bolstered significantly if our society deepens its understanding of the function of the press.

In our young and emerging democracy, perceptions and understanding of the operations of the media have been distorted by the unsavory conduct of a few politicians and in some rare instances by media professionals ourselves.

We feel there is an urgent need for a reinforcement of public understanding of the role of the press in modern societies.

MWAG therefore endorses initiatives that would promote greater understanding of our roles as media professionals in a democratic environment that grows a marketplace of wide ranging expressions.

The generation that has grown up within the last ten years in particular, as well as society on a whole must foster a consensus of understanding that the press must be allowed to perform its duty without blatant or subtle acts of hostility.

Media workers in Grenada have emerged from a testing era that offered challenges, many of which are not necessarily new to the profession.

If still impressionable sections of our society, on the basis of misinformation, are guided into developing institutional biases regarding the media's, role then that represents an orchestrated threat to press freedom.

On this World Press Freedom Day, MWAG supports any form of public education aimed at reversing that dangerous trend of thought.

It is for this reason that our media week celebration in June plans to focus on educating young people in particular, on the role of the press.

Our intention is to dialogue with the students to assist their understanding of the significance of a free press in an emerging democracy.

MWAG has already endorsed Grenada as the venue for this year's regional media conference commemorating World Press Freedom Day.



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On the 14th and 15th of this month, professional media workers and experts from around the region, backed by UNESCO, will assemble in St. George's to hammered out ideas on wide ranging issues that affect the fraternity.

MWAG hopes that from this important exercise, suggestions will be documented to help chart a new direction for media in the region.