



**Human Rights  
Network for  
Journalists  
Launches Annual  
Press Freedom Index**

# Report



**T**he Human Rights Network for Journalists – Uganda (HRNJ-Uganda) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting media freedom and protecting journalists' rights and freedom of expression in Uganda. Comprising a network of journalists in the country, HRNJ-Uganda strives to defend human rights and enhance the capacity of media professionals. One of their significant initiatives is the Annual Press Freedom Index Report (PFI), which has been released since 2009 to shed light on the state of press freedom in Uganda.

The PFI serves as a vital tool to raise awareness about violations and abuses faced by journalists, media practitioners, and media houses in the course of their work. This year marked the 14th edition of the PFI, building upon the findings of previous reports. Aptly titled 'Uncertain Future of the Media,' the 202 PFI aimed to provide insight into the current challenges and trends impacting press freedom in Uganda.

In furtherance of their mission, HRNJ-Uganda organized a half-day dialogue on May 25<sup>th</sup> 2023 to discuss the findings of the 2022 PFI. The event sought to foster constructive discussions among journalists, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), academia, development partners, and government agencies. Together, they aimed to generate feasible recommendations to enhance the working environment for journalists and protect press freedom.

The dialogue resulted in a range of recommendations aimed at addressing the challenges identified in the PFI. Participants emphasized the importance of removing taxes imposed on internet services and lifting the ban on social media platforms such as Facebook, recognizing the vital role they play in facilitating freedom of expression. Furthermore, the reintroduction of the Minimum Wage Bill was proposed to ensure that journalists receive fair remuneration for their work.

The launch of the Annual Press Freedom Index Report by HRNJ-Uganda has become an instrumental event in assessing and addressing the state of press freedom in Uganda. By promoting dialogue and generating actionable recommendations, HRNJ-Uganda aims to create a conducive environment for journalists to carry out their crucial role in society. The findings of the 2022 PFI and the resulting discussions serve as a call to action for stakeholders to work collaboratively in safeguarding and advancing press freedom in Uganda.

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Human Rights Network for Journalists – Uganda website, 'Who We Are.' Available at [https://hrnjuganda.org/?page\\_id=459](https://hrnjuganda.org/?page_id=459) (accessed 6 June 2023).

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