



# ***Campaign for Free Expression***

***Defending and  
enabling free  
expression for all***

**THE CAMPAIGN FOR FREE  
EXPRESSION** is a non-profit  
organisation dedicated to  
protecting and expanding  
the right to free expression  
for ALL in southern Africa  
and enabling EVERYONE to  
exercise this right to the full,  
whether it is by:

**SPEAKING OUT  
PROTESTING  
INVESTIGATING  
BLOWING  
THE WHISTLE  
ARGUING  
DEBATING  
WRITING  
PAINTING  
COMPOSING  
or just  
SHOUTING OUT  
an opinion**

**We are strictly non-partisan and fiercely independent.**

**Whatever your view, if it is legal we will defend your right to have it, express it, argue it and fight for it.**

**If anyone or any circumstance is blocking your free expression, we will do what we can to expose and unblock it.**

**It might be in the streets, in your workplace, at public meetings, on your campus, in any public space; it might be you alone or in a vast crowd; it might be that you are shouting or singing, waving a sign, creating graffiti or other art, or making provocative gestures with your hands.**

Speech is what makes us human, and free speech is fundamental to our democratic citizenship, our dignity and our freedom. It is through free expression that we protect and claim our other rights.

If we cannot speak out, we cannot demand the right to life and health, and we cannot protect against attacks on us and our rights.

We seek to build the widest possible coalition of organisations and individuals who care about the right to free expression.

**If you support this fundamental right, please visit our website and sign up to join the fight to defend and expand free expression for all.**

## ▶ **OUR AIMS**

- To monitor the free flow of ideas and information and report on relevant events and developments in the SADC region.
- To inject an informed, principled, consistent, and fact-based freedom of expression position into the national discourse.
- To encourage awareness of freedom of expression across all elements of society, ensuring it is not just a media concern but one for all citizens and civil society.
- Facilitate alliances and partnerships with like-minded organizations, local and international.
- Undertake strategic and precedent-setting legal action to defend free expression.
- Act as a think tank on policy, particularly around digital media, disinformation and regulation.

## ▶ **OUR CORE VALUES**

- Principled support for maximum freedom of expression and open and informed debate, argument, disagreement and the free flow of information.
- Non-partisan support for the expression of all opinions and ideas, no matter how uncomfortable, controversial and unpopular.
- Building a broad coalition that will attempt to draw in as wide a spectrum as possible around this single issue.

# ► PROGRAMMES

## Eswatini Summit

CFE partnered with the Inhlase Centre for Investigative Journalism to host a Free Expression Summit in Eswatini. About 100 representatives of civil society attended and planned to set up a loose coalition to tackle the right to protest, access to information, media independence and freedom, protection of whistle-blowers, media literacy and SLAPP suits. CFE has published a special report **Dark Days in Eswatini**, which highlights the harsh response to protests and the tight control over how it was reported.



## **Artists' Speak Out**

**C**FE is researching reports that state funding for the arts and political control of key boards is silencing South Africa's artists, who find themselves cut off if they speak out.

## **Together we are Louder**

**W**e are piloting a campaign among South African CBOs to equip them to put free speech high on their agenda as part of the struggle to ensure that we everyone can enjoy the same right to free expression.

## **Hate Crime and Hate Speech Bill**

**W**e are involved in extensive lobbying to ensure this draft Bill deals with hate crimes but does not interfere with free speech.

## **Persecution of Journalists**

**W**e have joined the international Campaign Against Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists and are monitoring and giving support to journalists under attack across southern Africa. We have partnered with Media Defence to help provide legal defence for journalists.

## **We are also planning to tackle:**

- Online threats and attacks, particularly against women, that are designed to intimidate and silence
- Internet regulation which could enhance or limit our freedom of speech

Go to our website  
to subscribe to our  
newsletter, to donate  
or to learn how you  
can become part of  
this campaign:  
[www.freeexpression.org.za](http://www.freeexpression.org.za)

## GET IN TOUCH WITH US

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Facebook: Campaign for Free Expression

Instagram: [@campaignforfreeexpression](https://www.instagram.com/campaignforfreeexpression)

Twitter: [@\\_Freeexpression](https://twitter.com/_Freeexpression)

YouTube: Campaign for Free Expression

Website: [www.freeexpression.org.za](http://www.freeexpression.org.za)

The logo features the text "Campaign for Free Expression" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered within a dark brown, irregular shape that resembles a torn piece of paper or a speech bubble. The shape has several circular holes along its left and right edges. The background of the entire graphic is a light brown color.

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