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SPEAK UP, SA COMPETITION

Project Title: The Cost of Expression

Poster 1: June '76

Visual description: The poster depicts a group of students holding placards that spell out "FREEDOM", showing that they should've had the freedom to learn in their own language. Their shirts are coloured in red to show that they were seen as targets to police. The mood of the poster is powerful, showing how students stood up against their oppression but were silenced with police brutality.



The 1976 Soweto Uprising showed the world how young South Africans could challenge the apartheid regime. Their protest for the right to learn in their own language became a symbol of the struggle for freedom of expression against violent repression.

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Poster 2: Who Protects the Whistleblower?

The poster depicts a whistleblower blowing a whistle, symbolising truth and accountability. Surrounding the figure are red targets, showing threat and violence. The bold text reinforces a sense of urgency. The poster creates a tense emotional tone where speaking up becomes both an act of courage and a risk of being targeted.



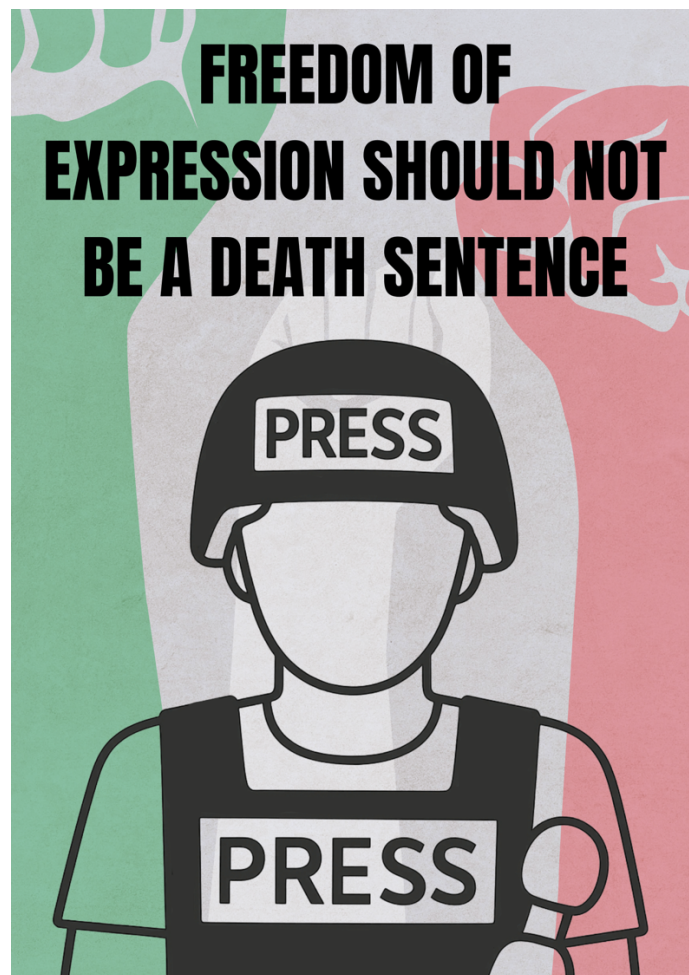
Whistleblowers expose truths hidden in the shadows, often at great personal cost. This poster reflects the courage of those who risk their lives to hold institutions accountable, reminding us that silence protects corruption, while speech fuels justice.

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Poster 3: Don't Shoot the Messenger

The poster focuses on a journalist in Gaza. The background contains three fists raising in solidarity, coloured the shades of the Palestinian flag. The text demands justice for journalists who risk and often lose their lives while documenting war. The poster evokes urgency and mourning, and calls attention to the horrific reality in Gaza.



In Gaza, cameras and notebooks have become targets. Journalists who risk everything to document war and occupation are killed for telling the world the truth. This poster honours those who risk everything to show the world what is happening, reminding us

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Poster 4: When Power Pulls the Plug

The poster shows American TV host, Jimmy Kimmel, with a red stripe painted over his mouth, symbolising forced silence. He is shown in greyscale to show that he was removed or “greyed-out”. The tone is unsettling yet provocative, showing how quickly entertainment can turn political when speech becomes inconvenient to those who govern.



In 2025, Jimmy Kimmel Live! was suspended after his controversial remarks to activist Charlie Kirk's assassination. Following pressure from government officials, ABC pulled the show. This was condemned as censorship and a dangerous precedent for free expression.

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My Creative Process:

1. To create my posters, I used Canva to design and arrange the visual elements, focusing on bold colours, strong typography, and symbolism to communicate the message of each poster. My creative process aimed to explore freedom of expression across different contexts around the world. **June '76** and **Who Protects the Whistleblower?** contain AI-generated content.

June '76: I used AI to generate students holding up blank placards and copied them until there were seven to spell out freedom. I also used AI to colour in their skin.

Who Protects the Whistleblower?: I used AI to generate a woman blowing a whistle and added details of my own.