

Resolution Adopted at
The NewsGuild-CWA Sector Conference
Jan. 27, 2019

**Background on Resolution:
Defending a Free Press and the Right of Journalists to Work Without Fear**

Never before have journalists around the world faced bigger challenges than they do today.

From hostile, oppressive regimes abroad willing to commit murder to silence critical voices, to domestic politicians who find it easier to undermine the credibility of reporters than provide real answers to troubling questions, the list grows daily.

And, if the attacks from without were not enough to chill the climate of free expression, corporate pirates have decided looting the media business by wiping out jobs is a perfect way to bolster the incomes of their hedge funds.

Through all of this, real journalists continue to do the work they love but increasingly, they are attacked and threatened when that work challenges those who wield power.

Exposing those in public office who put their personal interest or that of their financial backers above the public interest; examining the treatment of minorities by police forces that throw up a “blue wall” when challenged, or probing the way corporations put profit ahead of public safety – these are not activities designed to curry favor from the powerful.

But all are necessary to keep democracy from being perverted and eroded and to give those who cannot buy access to the system both a voice and window into what should be working on their behalf.

To do their jobs, journalists need the support and protection of those in public office who really care about the people they serve, as well as employers who care about the important role journalism has in society.

They do not need ownership groups that see only ways to increase profits, until they completely destroy the ability of news organizations to function as intended and inform the communities that depend on them.

Press for action on threats to journalists and their ability to report without fear of attack

A free press depends on the ability of journalists to report without fear that politicians or their supporters will use any means, up to and including murder, to intimidate and muzzle their critics.

It also depends on media owners who care about their duty to inform and educate the public, to further the democratic principles on which the nation was founded.

Therefore, delegates to The NewsGuild-CWA Sector Conference declare:

Resolved: The NewsGuild-CWA demand that the United States take all actions needed to ensure the murderers of Jamal Khashoggi and those who ordered his death are prosecuted for their crimes.

Resolved: The NewsGuild-CWA shall press for regulations to prevent rapacious hedge funds from gutting the media properties they own to drive up profits.

Resolved: The NewsGuild-CWA shall call for laws to ensure those who physically abuse or interfere with journalists while they are working are prosecuted for violating the rights of all citizens to be informed, similar to the way hate-crime laws operate. This shall also include politicians who perpetrate, advocate or encourage violence against journalists.

Resolved: The NewsGuild-CWA and its members shall support the work of other organizations around the world seeking to defend press freedom and hold their governments and institutions to account.