



## **Memorandum of Representatives of the Cypriot media organizations**

Having met on 25 April 2017 in Nicosia, the undersigned representatives of the Cypriot media organizations have adopted the following

Memorandum:

1. We, journalists of Cyprus, agree to a mutual co-operation and solidarity when it comes to the issues of the safety of journalists, access to information and adherence to professional standards. We keep close contacts with international professional and non-governmental organizations.
2. We reiterate that the safety of journalists shall remain high on our agenda. We consider unacceptable any acts of violence against journalists for their work, regardless of the political position taken by the media they represent.
3. We will continue to promote professional standards, the high values and traditional mission of the craft, through raising awareness initiatives and joint media projects. Therefore we aim to work on a joint professional code of conduct, to be adopted and implemented by both the Greek Cypriot and the Turkish Cypriot journalistic communities. We will also make efforts to build respect among media and journalists for credible forms of self-regulation, and encourage co-operation between self-regulators.
4. We call on the authorities of the two communities to commit themselves to respect the freedom and independence of the media, and to refrain from exercising any pressure on the media outlets or on journalists. We also call on all media professionals, including editors,

owners and practitioners on all levels to work together in favour of ethics, good governance, and self-regulation in their work.

5. Journalists play an important role in the on going efforts for reunification by a federal solution of Cyprus; therefore we will strive to not resort to any negative stereotypes and prejudices as they may lead to hostility, violence or discrimination.
6. We call for wider travel opportunities and for more frequent coverage by the journalists from the South on the issues of public interest in the North, and vice versa.
7. We call on the authorities to invest in media literacy for citizens to make informed choices. We also suggest that journalism training should be further developed.
8. We support the view that media funded by the citizens must act as independent public service media whose goal is to serve the public by informing them in accordance with the highest standards of the profession and in a pluralistic manner.
9. In this regard we aim at jointly drafting and adopting a relevant Declaration in the coming months.

Signed by:

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Giorgos Frangos  
Union of Cyprus Journalists

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Ali Kurtoğlu  
Basın-Sen (Press Workers Union)

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Sami Özuslu  
Turkish Cypriot Journalists' Union (Association)