



## **Who Controls the Narrative?**

**Implementing the Commonwealth Principles on Freedom of Expression  
and the Role of the Media in Good Governance**

Commonwealth Law Conference 2025  
Malta  
10 April 2025

# **Commonwealth Principles on Freedom of Expression and the Role of the Media in Good Governance**



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LEGAL RESTRICTIONS ON FREEDOM OF  
EXPRESSION IN THE COMMONWEALTH



# Implementation Recommendations

- **Strengthen legal frameworks**
  - Align national laws with international human rights standards
  - Repeal or amend laws
  - Ratify and implement international treaties
- **Promote judicial independence, due process and access to justice**
  - Combat impunity
  - Ensure access to legal remedies
  - Introduce anti-SLAPP laws
- **Protect Journalists**
  - Establish protection mechanisms

# Implementation Recommendations

- **Encourage media pluralism and digital freedom**
  - Create independent media regulators
  - Promote media diversity
  - Prohibit arbitrary internet shutdowns
  - Support digital literacy
- **Ensure Implementation and Accountability**
  - Activate the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG)
  - Strengthen the Commonwealth Secretariat
  - Engage international human rights mechanisms
  - Join the Media Freedom Coalition

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