



## Free Online Course on African Media Freedom (part-time)

(revised and updated)

**Starts 15 June 2020**

[bitly.com/MediaFreedomAfrica](https://bitly.com/MediaFreedomAfrica)

### Course title

[Media Freedom and Freedom of Expression in Africa](#)

### Course dates

Starts Monday 15 June, and runs over seven weeks. Average time commitment: 90 minutes a week

### Who should consider enrolling:

Individuals interested in the topic; journalists; civil society activists; lawyers; regulators; tertiary level students.

### Course instructors

The course instructors, all of whom appear via recorded video presentations in the course, are:

- Prof. Justine Limpitlaw (Wits LINK Centre)
- Paula Fray (frayintermedia)
- Dr. Sarah Chiumbu (University of Johannesburg)
- Zoe Titus (Namibia Media Trust)
- Koketso Moeti (Amandla.mobi)

### Course platform

The course is offered by the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), Johannesburg, through [WitsX](#), which is part of the global [edX](#) MOOC (“massive open online course”) platform.

### Course dedication: To Jeanette Minnie

The course honours and sustains the legacy of South African media freedom and freedom of expression activist [#Jeanette Minnie](#), who passed away in November 2016. Minnie devoted her professional life to ensuring robust civil society engagement with African media policy. She was a media activist who developed massive experience in understanding the challenges and who knew how to make changes for the better.

### Course content

- pre-recorded instructor video presentations, with downloadable transcripts
- online group forum discussions
- readings
- case studies
- exercises
- multiple-choice assessments of comprehension

### Cost and certification

- Participation in the course, including all of the elements listed above, is **free of charge**.
- Participants who also want to receive a Verified Certificate of Achievement for the course, endorsed by edX and Wits University, can do so by passing one additional assessment and paying a **USD49 certification fee** to edX.

## Course modules

- Module 1: Freedom of expression, access to information and media freedom, and their contributions to democracy
- Module 2: Components and actors of democratic media policy and practice
- Module 3: Media pluralism and media content diversity
- Module 4: Media regulation in a democratic media environment
- Module 5: Effective civil society engagement in support of democratic media policy (part 1)
- Module 6: Effective civil society engagement in support of democratic media policy (part 2)
- Module 7: African media in times of the COVID-19 crisis

## Course content development

The course content was developed by the course instructors, the [Wits LINK Centre](#) (in the Wits School of Literature, Language and Media (SLLM)) and [frayintermedia](#), with support from Hendrik Bussiek.

## Evaluations by 2019 course participants

- *The modules were packed with useful and incredibly concise information, with transcripts one can download for keeps. I love the case studies that spoke to each module and how diverse they work (focusing on different African countries). Kudos to the people who set the questions – it was clear they are incredible teachers.*
- *The wealth of reference material has a life far beyond the course – both the historical stuff and guidelines/insights to inform ongoing efforts.*
- *Additional materials for reading were very useful.*
- *The methodology and mixed-media approach was really helpful as well as additional reading materials that are relevant to the course and to my work*
- *As I do not have a media background, the course was very educative and eye-opening for me. I now better appreciate media professionals and civil society actors.*
- *A new insight to the role of engagement played by civil society to bringing about good governance in their respective countries and the need for it never to relent and continually serve as a watchdog in their respective countries.*
- *The course was structured in a very meticulous way and planned out so well. Kudos to all the lecturers (who incidentally are all women!).*

## Course funding and marketing

Funding for course research, development, piloting and marketing has been provided by [Free Press Unlimited](#), [Bertha Foundation](#), [Namibia Media Trust \(NMT\)](#), and [fesmedia Africa](#). Course marketing support is being provided by [frayintermedia](#) and [fraycollege](#).

## Course enrolment, information

Participants wishing to enrol for the course can go to <https://bitly.com/MediaFreedomAfrica>

Course information is summarised here on the [Wits LINK Centre web page](#) for the course.

