

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 1st November, 2023



STATEMENT ON ENDING IMPUNITY FOR CRIMES AGAINST JOURNALISTS

The Media Council of Malawi joins the global community in commemorating **International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists** on **2nd November 2023**. This day is an opportunity to remember and honor journalists and media workers who have lost their lives or suffered attacks in the line of duty, and to demand justice for their perpetrators.

This year, focus is on **violence against journalists, the integrity of elections, and the role of public leadership**.

According to UNESCO, over 1,600 journalists have been killed around the world between 2006 and 2023, with close to nine out of 10 cases of these killings remaining judicially unresolved.

In Malawi, we have also witnessed cases of harassment, intimidation, and violence against journalists and media outlets, especially during coverage of social and political events. These experiences call on us to imagine a work environment for the media as we look forward to 2025 General Elections.

The acts of impunity not only violate fundamental rights of journalists, but also undermine the freedom and diversity of the media, and the public's right to know.

The Media Council of Malawi denounces all forms of impunity for crimes against journalists, and calls on the government, the judiciary, law enforcement agencies, and all relevant stakeholders to be on the lookout and take concrete and effective measures to protect journalists and media workers, and to ensure that those responsible for such crimes are brought to justice.

We also urge the media fraternity to uphold highest standards of professionalism, ethics, and safety in their work, and to report any threats or attacks to the Media Council or other relevant authorities.

The Media Council of Malawi reaffirms its commitment to promoting professionalism alongside its role to defend media freedom, independence, diversity, and sustainability in Malawi. We believe that a free and pluralistic media is essential for the development and empowerment of our society, and for the protection and promotion of human rights, democracy, and peace.

On this day, we invite all Malawians to join us in raising awareness about this important issue, and in supporting the efforts to end impunity on crimes against journalists and the media.

Together, we can make Malawi a safer place for journalists and media workers, and a better place for all.

Signed:

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