

# BUILDING UNIONS' POWER

## 43. Collective Bargaining for Freelancers

*Proposed by the [National Writers Union, USA \(NWU\)](#)*

The World Congress of the [International Federation of Journalists](#), meeting in Tunis from 11th to 14th June 2019,

*Understanding* that freelance, work-for-hire, independent contractor and other self-employment arrangements are a rapidly expanding part of the global workforce, and especially so among media workers around the world;

*Concerned* that these types of arrangements may not only erode the working standards of journalists, who are increasingly forced to deal with global media entities one-on-one and in direct competition with their fellow media workers, but also create legal obstacles for self-employed media workers wishing to organize to protect themselves;

*Recognising* that antitrust laws in North America that were created to protect consumers from price-fixing by corporations are often used by those same corporations to prevent union organizing to improve pay and working conditions;

*Believing* that collective bargaining is the strongest and most effective check against the power of global media companies that media workers have at our disposal, and that legal prohibitions on media workers' right to collective bargaining is unjust and immoral;

1) **Calls on** member organizations to support legislative remedies to antitrust laws that prohibit union organizing;

2) **Appeals** to freelance and self-employed media workers around the world to organize and challenge outdated and unfair laws that don't recognize freelance work as equal to other forms of labour;

3) **Asks** that sister unions and labour organizations around the world stand in solidarity with non-traditional independent workers who try to organize;

4) **Demands** that the United States and Australian governments recognize that freelance writers have the right to collective bargaining and affords them the same legal protections as all workers under the National Labour Relations Act.