

Call for proposals

Research and report into journalism freelancing in South Africa

February 2024

Background

Various concerns were raised at Sanef council meetings about the conditions of journalism freelancing in South Africa. Most notable were concerns about pay levels, delayed payment and lack of support when freelancers ran into trouble with local authorities. It was argued that conditions in the industry meant that freelancers were playing a crucial role in covering some matters, particularly hyper-local coverage, but that working conditions made the work unsustainable.

In response, Sanef has decided to partner with the Henry Nxumalo Foundation (HNF) to commission and publish research into this matter.

Aim of the research

The aim is to enable a better understanding of the working conditions of freelance journalists, the industry conditions which have led to this, and possible ways of alleviating these issues. We want to equip ourselves with the facts in order to address this issue and draw attention to it.

Call for proposals

Sanef and HNF call for proposals for a researcher/s to produce a report into the conditions of journalism freelancing in South Africa. The researcher/s should interview a range of journalism freelancers working for all media, as well as media managers. It should be written into a full, detailed, formal report, including a summary of the findings and any trends that emerge in the research.

Applicants should send a motivation for their appointment and a CV, including links to previous work of this kind, to dzudzien@sanef.org.za by March 15.

A joint panel of Sanef and HNF representatives will process the applications and oversee the research.

Timeline

Call for proposals: Feb 28

Closing date: March 15

Appointment of researcher: March 31

Outline of research plan: April 15

Feedback on outline; April 31

First draft of research: June 31

Feedback: July 15

Final Draft: July 31