



# **PRESS UNION OF LIBERIA (PUL)**

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## **Final Communique**

### **Annual Congress**

20 – 21 March 2015

The Press Union of Liberia convened in its Annual Congress on 20-21 March 2015 at the University of Liberia Auditorium-under the theme: ***Strengthening Media Accountability to support Democracy and Development;***

The Congress was held as part of the constitutional requirements to account to members on Financial and Professional Activities;

The Congress heard from a wide range of partners, including the Ministry of Information, Culture Affairs and Tourism, the Diplomatic Corps, IREX, the Legislature, founding members of the Press Union of Liberia and an inspiring keynote address;

Among other things, the Congress discussed the following issues:

- a. Annual Reports for 2014;
- b. the Collective Bargaining Agreement;
- c. Utilization of the Freedom of Information Law;
- d. Introduction of the Media Monitoring Program;
- e. Media Gender Policy;

These discussions highlighted a wide range of issues, including:

- a. A need for increased transparency by the use of improved accounting methods at PUL;
- b. Need for improve working conditions of journalists in Liberia;
- c. Limited use of FOI Law in the work of journalists;
- d. Need to draw attention to the work practices of journalists including their ethics; and

e. Limited role of women in the media.

Upon the deliberations, the Congress concluded with the following recommendations:

- a. Take action to introduce greater capacity for journalists;
- b. Set up special committee to review the financial reports, along with a financial expert to make suggestions and report to the membership in two weeks;
- c. Organize a meeting with publishers to present the CBA as a basis of reaching a formal agreement;
- d. Encourage journalists to increase adherence to ethics, including by abiding by the Code of Conduct and related instruments;
- e. Adopt the Gender Media Policy as an instrument to promote women participation and equal opportunity in the media; and
- f. To enhance the capacity of the PUL to hastily respond to complaints from journalists and the public including from media manager;

**Congress acknowledged the support of partners including OSIWA, Search for Common Ground, Carter Center, and the University of Liberia for hosting the two-day event.**

Done in the City of Monrovia, this 21st Day of March 2015.