



Associate Member of



19th September, 2022

The IGM Council took note of concerns raised by journalists, academics and activists requesting information on what has been discussed so far by the Committee of Experts appointed by the Prime Minister at the start of the year.

The IGM is represented on the Committee of Experts by its president and secretary general.

So far, the Committee of Experts has concluded its work on the first part of its remit, which was related to giving feedback to a number of laws passed on by the government dealing with greater protection for journalists and strengthening journalism.

The report containing the Committee's feedback was passed on to the government on 1 June. The IGM representatives pushed for more robust anti-SLAPP legislation and the entrenchment of the media as the fourth estate in the Constitution, among others.

The IGM's position has always been that government should publish the report without delay. The government has failed to do so, and the IGM continues to press and demand that the government publish it immediately.

The IGM Council has been informed that the onus is on government to do so and in multiple representations with government, including in a recent meeting with Justice Minister Jonathan Attard, the IGM representatives have always called for the immediate publication of the recommendations.

With regard to consultation, the IGM council took note of the criticism that the Committee of Experts did not engage in active public consultation for its first part of the remit. The IGM representatives, however, analysed and took into consideration the external feedback that was made public or sent to the committee during deliberations.

Given that the IGM members on the committee are bound by confidentiality, once the report is published the IGM will hold a meeting with members. The IGM will continue to demand the immediate publication of the report.

As for the second part of the Committee's remit dealing with various aspects indicated by the Daphne Caruana Galizia Public Inquiry, the IGM council, through its representatives, are demanding that the committee holds active consultation sessions with the stakeholders in the industry prior to it issuing a set of proposals.

We insist and will continue to insist on the publication of the report without delay.

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