On 1993 the United Nations General Assembly declared May 3rd to be "World Press Freedom Day". This event is intended in particular to remind governments of their duty to respect and uphold the right to freedom of expression. The latter reflects the democratic vitality and pluralism of a society.

Difference Day honours the persons and organisations who make a difference. The event on May 3rd 2018 at BOZAR will be a combined effort of numerous partners. We are also honoured to have the patronage of UNESCO to endorse our cause.
Program

10:00 - 17:00 Speakers Corner (outside BOZAR @Tent)

After London (Hyde Park), Brussels will have its own Speakers Corner for at least one day. Young students will voice their free opinion regarding topics such as diversity, ecology, and inequality.

10:00 - 12:15 Living Library (Teraken 1 & 2)

Students from the 3rd grade secondary education ask Flemish & French media leaders: “how do you resist fake news and propaganda?” Media professionals exchange with the young people and answer their questions about news, propaganda and fake news.

With: Riadh Bahri, Cecile Bertrand, Roland Bruneel, Tom Cochez, Beatrice Delvaux, Adrian Devyver, Yamina El Gharbi, Wouter Hillaert, Stéphane Hoebeke, Pierre Marlet, Karl Meersman, Bernard Meeus, Valerie Michaux, An Ollaerts, Edoric Rorive, Rosamunde Van Braekel, Bram Vandeputte, Han Zinzen

10:00 - 12:15 Lesson of the Century (Studio & Salle M)

The objective of the ‘Lesson of the Century’ is to identify abuses and unsustainable situations through texts and images, readings and discussions in a dynamic dialogue between players from the academic, political, journalistic and artistic world who will give their vision.

With:

12:30 - 13:30 Lunch break

13:30 - 15:00 Film City of Ghosts (WeKonekt)

A documentary that follows the efforts of “Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently,” a handful of anonymous activists who banded together after their homeland was taken over by ISIS in 2014. This is the story of a brave group of citizen journalists as they face the realities of life undercover, on the run, and in exile, risking their lives to stand up against one of the greatest evils in the world today. (Only by registration)

13:30 - 15:00 Debate (Studio)

Silencing Critical Voices: Killing Me Softly

There are various ways to put pressure on the media and silence critical voices. Threats, imprisonment, even assassination of journalists are the most tangible and reported means. Yet, indirect forms of “soft” censorship are also very effective.

Discover how advertisers can influence the content or editorial angle of a major news outlet. Learn how a newspaper may be silenced when it is sold to new investors and, immediately afterwards, shut down. And let’s discuss strategies and means of resistance!

With: Françoise Tulkens, András Dézi, Mary Fitzgerald, Edouard Perrin

Moderator: Scott Griffen

13:30 - 15:00 Debate (Teraken 1)

Resisting Commercial Correctness in the Newsroom

Are there truly alternative understandings and practices of journalism that may be of a help? We look for examples of media companies throughout Europe and the world that invest in doing it differently and work in a different spirit, with the objective of helping us, to understand how it all works. With:

Moderator:

15:00 - 15:30 Coffee Break

15:30 - 17:00 Debate (Studio)

Voices of Resistance: The Information Heroes around the Globe

This session is a tribute to all information heroes around the globe, risking their life to ensure that citizens have access to plural information, a fundamental pillar of functioning democracies. The debate will highlight various dangers faced by journalists in performing their jobs and call attention to the tools in place to help them voice their resistance. Testimonies from the ground will be accompanied by a global commentary by a UNESCO expert, based on the findings of the latest report on the World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development.

With: Andrew Caruana Galizia, Marius Lukosiunas, Yasmine Merei, Roman Dobrokhotov

Moderator: Natalia Antelava

15:30 - 17:00 Debate (Teraken 1)

Stop, Look and Listen. How can we make the Voices of Resistance Heard?

The “voices of resistance” can be found throughout society.

Take the form of media outlets opposing dominant socio-political discourses, of disenfranchised groups and individuals seeking a voice, of truth seekers in a post-truth era. How can we ensure that these voices are heard, and listened to? Listen to the professionals to offer their perspectives on getting voices of resistance heard.

With: Justin Schlosberg, Thomas Duprel, Sandra Kacavendic, Marta Frisova.

Moderator:

17:00 - 17:30 Break

17:30 - 19:00 Salle M

Live Magazine & Doctor Honoris Causa ULB & VUB

On the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, Live Magazine, a living, ephemeral newspaper. Instead of turning pages, enjoy the show. Authors, photographers, journalists and artists go on stage to tell the audience true stories. These performances are neither recorded, nor broadcast; it’s all in the ‘here-and-now’.

VUB and ULB jointly award honorary doctorate to two human rights activists.

The Tunisian journalist and human rights defender Sihem Bensedrine and the Burundian human rights activist Pierre Claver Mbonimpa will receive a joint honorary doctorate from the VUB and the ULB.

All Day

EXHIBITIONS (Teraken 2 & 3)

Karl Meersman Cartoons

Arab Cartoon Festival

Rotunde

Martyrdom Cycle Sebastian Utzni

Fumoir

In Their Press Vests: A virtual reality experience on the daily work of Syrian journalists - UNESCO