



COMMITMENT STATEMENT TRANS EUROPE HALLES MOTIVATION TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE WORK OF THE ACCESS TO CULTURE PLATFORM

Artists fulfil a wide range of essential social roles: as critics of oppressive and violent regimes, as alternative voices in the struggle to find new modes of thinking and living, as mediators who reconcile antagonistic groups of people, as inspirational forces for younger generations in search for their rightful place, as anthropologists who shed light on history and our current human condition. The language of culture and creative expression not only makes our world a richer and a better place, but it also carries the potential of empowering people in a way that just economic awards never can (although, of course, culture is not a substitute for financial well-being).

To this extent, the ACP and the Arts, Rights, Justice Working Group present a much needed opportunity to exchange information between actors operating in the fields of arts and human rights in order to brainstorm and develop possible courses of action and means of engagement for the European institutions. Europe does not only have the responsibility to fulfil its existing obligations pertinent to the protection of the freedom of artistic expression, but Europe should also act as a pioneer in standard-setting and in finding creative solutions for the support of a vibrant independent cultural sector world-wide.