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## THINKING ABOUT FEAR AND FREEDOM

Some convictions have crystallised for me in the process of putting together this new edition of *Rhodes Journalism Review*:

### Aids

The first is that, in the commissioning process I set out with a commitment to source stories on journalists reporting HIV/Aids because I continue to believe that ongoing thinking about how we report this epidemic is very important. But what I started to find this time, is that with the shift in the disease from life-threatening to life-managing, the journalism has shifted too. We are – those of us affected by HIV and those reporting it – *living with Aids*. We are not only living with it in a fact-of-life kind of way, we are also learning from those who have it and enriching our journalism by our learnings. The three stories we bring you about Aids in this edition show this creativity and sensitivity so very clearly.

### Gender

I also continue to have a firm commitment to discussing gender equality in these pages. In the process of editing I attended an International Women's Media Forum discussion in Johannesburg hosted by Paula Fray (one of SA's first female editors). It was a fairly informal gathering of women media workers who mostly know each other, so discussion flowed and was frank. While there are newsrooms that are exemplary in the way they provide opportunities for women (notably the *Mail&Guardian*) there are some that are medieval in their treatment of women as labour. The point for me is that with the loss of the unions protecting their rights as workers, women journalists have lost twice over. The group called for a body to represent women journalists' interests and I sincerely hope it finds support more broadly.

### Intellectual property

When I go to a movie and find myself confronted with that loud, aggressive advert always flighted before the film which tells me that stealing a film is like stealing a car, or a handbag, I am always highly irritated. No, I don't agree. The territory of creative production and ownership of ideas is just so much more complex than that short message wants us to believe. The debate about what is common to us all and should be shared as inheritance and heritage is not captured via legalism and assertions of copyright. I hope you find the stories on this issue in this edition provocative and unsettling!

### Freedom

I participated as a panellist in the South Africa leg of the African Media Barometer (see the report brought to you by the Media Institute of Southern Africa and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in this edition). I started out like most others on the panel with high confidence in our good ratings given our amazing



Constitutional protections. But the discussions were sobering. At every level of society, from the intimate and familial to the broad-range political, people judge carefully what they say to whom and how. And it's not extreme to say silence is often about protecting one's very livelihood and often, life. So it's important to air contention and argument about Zimbabwe, the Zuma rape trial and the ongoing debate in South Africa over public broadcasting. Rolling back fear of expression is about creating places to do it safely. We hope *Review* is one of those places for journalists.

### Language

Finally a word about language. For the first time we bring you stories in French in this *Review*. This was provoked by a desire to carry stories on the DRC and its media. Two of the contributors wrote for us in French, so we decided to carry them in French. We also have the pictures of graffiti in Mozambique which are mostly in Portuguese and in two articles we consider the importance of indigenous language media. It's a gesture but I hope it makes the Francophone and Lusophone among our readers feel just a little bit more at home.

Anthea Garman, Editor