



## **CILECT STATEMENT ON VIOLENCE AGAINST STUDENTS FROM FDU, SERBIA**

8 February 2025

CILECT is firmly committed to its global mission of advancing excellence in education, research, and training in film, television, and related media. This mission inherently embraces the free exchange of ideas, creative expression, and the development of best practices within our disciplines.

The Faculty of Dramatic Arts at the University of Arts in Belgrade, Serbia, is a valued member of CILECT, and we are deeply concerned and empathetic regarding the recent challenges facing the Serbian academic arts community.

As an international academic organization dedicated to fostering and supporting arts education, CILECT upholds the fundamental principle of academic freedom. This principle safeguards the rights of students and faculty to freely engage in inquiry, discovery, and the creation of new knowledge without fear of repression, restriction, or retaliation.

Any actions that threaten academic freedom or violate the fundamental human rights of educators and students – such as the right to peaceful assembly and association – jeopardize the growth and progress of societies.

CILECT stands in solidarity with and supports the just demands of the students and teachers of FDU, Serbia!

### **On behalf of CILECT:**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Manuel Jose Damásio, President  
Prof. Dr. Yu Ran, Chair CAPA  
Frédéric Kabore, Chair CARA  
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Raul Lopez Echeverria, Chair CIBA  
Prof. Dr. Heather Addison, Chair CNA  
Barry Dignam, Chair GEECT  
Prof. Dr. Stanislav Semerdjiev, Executive Director  
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### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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and Film Arts (NATFA)  
Sofia, Bulgaria

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CILECT was founded in Cannes, France, in 1954. By 2024 CILECT includes over 190+ audiovisual educational institutions from 65 countries on 6 continents with more than 10,000 teachers and staff who annually train 60,000+ students and communicate with an alumni network