

Policies in action

Threats to human rights and artistic freedom diminish and weaken the diversity of cultural expressions, while eroding individual wellbeing and quality of life. For artists and cultural professionals, particularly those living in conflict situations, these threats can put their lives and livelihoods in peril. In response, governments are creating policies to protect artistic freedom and organizations, such as the International Cities of Refuge Network (ICORN), have created safe havens for artists at risk.

CITIES OF REFUGE



TOTAL : 82*

*79% are ICORN placements

Ensuring distribution rights: France proclaims “artistic expression is free”

At a time when artistic creation is undergoing profound changes and the role of culture is continuously being questioned, a pioneering French law on artistic freedom, architecture and heritage, was adopted in July 2016, proclaiming that “artistic creation is free”.

For the first time in international law, it establishes artistic expressions as public goods and further

specifies that the “dissemination of artistic creation is free” to ensure greater public access to artistic works.

With this law, the government expects to promote a dynamic ecosystem for artists and creativity, to establish a legislative framework for music labels and to set up an observatory for artistic creation and cultural diversity.

Source: Quadrennial Periodic Report France, 2016

Removing barriers: New Zealand eases visa restrictions for artists

The New Zealand immigration authority has reduced immigration barriers for international performers, musicians and their support crew. Rather than obtaining work visas, they are granted visitor visas, which are cheaper and require less documentation.

The artists and crew members must be participating in recognized arts festivals, or promoted by a music promoter included on Immigration

New Zealand’s Approved Music Promoter list. To date, 40 festivals and 41 music promoters have been approved by Immigration New Zealand. Through these measures, the government expects to generate opportunities for local artists to acquire new skills and expertise through their interaction with international artists, as well as to improve access to diverse cultural expressions for local audiences.

Source: Quadrennial Periodic Report New Zealand, 2016