

freedom in South Africa (80 percent of those journalists trained through this program went on to become heads of media agencies). The Parliamentary Centre, a Canadian NGO, is working on a project to support press freedom in the former Yugoslavia.

- Ms. Gruer provided some ideas that could in form policy formulation:
- Training programs are a good beginning, they continue to need funding;
- It is important to educate Canadian journalists about the conditions of their colleagues abroad. She said it is difficult for individuals journalists to change their practices when the structures around them don't change. Canada needs to work multilaterally. Even most democratic countries, she noted, have instituted restrictive press laws. Despite censorship however, it is becoming increasingly difficult to restrict the flow of information;
- We need to use the instrument of human rights to enshrine freedom of expression - although the government has taken the initiative, their efforts have been scattered;
- Canada is a part of an international fora i.e. the Commonwealth which can be used;
- We need strong press councils, good libel laws;
- News crosses borders and it is cheap and effective to support underground radio.

Discussion

The ownership style of Conrad Black was further discussed, being described as "subtle and difficult to attack." His style, it was argued, was to appoint people who share his viewpoint into key positions as decision-makers.

The question was raised as to what Canada could learn from Asian societies, since, in general, their media seemed to be "more politicized and less commercial."

The appointment process for media oversight bodies was called into question, and the concern raised that patronage played an inordinate role

It was noted that the lack of coverage in Canada of Asia was not unique, that there was a similar lack in regards to other regions, Africa and Latin America being cited as examples.

There was some concern expressed about which models of press freedom are appropriate to export beyond the Canadian context. Whose press freedom are we speaking about? (e.g. what kind of institutional framework are we going to promote to China?)

Discussion of Policy Options

The discussion moved to consideration of the question: What are the ways to expand the space (or stop the shrinkage of space) for free media/ expression/ dissenting voices? A menu of ideas was generated which is provided in the following section entitled "Policy Options".