**Background**

The Israeli Producers Association (IPA) is the oldest creators’ association in the country. It represents film and television producers. Over the past year, the IPA has been engaged in a struggle to defend press freedom. Threats include harming the Israeli Public Broadcasting Corporation (IPBC) by slashing its budget, and the appointment of individuals with political interests. The IPA has engaged in legal activity, letter writing, publishing informational articles, and applying pressure both publicly and behind the scenes. It has been successful in this work – achievements include removing the previous head of the selection committee and thwarting proposed legislation that would have benefited Channel 14 at the expense of the IPBC.

Currently, the IPA is in talks with the Minister of Communications to prevent the appointment of a political figure as head of the Second Authority for Television and Radio. This post has the authority to impose sanctions on Channels 12 and 13, and to grant benefits to Channel 14, which could potentially lead to sanctions against the management of those channels. This in turn may result in the inclusion of more right-leaning commentators and analysts. Further, the IPA is promoting a liberal candidate for the post of head of the Second Authority.

We are seeking an emergency grant to support this legal and public struggle, as well as the IPA’s lobbying work to protect press freedom. This application is made in light of the anticipated reform, and in view of the IPA’s successes to date in this area.

**Workplan**

The IPA’s workplan includes behind-the-scenes lobbying work, legal work, and public-facing activities aimed at preventing damage to the media market. Goals include:

1. Monitoring and preventing political appointments of Netanyahu’s and Karhi’s people to the boards of the IPBC and the Second Authority for Television and Radio.
2. Promoting liberal candidates for these boards.
3. Lobbying the Ministry of Culture to prevent the film industry reform proposed by Minister Miki Zohar.
4. A public-facing campaign on this issue.

**Budget**

The IPA is requesting a budget of $120,000 for three months of intensive work on this project. We are recommending a grant of $30,000 that will allow the IPA to get the project off the ground and to leverage resources from other sources.

Project budget:

Salaries -- $90,000

Legal costs -- $15,000

Public relations -- $5,000

Research -- $6,000

Unexpected costs -- $4,000

**Metrics**

**Outputs**

* The IPBC council – to bring about the removal of the current committee chair before Netanyahu’s and Karhi’s associates are appointed to the IPBC council.
* Second Authority Council – to prevent a political appointee becoming chair of the Second Authority, a move that would allow Netanyahu and Karhi to put pressure on the news corporations of Channels 12 and 13.

**Purpose of the grant**

To support the IPA’s struggle against Minister Shlomo Karhi’s efforts to shrink the media space in Israel.