



International network for contemporary performing arts

**IETM International Campaign for Freedom of Expression  
In support of the IETM Satellite Meeting in Beirut  
6-9 October 2016**

**STATEMENT**

Artists' rights for freedom of expression are violated all over the world - by states, religious movements, lobbying groups, media, corporations, communities and even by artists themselves.

Censorship takes various forms, from most aggressive sanctions to most concealed constraints, including self-censorship - under fear of losing financial support or in a bid to balance between respecting and provoking political, social and religious sensibilities.

As we speak here today/tonight, more than 150 artists and cultural professionals are gathering in the Lebanese capital, Beirut, in support of on-going reforms of censorship laws in Lebanon and similar campaigns in the South-Mediterranean region.

We resort to our strongest remedy - solidarity, and join our voice to them by dedicating our event today/performance tonight to artistic freedom of expression all over the world.

