

Ole Reitov is a global human rights defender, speaker, moderator, journalist and independent consultant. In 1999, he co-founded Freemuse, the world's leading organisation defending artistic freedom and acted as Freemuse Executive Director 2013-2017. In this period, he was the Freemuse representative to the [UN Human Rights Council](#) and even served as expert consultant to the UN Special Rapporteur in the Field of Cultural Rights, Ms. Farida Shaheed.

He was the first person to be appointed [2005 UNESCO Convention Expert](#) on artistic freedom in 2015. His mandate has been renewed from 2019-2022.

Coming from a background as cultural journalist with particular focus on music and cultural policy, he worked globally in for three decades in almost 50 countries for the Danish National Broadcasting (DR), served as foreign correspondent in New Delhi for Swedish National Radio and as expert advisor for UNESCO in Bhutan, Nepal and for Sida in Mali and Botswana.

In 2000-2003, he was Director, Arts and Cultural Support, at the Danish Centre for Culture and Development, CKU, and an active member of INCD, The International Network for Cultural Diversity.

Ole Reitov co-organised and co-produced three world conferences on music censorship and initiated and produced in 2012 the world's first ever [global conference on artistic freedom](#).

He co-initiated two international networks - [artsfex](#) - the first international civil society network actively concerned with the right of artists to freedom of expression and the broadcaster network [WMCE](#) for the promotion of world music in European Radio.

Ole Reitov is the world's most quoted expert by international media on music censorship and repression of artistic freedom.

He has [moderated panels](#) on censorship at conferences, festivals and workshops in Istanbul, [Oslo](#), Mexico, Peshawar, Stockholm, Kabul, Berlin, Casablanca, Cairo, Helsinki, Islamabad, [Paris](#), Geneva, Lahore, Bilbao, Jakarta, Bruxelles, Beirut, Harare, [Addis Abeba](#) and Dakar.

As a panelist and [speaker](#), he has addressed censorship issues in more than 20 countries on five continents – most recently at World Press Freedom Day in Ethiopia 2019, Ghana 2018, Jakarta 2017, and Helsinki 2016 and at various UNESCO conferences in Paris, Casablanca, Dakar and Brussels.

As a journalist and human rights defender he has met and interviewed an impressive list of personalities such as H.H. Dalai Lama, Zygmunt Bauman, [Pussy Riot](#), Hugh Masekela, [Johnny Clegg](#), Ben Okri, [Didier Awadi](#), Peter Gabriel, [Allen Ginsberg](#), Iqbal Bano, Lata Mangeshkar, Marcel Khalife, [Deeyah Khan](#), Khaled, Rokia Traoré [Lapiro de Mbanga](#) and Ramy Essam.

## **Ole Reitov Positions**

2017- Ongoing

CEO, Ole Reitov Consultancy

Member of UNESCO Expert Facility on the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions

Member of Advisory Board - Observatoire de la diversité et des droits culturels

Institut interdisciplinaire d'éthique et des droits de l'homme (IIEDH) - Université de Fribourg

2013- 2017

Executive Director, Freemuse

Freemuse Representative to the UN Human Rights Council

2004- 2014

Programme Manager, Freemuse

2004-2005

Danish Broadcasting Corporation, Editor, various cultural programmes,

2000-2003

Director of Arts and Cultural Support at the Danish Centre for Culture and Development

1989-1994

Senior Advisor, DaniCom, Development Communication

1987-1988

India correspondent to National Swedish Radio, current affairs

1972- 2000 (with periods of leave for consultancies and other positions)

Danish Broadcasting Corporation, editor, producer, reporter and presenter at various cultural programmes.

Co-initiator and periodic chairperson of world music working group within the European Broadcasting Union

Co-founder of DaniCom, Communications & Development Unit

## **Selected lectures, consultancies and projects**

### **2019**

**BULGARIA:** National Academy For Theatre and Film Arts, Sofia, Bulgaria:

Lecture on Censorship and artistic freedom

**SWEDEN:** Swedish Arts Council: Report on the global artistic freedom landscape. Consultancy with Sara Whyatt and Mary Ann DeVlieg.

**GERMANY:** Arts Rights Justice/University of Hildesheim, Germany: Arts: Protecting and Promoting Artistic Freedom. Report co-written with Sara Whyatt

**ETHIOPIA:** UNESCO Workshop facilitator on artistic freedom as part of the quadrennial periodic report on the implementation of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, Ethiopia

World Press Freedom Day 2019 at African Union Headquarters, Addis Abeba: Moderating panel on artistic freedom.

### **2018**

**GLOBAL:** UNESCO consultant – developing training module on artistic freedom

**SENEGAL:** UNESCO consultant – conducting workshop on artistic freedom and the 2005 UNESCO Convention

**GHANA:** UNESCO consultant: Conducting periodic review training workshop for government and civil society

Panellist/speaker at World Press Freedom Day, Ghana and UNESCO Partners Forum.

**GERMANY:** University of Hildesheim, Germany – conducting workshops and writing study on artistic freedom

German Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Lecture on artistic freedom

**SWEDEN:** Nordic Ministers Council/City of Malmö – expert advisory on annual Safe Havens Conference

### **2017**

**MORROCCO:** Conducting workshop on artistic freedom

**INDONESIA:** Keynote speaker and moderator at World Press Freedom Day, Jakarta.

**FRANCE:** Speaker and panellist at “The Courage to Create: Gender Equality and the Arts”, held at UNESCO on 10 March 2017, focusing on the achievements of pioneering women and the new frontiers for gaining parity and artistic freedom.

### **2016**

**PAKISTAN:** Facilitating workshop on censorship and artistic Freedom, Islamabad.

**SWEDEN:** Lecture/seminar “Challenges to artistic freedom,” Swedish Agency for Cultural Policy Analysis.

**FINLAND:** Speaker and panellist at World Press Freedom Day, Helsinki.

**2015**

**DENMARK/GLOBAL:** CKU/UNESCO consultant – Report on monitoring of artistic freedom

**GLOBAL:** UNESCO 2015 Convention Global Report: Author of chapter on artistic freedom.

**2014**

**GLOBAL/SWITZERLAND:** Development of UPR's to the UN Human Rights Council entirely focussing on artistic freedom

Conducting international advocacy and lobbying for artistic freedom at UN level

**EGYPT:** Conducting regional workshop on artistic freedom

**AUSTRIA:** ARS ELECTRONICA FESTIVAL, Linz, Receiving Award on behalf of Freemuse and lecturing on artistic freedom.

**2013**

**NORWAY:** Arts Council Norway, National Conference: Moderating session on artistic freedom with filmmaker, Deeyah Khan.

**2012**

**GLOBAL/SWITZERLAND:** Single consultant to the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights. Writing background report on artistic freedom to the SR.

**NORWAY:** Co-organising and producing the first world conference on artistic expression, Oslo.

**2011**

Initiating the artsfex network for the promotion and protection of artistic freedom.

**2004-2010**

Organising regional training workshops on artistic freedom in Senegal, Zimbabwe, Egypt and Pakistan

Creating regional networks consisting of lawyers, human rights organisations, artists and media people

Lecturing on music & censorship, cultural diversity in a.o Mexico, USA, Germany, Turkey, Senegal, Norway, Finland, Canada and Sweden.

Organising and moderating 3<sup>rd</sup> World Conference on Music & Censorship, Istanbul, 2006

**2003**

Developing cultural programmes within the framework of ASEF/ASEM

**2002**

Co-Organising and moderating 2<sup>nd</sup> World Conference on Music & Censorship, Copenhagen

Initiating and organising international conference on Cultural Diversity

**2000**

Initiating, organising and moderating the first ever international Nordic conference on diversity of cultural expressions

**1999**

Co-founding Freemuse

**1998**

Initiating and moderating 1<sup>st</sup> World Conference on Music & Censorship

**1988/1989**

UNESCO consultant to the Bhutan Broadcasting Service

**1986-1992**

Consultant and advisor for SIDA to the Malinese project SOROFÉ, developing audio cassette cultural magazines for illiterates. Preparing for first independent radio in Mali.

**1986**

Initiating the World Music Workshop for European broadcasters presenting “world music,” within the framework of EBU.

Chairperson of the workshop

**1980-1982**

Conducting comparative research on music, media- and cultural policies in Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Kenya, the Seychelles, Tanzania, Wales, Greenland, Iceland and Denmark for the Danish Broadcasting.

Producing a series of programmes on music industries in small countries

**1979**

Free-lance correspondent, Islamabad, Pakistan

Contributing to Pakistani, Swedish and Danish media