



Sindikat kulture in narave Slovenije

Dalmatinova ulica 4, 1000 Ljubljana

glosa@sindikat-zsss.si

<http://www.sindikat-glosa.si/sl/>

Mr. Tamura Norhisa
Minister of Health, Labour and
Welfare

1-2-2 Kasumigaseki
Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8916
Japan

Ljubljana, November 19, 2020

Desperate state of freelance workers in the arts and entertainment sector in Japan

Distinguished Minister,

In GLOSA - Trade Union of Culture and Nature of Slovenia, the member of FIA (International Federation of Actors), FIM (International Federation of Musicians) and UNI Global Union / UNI MEI (the division of UNI representing workers in the media, entertainment, arts and sports sectors), we are alarmed by the **critical situation** that performers and other freelance workers in the media and entertainment industry are enduring nowadays as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the **severe measures** taken in Japan to contain the spread of the coronavirus. And that's exactly why we are writing to You – in the similar way as FIA, FIM, and UNI MEI did.

Although we understand that measures are essential to save lives, we are also seriously concerned about their far-reaching implications for thousands of independent contractors in our industry who have **no access to wage support schemes and other forms of financial assistance**, including sick pay, that are granted only to regular employees in Japan to uphold their income and help them pay their bills.

Freelance actors, musicians, and technical crew, are paying a very heavy price for these measures. Thousands of productions have been cancelled, or suspended at best, and the revenues that they

dearly counted on to make it to their next engagement have vanished. **None of them have been compensated for this financial loss!**

As a result, performers and other freelance workers in the media and entertainment sector are living **below the poverty threshold**. A large majority of them has seen their income drop by **more than fifty percent** since February 2020, and an alarming percentage is reporting living on **zero income**.

With no subsidies or emergency grants available to them, their immediate **survival** – and that of their families who rely on their already precarious income – **is at stake**. Those among them who are still fortunate enough to be engaged, have no allowances to turn to when contracting the virus and self-isolating.

Yours truly,

Mitja Šuštar
President of Glosa

