

*PEN South Africa newsletter / Issue 7, 2019 / World Press Freedom Day: Coverage of Cape Town Event; Creating a Lexicon of Terms to Combat Hate Speech; calls for submissions; new members, and more!*

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Issue 8  
**7 May 2019**  
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## World Press Freedom Day: Highlights from Cape Town event

The theme of 2019's World Press Freedom Day, '*Media for Democracy: Journalism and Elections in Times of Disinformation*', sought to galvanise discussion on not only the challenges faced by the media, but also its potential to support peace and reconciliation processes. With South Africa gearing up for its sixth general election since the advent of constitutional democracy, this theme is particularly poignant and relevant.

PEN South Africa's communications team attended a special event featuring a formidable line-up of media stalwarts and prominent press supporters hosted by The Daily Maverick, South African National Editors' Forum and Media Monitoring Africa at St. George's Cathedral in Cape Town.

**Read our snapshot of the day's proceedings.**



## Social Media, Discrimination and Intolerance in South Africa: A Lexicon of Hateful Terms

As South Africans prepare to participate in the relatively young constitutional democracy's sixth general elections on the 8th of May 2019, there is much reason for gratitude and celebration. If nothing else, the new South Africa is characterised by freedom. However, what is often overlooked is the immense responsibility the conferral of freedom imposes.

The chasm between rich and poor, the advantaged and the disadvantaged continues to increase in South Africa. That same economic disparity has exacerbated existing social frustrations, which in turn there have resulted in an upsurge in the use of hateful and racist language in the public sphere. This is particularly prevalent on social media platforms where the medium allows for anonymity. In many cases, freedom of speech is invoked to justify these utterances.

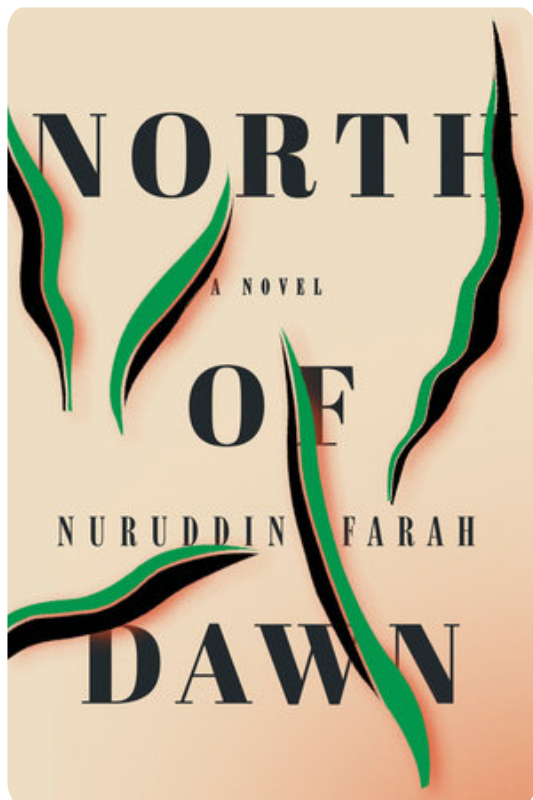
It is against this backdrop that Washington D.C.-based PeaceTech Lab – a non-profit working to reduce violent conflict using technology, media, and data - recently joined forces with Media Monitoring Africa to examine the origins, context, and influence of hateful speech in South Africa, the findings of which were published in a report, titled '*Social Media, Discrimination and Intolerance in South Africa: A Lexicon of Hateful Terms.*'

**Read more.**

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**MEMBERS' NEW TITLES**

**CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS**



New and upcoming releases from PEN SA members includes [North of Dawn](#) by Nuruddin Farah.

Please send us your new releases to [newslettereditor@pensouthafrica.co.za](mailto:newslettereditor@pensouthafrica.co.za).

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## MEMBERS' NEWS

Warmest congratulations to PEN SA professional member, Ben Williams on the launch of 'Burn after Reading', a brand new books newsletter and column for The Daily Maverick, which he will be curating and editing.

[Subscribe here.](#)

**NEW!** [Call for pieces: Living While Feminist \(Deadline 20 June\)](#)

[Submit your indigenous language poems to Basque PEN for a Year of Indigenous Languages 2019 special project. \(Deadline 15 May\)](#)

[Calling all first-time authors: submit your manuscript for the Dinaane Debut Fiction Award \(Deadline 31 May\)](#)

[Call for papers: Africa Century International African Writers Conference \(Deadline 10 June\)](#)

[Apply for the Logan Nonfiction Program \(Deadline 15 June\)](#)

[Call for Submissions: Geko Mofolo Prize for Outstanding Fiction in Sesotho \(Deadline 31 July\)](#)

[Calling all southern African women writers: submit your manuscripts to Modjaji Books \(Submissions open 1 March\)](#)

[Click here to view all calls for submissions](#)

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## WELCOME

Welcome to new PEN SA Professional Member, Amir Bagheri.

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## Upcoming Events

Refer to our May literary events calendar for information on literary festivals, book

launches, panel discussions and poetry readings – available [here](#).

*Please submit your literary events for inclusion on our events calendar by e-mailing [newslettereditor@pensouthafrica.co.za](mailto:newslettereditor@pensouthafrica.co.za).*

## Send us your news

Had a book published recently? Attended or participated in a festival? Won an award? Achieved a personal milestone of note? We welcome any news of your activities for future issues of the PEN SA newsletter. Please let us know if your email changes so we can update our mailing list.

**Please email your contributions**  
to [newslettereditor@pensouthafrica.co.za](mailto:newslettereditor@pensouthafrica.co.za)



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