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NEW MEDIA COLLECTIVE ADVANCES MOVEMENT JOURNALISM IN THE SOUTH

[April 10, 2019]—Today, a group of Southern-based journalists and organizers are launching Press On, a new media collective, in an effort to strengthen journalism by and for communities that are building power to advance justice.

“Social movements are made up of communities of people who are building power to change conditions for the better. When we talk about movement journalism, we mean journalism that strives to meet the needs of communities that are directly affected by injustice, and that are taking action toward liberation for all people,” said Anna Simonton, a co-founder of Press On.

Because the South has been home to Black freedom struggles and a wellspring of social movements, Press On will help grow the media ecosystem of this region, while also expanding movement journalism as a practice nationwide.

Press On will start by offering a Southern journalism fellowship and newsroom trainings across the country.

The Freedomways Reporting Project will enable reporting by and for Southerners directly affected by injustice. The program will support the career development of journalists and storytellers from Southern communities of color and others that have been left out of news coverage.

The Transforming Journalism Trainings will help participants examine their own practices, identify the roots of oppression within journalism today, and envision what a truly just, accountable, and community-driven approach to journalism looks like.

“Journalism has been stuck in a holding pattern for 50 years now: people of color, women, and trans and gender-nonconforming people are still few and far between in leadership and editorial roles. Meanwhile, local news in poor and rural areas has been chipped away by corporate consolidation and a changing business model, resulting in little to no access to good information for many local communities, both urban and rural. The situation calls for a transformation, not just of newsroom diversity, but of how journalism organizations are built, sustained, and led,” said Mia Henry and Lewis Wallace, Press On co-founders and trainers.

The work of Press On is made possible by generous funding from the Foundation for a Just Society and the News Integrity Initiative.

For more information on Press On, please visit www.presson.media