



## **Freedom Publishers Union**

### **Submission to Joint Standing Committee on Treaties**

*April 15, 2018*

Freedom Publishers Union would like to present our formal Submission, in response to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific (CPTPP/TPP-11).

Our organization has remained in a consistent position of opposition to this extremely complex and detailed trade deal.

As the CPTPP enters the final stages of administrative approval, and despite our position of continued opposition, we remain realistic and take the understanding that the agreement has enough support and momentum from the Australian Parliament to be ratified.

The path to approval is very close, but we still wish to outline that we remain very disappointed in the lack of transparency that has accompanied the entire process for the duration of the negotiation stages, from when the agreement was negotiated in the original TPP format through to the latest iteration which has been reformed as the CPTPP. The path of negotiation was carried out in absolute secrecy. It is very disappointing that the negotiations for CPTPP followed the same path of secrecy.

We remain concerned about key issues in the agreement, specifically:

- *Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS)*
- *Environment*
- *Intellectual Property and Copyright*
- *Pharmaceuticals*

The focus of advocacy for Freedom Publishers Union will now shrink, and shift to key political decision making points and legislation on these specific issues.

*Amit Gautam – Spokesperson*