This book offers a rigorous, theory-based, and uniquely comprehensive, analysis of European and international legal standards shaping minorities' right to freedom of expression. The analysis pays particular attention to the instrumental role played by traditional and new forms of media in ensuring that the right to freedom of expression of persons belonging to minorities is effective in practice.

The relevant international legal framework is set out in detail, including a careful examination of the relationship between generalist and minority-specific international human rights instruments. Due attention is paid to the historical circumstances in which key instruments were developed and the contemporary context in which they are now being interpreted. The analysis is also informed by an awareness of institutional and political dynamics. All of this forms the basis for the book's central objective: to mount a critical evaluation of the existing international legal framework governing freedom of expression for minorities, while drawing on theoretical insights gained from human rights scholarship and communications science.

The first major focus of the evaluation is the regulation and restriction of expression to protect minority rights, in which issues such as pluralism, tolerance and "hate speech" feature centrally. Its second major focus, the regulation and facilitation of expression to promote minority rights, explores cultural and linguistic rights and media access questions.
The media then has a central role to play in the freedom of information and freedom of expression. On the other hand, Governments often dislike influential alternative and critical voices. The matter of media and freedom of expression have received a different treatment from the period of apartheid to the period of post-apartheid in South Africa. The apartheid government used their own laws to regulate media freedom. Like liberal scholars, they point to the importance of free expression and rational deliberation within the public sphere. Any account of freedom of expression muddles the distinctions which these approaches pivot (Sterling, 2009:634). The idea that individuals should be free to publish whatever they want, thus attack on government are common and encouraged. Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice. 1 In its very first session, the UN General Assembly declared that the Freedom of Information [which inheres in the Freedom of Expression] is a fundamental human right and...the touchstone of all the freedoms to which the United Nations is consecrated.” See Resolution 59(1), 14 December 1946.