Fostering the safety of journalists

UNESCO has supported extra-curricular safety training courses in eight universities throughout the West Bank and Gaza and is now working to ensure the adoption of a Model UNESCO Course on Safety as an integral part of the curriculum of media students in Palestine.

UNESCO has trained hundreds of Palestinian journalists on safety-related issues, including conflict-sensitive journalism, reporting in dangerous contexts, and international standards regarding freedom of expression.

Strengthening professional and ethical standards

UNESCO has contributed to improving the overall quality of media content in Palestine through capacity-building activities to enhance the professional skills of journalists and the promotion of self-regulation.

UNESCO has initiated the development of a code of ethics to guide media professionals in their work, trained reporters in investigative journalism, and helped launch a network of citizen journalists.

Promoting balanced gender representation in the media

Ensuring a better representation of women in the media has been a key priority for UNESCO. Since 2013, some 200 journalists have benefitted from UNESCO-supported training on gender-sensitive reporting or training specifically tailored to the needs of female journalists. UNESCO supported the creation of a Female Journalists’ Club in Gaza and facilitated psycho-social counselling for women journalists.

Promoting youth’s representation in the media

UNESCO also works to foster an improved representation of young women and men in the media. Youth organizations have gained capacities for media monitoring, and built linkages with media outlets to reinforce their advocacy and channel young voices into public dialogue. UNESCO also facilitated efforts advancing Media and Information Literacy, youth-led media production and exchanges among young Palestinian journalists with peers from other countries.

Awareness-raising through World Press Freedom Day (3 May) and World Radio Day (13 February)

UNESCO organizes annual celebrations of World Press Freedom Day in Palestine on 3 May to raise awareness of the importance of media freedom. The themes of the 2016 and 2017 celebrations were “Access to Information and Fundamental Freedoms” and “Critical Minds for Critical Times” respectively.

In line with the global themes of World Radio Day in 2016 and 2017, UNESCO supported the production of a live one-hour broadcast on the role of radio in times of war and emergencies and organized an awareness raising campaign on youth and radio.