

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY 2018

KEEPING POWER IN CHECK:
MEDIA, JUSTICE AND THE RULE OF LAW

3 MAY

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Keeping Power in Check: Media, Justice and the Rule of Law

Provisional Agenda WPF2018

Accra, 2-3 May 2018

Plenary Session 1

Title: *Media under Fire: What are the new challenges to press freedom 27 years after the Windhoek Declaration?*

Topic:

This plenary will discuss the current challenges to press freedom and freedom of expression, including freedom of artistic expression. 25 years after the first edition of World Press Freedom Day, press freedom is not an established fact, but a goal that constantly needs to be fought for. UNESCO's report on World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development has shown that even in countries where freedom of expression is constitutionally guaranteed, political developments and power shifts have been trending towards a clampdown on press freedom. New challenges, related to political developments, technological advances and national security concerns, require advocates of press freedom to constantly battle for its preservation and further enhancement. The recent trend of rising criticism of the media by political figures encourages self-censorship and undermines the media's credibility. The recent rise in verbal attacks on the media by political figures has encouraged self-censorship and undermined the media's credibility. Self-censorship is also a result of misogyny and sexual harassment targeting women journalists. While there is a trend towards greater access to information, partly due to technology, repression of free speech remains a crucial problem in many countries. This comes at a time of unprecedented business challenges for news media around the world, weakening the ability to maintain editorial independence.

The world over, freedom of expression needs to be defended on many fronts: political attacks against the media, the issue of freedom of expression online and physical attacks against journalists are only some examples. Furthermore, an ever-changing political environment and

developing media landscape also require the development of adequate legal structures and laws strengthening freedom of expression.

This plenary will thus offer an occasion to scrutinize the situation of press freedom in 2018: Where are we concerning freedom of expression globally? What are the most pressing current challenges? How can freedom of expression be upheld and defended in 2018?

Plenary Session 2

Title: *Focus on investigative Journalism : Uncovering corruption and political malpractice*

Topic:

This panel will focus on investigative journalism and specifically, its role in uncovering corruption and political malpractice. Journalists are keeping power in check by researching malpractice, uncovering illegal activities and connections, and making this information accessible to the public. Recently, journalists have especially excelled in uncovering financial and political scandals such as tax evasion schemes, money laundering and misuse of political power. In response to the increasingly transnational nature of corruption and financial scandals, journalists have formed international networks to collaborate in their investigations, relying more on exchanging and storing information online. The ambition to confront power makes investigative journalists frequent targets of physical attacks and legal action, aimed at silencing journalists. Due to the threats against their work, source protection is especially important for investigative journalists.

Questions:

- What are the specific risks that investigative journalists are currently facing?
- What initiatives can be taken to address these risks?
- How can legal source-protection online and offline safeguard investigative journalists and their sources?
- How can international networks of investigative journalists amplify media's work in uncovering corruption? How do such networks organize themselves and do they provide additional protection for the journalists involved?

Parallel Session 1

Title: *Right to information: How can freedom of Information laws contribute to sustainable development in Africa?*

Format:

Panel discussion:

- Brief presentation (max. 8 min) of AFIC report “The State of Right to Information in Africa Report”
- Followed by a panel discussion featuring participants from different African countries

Summary:

- What is the current state of affairs in Africa?
- Context of target SDG 16.10 – ensuring public access to information
- Only 21 out of African 54 countries have specific RTI legislation
- How can states be encouraged to adopt the [Draft Model law](#) on RTI for Africa by the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR)

Parallel Session 2

Title: *Covering elections and electoral campaigns: old and new challenges in times of media disinformation*

Format:

Panel discussion

Summary:

- In recent elections around the globe, there have been attempts to use fabricated media reports as a way of manipulating the electorate
- How can professional journalism amplify its distinctiveness from disinformation posing as news, and from the mass of unverified information and uninformed comment that pervades the social media-scape?
- How can the news media help to build a culture of openness and disclosure, and contribute to the media and information literacy of audiences?
- What strategies can be used to counter a growing trend in the over-reach of internet shut-downs as a means to curtail freedom of expression in the run-up to elections?

Parallel Session 3

Title: *Ensuring the Rule of Law and fighting impunity: What role for the judiciary in enhancing freedom of expression?*

Format:

Round Table

- Outcome- / result- based
- Aim is not principally high interaction with the audience, but to produce a tangible outcome

Summary:

- The objective is to exchange experience on UNESCO’s training for judges and to expand the scope of the project to West Africa
- UNESCO’s project aims at strengthening capacities of judicial actors on Freedom of Expression and Safety of Journalists

- In the context of SDG16, target 16.10 : “Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental rights”
- This project was first implemented in Latin America, where 5000 judicial actors were successfully trained through Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) between 2014 and 2017; it is also currently being implemented in African countries
- Expected outcomes of this session are:
 - Exchange of lessons learnt from the training
 - Mobilizing interest for replication of the training

Parallel Session 4

Title:

Joint Launch of the UNESCO Report on “World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development” and the UNESCO Global Report “Re/Shaping Cultural Policies”

Format:

- Panel discussion and launch of two global UNESCO reports

Parallel Session 5

Title: *Promoting Journalists’ Safety and Countering Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists in Africa*

Format:

The proposed session will be for one hour and will feature a panel of four speakers who will speak to the topic in the form of a discussion facilitated by a moderator. The panel discussion will last for 30 minutes and it will be followed by a question and answer session for another 30 minutes.

Summary:

This session will provide an opportunity for selected speakers from the region to share with and engage participants on the context of safety of journalists in Africa, lessons learnt over the years and ways of improving conditions for journalists and countering impunity for crimes against journalists going forward.

Parallel Session 6

Title: *Debate: Does online speech need regulation or self-regulation?*

Format:

Moderated debate:

- 6 participants (2 teams)
- Participants representing two different sets of opinion (for and against regulation of speech online)
- Participants who promote state regulation on internet
- And participants who promote some form of (self-) regulation
- Moderator who is well-informed about the subject and knows how to manage a debate by asking critical questions and summarizing the essential aspects raised by the participants

Summary:

- What can effective self-regulation look like?

- Is it possible to regulate online speech at scale with algorithms - without unjustifiably restricting freedom of expression in the process?
- Online media, internet service providers, search engines, social networks –what are the roles of the different actors?
- Sharing good practices and potential dangers/ challenges

Parallel Session 7

Title: *Internet shutdowns and service restrictions – ‘new tools’ in restricting the free flow of information?*

Format:

Lightning talks or Debate

- Participants from diverse backgrounds (online legislation experts, activists promoting an open and accessible internet, media affected by shutdowns,...)

Summary:

- Internet shutdowns are increasingly used as a tool to disrupt the flow of communication and information
- Shutdowns can range from partial shutdowns, such as the blocking of specific communication tools or social media platforms, to the full closing down of the internet for a given period within a geographical area
- Internet shutdowns and the blocking of communication tools often occur in the lead-up or aftermath of elections and during times of political unrest
- They can constitute a violation of human rights, since they block the free flow of information. They can also disrupt the media’s work, impeding reporting and information-sharing
- When tools for encrypted communication are targeted, citizens’ ability to share information privately is affected. This constitutes a particularly grave threat to human rights defenders, journalists and activists.

This panel will thus discuss:

- When and where do internet shutdowns occur and what are justifications used to disrupt access to the internet or specific services?
- Can national security concerns ever justify such measures?
- What are the effects on the media?

Legal aspects:

- How should the law deal with internet shutdowns?
- Right to encryption
- ‘Trumping’ effect of national security / anti-terrorism laws

Parallel Session 8

Title: *Joint Session Special Rapporteurs*

Format:

Panel discussion

Parallel Session 9

Title: *Sexual and gender-based harassment in the media industry*

Format:

Storytelling, followed by a moderated discussion:

- Each participant may share their story (maximum 5 minutes)
- Following the storytelling, the moderator will initiate a discussion based on the experiences, the discussion will focus on how gender-based harassment can be fought, how victims can be helped and what kind of mechanisms can prevent gender-based harassment and violence in the media industry

Summary:

- Gender-based violence and in particular sexual harassment has been a frequently covered topic in the last months, more and more victims from different industries (such as film, politics, technology) have come forward
- How significant is the problem of sexual harassment within the media industry?
- What forms of sexual harassment are media workers experiencing, including online?
- What are the experiences of LGBTQI journalists?
- What role has the media played in the #MeToo revelations and how should the media coverage of this issue be assessed?
- What initiatives exist to assist victims of sexual harassment and violence in the media industry and what more can be done?

Parallel Session 10

Title: *Changing the Gaze: Repositioning Africa through Press Photography and Videography*

Format:

Panel discussion:

- This discussion will be based on photos provided by the panelists
- Each panelist will provide 3-5 images previous to the debate
- The moderator will choose up to three images per panelist and prepare questions accordingly

Summary:

- Africa is often represented through images of conflict and poverty, reproducing stereotypes
- How can stereotypical representations of Africa be countered through images provided by African photographers?
- In what way does photojournalism perpetuate stereotypes about Africa and what initiatives have African photographers / African media taken to counter such stereotypes?
- What is the state of African press photography?

Parallel Session 11

Title: *National Mechanisms for the Safety of Journalists in Africa*

Format:

Round Table

- Outcome- / result- based
- Aim is not principally high interaction with the audience, but to produce a tangible outcome

Summary:

- What are the main safety challenges for journalists in Africa?
- What has been the impact of national initiatives for the safety of journalists on the Continent?
- Exchange good practices (eg. With participants of UNESCO’s regional conference in East Africa and representative(s) of the African Union)
- How can these initiatives be scaled up and institutionalized in a way that ensures multi-stakeholder participation?
- How can the implementation of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists in Africa be reinforced?
- Outcome-based session responding to questions such as:
 - What could specific mechanisms look like?
 - How to involve the essential stakeholders?

Parallel Session 12

Title: *International Media Organizations: Ensuring effective safety protocols for journalists*

Format:

Outcome based panel discussion

- Each panelist will be asked to provide two examples of how their organization protects its journalists
- Then, each panellist will be asked to provide two concrete recommendations about what more media organizations could do to enhance the safety of their staff
- If the facilities allow for it, the discussion will take place in a fishbowl setting: audience sits around the panel
- Audience should be engaged, asking the panellists questions

Summary:

- Participants will discuss ways in which their organization contributes to safety of journalism and how safety mechanisms of the company should be improved

Parallel session 13 :

Title: *Towards the Piloting of Internet Universality Indicators*

Format:

- Panel discussion

Parallel session 14 :

Title: *Artistic freedom in the digital age*

Format:

Storytelling:

- Panel participants will each recount an experience (maximum 5 minutes per person)
- Following the storytelling, the moderator will encourage a debate among the participants, based on the individual experiences

Summary:

- Digital platforms (Instagram, youtube, soundcloud, etc) on which artists publicly display and promote their work also bring with them threats to rights and freedoms: online ‘trolling’, individual artworks removed, entire accounts blocked, etc.
- What is the documentation/empirical evidence of the extent of surveillance and other restrictions on the digital environment specifically as it relates to artists/artworks?

- Are ISPs censorship mechanisms (such as guidelines on ‘standards of behaviour’) having a corrosive effect on arts freedom?
- What are the ways to negotiate or counter attempts to suppress artistic freedom?
- Are women artists more greatly affected by digital restrictions?
- What are the models and good practices to be developed for documentation, analysis, monitoring and advocacy regarding artistic freedom in the digital environment?

Parallel session 15:

Title: <i>Investigative Journalism: Ethics and risk mitigation</i>
Format: <u>Storytelling, followed by debate</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-5 investigative journalists will each recount an experience of an especially risky work situation / of security threats • Each presentation will not exceed 5 minutes • After the storytelling presentations, a moderated panel discussion will take place • The moderator will channel the discussion into a more academic, structured discussion on ethics and risk mitigation in investigative journalism
Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigative journalists often work in extremely dangerous conditions • How much risk can/ should journalists take? • What measures can be taken to mitigate the risks? • Do the ends justify the means when it comes to investigative journalism? • Is it ethical to use any investigative technique, including false identities or hidden cameras, to expose wrongdoing? • How can the tension between the public’s rights to know and an individual’s claim to anonymity and privacy be addressed?

Parallel session 16: lunch session

Title: <i>Fighting Fakes – the Nordic way</i>
Partner: Nordic Council
Format: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 participants • lunch meeting
Summary: Propaganda, lies, disinformation and fake factory stories are threats against the credibility of media. The Nordics urge for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media and Information Literacy not only in the educational system but widespread in the society • Strong focus on ethics and self-regulatory entities - respected by any authority • Optimizing quality in media including support of financially sustainable media

Award Ceremony UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize

On 2 May, The Director-General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay, will have the honour to award the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize.

Created in 1997, the annual UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize honours a person, organization or institution that has made an outstanding contribution to the defence and, or promotion of press freedom anywhere in the world, and especially when this has been achieved in the face of danger.

The Prize was established on the initiative of UNESCO's Executive Board and is formally conferred by the Director-General of the Organization, on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day. It is named in honour of Guillermo Cano Isaza, a Colombian journalist who was assassinated in front of the offices of his newspaper El Espectador in Bogotá, Colombia on 17 December 1986.

Academic Conference on the Safety of Journalists:

An academic conference, during which new research on the safety of journalists will be presented and discussed, will be held alongside the parallel sessions on 2 May. Hosted by the University of Ghana, it will focus on the following themes:

- Systemic failure in rule of law; and impunity for crimes against journalists
- National mechanisms and their effectiveness for the prevention of violence against journalists, protection of journalists, and monitoring and prosecution of attacks.
- Gender-based threats and sexual harassment in the media
- Motivation for attacks against journalists and types of perpetrators
- Digital aspects of journalists' safety
- Safety of journalists covering sensitive cultural issues (e.g. ethnic contestation, chieftaincy, LGBTQI)
- Photo/video journalism and safety
- Working conditions and the protection of journalists

Policy Lab on National Safety Mechanisms

The conference will for the first time accommodate a Policy Lab, organized in partnership with the University of Ghana and the Global Development Network. This special session will be organized on the morning of 3 May, 2018 and will offer a unique opportunity for high-quality interactions between researchers and policy actors (broadly understood) who work on a same issue. The topic chosen for this first Policy Lab are **national mechanisms for prevention, protection against and prosecution of violence against journalists: emerging models and their effectiveness.**

Youth Newsroom

A youth newsroom will be set up to engage journalism students and young reporters from all corners of the world in covering the discussions and events at WPF. Photographers, videographers, social media producers, and other journalists will work together, guided by a team of experienced journalists and editors.

Trainings and Workshops:

TBC

Potential Side events

	Drop-in legal advice for journalists (tbc)
	Photo exhibition: World Press Photo
	Photo exhibition Ghanaian artists
	Concert (artist tbc)
	Film Screening (tbc)