# Trends in Media freedom

CONTINUED LEGAL RESTRICTIONS, including defamation, insult, blasphemy and lèse-majesté laws





Number of internet shutdowns\*

INCREASE IN BLOCKING, filtering and shutdowns



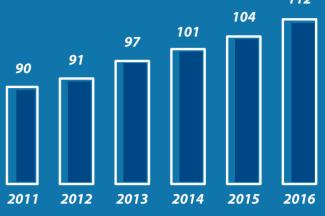
**DIGITAL MEDIA** have raised new challenges for **privacy** and **journalist source protection** 



NATIONAL SECURITY CONCERNS, states of emergency and antiterrorism laws have curtailed freedom of expression







**INCREASED RECOGNITION** of the public's right to access information



UNESCO MEMBER STATES HAVE GIVEN SUPPORT FOR INTERNET UNIVERSALITY, for an internet that is Rights-based, Open, Accessible and Multi-Stakeholder (R.O.A.M principles)

**IMPARTING INFO: CURBED** 

RECEIVING INFO: ENHANCED

## Trends in

Media pluralism

Percentage of individuals with access to the internet<sup>\*</sup>



**NEARLY HALF THE WORLD'S POPULATION** now has access to the internet



THE AVAILABILITY OF MEDIA **CONTENT** has dramatically increased, largely through sharing and user-generated content on social media



THE PRACTICE OF 'ZERO-RATING' has increased pluralism in terms of access, but it has raised concerns about limiting net neutrality

**NEWSPAPER CIRCULATION\*\*\*** has fallen in all regions, except in Asia and the Pacific



**WOMEN REMAIN UNDERREPRESENTED IN MEDIA\*\*,** making up only:







1 IN 5 EXPERTS INTERVIEWED



**ALGORITHM-RANKED** search results and social media news feeds have contributed to the creation of 'echo chambers' and 'filter bubbles', where people reinforce their beliefs rather than dialogue across differences

TRENDS IN MEDIA FREEDOM

**EXPANDED ACCESS** 

NARROWED CHOICE

## Trends in

## Media independence



RISE IN RHETORIC AGAINST
THE MEDIA by political
figures is encouraging selfcensorship and undermining

INCREASED
DEPENDENCE ON
government and
corporate subsidies is
linked to disruptions in
business models



TRUST IN NEWS
MEDIA is seen to
have declined in
some regions



BROADCAST LICENSING
continues to be driven
by political and
commercial interests





#### SELF-REGULATORY BODIES,

which can support the exercise of professional standards while maintaining editorial independence, have grown in post-conflict and developing countries



INCREASED SELF-REGULATORY
EFFORTS BY INTERNET
INTERMEDIARIES are promoting
media and information literacy,
counteracting 'fake news' and
tackling online abuse

VULNERABILITY/CAPTURE

RESILIENCE/RESISTANCE

### Trends in the Safety of journalists **MEMBER STATES HAVE BECOME MORE RESPONSIVE** to UNESCO's requests on the safety of JOURNALISTS WERE KILLED, Western Europe and North America journalists, 2013-2017 Central and Eastern Europe Asia and the Pacific **MAP OF JOURNALISTS KILLED BY REGION, 2012 - 2016** Latin America and the Caribbean Arab States **OF ACTION** on the safety of journalists **IMPUNITY FOR** and the **CRIMES AGAINST** issue of **JOURNALISTS** impunity 9 in 10 **CASES GROWING THREATS** TO DIGITAL SAFETY **REMAIN** include cyberattacks, **UNPUNISHED** surveillance, hacking intimidation and rise in online harassment, especially of women journalists

**WIDENING ATTACKS** 

**INCREASING RESPONSES**