

World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development

GLOBAL REPORT 2017/2018



Take away

Press freedom is in major flux, pulled forward in some respects, but going backwards in more.

- Media freedom: mainly negative trends
- Media pluralism: yes ... & no
- Media independence: on the back foot
- Journalists' safety: it could even have been worse!



Enabling environment

Environment for news institutions:

UNESCO assesses this using the frame of the Windhoek Declaration

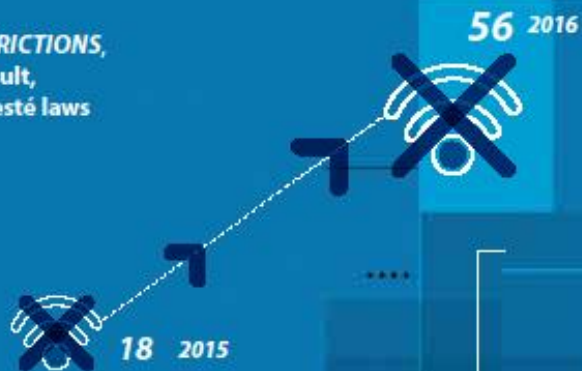
- Freedom
- Independence
- Safety
- Having a plurality of media choices

All with gender-sensitivity



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



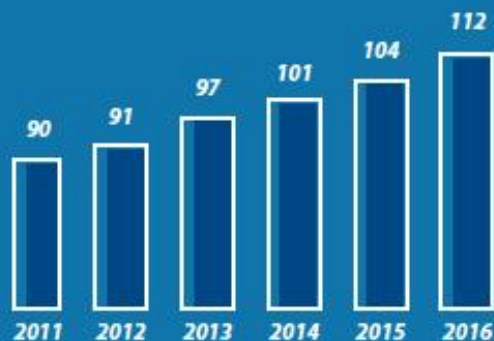
DIGITAL MEDIA have raised new challenges for **privacy** and **journalist source protection**



NATIONAL SECURITY CONCERNS, states of emergency and anti-terrorism laws have **curtailed freedom of expression**



Countries with freedom of Information laws**



INCREASED RECOGNITION of the public's right to access information



R.O.A.M.

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)**

Trends in Media independence



RISE IN RHETORIC AGAINST THE MEDIA by political figures is encouraging self-censorship and undermining media's credibility

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

530 JOURNALISTS WERE KILLED, Between 2012 and 2016

MAP OF JOURNALISTS KILLED BY REGION, 2012 - 2016

- Western Europe and North America
- Central and Eastern Europe
- Africa
- Asia and the Pacific
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Arab States



IMPUNITY FOR CRIMES AGAINST JOURNALISTS

9 in 10 CASES REMAIN UNPUNISHED



GROWING THREATS TO DIGITAL SAFETY include cyberattacks, surveillance, hacking, intimidation and rise in online harassment, especially of women journalists



MEMBER STATES HAVE BECOME MORE RESPONSIVE to UNESCO's requests on the safety of journalists, 2013-2017



UN PLAN OF ACTION on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity

WIDENING ATTACKS

INCREASING RESPONSES

Trends in Media pluralism

Percentage of Individuals with access to the Internet*



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



RATING

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 4 MEDIA DECISION-MAKERS



1 IN 3 REPORTERS



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



EXPANDED ACCESS

NARROWED CHOICE

It's a wrap

We've covered:

- **F**reedom, **I**ndependence, **S**afety, **H**ow much choice (pluralism)
- Good, the bad and the mixed trends



Where to?

- Protect the F.I.S.H against extinction
- *Save the SDG alarm system*
- Prevent the escalation of toxic trends
- *Get the positive trends to Trending Now!*
- *PLEASE, DEBATE THE ISSUES IN YOUR COUNTRY*

