



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

***HOW TO ACTIVELY SUPPORT
FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND
THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS***

**Stand with UNESCO for a
free and safe environment for journalists**





The current state of freedom of expression

Journalists around the world face increasing risks in the exercise of their work. Yet, the issue of journalists' safety has become a priority not only for UNESCO, but also for the UN system as a whole, with the adoption in 2012 of a UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. In addition, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the importance of public access to information, fundamental freedoms and the safety of journalists for the creation of peaceful, just and inclusive societies, under Goal 16, Target 10.

As the UN agency in charge of promoting freedom of expression and press freedom around the world, UNESCO works closely with Member States, media organizations, other UN agencies and civil society organizations to shape policies and regulations to protect press freedom, support independent media, reinforce capacities and create a safe environment for journalists around the world.

Photo: ©Amira Morrada

The Special Account on Freedom of Expression and Journalists' Safety

The Special Account gives UNESCO the flexibility to channel funds towards emerging programmatic priorities and adapt to the most pressing needs to achieve our Programme's Expected Results. It provides significant advantages to address complex freedom of expression and safety of journalists' issues, by designing and implementing large projects at national, regional and global levels.

The clear advantage of this mechanism is that it allows UNESCO and its partners to achieve greater scale, impact and sustainability.



Involves multiple donors, the contributions are pooled into a single account, and expenditure is not linked to any specific donation.



Falls under the authority of the Director-General and is managed by the Secretariat at Headquarters.



Provides consolidated narrative and financial reporting on the use of the pooled resources to all donors.



The contributions are considered as voluntary contributions. Donor's commitment is reflected in the documents submitted to UNESCO's governing bodies.



UNESCO charges a reduced overhead cost of 10%.



Contributions are processed efficiently through a signed contribution letter.

Ensuring Programme Objectives

Contributions to the Special Account advance the attainment of UNESCO's objectives for Communication and Information 2018-2021, in line with its 39 C/5 programme, specifically to:

- Enhance freedom of expression, including press freedom and the right to access information, online and off-line.
- Reinforce the safety of journalists by implementing the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, including during times of crisis and transition.
- Promote media pluralism and diversity, especially youth empowerment and gender equality, and empower citizens through media and information literacy competencies.



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Your investment makes an impact

The Special Account helps UNESCO intensify its work for the universal safety of journalists and media workers and address global challenges to freedom of expression:

- ⦿ Growing threats to freedom of expression and press freedom and the curtailment of independent and pluralistic media online and off-line.
- ⦿ Lack of media and information literacy (MIL) competencies, for people to be able to consume media critically, at a time of 'fake news' and 'alternative facts'
- ⦿ The extent of the risks faced by journalists and the high-levels of impunity of crimes against them, is demonstrated by over 800 killings recorded by UNESCO over the course of ten years. Less than 8% of these cases have been judicially resolved.
- ⦿ Gender parity has come to a standstill in media. Gender-sensitiveness has regressed.
- ⦿ Growing challenges with the new digital environment such as hate speech and corruption of elections through abuse of social media.

#PRESSFREEDOM

#JOURNOSAFE

Support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Freedom of expression and freedom of information are indispensable for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in building peaceful, just and inclusive societies:



SDG 16

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 seeks to 'promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels'. Target 16.10 aims to 'ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements'.



SDG 4

SDG 5



Work to improve gender equality in the media forms an important component of efforts around SDG 5, and to empower citizens to understand the functions of media and other information providers, to critically evaluate their content, and to make informed decisions as users and producers of content (SDG 4). Freedom of expression and media pluralism are key enablers for all SDGs.

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