

Model Table assisting responses by Member States

Section 1: Table

Current List of Journalists Killed (as condemned by the UNESCO Director-General) and Legal Investigations (as reported by UNESCO Member States)

Date: To be sent to UNESCO **before 30 May 2020**

Name of journalist	Gender	Date of alleged murder	Investigating Authority	Case Number	Current Status	Verdict	Additional remarks
Ján Kuciak	Male	21 February 2018	National Criminal Agency of the Slovak Republic		<p><i>Trial of this case is still in progress; two persons were already charged, three more are tried before the court. The main hearing is expected to close in the coming weeks. Since last year reporting to UNESCO, preparatory proceedings for this case were terminated and on 21 October 2019 the Prosecutor has filed criminal charges against four persons before the Specialized Criminal Court in Pezinok on suspicion of criminal offenses, including ordering, aiding and committing of a premeditated assassination of late Ján Kuciak.</i></p> <p><i>During the main court proceedings, one of the indicted persons has admitted to committing the criminal offences and therefore this person was found guilty and on 6 April 2020 the court imposed an unconditional sentence of imprisonment for 23 years (the court decision is not valid yet). For the sake of completeness, it should be noted that this person is the direct executor of the killing / murder of Ján Kuciak.</i></p> <p><i>Criminal proceedings – the main hearing in relation to the other three persons is still in progress. To date (21.5.2020), a total of 15 hearings took place and the main hearing is expected to close in the coming weeks.</i></p>		

					<i>In addition to these persons, another person admitted to participating in the assassination of Ján Kuciak - in the form of mediation. An agreement on guilt and punishment was concluded in relation to this person, and as part of this proceeding, this person was imposed an unconditional imprisonment of 15 years on 31 December 2019. This person is already serving that sentence.</i>		
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Section 2: Positive or Innovative Measures the Member State is taking to promote safety of journalists and combat impunity

Activity	Actors	Outcome(s)
<i>In July 2018, Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic established a Temporary Working Group aimed at legal protection of journalists. Two meetings were held so far.</i>	<i>Government officials, security and police forces, civil society and media actors</i>	<p><i>First meeting agreed a working plan. Definition of a journalist for legal purposes was drafted.</i></p> <p><i>Second meeting was devoted to the review of the amendment of the Press Act that will be the subject of further discussions by the Temporary Working Group.</i></p> <p><i>The activity of the temporary working group has been postponed since the beginning of the parallel negotiations at the National Council regarding another amendment to the Press Act which was adopted in September 2019.</i></p> <p><i>However, given the fact that the Ministry of Culture places great emphasis on respect for media freedom and independence, protection of journalists is still a topical and not less intensively discussed issue, thus Ministry of Culture plans to continue focusing on this topic. Furthermore, the new government elected in February 2020 determined the improvement of the position of journalists as one of the priorities in its government policy statement.</i></p> <p><i>With a view to the transposition of the revised Audiovisual Media Services Directive to the Slovak legislation, during the upcoming legislation process there will be opportunity for further improvement of the position of journalists and other media workers to ensure their protection and effective investigation and prosecution of crimes against them.</i></p>

<p><i>Since 2019 the Slovak Republic has been a member of the Media Freedom Coalition.</i></p>		<p><i>In this partnership it supports the freedom of speech and the security and guarantee of the media's ability to do its work in a safe environment.</i></p> <p><i>On 30 April 2020 the Slovak Republic joined the Declaration of the Media Freedom Coalition that was published on the occasion of the World Press Freedom Day.</i></p>
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Section 3: Steps the Member State has taken to consider the specific risks faced by women journalists in the exercise of their work

Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic established a temporary working group aimed at protection of journalists, including women journalists.

Section 4: Agreement to post the submitted information on UNESCO's dedicated webpage

Yes