



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



World Press
Freedom Day

ACADEMIC CONFERENCE ON THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS

Windhoek, Namibia 2021

CALL FOR PAPERS

Important Dates

- **Deadline for submission of abstracts: 20 March 2021**
- **Deadline for submission of final papers: 26 April 2021**
- **Academic conference: one afternoon on 1-3 May, 2021, participation mainly online**

Description:

Within the framework of the World Press Freedom Day (WPF) celebrations (1-3 May), the sixth edition of the Academic Conference on the Safety of Journalists is being convened in Windhoek and broadcast online. The Academic Conference on Safety of Journalists is jointly organized by the University of Namibia, UNESCO and the Government of Namibia.

World Press Freedom Day has its origins in a UNESCO conference in Windhoek, Namibia in 1991. The 2021 global event returns World Press Freedom Day to its roots, focusing on contemporary issues for freedom of expression, access to information and the public service role of journalism within the changed communications ecosystem.

The Academic Conference is an integral part of the World Press Freedom Conference and has been organized since 2016 to bring together researchers from different disciplines working on issues related to the safety of journalists. It also offers the possibility for researchers to connect with decision-makers and media practitioners. At the Academic Conference, researchers such as members of the [Journalism Safety Research Network \(JSRN\)](#) (link is external) come together to exchange knowledge on safety of journalists, to strengthen the field of research and ultimately, contribute to safer environments for journalist.

According to UNESCO research, nearly 900 journalists were killed during the past decade. Journalists throughout the world face safety threats, online and offline, diverse types of

attacks, and in the worst cases, killing. UNESCO is the mandated agency within the United Nations that promotes freedom of expression and freedom of the press as well as leads the coordination of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity.

The event aims at bridging the gap between academic research, the experience of journalists on the ground and policy makers. The theme of World Press Freedom Day 2021 is “Information as a Public Good - 30 years of the Windhoek Declaration”.

The Academic Conference committee welcomes submissions/ papers/ research on all aspects of safety of journalists and impunity for crimes against journalists.

Topics that are especially encouraged for the 2021 Academic Conference are:

- Specific threats faced by women journalists online and offline
- The safety of journalists covering protests, conflict and natural disasters
- Impact of internet shutdowns on journalistic work
- Safety of Journalists and Access to Information
- COVID-19 and safety of journalists
- Digital media technologies and safety of journalists
- Impact of communication surveillance on journalistic work

Please also find a comprehensive list of potential research topics in [UNESCO's Research Agenda on Journalists' Safety](#).

Submission for the Academic Conference:

Please submit abstracts of a maximum 300 words by **20 March** 2021 to: Antonette Kakujaha-Murangji (akakujaha@unam.na) and Theresa Chorbacher (t.chorbacher@unesco.org)

The deadline for full paper submissions is on 26 April 2021 at the latest.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, participation will most likely be through virtual platform. The conference organizers will investigate publication opportunities for the best papers presented at the Conference.