

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 2022**

Name of journalist	Gender	Date of alleged murder	Investigating Authority	Case Number	Current Status	Verdict	Additional remarks
Lyra McKee	Female	18 April 2019	PSNI – Police Services of Northern Ireland	Unknown	The case is under official investigation. Criminal justice proceedings are ongoing.	.	<p>Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the evening of 18 April, PSNI carried out searches in the Creggan area of Londonderry. During the searches a crowd of up to 100 people gathered. PSNI came under attack; some 50 petrol bombs were thrown at police and three hijacked vehicles were set on fire. During the disorder a number of shots were fired at police by a male with a handgun injuring Lyra McKee, a 29 year old journalist who was standing near police lines. PSNI administered first aid and transported her to Altnagelvin hospital but she later died from her injuries. In February 2020 an individual was charged with her murder. On 16 September 2021 the PSNI charged two individuals in connection with the murder of Lyra McKee in addition to possession of a firearm and ammunition with intent to endanger life, riot, possession of petrol bombs, throwing petrol bombs and arson.

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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)
<p>On 9 March 2021, the UK published a National Action Plan for the Safety of Journalists.</p>	<p>Government officials, Prosecution Services, security and police forces, civil society and media actors. The plan has been endorsed by the National Committee for the Safety of Journalists, membership of which comprises industry stakeholders including the National Union of Journalists and Society of Editors.</p>	<p>This Plan - the UK's first ever National Action Plan for the Safety of Journalists - acknowledges that there is work that we must do fully to understand the scale of the problem, while recognizing that there is already much that can be done to begin to tackle it. This work is critical in its own right, and serves to support the wider work this government is doing both to uphold freedom of speech - in particular protecting journalistic content from censorship and takedown online - and to address intimidation of those in public life.</p> <p>Objective</p> <p>Our aim is to ensure that journalists operating in the UK are as safe as possible, reducing the number of attacks on and threats issued to journalists and ensuring those that are responsible for such are brought to justice. In order to support this goal, we are taking steps to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase our understanding of the problem (For example: In March 2022 the UK's Department for Culture Media and Sport with the National Union of Journalists and the Society of Editors, launched a survey to further our understanding of journalists' experiences of abuse and threats); 2. Enhance the criminal justice system response in tackling crimes against journalists; 3. Support journalists and their employers to build the resources they need to protect personal safety; 4. Help online platforms to tackle the wider issue of abuse online; and 5. Improve public recognition of the value of journalists.

		<p>This Plan has not emerged from an empty page. It builds on action that is already being taken by the police, by employers, by organizations such as the News Media Association (NMA), and the Society of Editors, by the NUJ, by prosecutors across the UK, by the National Council for the Training of Journalists (NCTJ), and by many others besides. It reflects the important programme of work that has come out of the Government's response to the Committee on Standards in Public Life's Review of Intimidation in Public Life and it draws inspiration from the long-standing efforts led by the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) to support media freedom across the world, from assistance to projects in developing countries that promote and support media freedom, to the launch of the Media Freedom Coalition and work with UNESCO, which has adopted a UK proposal for a UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity.</p> <p>This Plan calls on publishers and broadcasters to do more to support their employees and the freelancers that they engage with.</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

The UK Government has helped online platforms to tackle the wider issue of abuse online. As touched on earlier in this Plan, online abuse - which can range from obscene messages to death or rape threats - continues to be the most significant safety challenge facing journalists. This abuse, which is often aimed at women and BAME journalists, can leave a lasting and chilling impact. It drives talented individuals away from the profession, and piece by piece, it corrodes our democratic values.

The government has recognised the importance of addressing this issue and is already taking action. The forthcoming Online Safety Bill (currently in its Committee stage in the House of Commons) will require companies to tackle abuse on their services and take reasonable steps to protect users' safety online, while all users, including journalists, will be better able to report abuse, and should expect to receive appropriate support from the relevant platform if they do so.

This Plan confirms the following commitments:

- The government will make the UK the safest place in the world to be online, through the introduction of an Online Safety Bill, and
- Facebook and Twitter will respond promptly to complaints of threats to journalists' safety

Furthermore, the government is also looking at the criminal law and if it can more effectively address online abuse. A Law Commission review, sponsored by DCMS, has found the law in need of updating to address a range of abusive behaviours online, including pile-on harassment, cyber flashing and the glorification of self-harm, and the Commission has therefore consulted on proposed reforms, suggesting potential new offences to tackle the harms arising from online abuse. Where necessary and appropriate, legislation will be introduced.

Internationally the UK is a member of the **Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based online harassment and abuse** and joined a [Foreign Ministers statement highlighting the issue during World Press Freedom Day](#).

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

We agree