**Questionnaire for Member States for the report of the Secretary General on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity**

The following questionnaire is aimed at assisting Member Stats in providing information for the above mentioned report.

1. Please identify the gender-specific obstacles and human rights violations, or risks thereof, faced by women journalists working in your country or abroad. Please elaborate on how these obstacles and violations manifest themselves in practice and how they differ from the obstacles and human rights violations faced by their male counterparts.
2. Please indicate whether you monitor and collect information and disaggregated data (e.g. by sex, gender identity, ethnicity, age, online/offline, subject matter focus areas of work) specifically on the gender-specific barriers and human rights violations, or risks thereof, faced by women journalists.
3. What measures have you adopted to address the issue of the safety of women journalists, including the underlying causes of the obstacles and human rights violations experienced by women journalists? How do these measures differ from those adopted to address the issue of safety of journalists more generally, or the safety of male journalists? Please elaborate on the impact of any measures adopted/
4. Are the measures – if any – referred to in response to Question 3 above part of a “gender-sensitive approach” (see GA Res 70/162, page 3)? If so, what does this approach consist of?
5. Do you have any laws and/or policies or initiatives (e.g. training, awareness-raising) to address harmful gender stereotypes, intersecting forms of discrimination and other human rights violations experienced by women journalists in the course of carrying out their work (e.g. in the workplace, in the field, online)?
6. Do you have any laws and/or policies or initiatives (e.g. training, awareness-raising) to address violations of international humanitarian law committed against women journalists?
7. What are the challenges you face in the ensuring accountability for human rights violations committed against women journalists?
8. How have you cooperated with the relevant UN entities in the situation of women journalists and what is the nature of the information that you have shared on the status of the investigation into discrimination, attacks and violence against women journalists?
9. Please indicate if you have developed specific initiatives and monitoring frameworks to ensure the safety of women journalists under the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 5 and Goal 16.

**2. Please indicate whether you monitor and collect information and disaggregated data specifically on the gender-specific barriers and human rights violations, or risks thereof, faced by women journalists**

The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs financially supports Free Press Unlimited, an NGO that helps local journalists in war zones and conflict areas to provide their audience with trustworthy news and information.

* Free Press Unlimited monitors progress towards gender equality in its programmes, partnerships and internal organisation. In relation to its programmes, monitoring and evaluation includes collection of data disaggregated by sex, and an analysis of the information collected using a gender perspective. It will also include mechanisms for tracking and sharing lessons in addressing gender inequalities.
* In relation to its partnerships, progress of Free Press Unlimited’s actions towards increasing gender-awareness in partnerships are monitored and instruments have been developed for this purpose.
* For the organisation, progress is measured based on the outcomes of a gender self-assessment (also called a gender audit) that reviews the gender sensitivity of procedures and practices within an organisation. Gender (self-) assessments will also be instrumental in setting a baseline for assessing progress on the gender equality objectives and standards.
* Furthermore, Free Press Unlimited uses the safety questionnaire to map whether partners have a policy on physical safety which pays special attention to the safety of women and during the implementation of programmes it is monitored whether partners take actions to foster gender equality in their organizations.
* Using the Most Significant Change method, a qualitative method to trace contribution, stories of change have been collected and selected with partners during a *Stories to Learn* pilot. This looked at the contribution of gender-specific initiatives, such as the *MRS* programme or gender content monitoring project in the DRC.
* Lastly, Free Press Unlimited, with its partners, monitors the extent to which partners' media content produced is gender sensitive. This gender content media monitoring is based on the Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP) coding tools.

**5. Do you have any laws and/or policies or initiatives (e.g. training, awareness-raising) to address harmful gender stereotypes, intersecting forms of discrimination and other human rights violations experienced by women journalists in the course of carrying out their work (e.g. in the workplace, in the field, online)?**

* **Panos Institute West Africa**

The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs supports the NGO Panos Institute West Africa (PIWA) with **€** **3,871,310 (2016-2020).** PIWA works to increase media attention regarding the political participation of women, and to combat violence against women, by training journalists, and by increasing and promoting the role of women’s organizations in Niger, Mali, Senegal and Ivory Coast.

More concretely, PIWAs efforts

Involve (1) capacity building and empowerment objectives directed at women civil society organizations, girls and female media practitioners to foster their representation within and in the media; (2) institutional and legal transformation objectives to ensure equal opportunities for women to participate in, be part of and access media production; and (3) cooperative and strategic relationships building goals between women civil society organizations and relevant social and institutional stakeholders to promote women’s rights.

The first outcome concentrates on enabling media practitioners to better understand and cover women’s rights issues, specifically women’s political participation and violence against women, through shifts in their attitudes and perceptions, and structural and institutional changes aimed at law and regulatory reforms.

The second outcome focuses on fostering the capacity of WCSOs and high school teenagers to efficiently work and interact with traditional media, and use social media to promote and defend women’s rights, in particular with regards to women’s political participation and violence against women.  It concentrates on building capacity and cooperative relationships to foster social changes regarding the issues at stake.

Finally, rich of the changes achieved under the first two outcomes, the third aspect of the intervention will foster the relationship between the media and WCSOs to jointly engage decision makers and other social stakeholders to develop open, tolerant and informed dialogues on women’s rights, with a special emphasis on women’s political participation and violence against women (from PANOS programme document)

* **Free Press Unlimited**

The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs financially supports Free Press Unlimited, an NGO that helps local journalists in war zones and conflict areas to provide their audience with trustworthy news and information.

**Policies**

Free Press Unlimited believes that media play a critical role in addressing gender inequality: providing an equal voice to women and men, reporting about issues that matter to women and men, portraying both women and men as individuals with valuable opinions and experiences, revealing (power) mechanisms that influence possibilities for the development of women relative to men, and showing that women as well as men can take advantage of (new) opportunities and expand their horizons. Free Press Unlimited’s focus on equal access, opportunities and rights for men and women media practitioners is based on existing and persisting gaps and stereotypes in media and society that often benefit men over women. Free Press Unlimited developed a *Gender Equality Policy* with the objective to promote gender equality in programmes, partnerships and cooperation with others, in the organisation itself and in external communication. All staff members are accountable for the implementation of the principles and standards presented in this policy. Free Press Unlimited formulated four gender equality goals to be achieved in the next five years:

**1.** Male and female media practitioners supported by Free Press Unlimited’s programmes produce content that is gender balanced and gender sensitive, thus contributing to a fair gender portrayal in the news.

**2.** The majority of Free Press Unlimited’s partners make demonstrated efforts to address gender inequalities in the specific context of their work and gender imbalances where they exist in their own organisations.

**3.** All staff members of Free Press Unlimited understand what gender equality is and use relevant instruments to address gender inequalities in their work.

**4.** All Free Press Unlimited’s communication is gender sensitive, uses inclusive language and images, avoids gender stereotypes and demonstrates Free Press Unlimited’s commitment and actions to addressing gender inequalities.

Furthermore, all strategic plans, programmes and projects will include an analysis of the different opportunities and constraints of women and men (of different ages) to participate in programmes, including male and female media practitioners and approaches to overcome obstacles that women face. Such analysis includes the safety situation differentiated for male and female media practitioners. The gender equality policy is actively brought to the attention of (potential) staff, through regular trainings to fill the gaps in staff’s knowledge and skills related to their specific tasks, but also to create commitment to addressing gender inequality.

**Initiatives:**

* Through its *MRS programme* (funded by the Dutch MFA – EUR 360.00 – 2014-2016), Free Press Unlimited contributed to the strengthening of women-focused media in three countries in the MENA region: Turkey, Egypt and Iraq. Free Press Unlimited’s local partners in these countries established dedicated platforms for the publication (and critical discussion) of media productions by and for women. Through the MRS project, the local voices of women were put to the front in a media sphere that is traditionally ruled by men. Furthermore, FPU is working with its local partners to advocate at all levels for a more emancipated role of women in the region's media.
* Through its *No News Is Bad News* programme, Free Press Unlimited has contributed to addressing gender equality through projects ranging from female fellowship programmes in South Asia to gender content monitoring in the DRC.
* The key findings of the Global Media Monitoring Project (2015) show that only 4% of stories produced globally clearly challenge gender stereotypes (a one percent change since 2005). In response to this FPU is exploring the idea of establishing an award to encourage gender transformative reporting. Most of the existing international recognitions/ awards suffice with the fact that gender is covered by media, which in itself is something very good, but not emancipatory enough. This award would be focused on encouraging reporting that is effectively breaking stereotypes, by awarding the winning report/media partner with some additional funds to produce more of that kind of reporting and generate publicity for this issue.

**8. How have you cooperated with the relevant UN entities on the situation of women journalists and what is the nature of the information that you have shared on the status of the investigations into discrimination, attacks and violence against women journalists?**

* Albana Shale, Free Press Unlimited Coordinator, is leading the Council and the Bureau of UNESCO's International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) on behalf of the Netherlands since 2014. In cooperation with Free Press Unlimited and several other international organizations, IPDC has developed the global frameworks of Media Development Indicators, the Gender Sensitive Indicators for Media, and Journalists Safety indicators especially taking into account gender.