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

**Organization: WAN-IFRA**

**Website: [wan-ifra.org](http://www.wan-ifra.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)**

**Contact: Melanie Walker, Head Consultant Media (melaniejwalker@gmail.com)**

The following questionnaire is aimed at assisting relevant United Nations bodies, human rights mechanisms, specialised agencies, civil society, particularly international and regional non-governmental organisations and academic institutions, funds and programmes and national human rights institutions in providing information and inputs 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.

*During the course of WAN-IFRA’s work in gender and media freedom, it has become increasing apparent that women journalists face a set of challenges or threats unique from their male counterparts. This extends to online harassment, to harassment and discrimination in the newsroom, to exclusion from contributing to the news agenda or as sources of opinion or commentary in the news itself. These tendencies are not unique to the news media industry. However given the media’s role in society as information provider and platform for debate, the disparity between men and women in leadership positions, and the lack of visibility of women’s voices within the news has a particularly insidious effect on gender equality at the broader societal level.*

1. Please indicate whether you monitor and collect information and disaggregated data (e.g. by sex, gender identity, ethnicity, age, online/offline, focus areas of work) specifically on the gender-specific obstacles and human rights violations, or risks thereof, faced by women journalists.

*In March 2017 WAN-IFRA issued a ‘gender reality check’ survey to members and media freedom partners to identify what policies and procedures are in place to promote gender diversity in their organisations, and solicit their suggestions on how we could identify industry-led solutions to promote women’s leadership and voices in the news. This survey is ongoing. Upon completion, data will be compiled and shared with industry partners and also used to develop an action plan.*

1. What programmes and initiatives have your organisation adopted to address the issue of the safety of women journalists, including the underlying causes of the obstacles and human rights violations, and harmful gender stereotypes, 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.

*WAN-IFRA holds that media freedom cannot fully be achieved without equality of voices. As a result, WAN-IFRA prioritises gender across its development and advocacy initiatives. This includes the sector-leading Women in News programme, which aims to increase women’s leadership and voices in the news. Currently Women in News runs in 13 countries globally, with targeted interventions taking place in 9 other countries, globally.*

*WIN (*[*www.womeninnews.org)*](http://www.womeninnews.org)) *applies capacity building to strengthen the leadership and management strengths of women journalists and editors, and applies advocacy to sensitise and educate top management to create environments for women media professionals to succeed.*

*Given harassment is a major issue for women journalists, and the organisations that employ them, Women in News addresses this directly through:*

*-providing resources to media organisations to respond to issues of harassment in the newsroom (in development, to be completed in early 2018)*

*-educating and sensitising media managers as well as HR directors to the importance of managing issues of harassment and taking steps to reduce harassment in their organisations*

*- engaging with the media industry generally to solicit best practices in promoting gender diversity in their organisations and to share best practices with their peers in WIN markets*

*- engaging directly with women journalists (who are part of the WIN programme) to advise them of their rights and means of recourse when instances of harassment in the newsroom or elsewhere occur.*

1. Are the measures – if any - referred to in response to Question 3 above part of a “gender-sensitive approach” (see General Assembly resolution 70/162, page 3)? If so, what does this approach consist of?
2. In the country/countries in which your organisation works, are there any specific 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)? What is the impact of these laws, policies or initiatives?

*As part of the Women in News capacity building curriculum, women journalists and editors are provided training in how to reduce gender bias in their own reporting, and those of their peers. WAN-IFRA is currently developing an online tool that will allow journalists to ‘self-edit’ and also help media to monitor their own content to reduce gender bias in the news. This includes who produces the news, women’s visibility in the news, and, how women and men are portrayed in the news. This tool is in development and will be piloted in 8 countries: Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Botswana, Rwanda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.*

*WAN-IFRA will also hold a special session on harassment and safety of women journalists at its upcoming World News Media Conference and will give specific attention to issues of harassment as part of Women in News in 2017-2018.*

1. In the country/countries in which your organisation works, are there any specific laws and/or policies or initiatives (e.g. training, awareness-raising) to address violations of international humanitarian law committed against women journalists?

*See above*

1. What mechanisms and/or networks do you have in place to share information and increase the protection of women journalists, particularly in situations of conflict or political instability?

*None, currently.*

1. What gender-specific barriers have women journalists who are victims of human rights violations faced in obtaining an effective remedy?
2. Please indicate if your organisation has developed specific initiatives for the safety of women journalists in light of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 5 and Goal 16.

*WAN-IFRA is working with the media industry via its membership-base as well as media partners in its target WIN markets to identify practical tools for media organisations to increase protections and security for their women staff. This refers both to women who are the target of workplace harassment and discrimination, as well as vulnerabilities on the field (non conflict-related). This work is ongoing, with a toolkit to be developed in early 2018.*