

## CSO input for the 2019 Secretary General Report on Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity - Implementation of the UN Plan of Action

This contribution is a joint input on behalf of the International Civil Society Coalition on Safety of Journalists<sup>1</sup>. As a Coalition we propose for the Secretary General to maintain a holistic focus on safety which means to address prevention, protection and prosecution (impunity). It is crucial for all actors to create and maintain an enabling legal environment that protects media freedom (prevention), the protection of journalists, freelancers and bloggers needs to be guaranteed (protection) and thirdly, ending impunity for attacks against journalists, freelancers and bloggers needs to remain a priority (prosecution).

Recommendations on the current implementation of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity (hereafter: the UN Plan):

- **Focus on effective local implementation:** we recommend more engagement by the UN at the local level. We would like to reiterate our 2017 recommendations in this regard: to earmark more financial and human resources for the UN Plan implementation at national level and to update the current UN Implementation Plan by working out a strategy for each stakeholder group.

We also reiterate our recommendation to involve a group of the most competent international experts and institutions on the issue as strategic reference group/audit group to ensure ongoing “peer-review” of efforts and achievements on the ground.

- **Focus on gender:** we recommend the UN to take into account – in debates, resolutions, recommendations and reports on the safety of journalists – the particular threats women journalists are faced with. We would like to reiterate our 2017 recommendation to address the lack of solid knowledge, strategies, systematization of good practices and recommendations on how to tackle the issue of the safety of journalists from a gender perspective.
- **Focus on impunity:** we recommend to focus on promoting and supporting effective prosecution of violence against journalists as a strategy to fight impunity. We would like to reiterate our 2017 recommendation for the UN Plan to coordinate with stakeholders to develop strategies to strengthen and extend effective legal frameworks of protection at international and national level.
- **Focus on coherence within the UN family:** UN organs should encourage Member States to report on SDG 16.10.1. While we applaud the increase in coordination among the UN institutions (UN focal points), CSOs (CSO Coalition),

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<sup>1</sup> The organizations part of the International Civil Society Coalition on the Safety of Journalists: ACOS Alliance, ARTICLE 19, Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), European Journalism Centre (EJC), Free Press Unlimited (FPU), Freedom House, Fundacion para la Libertad de Prensa (FLIP), Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD), Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR), IFEX, International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), International Media Support (IMS), International News Safety Institute (INSI), International Women Media Foundation (IWMF), Internews, International Press Institute (IPI), IREX, Media Foundation for West African (MFWA), Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms (MADA), Open Society Foundations (OSF), PEN America, PEN International, Rory Peck Foundation (RPF), Reporters sans Frontières (RSF), Samir Kassir Foundation (SKeyes Center), and Southeast Asian Press Alliance (SEAPA).

The following IFEX member organizations contributed: Cambodian Center for Human Rights, Digital Rights Foundation, Espacio Publico, Freedom Forum, Human Rights Network for Journalists - Uganda, Pakistan Press Foundation and South East European Network for Professionalization of Media.

States (Group of Friends), Judiciary (some regional networks created), academia (Journalists' Safety Research Network), there is a need for coordination among these stakeholders. We recommend for a future UN Plan coordination meeting to reinforce coordination among these created networks.

As a Coalition we provided a joint input for the Outcome Document of the Multi-stakeholder Consultation on Strengthening the UN Plan in June 2017.<sup>2</sup> We used this input as a basis for the current reflections and recommendations.

**The following recommendations in the right column are not from the Coalition as a whole, but on behalf of individual organizations as indicated per activity and recommendation below.**

Joint Recommendations June 2017	Relevant activities and recommendations by individual organizations
<p>More research into almost every issue relating to safety. And in line with this, gather more evidence of the best practices and failures of existing protection mechanisms – either civil society based or state based.</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 19:</b> Annual reports on attacks against journalists were published in Brazil, Kenya and Mexico. Reports on the issue of impunity were also published in Mexico and Brazil. Regular reports on digital security in Iran were published. Several legal analysis on the issue of the safety of journalists were prepared. Also ARTICLE 19 Expression Agenda (XpA) presented trends on the safety of journalists worldwide. ARTICLE 19-Mexico launched the network Rompe el Miedo to record attacks against journalists and provide assistance during elections.</p> <p><b>Cambodian Center for Human Rights (CCHR):</b> As part of our Cambodia fundamental freedoms monitoring project, we monitored and recorded cases linked to journalists safety and violations of journalist's fundamental freedoms, the result of this monitoring was included in several publications, including snapshots, factsheets and UPR joint-submissions.</p> <p><b>Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ):</b> has produced a range of tools under its emergencies programme, including a kit for covering elections, first aid videos, digital safety resources, and country and issue-specific safety notes. Some recommendations regarding research needs and best practices: - Trends in killings, impunity,</p>

imprisonment and other data are well researched and monitored by civil society, UNESCO et al. Areas that might be beneficial to focus on include: elections and media safety trends, improving access to safety resources for women, and for photojournalists.

- While some further documentation and sharing of best practices is important, these should be focused on creating specific strategies for reform of existing mechanisms, monitoring what role states can play in supporting development and implementation of these mechanisms (this includes states implementing their own national mechanisms but also how 2nd states or intergovernmental bodies can support through funding, training, forensic, legal and other expertise); furthermore, examining specific cases in addition to mechanisms e.g. cases of attacks where justice has been achieved and what elements were fundamental to this ; finally best practices discussion should examine legislation that improves safety and strengthens media freedom.

**Espacio Público:**

Monitoreo regular de la situación del derecho a la libertad de expresión en Venezuela, que incluye publicación de los [informes anuales](#), así como reportes por [coyuntura](#) y [cuatrimestrales](#).

Publicación, distribución y talleres para promover la [protección](#) de la práctica periodística que contempla: seguridad digital, protección personal, procesos legales, coberturas seguras.

**Digital Rights Foundation (DRF):**

Research into the impact of online threats and harassment faced by female journalists in Pakistan. This research has culminated in several in several research exploring the

impact of [gendered surveillance](#) on journalists, the types of [digital threats](#) journalists (both male and female face) and the [experience](#) of women in new media. This research has been used to develop best practice models for ethical journalism in the digital age through development of training modules and [guidebooks](#).

**Freedom Forum:** As an active CSO, FF has been continuously monitoring freedom of expression violations, preparing annual media reports every May 3 and year end. Similarly, even the media missions are carried out and report published. Links of the press freedom violations and reports are- [www.nepalpressfreedom.org](http://www.nepalpressfreedom.org) ; <http://freedomforum.org.np/publications/reports/media-monitoring-reports/>

**Freedom House (FH):** published its Attacks on the Record: The State of Global Press Freedom, 2017-2018. The analysis- is drawn from the findings of Freedom House's Freedom in the World, Freedom on the Net, and Nations in Transit research projects and from its in-country program-shows that media independence is under pressure in every region of the world. The report includes key developments by region and also a section on countries to watch. Also the report highlighted the Power of Journalism and described how even as journalists face harassment and arrest in a growing number of countries, their work can still expose egregious abuses, help victims find safety, and hold the corrupt and the dishonest to account.

Published its Freedom of the Press annual report on media independence around the world, which assesses the degree of print, broadcast, and digital media freedom in 199 countries and territories. Published since 1980, it provides numerical scores and country narratives evaluating the legal environment for the media, political pressures that influence reporting, and economic factors that affect access to news and information.

	<p>Implemented the Media Enabling Democracy, Inclusion and Accountability in Moldova (MEDIA-M) - a collaboration with civil society organizations throughout the country to boost capacity in civil society to effectively monitor media and to improve the legal and regulatory environment for independent media.</p> <p><b>Free Press Unlimited (FPU):</b> A research project is ongoing with the overall aim to provide a wide range of media contributors, including representatives of civil society organizations and other informal community groups, with a better understanding of the risks stemming from the legal system and means to overcome them. More specifically, the objective is to provide: (i.) a cross-cutting analysis of the positive legislative framework concerning the protection of journalists and the freedom of expression in the selected countries; (ii.) an insight into the ways in which existing laws are used to safeguard as well as erode media freedom, including the safety of journalists.</p> <p>A research project is ongoing implemented by the University of Sheffield with the aim of developing a database for the improved collection and systematisation of information on incidents of violations against journalists. Monitoring and gathering accurate data on attacks against journalists is imperative to further our understanding of the complex nature of safety threats and to ensure that effective measures are taken to prevent abuses and protect the rights of journalists, as well as addressing issues of impunity. However, limitations in the data on attacks on journalists currently stands in the way of any comprehensive understanding of shifting trends in violations. This research project therefore proposes to contribute towards strengthening the monitoring of violations against journalists through the development of a pilot database that can be used to track progress and regress in relation to the Sustainable Development</p>
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Goal Indicator 16.10.1.

**International Media Support (IMS):** In October 2017, IMS published [\*Defending Journalism – How National Mechanisms can protect journalists and address the issue of impunity\*](#), a global study that analysed efforts to safeguard journalists in seven countries where conflict and instability challenge the ability of journalists to produce quality journalism – around collaborative national processes involving key stakeholders in government, media industry leaders, trade unions and civil society groups. Two additional countries were added detailing safety initiatives in East Africa (Kenya and Somalia) as well as special reports on safety guidelines for border coverage and cost-effective measures for safety in the media industry. The core of the project sought to make these best practices available to local constituencies through sensitization campaigns and national dialogues and to develop local safety systems by using solutions that have worked in one country and making them available as a basis for constructive dialogue in another.

**Pakistan Press Foundation (PPF):** Systematically monitor all attacks on media institutions and practitioners. Hold meetings with law enforcement agencies, information ministry, press clubs/ media unions, elected representatives and national and international HR organisations to follow up cases of violence against media.

**Reporters Without Borders (RSF):** In total, more than 2074 publications in 6 languages (French, English, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic, Farsi) were drafted in 2018 to denounce the alarming situation, exactions against the journalists and media, legislative attempts from the authorities to counter press freedom, and sometimes to greet and encourage positive measures and improvements.

Published a report in July 2018 entitled

	<p>“Online harassment of journalists: the trolls attack”, inquiring about the scale of a new threat to press freedom, the mass harassment of journalists online. In response to these findings, RSF has formulated 25 recommendations for governments, the international community, online platforms, media outlets and advertisers with the aim of addressing these new digital threats. RSF’s report also includes a tutorial entitled “Journalists – how to deal with troll armies” that reminds journalists about the digital security practices they should adopt.</p> <p>RSF published his yearly worldwide round-up and Index - showing that journalists have never before been subjected to as much violence and abusive treatment. RSF also published a serie of regional reports showing the emergence of common threats to journalists safety across the world (surveillance through platforms, organized crime, cyber-harassment, etc... ) in addition to specific threats at national level, in countries such as China (March 2019), Argentina, Egypt (Media Ownership Monitor -MOM in January 2019), Bulgaria .....among others</p> <p>RSF documented massive use of violence and its impunity against journalist in specific countries and sent communication to the ICP, concerning Gaza and Mexico. RSF also revealed the existence of a leaked file to expose the scale of the lies that the regime has orchestrated about judicial persecution in Iran for decades : at least 860 journalists and citizen-journalists were arrested, imprisoned and in some cases executed by the Iranian regime between 1979 and 2009, the period on which RSF focused its research.</p>
<p>Consistent and specialized point people work at the national level (among UN and civil society) to ensure that key strategic elements of the UN Plan of Action are pursued and implemented effectively.</p>	<p><b>Pakistan Press Foundation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Has been lobbying at federal, provincial and local levels to designate focal persons to monitor attacks on media practitioners and</li> </ul>

institutions.

- Works with federal and provincial governments to comprehensively address the issue of violence against journalists in the mid term Voluntary National Reviews of SDGs.
- Has lobbied with the government on legislation for journalist's safety, security and protection.

**Committee to Protect Journalists:**

We have no relevant activities but some general input:

- In many countries, there is little awareness of point people, where they have been appointed, or other initiatives launched under the UN plan of action by the country's journalists. More public campaigning and engagement should be undertaken to ensure the media is aware and can inform as well as follow up with key figures leading safety efforts.
- UN focal points have been reportedly identified but are not made known the civil society groups and the UN said it has no plans to do so.
- Establish active working groups that include genuine multi-stakeholder participation and include media representation and have specific goals.
- For impunity, the working group can take up a selection of specific cases of killings (and/or other attacks) against journalists .

**Freedom Forum:**

In order to make aware the stakeholders including the government and CSO about the longtime impunity still unaddressed for crimes against journalists, FF is marking the End Impunity Day (Nov 2) across the country- in seven provinces and in the central level. Similarly, thorough report is prepared and made updated on Impunity relating to crimes against journalists.



	<p>Celebration of World Press Freedom Day (May 3 ) is another event to remind the role of free press. The latest updated impunity report is in English is available:  <a href="http://freedomforum.org.np/download/impunity-continues-unabated-english-report-updated-2019/?wpdmdl=3655">http://freedomforum.org.np/download/impunity-continues-unabated-english-report-updated-2019/?wpdmdl=3655</a></p>
<p>Better coordination between mechanisms and making international efforts focused on creating change on the ground.</p>	<p><b>Pakistan Press Foundation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● PPF, IFEX and ARTICLE 19 submitted joint submission in Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on Freedom of Expression with a special focus on media freedom.</li> <li>● PPF along with IFEX and RIDH submitted a report “Free expression on tight leash in Pakistan” during the United Nations Human Rights Committee’s 120th Session.</li> <li>● PPF, with support from GFMD, has prepared shadow midterm VNRs on SDG 16.10.1 and SDG 16.10.2 that has been endorsed by major civil society organisations working on media rights and freedoms.</li> </ul> <p><b>International CSO Safety of Journalists Coalition:</b></p> <p>The work of the CSO Safety of Journalists Coalition to coordinate at the international, regional and local level. The aim of the civil society coalition on safety of journalists is to strengthen the coordination among leading CSOs in addressing the issue. More strategic thinking and coordination can help overcome the inefficiencies of a lack of coordination on both the international and national level, as well as help civil society move forward in increasing the safety of journalists worldwide. It can help us learn from each others’ experiences, to prevent us from reinventing the wheel time and time again, and provide the platform to identify opportunities for joint work and thinking.</p> <p>As a Coalition we see a lack of progress in this field, <b><u>we recommend</u></b> more engagement by the UN at the local level.</p>

We applaud the creation of the UN focal points, but now this needs to be translated and have impact at the local level.

**Free Press Unlimited:**

Coordination between members of the Journalists in Distress (JID) network on emergency and legal assistance, both in terms of individual cases of media professionals and coordination during emergency situations (e.g. Syria, Venezuela, Zimbabwe). In addition, on a daily basis FPU works together with its local partners to implement and coordinate emergency and legal assistance.

**International Media Support:**

A draft resolution on the safety of journalists, tabled at the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) in late 2017, called for an end to violence, threats and attacks against journalists and media workers. In July 2018, IMS provided a series of amendments to the draft resolution, where we 'strongly recommend that States review their internal coordination process within and between ministries or departments, with a view to outlining detailed means to improve coordination on prevention issues for journalists'. Based on the aforementioned IMS *Defending Journalism* publication, this resulted in modified language in UN HRC resolution 39/6, detailing the need to drive safety forward through national-led mechanisms.

**Reporters Without Borders:**

RSF commends the mechanism set between Mrs Menendez's office and CPJ and RSF. We regret the lack of impact assessment possibilities of both mechanism for partner CSOs. RSF also regrets the gap between the objective of both mechanism (fighting impunity and improving safety of journalists who are in imminent danger) and the method used - which is bureaucratic and slow

Despite the resolutions adopted by the United Nations, the fight against impunity for

those responsible for crimes of violence against journalists has seen no significant progress either. The international community must provide journalists with more effective protection and, to this end, the tools available must be strengthened. As stated in the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity and coordinated by UNESCO: “There is a pressing need for the various UN agencies, funds and programs to develop a single, strategic and harmonised approach to the issue of the safety of journalists and the impunity of perpetrators of crimes against them.”

RSF commends the creation of a network of focal points 14 relevant UN agencies/departments/offices, but regrets that it is to be an internal mechanism, that can't be reached by NGOs.

Recommendations:

→ The list of focal points should be made public and easily reachable. A frequent assessment of its impact should be made possible and public.

→ A Special Representative of the UNSG dedicated to the Safety of Journalists (SRSJ) should be appointed: only he/she would be able to coordinate and give real political weight to UN efforts on the safety of journalists through the office of a Special Representative who would have the status of Under-Secretary-General. The SRSJ would be acting as a systematic and rapid alert mechanism for the UNSG by drawing his attention to the most serious violations affecting news providers, in both conflicts and non-conflict situations. This will allow the UNSG to react as quickly as possible when journalists are threatened, particularly by setting official and informal diplomatic mechanisms in motion directly with the Member States concerned. The SRSJ would be performing the function of “immediate emergency reaction mechanism accessible to groups and information bodies”, the creation of which is called for in the UN Plan of Action on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity.

	<p><b>Freedom Forum:</b> The mechanism for the protection and promotion of free press and journalists' safety is yet to be set up; Freedom Forum had prodded the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) for it some years back. Currently, NHRC is learnt to be doing homework on it.</p> <p><b>ARTICLE 19:</b> ARTICLE 19 has created an online platform to coordinate submissions of communications to special mandates. It is the RAE platform.</p>
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Standardization of safety of journalists and accountability for impunity into all UPRs to mainstream the issue, as well as provide an opportunity for systematically measuring state progress on delivering on commitments and resolutions including on Goal 16.10 of the SDGs

**ARTICLE 19:**

Led joint submissions for the following UPRs with national and international partners: Azerbaijan, Burundi, Russian Federation, Islamic Republic of Iran, Mexico, Myanmar, Malaysia, Pakistan, Ukraine, Eritrea, Senegal, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, the Gambia, Egypt, Cambodia, and contributed to UPRs on Malta, and Ethiopia.

**Cambodian Center for Human Rights (CCHR):**

Co-authored joint-submissions for the Third UPR of Cambodia with local CSOs and international partners (including IFEX) on 'Civic Space and Fundamental Freedoms' & on 'Access to Justice' which stressed the issue of safety of journalists, press freedom and impunity for crimes committed against HRDs (including journalists).

**Committee to Protect Journalists:**

- CPJ has joined initiatives led by international and local partners to submit information to these processes.
- [REC] These issues are often raised in UPR process but it has yet to be integrated in the process in a systematic way. It appears reliant on civil society groups to make submissions. Meanwhile, the role of safety of journalists, outside monitoring numbers of journalists killed has yet to be fully defined within the context of Goal 16.10.

**Digital Rights Foundation:**

The issue of journalist safety, especially in the context of direct threats and missing persons, was highlighted in the 2017 [UPR](#) process for Pakistan.

**Free Press Unlimited:**

Collaboration with local media support partners on the UPR of Mali, Burundi and Bangladesh and other stakeholders to put international pressure on the issue of safety of journalists and other challenges to press

freedom. In the case of Burundi, input was delivered for the Human Rights Council meeting and the UN Security Council meeting on Burundi.

**Freedom Forum:**

In view of the SDGs 16.10, Freedom Forum held programme and submitted a report to the National Planning Commission making recommendations that it would help in preparing UPR as well. However, no noticeable response is made from NPC.

Link:

<http://freedomforum.org.np/ff-draws-attention-of-npc-information-ministry-on-achieving-sdg-16-10/>

**International Media Support:**

A number of IMS' local partners have submitted information to the UPR process. However, much more needs to be done to both measure the commitments of States to deliver on SDG 16.10 and more importantly take action on the gaps identified.

**Pakistan Press Foundation:**

With support from GFMD, has prepared shadow midterm VNRs on SDG 16.10.1 and SDG 16.10.2 that has been endorsed by major civil society organisations working on media rights and freedoms.

A number of recommendations by PPF, including those listed below, were adopted in the outcome document of the third Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Pakistan during the 37th session the Human Rights Council including:

- Ensuring effective protection of the rights of religious minorities, human rights defenders, journalists and other vulnerable groups.
- Ensuring prompt, impartial and effective investigations of human rights violations and bring perpetrators to justice.
- Ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced

	<p>Disappearance and several other human rights treaties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strengthening the National Commission for Human Rights.</li> </ul> <p><b>IFEX, ARTICLE 19:</b> Coordination with the UN Group of Friends on journalist safety in Geneva to ensure that UPR recommendations championed by IFEX members related to the issue of safety, impunity and media freedom are supported by States that comprise the GoF.</p> <p><b>IFEX:</b> Supported and/or collaborated with IFEX members on UPR submissions and advocacy that included recommendations on safety of journalists and impunity, including: Pakistan, Cambodia, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Bahrain, Venezuela, Chile and the Gambia.</p> <p><b>RSF:</b> RSF has collaborated with local and international partners for contributions and comments made on the UPRs (Kazakhstan, DRC, Nicaragua, Cambodia, Eritrea, China, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, among others) on the issue of safety of journalists and impunity.</p>
<p>Better coordination between stakeholders around further strengthening and use of the results of the reporting by Member States to UNESCO's Director-General on safety of journalists and the danger of impunity.</p>	<p><b>Committee to Protect Journalists :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CPJ has highlighted UNESCO Director-General's report in its annual impunity index materials.</li> <li>● [REC] - support and bilateral diplomacy by states within the 'Group of Friends of Media Safety' was effective in raising the number of states reporting and participating in this process. There needs to be continued pressure on states to fully participate and scrutiny of responses to highlight when they are inaccurate or inadequate as far as amount of concrete information provided.</li> </ul> <p><b>Freedom Forum:</b> As per FF knowledge, from the government side, query by UNESCO's Director General</p>

	<p>on journalist's safety is not given due response. However FF is planning to prepare report on journalists' safety and FoE in view of the coming UPR.</p> <p><b>Free Press Unlimited:</b> Collaboration with IFEX for the purpose of harmonisation and complementarity of advocacy activities towards Member States with local partners in Ukraine, Nepal, Somalia, South Sudan, DR Congo, CAR, Nigeria and Iraq</p> <p><b>IFEX:</b> In addition to the above, as of 2015, IFEX also coordinates advocacy with a range of other members located in strategically chosen countries, and publicizes the report and its results, as well as information about how to use and strengthen the report via multimedia tools such as our <a href="#">infographic</a> and <a href="#">explainer</a>.</p> <p><b>Pakistan Press Foundation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PPF has made suggestions for improving the credibility of UNESCO Director-General's report <i>"2018 DG Report on the Safety of Journalists and the Danger of Impunity"</i></li> <li>- PPF played a leading role in facilitating consultations with key stakeholders, including media houses, press clubs, legislators, bureaucracy, foreign missions and human right experts, to strengthen commitment to international and the national mechanisms to end impunity for crimes against media.</li> </ul>
<p>Further engagement on the issue of safety of journalists at the Human Rights Committee.</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 19:</b> Submissions on Gambia. Currently working on submissions on Tajikstan.</p> <p><b>IFEX:</b> Supported and/or collaborated with IFEX members to ensure concluding observations include recommendations on safety and impunity during HR Committee reviews for: Pakistan, Bahrain, Gambia, Colombia, Guatemala, Mongolia.</p>



**International Media Support:**

In early 2018, IMS provided substantial input in response to the OHCHR Calls for Contributions to Report on Mechanisms for the Safety of Journalists. IMS underscored the need for a comprehensive approach to safety and impunity that includes actions ranging from reactive measures, from assistance to journalists in distress, to preventive measures, such as advocacy, training and a particular focus on ending impunity through effective judicial measures.

**Pakistan Press Foundation:**

A number of recommendations made by PPF, including those listed below, were adopted in the outcome of report submitted by the Pakistan Press Foundation (PPF) together with IFEX, and RIDH, at the 120th session of the Human Rights Committee 2017.

- The state should promptly and thoroughly investigate all reported cases of harassment, disappearance and killing of human rights defenders, bring the perpetrators to justice and intensify its efforts to ensure a safe and favourable environment for the work of journalists, lawyers and human rights defenders.
- The State party should decriminalize defamation.
- The state should ensure that imprisonment is never a punishment for defamation and that criminal laws are not improperly used against journalists and dissenting voices.
- The state should also review its legal provisions relating to freedom of expression, including article 19 of the Constitution, the rules applicable under the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Act 2007 and the code of conduct for programmes and advertisements for broadcast media and distribution services, with a view to putting in place effective oversight mechanisms and procedural

	<p>safeguards and bringing these provisions into line with article 19 of the Covenant.</p>
<p>Better coordination to enable strategic monitoring of the implementation of all normative-related work by the UN (UNSC, UNGA, UNSG, UNHRC, ICCPR, UPR, UNESCO) and by regional intergovernmental organizations.</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 19:</b>  Collaboration with various partners to strengthening UN standards in the safety of journalists, such as UNGA and HRC resolutions on the safety of journalists. Coordination with IFEX to advocate for more co-sponsors on resolutions on the safety of journalists. We further made submissions to treaty bodies on Mexico (CEDAW and ICESCR) with a focus on SOJ, and on Gambia (ICCPR) and Tajikstan (forthcoming, ICCPR). Placed an emphasis on reporting back on implementation of UPR, SR, and UNHRC resolution recommendations on SOJ at the UNHRC, through oral statements.</p> <p>Lydia Cacho, a prominent human rights defender who was a victim of psychological and physical torture, death threats and verbal and physical violence. Due to lack of diligence in Mexican courts and the denial of access to justice, on October 13, 2014, ARTICLE 19 presented a communication to the Human Rights Council of the United Nations. The council’s resolution in August, 2018 — its first ever against Mexico — determined that Lydia was arbitrarily detained, subjected to torture and gender violence and had her right to free speech violated.</p> <p>Trail monitoring in Turkey.</p> <p><b>IFEX:</b> In addition to the above, coordination with IFEX members and relevant stakeholders to provide inputs to strengthen UNGA and HRC resolutions on safety and impunity, and ensure that local/national perspectives are included in both resolutions and implementation reports.</p> <p><b>International Media Support:</b>  National-regional-international coordination is key to implementing the UN Action Plan on Safety of Journalists and the Issue of</p>

Impunity. By starting at the local level and connecting national safety mechanisms into the wider global agenda, we make better use of all avenues and mechanisms available within the UN system to improve monitoring and reporting on attacks against journalists in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, notably Goals 5 and 16.10 and its indicators, 16.10.1. and 16.10.2., on fundamental freedoms and access to information. We stress the need for countries to develop their own safety mechanisms to protect journalists and end impunity for crimes against them. Here States will need to boost their own internal lines of communication as well as work closely back and forth with both the media industry and civil society. At global level, both the UN and OSCE groups on safety of journalists and the aforementioned CSO coalition on safety and impunity, have strongly backed the need for this coordinated, comprehensive and national-focused approach to safety and impunity. This holistic approach to safety is increasingly being recognised as the way forward for journalists operating in high-risk countries.

In Kenya and Somalia, IMS worked with a range of international and national partners to research and analyse safety and impunity mechanisms in both countries. The baseline for this work was set up at the 2017 [UNESCO East Africa regional forum](#) on the establishment of national safety mechanisms. Supported by UNESCO, this work led to the creation of a continental African Union working group on safety of journalists and the issue of impunity. This work was also showcased at the UNESCO WPF in Accra, Ghana on 03 May 2018. The framework for both a sub-regional and continental approach to safety of journalists in Africa is now in place.

**Pakistan Press Foundation:**

Has interacted with UNESCO, UNHRC, ICCPR and UPR and made workable

	<p>recommendations to promote monitoring implementation of international and national mechanisms on FOE.</p>
<p>The creation of a Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on safety of journalists to function as a high-level, dedicated focal point within the UN to supervise the implementation of the UN Plan of action and exert pressure on national authorities.</p>	<p><b>Freedom Forum:</b> FF suggests the visit of the UN Special Rapporteurs on FoE to take stock of the situation and implementation of the UN Plan of Action.</p> <p><b>Pakistan Press Foundation:</b> PPF has supported creation of a Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Safety of Journalists.</p> <p><b>Reporters Without Borders:</b> RSF applauds the creation of a network of focal points of 14 relevant UN agencies/departments/offices, but regrets that it is to be an internal mechanism, that can't be reached by NGOs.</p> <p>RSF commends the mechanism set between Mrs Menendez's office and CPJ and RSF. We regret the lack of impact assessment possibilities of both mechanism for partner CSOs. RSF also regrets the gap between the objective of both mechanism (fighting impunity and improving safety of journalists who are in imminent danger) and the method used - which is bureaucratic and slow</p> <p><b>There is more than ever a need for a rapid response mechanism at highest political level for urgent cases - considering the continuous raise of impunity and violences against journalists.</b></p>
<p>Awareness about sexual violence and harassment of women journalists and pro-active measures to tackle this are required. It is imperative that all media houses are held to firm codes of conduct to prevent and address sexual harassment.</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 19</b> Submission to CEDAW on Mexico highlighted particular threats to women journalists both in exposure to attacks, type of attacks, and barriers to justice. Resulted in a recommendation on digital attacks against women journalists in concluding observations.</p>

Highlighted gender dimension of SOJ in our guide on the UN Resolution 33/2, and strongly advocated for addressing the range of gender-specific/based threats against women journalists were more holistically addressed in future resolutions, including 2017 UNGA res, 2018 HRC res (which highlights role of media houses). This issue was also addressed in non-SOJ resolutions e.g. Res on violence against women in June 2018

<https://www.article19.org/resources/un-hrc-protecting-rights-online-requires-states-to-address-violence-against-women-in-digital-contexts/>

At events on SOJ at the UNHRC we have included Jenni Monet who highlighted specific challenges of indigenous women journalists, and of being a freelance female journalists, to safety. We've highlighted the case of Daphne Caruana Galizia, and the gender dimension of attacks against her.

**Committee to Protect Journalists:**

Group of Friends for the Protection of Journalists (made up of UN member states), Reporters Without Borders, the Committee to Protect Journalists, and the International Women's Media Foundation sponsored a panel in March this year on *Journalism and the empowerment of women: new challenges in the digital world* at the 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The panel focused on the opportunities and challenges that the digital world represents for the condition of women, including for women reporters. Panelists included Ana Kasparian, host and producer of The Young Turks; French journalist Sandra Muller and HuffPost editor Lydia Polgreen.

**Digital Rights Foundation:**

Formation of the network of female journalists for digital rights across Pakistan to provide direct support and capacity-building for female journalists regarding the specific gendered threats that they face. Upwards of 15 workshops have

been conducted with female journalists across the country.

Capacity-building sessions and partnerships developed with three media houses to capacitate them in terms of digital security as well as developing anti-harassment code of conduct within the workplace.

**Freedom Forum:**

FF is marking the International Women's Day on March 8 for some years focusing women working in media and their rights. Even the study on women's presence in Nepali media is conducted, report prepared and disseminated to editors, suggesting them for creating favourable atmosphere for women in media house. Link:

<http://freedomforum.org.np/international-womens-day-marked-with-a-theme-men-for-women/> ;

<http://freedomforum.org.np/download/media-content-monitoring-report-oct-dec-2018/?wpdmdl=3517>

**Free Press Unlimited:**

On March 21<sup>st</sup> a side-event was organized during the Commission on the Status of Women in New York by GFMD, Fondation Hironnelle, Free Press Unlimited, International Media Support, Internews, IREX, and the Media Diversity Institute. The panel, discussed the question 'Does the online space allow women in media to challenge stereotyping and misrepresentation?'. Highlighting the potential as well as the challenges of online media, the panel contributed to a debate about the spaces for women to speak up and share their stories and the role that media play in this. The panelists answered numerous questions from the audience, focusing mainly on the complementarity of off-line and on-line spaces for the female audiences, and the need to provide more support to women within the media.

<https://gfmd.info/gfmd-and-partners-co-host-s-panel-discussion-at-ngo-csw63/> .

To mark international women's day 2019, 10

media development and press freedom organisations published a joint statement to call upon media leaders around the globe to stand up and protect the rights of female journalists, both staff and freelance. The statement was also used for advocacy campaigns in countries - approaching media organisations to request for their response.

The statement can be found here:

[https://www.freepressunlimited.org/sites/freepressunlimited.org/files/newsletter/fpu\\_statement\\_march\\_8\\_uk.pdf](https://www.freepressunlimited.org/sites/freepressunlimited.org/files/newsletter/fpu_statement_march_8_uk.pdf) (English version) and [https://gfmd.info/gfmd-content/uploads/2019/03/FPU\\_statement\\_march-8\\_FR1.pdf](https://gfmd.info/gfmd-content/uploads/2019/03/FPU_statement_march-8_FR1.pdf) (French version).

**International Media Support:**

A gendered approach to safety is weak at both national and international levels: As part of the IMS comprehensive approach and the UN recommendations, the latest UN General Assembly (UNGA) resolution from November 2017 calls upon all States to take holistic action to end impunity for attacks on journalists, with a focus on tackling attacks that target or disproportionately affect women journalists.

In line with the UN Plan of Action, which recognizes the importance of a gender sensitive approach, IMS' research in phase one took stock of threats and challenges specific to women journalists. These vary from country to country, but the most commonly cited problems in this report include physical harassment in the field and in the office, online harassment, lack of advancement and family and social pressure, in addition to threats and attacks. Two initiatives – Afghanistan and Colombia – featured in IMS' *'Defending Journalism'* research offer safety responses specifically geared to women journalists.

**Pakistan Press Foundation:**

PPF has been raising awareness and advocating implementation of minimum protections offered by the "Protection against Sexual Harassment Women at Workplace Act 2010" in all media outlets in Pakistan.

**RSF's Actions :** In 2018, to mark International Women's Day (March 8), Reporters Without Borders (RSF) has published a report entitled "Women's rights: Forbidden subject" which sheds light on the difficulties that journalists – both men and women – can encounter when they cover women's rights.

Covering women's rights does not come without risks for reporters. RSF has established Women's rights: Forbidden subject from 2012 to 2017, the rights of at least 90 journalists in around 20 countries were seriously violated because they dared to cover or talk about women's rights or gender issues. Several months of research has yielded the following chilling breakdown of these cases: 11 of these journalists were murdered, 12 were imprisoned, at least 25 were physically attacked, and at least 40 others were or are still being threatened on social networks.

**RSF's Actions :** RSF participated in two side events organized during the UN Commission on the Status of Women in March 2018.

→ The first panel, untitled "Dangerous assignments: safety of women journalists", co-organized by CPJ, Article 19, IWFM, French, Greek and Lithuanian Permanent Mission to the UN. RSF Head of Advocacy intervened to talk about RSF's report "Women's rights: prohibited topics" and to reaffirm the responsibility of governments and platforms concerning the protection of women journalists.

→ The second panel was on "Media and information technologies: a double edged-sword for women's advancement" lead by RSF and co-organized with CPJ and IWFM, alerting to the difficulty of reporting on women's issues and on the new threats women journalists face online which lead them to self-censor or even worse, be the targets of physical violence. The panelist were Mona Elthawy (American-Egyptian journalist, NYT columnist, activist, launched the #Mosqueemetoo), Masih Alinejad



	<p>(Iranian journalist in exile, Geneva Summit for Human rights award, launched "my stealthy Freedom campaign" followed by a million on Twitter) Matthew Caruana Galizia (Maltese Data Journalist, Pulitzer Prize, son of Daphne Caruana Galizia), Sheila Dallas Katmann (Chair of Cities4Cedaw and President of the US Chapter of IAWRT) Courtney Rash (CPJ Advocacy Director), Nadine Hoffman (Deputy Director General IWMF).</p> <p><b>South East European Network for Professionalization of Media (SEENPM):</b>  Online harassment, threats and physical attacks against women journalists as well as discrimination against female journalists at workplace have been the <a href="#">focus</a> of a number of activities of IFEX member Mediacentar Sarajevo, including through the project <i>Professional Position of Female Journalists</i> funded by Civil Rights Defenders. The organisation carried out research and produced and disseminated numerous articles and films on related issues. As a founding member of SEENPM, Mediacentar will in 2019 take part in the network's No Impunity initiative in the Western Balkans, producing and promoting content on impunity in the region.</p>
<p>Address the lack of solid knowledge, strategies, systematization of good practices and recommendations on how to tackle the issue of the safety of journalists from a gender perspective. Civil society could potentially work in cooperation with gender experts and academia in this regard.</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 19:</b>  Coordination with local partners to publish reports on the safety of women journalists, such as "<a href="#">Women Journalist's Digital Security in Kenya</a>".</p> <p><b>Digital Rights Foundation:</b>  Training of media houses in terms of gender sensitivity and representation of women through workshops and monitoring in terms of compliance.</p> <p><b>Freedom Forum:</b>  FF is conducting study on women's presence in Nepali media for over two and half years. We make recommendation to media houses for safety of women journalists. But these are little efforts, FF is</p>

willing to work it in a more focused and broader manner.

<http://freedomforum.org.np/download/media-content-monitoring-report-oct-dec-2018/?wpdmdl=3517>

**International Media Support:**

Following the late 2017 UNGA resolution, IMS has begun to develop a comprehensive action-orientated approach to gender-based violence and how to counter it. While many recent standards and publications are calling for a gender approach to the safety of journalists, our research and analysis has shown that there are major gaps and need for more debate, analysis and research on what this specifically means and what it entails when working in this field. Recent IMS research has centered on this need to engage with a wide variety of gender experts and academia in countries like [Afghanistan](#), [Pakistan](#) and [Somalia](#), where this work has highlighted the fact that in conflict countries and failed states, women journalists face different security threats than men, thus safety and protection measures may need to be customized separately for men and women. In immediate post-conflict and transition countries, there may be a need to actively support women's voices to develop a pluralistic media sector catering to both men and women. Strengthening women's voices in the media in conflict and post-conflict regions is not least important for the media to support the implementation of UNSCR 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security. This strategic work will be key to support both SDGs 5 as well as SDGs 16.10.1 and 16.10.2.

**Pakistan Press Foundation:**

In Pakistan, PPF provides digital security trainings to human rights defenders and media professionals, giving preference to female journalists.

**RSF - recommendations :** Take account – in debates, resolutions, recommendations and reports on the safety of journalists – of

	<p>the right of journalists to cover women's rights and of the dangers to which journalists, especially women journalists, are exposed when doing so</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gather, analyse and examine data on violence against journalists covering women's rights at the national, regional and international level and on the work done by women journalists; increase awareness of the increased and specific dangers to which women journalists are exposed and of the need for appropriate protective mechanisms in accordance with UN General Assembly Resolution 72/175</li> </ul>
<p>Emergency response programs need to be accessible to women journalists. Emergency response initiatives need to consider interface - having women responders available to document and implement emergency assistance in those cases - and solutions that are accessible - many women may not be in a position to travel unaccompanied due to social norms.</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 19:</b> The need to ensure the protection mechanism for journalists and HRDs is effectively tailored to the needs of women has been a priority issue highlighted in submissions on Mexico to the UN in the UPR, and CEDAW. (<a href="https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/MEX/INT_CEDAW_NGO_MEX_31453_E.pdf">https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/MEX/INT_CEDAW_NGO_MEX_31453_E.pdf</a>) <a href="https://www.article19.org/resources/mexico-joint-upr-finds-that-civic-space-has-continued-to-shrink/">https://www.article19.org/resources/mexico-joint-upr-finds-that-civic-space-has-continued-to-shrink/</a></p> <p><b>Digital Rights Foundation:</b> Development of a cyber harassment helpline provides legal assistance and digital security support primarily women. In the past, many women have approached the helpline and have received support and their safety has been ensured using existing resources and assistance from international partners.</p> <p><b>Freedom Forum:</b> Although not focused on emergency response program for safety of women journalists at present, the study FF is doing is expected to create atmosphere for respecting women journalists' right in media house. <a href="http://freedomforum.org.np/women-journalists-to-urge-media-to-make-social-issues-main">http://freedomforum.org.np/women-journalists-to-urge-media-to-make-social-issues-main</a></p>

	<p><a href="#">-news/</a></p> <p><b>International Media Support:</b>  IMS has worked closely with national partners in a range of countries across Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East and North Africa to tailor emergency response efforts to enable women journalists to have better/increased access to assistance measures. For example, in Afghanistan, since 2009, the Afghan Journalists Safety Committee (AJSC) has established a comprehensive educational, physical, psychological and legal support program for women journalists. One of their initiatives was to appoint female coordinators in various Afghan provinces and Kabul to monitor, support and advocate for the safety of women journalists. Having women in this type of post has ensured greater access for women journalists who otherwise might not have looked for any support.</p> <p><b>Pakistan Press Foundation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● PPF works with a number of international organisations to provide emergency relief to journalists in danger.</li> <li>● PPF includes issues of gender inclusiveness and safety in workplace in all capacity building activities.</li> <li>● PPF has commissioned a number of articles focussing on safety of female media practitioners.</li> <li>● PPF is in the forefront to highlight the issues relating to safety of females in workplaces.</li> </ul>
<p>The Action Plan should engage with Prosecutors, Judges, and Polices Forces. Training of police, parliamentarians and judicial actors to develop the capacities needed for effective prosecution, i.e. training on freedom of expression and media rights, should be replicated.</p>	<p><b>Committee to Protect Journalists [REC]:</b>  Training programs have taken place in several countries in coordination with <a href="#">UNESCO</a> under the UN Plan of Action (e.g. Tunisia, Iraq, Somalia, South Sudan, Colombia et al) but more can be done to follow up and ensure the training is implemented. Country focal points, CSOs, and government point people should</p>

monitor this.

**Digital Rights Foundation:**

Sensitivity trainings with law enforcement agencies in Pakistan, particularly the FIA, to handle cases relating to women, particularly women in the media, with care, while at the same time ensuring that investigation and prosecution is done within the human rights framework, i.e. upholding the freedom of expression.

**Freedom Forum:**

FF is holding the nationwide End Impunity Day (Nov 2) for three years bringing together prosecutors, judges, and police forces, media persons and families of the slain journalists. Even the media missions are conducted to take stock of the situation of impunity on crimes against journalists. The pressure is being put on the concerned agencies to pay heed to it. It also serves the UN Plan of Action.

<http://freedomforum.org.np/end-impunity/> ;

**International Media Support:**

IMS has continued to work on the issue of dialogue between the media and security forces, particularly around election processes. In 2018, IMS worked with a range of national and regional partners to improve media practices and media's coverage of elections in Zimbabwe, Ghana and Nigeria, which have generated good results with an approach based on a collaboration between media, police and government electoral entities coupled with a focus on the safety of journalists, election media monitoring and fact-checking.

IMS' work in 2018 with partners on security forces-media dialogue in West Africa can be found here:

<https://www.mediasupport.org/respectful-relations-between-police-and-media-in-west-africa-key-to-peaceful-and-democratic-elections/>.

However, on the wider issue of effective prosecution, IMS believes that much more

	<p>substantial work is needed around carrying out effective criminal investigations into arbitrary killings and disappearances of journalists and media workers.</p> <p><b>Pakistan Press Foundation:</b> PPF has been working to develop capacity of federal and provincial governments to develop work plans to monitor progress in prevention, investigation and prosecution of crimes against media.</p>
<p>Encourage states to designate focal persons to follow up progress on cases of violence against media workers and to provide updates to the public and the media.</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 19:</b> Coordination among civil society organizations and governmental institutions resulted on the creation of focal points on the safety of journalists within the three branches: law enforcement, judiciary and government in Kenya (agreement made in March 2019; ToRs pending)</p> <p><b>Committee to Protect Journalists [REC]:</b> States should note whether this step was taken in its reporting to UNESCO DG.</p> <p><b>Freedom Forum:</b> FF is urging the concerned authority on it with regular activities.</p> <p><b>International Media Support:</b> States should carry out this work as part of either a formal State-led national safety mechanism or an informal structure led by civil society organisations.</p> <p><b>Pakistan Press Foundation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● PPF has been lobbying with federal, provincial and local levels to designate focal persons to monitor attacks on media practitioners and institutions.</li> <li>● As a result of PPF efforts, Sindh Information Department has appointed a focal person responsible to monitor the crimes against journalists and media houses.</li> <li>● PPF continues to lobby with federal government and other provincial governments to designate focal persons on crimes against media.</li> </ul>

Better coordination and synergies on the ground between different stakeholders in establishing nationally owned protection mechanisms with clearly defined and competent leadership responsibilities attached to key institutions/individuals.

**Freedom Forum:**

FF had encouraged and lobbied that National Human Rights Commission had a national mechanism on ensuring journalists' rights and protecting free expression spheres.

**Human Rights Network for Journalists - Uganda:**

Formed a national working group that we co-convene with the National Union of Journalists in Uganda under the auspices of UNESCO. The working group is multi-stakeholder in nature with a composition of media houses, media associations, government representatives such as the national police, human rights commission and the media center and other civil society representatives. The working group is at its embryonic stage but now periodically meets on a quarterly basis.

[http://www.unesco.org/new/en/member-states/single-view/news/uganda\\_media\\_stakeholders\\_establish\\_a\\_national\\_coordination/](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/member-states/single-view/news/uganda_media_stakeholders_establish_a_national_coordination/)

**International CSO Safety of Journalists**

**Coalition:** In May 2019, the CSO SoJ Coalition agreed to be part of a committee together with UNESCO and the African Union to define the ToRs for the 2017 announced African Union working group on the safety of journalists which has not yet been created after more than a year.

**Recommendation:** for the African Union to fulfill its commitment made to create an AU working group on the Safety of Journalists.

**IMS:** IMS has worked on developing new and comprehensive safety action plans in a range of countries over the past two years including Indonesia, The Philippines and Somalia.

**Pakistan Press Foundation:**

PPF has facilitated multi-stakeholder meetings with federal and provincial government officials, journalists, local authorities, UN and foreign missions' representatives to share information, experiences on the status of monitoring

	cases of attacks on media.
National protection mechanisms to develop local/country strategies on safety with a clear attribution of responsibilities for various stakeholders.	<p><b>Freedom Forum:</b> The national protection mechanism is however not come into operation. It is said efforts are on at NHRC.</p> <p><b>International Media Support:</b> IMS continues to work with a range of regional and national partners to develop national safety mechanisms. These national mechanisms have now taken the lead in framing the safety mechanisms[1] - both people and processes - that need to be in place to ensure that the safety tools - both reactive and proactive - at a country's disposal are used to maximum effect to manage risk for journalists and media houses. This approach to safety involves finding the ways and means to interlink the UN Plan of Action's three Ps of safety – Prevention, Protection and Prosecution – and build them around the respective sub-branches of the four pillars of the State, including but not limited to courts, political parties, chambers and owners/editors, working with each other and with civil society. In turn, all these actors work together to use a holistic range of digital, physical and psycho-social tools, ranging from reactive measures, from assistance to journalists in distress, to preventive measures, such as advocacy, training and focus on ending impunity through effective judicial measures.</p> <hr/> <p>[1] A safety mechanism should be understood as encompassing either or both a formal State-led system or an informal civil society-led system or a mix of both.</p> <p><b>Pakistan Press Foundation:</b> PPF continues to lobby the federal government on effective legislation for journalist's safety, security and protection.</p>

In the 2017 input we also included a range of recommendations which are not within the span of influence directly of the Coalition, but are deemed crucial for the implementation of the UN Plan and consequently for us to jointly achieve a safe environment for journalists.

These are listed below. Please assess whether your organization has activities to report which might have stimulated results in these areas.



Recommendations June 2017	Implementation / relevant activities
<p>Credible reporting on the motives for the attacks on media professionals.</p>	<p>Several members of the Coalition are monitoring attacks against journalists and therefore helping to establish the motives of attacks (ARTICLE 19, CPJ, RSF, IPI, IFJ, SKF, several members of IFEX)</p> <p><b>Cambodian Center for Human Rights (CCHR):</b> CCHR has monitored and documented the situation of the press in Cambodia that drastically deteriorated since mid 2018 until now by the government has introduced a law that put muzzle the freedom of the press couple with a verbal threatening on freedom of expression.</p> <p><b>Committee to Protect Journalists:</b> CPJ has published several in depth reports, and accompanying campaigns and/or missions highlighting failures in bringing perpetrators of murders and other attacks to justice in Malta, Ukraine, Mexico et al .</p> <p><b>Espacio Público:</b> Publicación regular de informes sobre casos de agresiones a trabajadores de la prensa, en contextos <a href="#">electorales</a>, coberturas de <a href="#">manifestaciones</a> públicas.</p> <p><b>Freedom Forum:</b> FF has appointed stringers in each seven provinces across the country to make verified monitoring of the FoE violations, field visit, visit to victim journalists. Even the administration and security persons are consulted in case of need.</p> <p><b>Pakistan Press Foundation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● PPF is committed to working on the attacks on media houses and journalists, PPF thoroughly investigates the cases of attacks on media and try to figure out the motive behind the attack on a journalist or media worker.</li> <li>● PPF contacts victim journalists or families, organizations, local police, media bodies, journalist unions and colleagues of the journalist.</li> <li>● PPF also researches to find out accurate data to figure out the motive behind the attack that either it was because of</li> </ul>

	journalism of personal reason.
More financial and human resources must be earmarked for the UN Action Plan implementation at national level.	<b>Freedom Forum:</b> No serious attention is paid from the State side on it.
UN organs should encourage states to engage in (further) public communication and transparency on the safety of journalists in their country.	<b>Freedom Forum:</b> UNESCO Kathmandu office is working on it.  <b>IFEX:</b> IFEX has advocated with UNESCO and the IPDC to introduce measures to encourage more cooperation and transparency in the DG reporting process. In 2018, UNESCO introduced a reporting template for member states, which included a request for information on general measures being taken to protect journalists and address impunity, as well as specific measures that consider the risks that women journalists face in conducting their work. UNESCO also launched their ' <a href="#">Observatory of Killed Journalists</a> ', which catalogues information on journalist killings and judicial follow-up in a searchable and accessible database.
Better coordination between UN bodies and programs and a stronger political pressure from the UN on national actors. There should be a real and clear coordination of the network of "focal points" that are in place within each agency, fund and program of the UN (para 5.1 of the Plan). We also call for local and international civil society organisations to be consulted by this network on a regular basis. The UN should establish an immediate emergency reaction mechanism.	<b>ARTICLE 19:</b> While at the international level, there has been increasing coordination initiatives, at the national level multistakeholder coordination remains a challenge. The UN Plan was supposed to create multistakeholder coalitions at the national level. In some cases this has happened with various degrees of success, but much more is needed.  While there is more coordination among the UN (UN focal points), CSOs (CSO Coalition), States (Group of Friends), Judiciary (some regional networks created), academia (Journalists' Safety Research Network), there is need for coordination among these stakeholders. <u>Recommendation:</u> A UN Plan of Action coordination meeting could be organized to reinforce coordination among these created networks.  <b>International Media Support:</b> IMS supports the need for more coordination among the UN (UN focal points), CSOs (CSO Coalition), States (Group of Friends), Judiciary (some regional networks created), academia (Journalists' Safety Research Network).

	<p>However, the role of UN agencies at national level, beyond UNESCO, needs to both identified and increased.</p> <p><b>Reporters Without Borders (RSF):</b> As stated in the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity and coordinated by UNESCO: “There is a pressing need for the various UN agencies, funds and programs to develop a single, strategic and harmonised approach to the issue of the safety of journalists and the impunity of perpetrators of crimes against them.”</p> <p>→ RSF calls for the appointment of a Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for the Safety of Journalists. He/she would be acting as a systematic and rapid alert mechanism for the UNSG by drawing his/her attention to the most serious violations affecting news providers, in both conflicts and non-conflict situations. This will allow the UNSG to react as quickly as possible when journalists are threatened, particularly by setting official and informal diplomatic mechanisms in motion directly with the Member States concerned.</p> <p>Performing the function of “immediate emergency reaction mechanism accessible to groups and information bodies”, the creation of which is called for in the UN Plan of Action on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity.</p>
<p>It should be mandatory for Member States to reply to the requests for information by UNESCO's Director-General on the judicial follow-up to killings of journalists.</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 19:</b> Furthermore, States should report on SDG 16.10.1.</p> <p><b>Freedom Forum:</b> It is also not taken seriously from State side.</p> <p><b>International Media Support:</b> Action points that Member States plan to undertake to deal with issues identified in the reporting should also be included.</p> <p><b>Pakistan Press Foundation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently the UNESCO DG’s report on killing of journalists contains inaccuracies that makes it difficult for civil society</li> </ul>

	<p>organisations to advocate with federal and provincial governments to respond to it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPF has made a number of recommendations to UNESCO its credibility.</li> </ul>
<p>Media should provide specific procedures and guidelines for cases of cyberbullying and harassment on social networks (trolls etc), as women journalists are often the first target of this type of virtual attacks.</p>	<p><b>Pakistan Press Foundation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPF investigates cases of harassment on female working journalists on social networking sites.</li> <li>• PPF organizes and promote workshops and trainings of female working journalists and their safety.</li> </ul>
<p>Media organisations should ensure the implementation of existing legislation to prevent and protect against gender-based and sexual harassment against women journalists in the workplace, ensuring also their access to effective remedies.</p>	<p><b>Freedom Forum:</b> FF continuously encourages and suggests for the media houses to formulate rule/code to prevent and protect against gender-based and sexual harassment at workplace. FF's recommendation in its study is reflected here: <a href="http://freedomforum.org.np/download/media-contents-monitoring-report-oct-dec-2018/?wpdmdl=3517">http://freedomforum.org.np/download/media-contents-monitoring-report-oct-dec-2018/?wpdmdl=3517</a></p> <p><b>Pakistan Press Foundation:</b> PPF is working with leading media houses to encourage them to commit to long term follow up of cases violence from the time of attack, to filing of criminal complaint, police investigation and prosecution of cases in the courts.</p> <p><b>Reporters Without Borders:</b> While a bill aiming at countering hate speech online is about to be discussed at the French parliament, RSF sent a series of MPs a set of recommendations, calling in particular for a stronger legal responsibility of online platforms.</p>
<p>Revise national legislation that criminalizes defamation, blasphemy, or other speech. Revise anti-terrorism laws and cybercrime laws so that they are narrowly focused and cannot be used to target investigative, critical, or oppositional journalists.</p>	<p><b>Espacio Público:</b> <a href="#">Análisis</a> de instrumentos que buscan legislar sobre el discurso de odio “ley contra el odio”, recomendaciones y registro de casos.</p> <p><b>Freedom Forum:</b> FF is strongly advocating against the criminalization of defamation, blasphemy. Currently, it is a serious issue in Nepal. Whether is the Criminal Code enforced a year back or the bills on ICT and Media Council, these have tried</p>

	<p>criminalization of defamation. So, FF is urging for amendments of such laws. See FF's newsletters for more on it:  <a href="http://freedomforum.org.np/publications/newsletters/">http://freedomforum.org.np/publications/newsletters/</a></p> <p><b>Pakistan Press Foundation:</b>  PPF in its joint submission with IFEX and RIDH has recommended to, reform defamation laws by amending Sections 500 and 501 of the Pakistan Penal Code, and repeal sections of the Anti-Terrorism Act 1997 that are being used against journalists.</p> <p><b>Reporters Without Borders (RSF):</b>  RSF has directly engaged with authorities when possible (or submitted them policy briefings) recommending them to repeal or thoroughly revise legislations that threaten press freedom, such as in Tanzania, Kenya, DRC, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovakia, Singapore, among others.</p>
<p>Update the current UN Implementation Plan and working out a strategy for each stakeholder group.  Involve a group of the most competent international experts and institutions on the issue as strategic reference group/commentator to ensure ongoing "peer-review" of efforts and achievements within each stakeholder group.</p>	
<p>The Plan of Action should coordinate, with stakeholders, and develop strategies to strengthen and extend effective legal frameworks of protection at international and national level.</p>	<p><b>PPF:</b> Pakistan Press Foundation serves as the founding secretariat of Pakistan Coalition on Media Safety (PCOMS) is a national alliance of concerned civil society agents, media development groups, journalists' bodies and media entities collaborating with a one point agenda – to jointly push for protection of journalists and making Pakistan a safer place for media practitioners. Established in 2013 with support from Open Society Foundations, International Media Support and UNESCO, PCOMS has been instrumental in bringing together national stakeholders and interfacing them with international experts working on media freedom globally.</p>

	<p>PCOMS was launched to implement the UN Plan of Action on Safety of Journalists and Issue of Impunity (UN PLAN) in Pakistan, which was among the five pilot countries selected to to facilitate key stakeholders including the media, state, government authorities, civil society and international media support organizations to undertake joint and collaborative actions to combat impunity.</p>
<p>Embedding safety as an intrinsic responsibility of all actors in the media sector, with recognition of the particular challenges faced by freelance journalists</p>	