



JOURNALISTS MATTER

Council of Europe Campaign for the Safety of Journalists

30 April 2025

3rd meeting of the National Focal Points Campaign for the Safety of Journalists - Journalists Matter

8:30–9:00 Welcoming coffee and registration

9:00–9:20 Opening remarks and Campaign updates

- **Opening Remarks:** Irena Guidikova, Head of Department, Democratic Institutions and Freedoms Department, Council of Europe
- **Campaign Secretariat updates:** Rodica Ciochina, Campaign Manager, Freedom of Expression and CDMSI Division

9:20–9:50 Presentation of the Platform for the protection of journalism and safety of journalists' Annual Report

Flutura Kusari, Legal Advisor, European Centre for Press and Media Freedom (ECPMF): *Key findings and trends from the latest report*

9:50–11:00 Session 1: Developing and implementing National Action Plans for journalists' safety

Moderator: Tarlach McGonagle, Senior Lecturer & Researcher at Institute for Information Law (IViR), University of Amsterdam.

Country examples:

- **Luxembourg's National Action Plan:** Céline Flammang, Senior Policy Advisor, Department of Media, Connectivity and Digital Policy, Ministry of State; Focal point
- **Ukraine:** Ganna Krasnostup, Director of the Department for Strategic Communications and Promotion of Ukrainian Culture, Ministry of Culture and Strategic Communications of Ukraine; Focal point
- **Montenegro:** Vukašin Pudar, Adviser in Directorate for media in Ministry of Culture and Media; Focal point

Interactive discussion:

Focal points share experiences, challenges, and strategies in formulating and executing national action plans.

11:00–11:15 Coffee Break

11:15–12:30 Session 2: Establishing National Indicators to monitor journalists' safety¹

Moderator: Peter Ter Velde, Project manager, Persveilig

¹ Designing effective monitoring systems with relevant, measurable, and gender-responsive indicators.

- Campaign Secretariat - Presentation of Council of Europe' s instruments:
 - [Self-assessment tool for member states on selected topics regarding the protection of journalism and safety of journalists and other media actors - under the Protection and Prosecution pillars of the Guidelines of Recommendation CM/Rec\(2016\)4](#)
 - [Pocket guide: Key actions for improved safety of journalists](#)
- **Flutura Kusari**, Legal Advisor, European Centre for Press and Media Freedom (ECPMF): Role of civil society in monitoring practices, the importance of independent platforms, hotlines, and leveraging civil society data to support official monitoring efforts.

Case Studies:

- **Switzerland:** Andrin Eichen, Senior Policy Advisor International Relations at Swiss Federal Office of Communications

Interactive discussion:

Sharing best practices and addressing challenges in developing and applying national indicators. Questions to be addressed:

- *How do you currently measure progress in your country regarding journalist safety?*
- *What indicators have you found most useful, and why?*
- *What challenges have you faced in developing or applying indicators?*
- *How can indicators be adapted to different national contexts (e.g., wartime, authoritarian settings)?*
- *How using indicators inform policy adjustments and resource allocation?*
- *What was the role of the national Campaign committees in the definition of the indicators and the evaluations based on them?*

12:30–14:00 Lunch Break

14:00–15:15 Session 3: Addressing online harassment of journalists

Moderator: Rebecca Whittington, Online Safety Editor, Reach plc.

Country existing practices and challenges

- **Ireland:** Leah Kieran, Policy Officer, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Ireland
- **United Kingdom:** Janis Makarewich-Hall, Deputy Director for Radio, Advertising and Press, Department for Culture Media and Sport

Interactive discussion with other examples from the member States:

- *Existing legal frameworks on online safety*
- *Exploring effective measures, training initiatives, and collaborative strategies to mitigate online harassment*
- *Collaborative efforts between government and tech companies to address online abuse*

15:15–15:30 Coffee Break

15:30–16:15 Session 4: Planning and coordination for future Campaign activities

Moderator: Rodica Ciochina, Campaign Manager

- Reviewing upcoming campaign activities and timelines
- Identifying priorities and potential initiatives from member States for the next campaign phase

16:15–16:30 Wrap-up and Closing remarks

Irena Guidikova, Head of Department, Democratic Institutions and Freedoms Department, Council of Europe.