

Response by Czechia to the alert no. No. 20/2025 titled Neovlivní Editor-in-chief Sabina Slonková Under Police Protection Over Threats published on the website of the Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists on 14 February 2025

Czechia strongly condemns any form of intimidation and threats against journalists as it endangers freedom of expression and independence of media. The freedom of expression in Czechia is guaranteed by Art. 17 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms (a constitutional law) and safety of journalists and media workers is a key priority for Czechia.

On national level, the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic engages with the Council of Europe's campaign "Journalists Matter", which is aimed at implementation of "Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)4 on the protection of journalism and safety of journalists and other media actors". Meetings with representatives of media organizations were held in order to identify key short-term priorities for the protection of journalists in Czechia. As a result, two topics are considered a priority: 1) Implementation of EU anti-SLAPP directive to broaden the scope of measures against strategic lawsuits against public participation to domestic SLAPP cases and 2) Strengthening protection against attacks on journalists by enhancing collaboration between journalists and the Police, including the establishment of an online platform for reporting incidents and dedicated Police contact points.

The protection of all professional groups, journalists included, and the related investigation of hate crimes is one of the long-term priorities of the Police of the Czech Republic. In 2024, the Czech Police recorded two cases of dangerous threats against individuals based on the fact that they were media representatives, and one crime of "violence against a group of people and an individual." Although this is statistically rather a marginal issue, the utmost attention is given to these cases. Attacks motivated by religious beliefs, race, or affiliation with a particular professional group have no place in a democratic society. The Czech Police is committed to thoroughly investigating such cases and ensuring that the perpetrators are held accountable in court.