



# Enhancing the Safety of Journalists in Europe

14 October 2020

13:00 -14:30 CET Launch of the Book

**A Mission to Inform: Journalists at Risk Speak Out**

15:00 – 17:45 CET Symposium

Journalists across Council of Europe member states face various forms of **pressure and intimidation** meant to silence and hinder their “mission to inform”. This is worrying given that democratic societies can only function if media actors can report on matters of public interest without interference and without fear.

Protecting freedom of expression and **promoting a safe work environment for journalists** is a priority for the Council of Europe. Along with developing tools and mechanisms to enhance the protection of journalists, such as the *Platform to Promote the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists* and the *Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)4 on the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists and Other Media Actors*, recently supplemented with an *Implementation Guide*, the Council of Europe also strives to better understand the **pressures investigative journalists face** in their work in order to help member states address the issue effectively.

In 2017 the Council of Europe published the study *Journalists under Pressure: Unwanted Interference, Fear and Self-Censorship in Europe* (co-authored by Prof. Marilyn Clark and Prof. Anna Grech). The Study analysed nearly 1000 questionnaires answered by journalists from all Council of Europe member states and Belarus and revealed grave statistics concerning the **risks faced by media actors** over the last years. To better interpret the results of this study and identify specific means to address these risks, the Council of Europe has commissioned a follow-up qualitative research, whose aim is to analyse how journalists responded to pressures exerted on them and what solutions they found to overcome fear and continue being able to fulfil their **public watchdog mission**.

The findings of this research are discussed in the book *A Mission to Inform: Journalists at Risk Speak Out*. The book is based on **first-hand in-depth interviews with 20 journalists** from 18 member states, thoroughly analysed by Prof. Marilyn Clark from the University of Malta and Mr William Horsley, International Director of the Centre for Freedom of the Media (CFOM) at the University of Sheffield and Association of European Journalists Media Freedom Representative. Among those interviews is also the last interview given by **Daphne Caruana Galizia**. Ten days after testifying for this research about the dangers of her profession she was killed in the context of her brave reporting on corruption issues.

The current on-line event, which coincides with the third commemoration of Daphne Caruana Galizia’s death, aims to provide a forum for reflection on the findings and conclusions of this powerful study. It hopes to **launch a discussion about the growing risks faced by journalists** while exercising their profession, about possible solutions to mitigate such risks and to urge political action at both national and international levels.

The first part of the event is dedicated to the official launch of the book, featuring key Council of Europe officials and the authors. In the second part, two panels will discuss ways to **put an end to impunity for attacks on and online harassment of journalists**.

[www.coe.int/safety-of-journalists](http://www.coe.int/safety-of-journalists)

# ENHANCING THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS IN EUROPE

AGENDA 14 October 2020

13.00 – 14.30 CET

On-line

## Launch of the Book:

### ***A Mission to Inform: Journalists at Risk Speak Out*** by Marilyn Clark and William Horsley

*Book dedicated to Daphne Caruana Galizia and all journalists  
who have lost their lives in the exercise of their profession*

#### 13.00 – 13:10 **Opening Remarks**

**Mr Rik Daems**

President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

**Mr Christos Giakoumopoulos**

Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law of the Council of Europe

#### 13:10-14:30 **Book Discussion**

<b>Moderator</b>	<b>Mr Ricardo Gutierrez</b> Secretary General, European Federation of Journalists
<b>Speakers</b>	<b>Prof Marilyn Clark</b> Associate Professor of Psychology, University of Malta, co-author <b><i>“A Mission to Inform: Journalists at Risk Speak Out”:</i></b> <b><i>Presentation of the book</i></b>  <b>Mr William Horsley</b> International Director of the Centre for Freedom of the Media (CFOM) at the University of Sheffield; Association of European Journalists Media Freedom Representative, co-author <b><i>Key conclusions and steps towards the effective protection of journalists in Europe</i></b>  <b><i>Comments by the interviewed journalists followed by discussion</i></b>

#### 14:30-15:00 **Pause**

# Enhancing the Safety of Journalists in Europe

## Council of Europe Symposium

15:00 – 17:45 CET  
On-line

### 15.00 – 15:10 **Opening Remarks**

**Ms Dunja Mijatović**

Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights

### 15:10 – 16:10 **Session I**

#### **Stemming Violence and Impunity: How to Protect Effectively**

<b>Moderator</b>	<b>Mr Patrick Penninckx</b> Head of Information Society Department, Council of Europe
<b>Speakers</b>	<b>Mr Matthew Caruana Galizia</b> Journalist, representative of <i>The Daphne Caruana Galizia Foundation</i> <b><i>Daphne Caruana Galizia, a case of impunity</i></b>  <b>Ms Silvia Chocarro</b> Head of Protection of Journalists & Human Rights Defender, Article 19 <b><i>The environment of impunity: causes and consequences</i></b>  <b>Mr Stefan Schennach</b> General Rapporteur on media freedom and the safety of journalists for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) <b><i>The role of political actors in stemming impunity</i></b>  <b>Mr Ricardo Gutierrez</b> Secretary General, European Federation of Journalists <b><i>Stemming impunity: where can states and civil society cooperate?</i></b>

16:30 – 17:30 **Session II**

## On-line Harassment of Journalists

<b>Moderator</b>	<b>Ms Urška Umek</b> Head of Media Unit, Information Society Department, Council of Europe
<b>Speakers</b>	<b>Dr Sara De Vuyst</b> Researcher at the Department of Languages and Cultures at Ghent University <i>On-line harassment against journalists: intersectional perspectives</i>  <b>Ms Caoilfhionn Gallagher</b> Barrister at Doughty Street Chambers, UK <i>Legal means and challenges to combat online harassment against journalists</i>  <b>Ms Barbara Trionfi</b> Executive Director, International Press Institute <i>Here and now: what can we do to curb online harassment?</i>

17:30 – 17:45 **Closing Remarks**

**Mr Patrick Penninckx**

Head of Information Society Department, Council of Europe

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