



JOURNALISTS MATTER 2025 PROGRESS AND ONGOING ACTION

COUNCIL OF EUROPE CAMPAIGN FOR **THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS**



JOURNALISTS MATTER
Council of Europe Campaign for the Safety of Journalists

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

The Protection Year

FOCUS OF 2025: PROSECUTION OF CRIMES AGAINST JOURNALISTS – ENDING IMPUNITY

In 2025, the Campaign placed particular emphasis on the prosecution of crimes against journalists, focusing on how to strengthen justice systems to ensure accountability and end impunity. Discussions throughout the year highlighted several core themes:

- ▶ **EFFECTIVE INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION** of attacks and threats against journalists.
- ▶ **SANCTIONING OF PERPETRATORS** in a manner that upholds press freedom and deters future violence.
- ▶ **REMEDIES AND PROTECTION FOR VICTIMS**, ensuring access to justice and redress.
- ▶ **PREVENTION OF IMPUNITY**, including improved data collection, monitoring, and transparency.
- ▶ **CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR PROSECUTORS**, judges, and law enforcement, to develop expertise in cases affecting freedom of expression.
- ▶ **CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION AND SHARING OF GOOD PRACTICES**, supporting consistent standards across Europe.

Impact in Numbers

TRACKING PROGRESS IN 2025



41

Campaign Focal
Points appointed

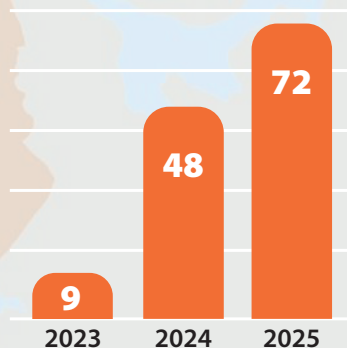
27

Campaign Committees in
member states, 19 established
since the Campaign launch

11

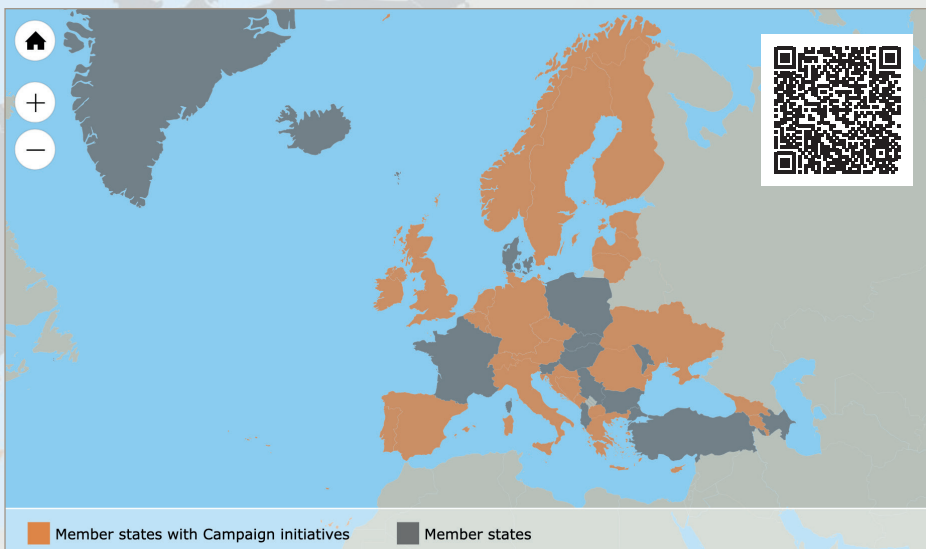
Action Plans on journalists' safety, 6
established since the Campaign launch;
2 currently in drafting process

CAMPAIGN INITIATIVES PROGRESS*



* data available as of 31.10.2025

NATIONAL EFFORTS TO PROTECT JOURNALISTS



Campaign Overview – Why It Matters Now

Journalists Matter is a five-year Council of Europe campaign launched in 2023 to safeguard journalists across Europe. It builds on the **2016 Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)4 on the protection of journalism and safety of journalists and other media actors**, focusing on four pillars – Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, and Promotion. Its goal is to ensure that states put in place the necessary conditions for journalists to work free from fear and ensure the legal, institutional, and cultural frameworks necessary to uphold media freedom.

The *Journalists Matter Campaign* provides a Europe-specific, operational platform that turns international standards into concrete action at the national level. It complements global initiatives – such as the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists or OSCE media freedom programs – by supporting implementation of Council of Europe standards, facilitating cross-border cooperation, providing practical tools and guidance, and raising awareness in a European context.

In 2025, as conflict, misinformation, and digital threats grow, journalists have been facing increasing risks – from harassment to dangerous working conditions. By linking European norms to concrete actions, the Campaign works to support accountability, help deter attacks, and reinforce measures that protect journalists across Europe, in close cooperation with member states.

TIMELINE



Major Events in 2025



PRAGUE

Press Play Prague Film Festival

Engaging audiences in debate and reflection to raise awareness on media freedom and journalist protection

**9
October
2025**



**9-10
October
2025**

PRAGUE

Training of Trainers on Strategic Lawsuits against Public Participation (SLAPPs) for Judicial Institutes

Equipping legal professionals with skills to combat SLAPPs and safeguard journalists from legal harassment

LUXEMBOURG

3rd Campaign Focal Points meeting

Coordinating national strategies to improve journalist safety and implement effective protection measures across member states

**30
April
2025**



**29
April
2025**

LUXEMBOURG

Annual thematic Conference "Building the Paradigm Against Impunity: Strengthening Prosecution of Crimes Against Journalists"

Strengthening legal frameworks and accountability to enhance the investigation and prosecution of crimes against journalists

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Freedom of Expression and CDMSI Division,
Directorate General for Democracy and Human Dignity,
Council of Europe
Email: soj.campaign@coe.int

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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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