



DRAFT AGENDA

7th OSCE South East Europe Media Conference

The New Frontline:

Working Together to Foster Media Freedom

Day 1: Safety of Journalists

- 09:15** Participants able to connect via online platform ZOOM (access link to be distributed)
Conference Moderator: Adis Mustedanagić, Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media
- 09:30** Welcome note
- **Jürgen Heissel**, Director, Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media
 - **Inid Milo**, Head OSCE Chairmanship TASK FORCE, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of Albania
 - **H.E. Andrea Orizio**, Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia
- 10:00** Keynote speech: *Promoting Media Freedom: Focus on Western Balkans*
Patrick Penninckx, Head of the Information Society Department, Council of Europe
- 10:15** Panel session I: *Opportunities and Challenges in Establishing an Efficient National Mechanism for Protection of Journalists – Serbia and the Netherlands Working Groups for Safety of Journalists*
- The growing lack of safety for journalists has been one of the most poignant and widespread concerns across the region. In December 2016, the Ministry of Interior of Serbia, the Republic Public Prosecutor's Office, and seven media and journalist associations signed the Agreement on co-operation and measures to increase the level of safety of journalists. In January 2017, the Permanent Working Group for Safety of Journalists, consisting of members of all signatories, was established. Besides the founding of the Working Group, the Agreement also envisaged the establishment of a Contact Point System as an entirely new mechanism for urgent and co-ordinated response to cases of attacks against journalists.
- In July 2018, the Dutch law enforcement authorities and the media community reached an Agreement to jointly counter violence and threats against journalists. These initiatives are examples of how constructive dialogue, involving all stakeholders, can lead to significant steps forward in providing the necessary conditions for improving safety of journalists. However, in order to become effective, these complex processes need time, permanent learning and mutual understanding of all parties involved. This panel session will focus on the opportunities and challenges faced by both working groups in their efforts to address the growing impunity for attacks on journalists.
- **Branko Stamenković**, Deputy Republic Public Prosecutor of the Republic of Serbia and Member of the Permanent Working Group for Safety of Journalists
 - **Peter ter Velde**, Security Coordinator of the Dutch Broadcasting Corporation NOS and of Press Safety, PersVeilig
 - **Toni Angelovski**, Assistant Minister for Public Relations, Ministry of Interior, North Macedonia
 - **Moderator: Gordana Janković**, Head of Media, OSCE Mission to Serbia
- 11:45** Coffee break: *Streaming of video stories about local journalists produced by the Slavko Ćuruvija Foundation*

12:15 Panel session II: *Unifying National Databases, Analysis and Reporting on Attacks and Violence against Journalists*

The OSCE's Ministerial Council Decision on Safety of Journalists (No. 3/18) calls on participating States "to establish or strengthen, where possible, national data collection, analysis and reporting on attacks and violence against journalists". Since the adoption of this document, some participating States have launched various initiatives in order to establish national databases that will provide the most accurate and reliable information about the nature and extent of media freedom violations.

This panel session will offer a platform for discussion on current regional practices and successful examples for establishing efficient mechanisms for documenting attacks, and other forms of violence, against journalists by law enforcement authorities and journalist associations. Databases created by journalist associations often offer different numbers of registered attacks on journalists compared to those established by the police or the prosecution. This situation adds a layer of complexity to their joint efforts aimed at fighting impunity for crimes against journalists and other media professionals.

- **Snezana Trpevska**, President, Research Institute on Social Development, North Macedonia
- **Sanela Gorušanović-Butigan**, Vice President, High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Ardi Veliu**, Director of the General Directorate State Police, Albania
- **Ana Bošković**, State Prosecutor in the Basic State Prosecutor's Office, Montenegro
- **Moderator: Antonius Van Den Brandt**, Senior Adviser, Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

13:30 End of Day I

Day 2: Journalism in the era of COVID-19

09:15 Participants able to connect via online platform ZOOM (access link to be distributed)

09:30 Welcome note

- **H.E. Sem Fabrizi**, Head of the EU Delegation to Serbia
- **H.E. Jørn Eugene Gjølstad**, Royal Norwegian Ambassador to Serbia

10:00 Keynote speech: *COVID-19 and the media: The role of Journalism in a Global Pandemic*

- **Guy Berger**, Director for Freedom of Expression and Media Development, UNESCO

10:15 Panel session III: *COVID-19's Impact on Media Freedom in the Western Balkans*

In times of public health emergency, such as the present COVID-19 pandemic, journalism serves an indispensable role, particularly when it aims to inform the public of critical information and monitors government actions. At this panel session, various experts from the region will discuss the impact of the COVID-19 related measures on media freedom in the Western Balkans, with a particular focus on lessons learned that can be of use to all stakeholders in creating a conducive media environment. According to reports issued by relevant local and international organizations, many cases of measures jeopardizing media freedom and freedom of expression were registered throughout the OSCE region during the current health crisis.

Over the past months, with COVID-19 related restrictions and lockdowns, media witnessed both a heightened public demand for information and an ever more impeded access to reliable data retained by public authorities. At the same time, the health crisis has led to an adverse economic impact on the media sector, with a significant decline in circulation and advertising revenues.

- **Mogens Blicher Bjerregård**, President, European Federation of Journalists
- **Saša Mirković**, Lecturer, University Singidunum, The School for Media and Communication, Serbia
- **Marina Tuneva**, Executive Director, Council of Media Ethics, North Macedonia
- **Moderator: Borka Rudić**, Secretary General, BH Journalists Association

11:30 Coffee break: *Streaming of video stories about local journalists produced by the Slavko Ćuruvija Foundation*

12:00 Panel Session IV: *Silencing Women Journalists - From Portraying to Online Harassment*

Female journalists are experiencing gender related threats, harassment and intimidation, in particular online. This does not only have a direct impact on their individual safety, but also risks to create a chilling effect on their journalistic activities and participation in public discourse, impacting on society's access to a plurality of voices and information. In this panel session women journalists as well as State institutions will address how participating States have so far responded to this growing concern. In addition, concrete actions on how to move from policy to practice will be presented and discussed, partly based on the forthcoming RFoM #SOFJO Resource Guide that will be published in fall 2020.

The OSCE Ministerial Council's groundbreaking Decision on Safety of Journalists expresses specific concern about "the distinct risks faced by women journalists in relation to their work, including through digital technologies" and recognizes that attacks come in many forms, "such as sexual harassment, abuse, intimidation, threats and violence, including through digital technologies". It underlines the importance of ensuring that such attacks and threats are effectively addressed by the governments and law enforcement authorities. Furthermore, the RFoM Communique on Media Pluralism, Safety of Female Journalists and Safeguarding Marginalized Voices Online recommends participating States to establish regular multi-stakeholder dialogue involving all main actors to ensure a holistic and systematic response to online harassment of female journalists, and to foster the development of innovative responses to online harassment in line with international human rights standards.

Testimonials: Covering news amidst the COVID-19 pandemic

- **Ana Lalić**, Journalist, nova.rs
- **Nidžara Ahmetašević**, Freelance Journalist

Panellists:

- **Vanja Čalović Marković**, Director, Network for Affirmation for the NGO Sector, Montenegro
- **Gentiana Begolli-Pustina**, President of the Board of AJK
- **Moderator: Silvia Chocarro**, Head of Protection of Journalists & Human Rights Defenders, ARTICLE 19

13:00 Closing remarks

- **Jürgen Heissel**, Director, Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media
- **Gordana Janković**, Head of Media, OSCE Mission to Serbia

13:30 End of Day II