Dangerous Assignments: Safety of Women Journalists

A panel co-sponsored by Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), Reporters Without Borders (RSF), Article19, and International Women’s Media Foundation (IWMF) as well as the Permanent Missions of France, Greece and Lithuania to the UN on behalf of the Group of Friends for the Protection of Journalists*

**Date:** March 14, 2018  
**Time:** from 10:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.  
**Venue:** Conference Room 11, UN Headquarters, New York

During the 62nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) annual two-week session in March 2018, representatives will gather at UN headquarters in New York to discuss progress and gaps in gender equality and the empowerment of women. This year, the review theme is: Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women, a review from the 47th session of the CSW (2003) conclusions.

As this theme has not been reviewed for 15 years, this is a unique opportunity to discuss the safety of women journalists. It is critical that women participate in, and have access to, the media. Women journalists can also play a pivotal role in combating gender inequality and violence. However, they need to be safe in order to do so. CPJ research shows that between killings, imprisonment, sexual violence and harassment, and online harassment, women journalists face dangers that can severely deter their participation in the media. There remains a vital need for a more comprehensive response to the safety of women journalists including guidelines, laws, monitoring, and tools to address these problems.

Recently, the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly adopted a follow-up resolution on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity. The ongoing commitment of the United Nations and its Member States to the issues of safety of journalists, including the intergovernmental “groups of friends” established in Paris, New York, and in Geneva, the designation of a focal point on journalist safety issues in the Secretary General’s office, and a series of strong resolutions over the past several years makes the 62nd session of the CSW an ideal opportunity to examine the challenges, and reflect on the best courses of action for members states and civil society groups.

A panel and moderated roundtable discussion with speakers from an array of backgrounds and areas of expertise will delve into how states can effectively combat the violence and dangers that face women journalists. Our goal would be to emerge from this session with some tangible takeaways, and a framework for thinking about data collection and information gathering, as well as best practices across regions.

* Members of the Groups of Friends for the Protection of Journalists: Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cape Verde, Chile, Costa Rica, France, Greece, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, United States, Uruguay
Panelists:

- Harlem Désir, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, has conducted workshops on combating the online harassment of women journalists.
- Amalia Toledo, digital rights advocate for Karisma, based in Colombia.
- Jenni Monet, Native American freelancer multimedia reporter, was arrested at Standing Rock.
- Victor Blue, New York-based photojournalist and conflict photographer.

Moderator: Courtney Radsch, Advocacy Director, CPJ, with a contribution by RSF.

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