

The logo for Article 19, featuring the text "ARTICLE 19" in red on a white, torn-paper-like background.

ARTICLE 19

EUROPE

Directory of initiatives on the safety of journalists in Europe

Media Freedom Rapid Response

2022

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This announcement has been coordinated by the Media Freedom Rapid Response ([MFRR](#)), which tracks, monitors and responds to violations of press and media freedom in EU Member States and Candidate Countries. This project provides legal and practical support, public advocacy and information to protect journalists and media workers. The MFRR is organised by a consortium led by the European Centre for Press and Media Freedom (ECPMG) including ARTICLE 19 Europe, the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ), Free Press Unlimited (FPU), International Press Institute (IPI) and CCI/Osservatorio Balcani Caucaso Transeuropa (OBC Transeuropa). The project is funded by the European Commission.



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Abbreviations

AJP	Association of Professional Journalists
DCMS	Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
DJ	Danish Union of Journalists
DM	Danish Media
FNSI	<i>Federazione Nazionale Stampa Italiana</i>
IMS	International Media Support
MFRR	Media Freedom Rapid Response
NCTJ	National Council for the Training of Journalists
NUJ	National Union of Journalists
NUNS	<i>Nezavisno Udruženje Novinara Srbije</i>
NVJ	<i>Nederlandse Vereniging van Journalisten</i>
OBCT	<i>Osservatorio Balcani Caucaso Transeuropa</i>
SLAPPS	Strategic litigation against public participation
SNMO	<i>Schéma National du Maintien de l'Ordre</i>
VVJ	<i>Vlaamse Vereniging van Journalisten</i>

About this Directory

In 2022, as part of the Media Freedom Rapid Response (MFRR) project, ARTICLE 19 Europe – with the support of *Osservatorio Balcani Caucaso Transeuropa* (OBCT) – mapped initiatives on the safety of journalists deployed by States, or in whose work the State is involved, within the MFRR region.

The result of that mapping exercise is this Directory. Until now, these initiatives have not been gathered together in one place. Indeed, some of the initiatives included here have not been documented anywhere else at all.

The goals of this Directory are threefold:

1. To map existing initiatives on the safety of journalists.
2. To act as a single reference work for information about these initiatives.
3. To enhance the safety of journalists and the capacity of both journalists and States to respond to violations.

The Directory does not seek to analyse the initiatives collected here; this will be the task of the next stage of the project.

Who is this Directory for?

We envisage this Directory being useful to journalists, journalists' associations, and government officials in the countries featured.

- **Journalists:** First and foremost, we hope that this Directory enhances journalists' safety. It provides journalists with information about initiatives that exist to protect their safety, which they may not have been aware of previously, and information on how to report attacks.
- **Civil society organisations, such as media freedom groups and journalists' associations and unions:** Mapping existing initiatives makes gaps in provision clearer. We hope that civil society organisations use this Directory to lobby for more – and better – initiatives in their respective countries.
- **Governments:** Officials working on the safety of journalists will find this Directory useful in shaping policy and improving provision.

- **Intergovernmental organisations:** The Directory will help international civil servants working on the safety of journalists to better understand how international standards are being implemented at the national level.

Requirements for inclusion in the Directory

To be included in this Directory, an initiative had to fulfil three requirements:

1. The initiative had to operate at the **national level**.
2. **The State** had to be actively involved.
3. The initiative had to be **within the MFRR region**, which covers all EU member States and candidate countries (Albania, the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Turkey).

Initiatives at local/municipality levels and civil society initiatives (even those to which States contribute funding) fell outside this project's remit.

If the initiative fulfilled the above requirements, it was included, regardless of whether it could be considered to represent 'good practice'.

Methods

ARTICLE 19 Europe produced a template questionnaire and shared this with OBCT and other partners to collect information on relevant initiatives. The questionnaire asked for the following information about each initiative:

- Name
- Founders/members
- When it was set up
- Why it was set up
- How it undertakes its work
- Its general goal
- Its specific goals
- How frequently it meets
- Whether it receives any funding, and if so, the source of that funding (if this could be disclosed)
- Its website.

Consent was sought and obtained from each initiative whose information is listed in this Directory, unless the information was already publicly available.

All data was either already publicly available (e.g. on an organisation's website) or collected via emails and interviews with key actors. It was collected in the first quarter of 2022.

Disclaimers

ARTICLE 19 Europe and the MFRR do not necessarily endorse the initiatives featured in this Directory, which is a descriptive mapping project rather than an evaluation of efficacy. The next stage of the project will analyse some of the initiatives collected here.

ARTICLE 19 Europe has made every effort to research eligible initiatives to include in this Directory. However, we do not claim that it is inclusive of all existing initiatives. Please contact us if you know of any other initiatives that may be eligible for inclusion, or with any updates regarding existing entries: info@article19.org

Directory of initiatives on the safety of journalists in Europe

Belgium

Name of initiative	Persveilig.be
Brief description	A hotline to report aggression against journalists, and other education and cooperation initiatives.
Founders	Flemish Association of Journalists (<i>Vlaamse Vereniging van Journalisten – VVJ</i>).
Members	VVJ in cooperation with other key stakeholders in Belgium.
Governance	The initiatives, especially those on cooperation, are still in the early stages of development.
When was it set up?	2019
Why was it set up?	Due to increasing aggression against journalists, VVJ set up the hotline to report aggression against journalists. According to VVJ's website, journalists are increasingly confronted with unpleasant experiences while performing their job in Belgium. The most common is verbal abuse. Social media platforms play an important role in this because these channels enable users to attack journalists anonymously and from a distance. However, journalists also often have to deal with insults and name-calling to their face. These verbal provocations can escalate to physical aggression or at least the threat of it. Not only online intimidation, but also unpleasant confrontations in real life have gradually become a daily occurrence.
Main goal	Journalists can use the hotline to report physical or verbal aggression (such as online aggression or strategic litigation against public participation – SLAPPs), VVJ aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map aggression against journalists and to monitor the situation in Belgium to determine whether there are any common trends in aggression against journalists; • Engage with the police where needed, on a case-by-case basis; and • Initiate discussions around possible solutions.
Specific goals	Inspired by the Persveilig initiative in the Netherlands, VVJ's initiatives have three objectives: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information: To provide as much information as possible (on online harassment, physical violence, organised crime, and legal proceedings) to help journalists to be able to do their jobs safely.

	<p>2. Education and training: To provide training opportunities for journalists.</p> <p>3. Dialogue and cooperation: In collaboration with the Association of Professional Journalists (AJP), to maintain dialogue with other stakeholders, including the police, the judiciary, and the government. VVJ, in partnership with AJP, has recently started holding meetings with three ministers from Flanders, the Federal Public Service Justice, and the Federal Public Service Interior to discuss legal reforms to the criminal code in areas related to the safety of journalists. Discussions are ongoing regarding legal reform to the offence of ‘insulting public authorities’, which would widen its scope to include insults against journalists due to the vital role they play in democratic societies.</p>
How does it work?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To report aggression through the hotline, journalists can download a declaration form from the website and send the completed form to info@journalist.be. Complaints will receive an immediate response, be closely monitored, and also be published on international platforms. • With regard to the dialogue with other stakeholders, including the ministers from Flanders, the Federal Public Service Justice, and the Federal Public Service Interior, meetings are taking place on an ad-hoc basis.
How frequently does it meet?	For the dialogue and cooperation initiatives, there is no fixed frequency for meetings between the government representatives and journalists’ associations.
Does it receive any funding, and if so, from where?	No approved funding – still pending.
Website	https://journalist.be/persveilig-be
Contact	<p>Charlotte Michils, legal adviser, VVJ: charlotte.michils@journalist.be</p> <p>General information: info@journalist.be</p>

Denmark

Name of initiative	Danish National Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity
Brief description	A national action plan agreed between government, media industry, and other stakeholders to improve journalists' safety.
Founders	Danish Union of Journalists (DJ), Danish Media (DM), International Media Support (IMS), UNESCO Denmark, Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Culture.
Members	DJ, DM, IMS, UNESCO Denmark, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Culture, the National Police, and the Attorney General.
Governance	Day-to-day tasks are managed alternately by DJ and DM annually. The first calendar year – 2022 – is being managed by DJ, which ensures the involvement of the other stakeholders when relevant. The implementation will be reviewed by all stakeholders semi-annually.
When was it set up?	2022
Why was it set up?	To ensure a well-functioning democracy, it is crucial that journalists can work freely without abuse or threats of any kind either against themselves, their sources, colleagues, or family. Due to increasing levels of risks and threats against journalists, both online and offline, the creation of the National Action Plan, in line with the <i>Council of Europe's recommendations for the protection of the media and journalists</i> , as well as the <i>UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity</i> , was deemed necessary.
Main goal	To provide better protection for journalists and create a safer environment for them.
Specific goals	The National Action Plan's goals are twofold: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To ensure a proactive approach in Denmark to create a safer environment for journalists. 2. To send a clear signal to other countries both in Europe and globally that as many countries as possible should participate, to ensure much-needed improvement in the safety of journalists worldwide.
How does it work?	The parties involved have agreed on the following action points, which will constitute Denmark's National Action Plan and which can be adjusted on an ongoing basis:

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor all attacks against journalists: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Establish a dedicated email address which can be used by journalists to report any abuse. The reports will be monitored and then classified by DJ and DM. b. DJ and DM will prepare semi-annual reports on attacks reported and on their follow-up. 2. Follow up on reports: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Respond to each reported attack with an email providing a recommendation about how to handle it. b. If an investigation is launched, the police may assign the victim a specific police contact, subject to assessment of the severity of the threats. Dialogue with the victim will continue. 3. Maintain dialogue between all parties involved: DJ, DM, IMS, UNESCO, the relevant ministries, the National Police, and the Attorney General agree to meet semi-annually to discuss the current situation, deal with systemic abuses that fall into their area of competence, and keep each other informed of developments. 4. Maintain contact with other countries' working groups and similar initiatives to exchange information and share experiences.
How frequently does it meet?	The parties involved (DJ, DM, IMS, UNESCO, the relevant ministries, the National Police, and the Attorney General) meet semi-annually.
Does it receive any funding, and if so, from where?	It does not receive any funding.
Website	N/A
Contact	Hans Jørgen Dybro, political consultant, DJ: dyb@journalistforbundet.dk

France

Name of initiative	Channel of exchange to establish a structural dialogue
Brief description	A communication channel between the authorities and journalists' representatives principally concerning media coverage of protests.
Founders	Ministry of Interior, media, and journalists' associations.
Members	Ministry of Interior, media, and journalists' associations.
Governance	This dialogue works through synergy. The idea is to include the main inputs from both sides – the authorities and civil society/journalists.
When was it set up?	January 2022
Why was it set up?	The idea of a channel of exchange emerged during the negotiations between the press associations/journalists and the authorities ahead of the release of the new National Scheme for Policing Demonstrations (<i>Schéma National du Maintien de l'Ordre – SNMO</i>). It was also recommended by the Delarue Report from the independent commission on relations between the press and police.
Main goal	The main purpose of the channel is to re-establish a dialogue between representatives of the media and law enforcement.
Specific goals	To improve relations between representatives of the media and law enforcement, and guarantee journalists' rights when covering protests.
How does it work?	The channel involves the following elements: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joint evaluation of the implementation of SNMO measures and assessment of their effectiveness (by all parties). 2. Identification of new trends and threats observed in current events (main input from media organisations and journalists). 3. Communication to journalists of measures taken by the authorities and their implications (input from the authorities).
How frequently does it meet?	On a monthly basis.
Does it receive any funding, and if so, from where?	N/A.

Website	N/A
Contact	Pavol Szalai, Head of EU/Balkans Desk, Reporters Without Borders: pszalai@rsf.org

Italy

Name of initiative	Coordination centre on the phenomenon of acts of intimidation against journalists (<i>Centro di coordinamento sul fenomeno degli atti intimidatori nei confronti dei giornalisti</i>)
Brief description	A coordination centre for monitoring, analysis and exchange of information on acts of intimidation against journalists and for the identification of prevention strategies.'
Founders	Minister of the Interior.
Members	Minister of the Interior, Chief of Cabinet of the Ministry of the Interior, Chief of the Police, president and general secretary of the Italian National Press Federation (<i>Federazione Nazionale Stampa Italiana – FNSI</i>), president and general secretary of the Chamber of Journalists.
Governance	It's chaired by the Minister of the Interior and it operates through a permanent support body based in the Public Security Department.
When was it set up?	21 November 2017
Why was it set up?	According to FNSI and the Chamber of Journalists, the increase in threats to journalists from organised crime and individuals was not receiving enough attention from national institutions. Long years of advocacy, networking, dialogue, and pressure have led to the creation of a special body in charge of both monitoring and deciding on protection measures. Previously, individual journalists could only report threats to the police, who would grant any protection according to a standard procedure as they would for any citizen. This centre has created a dedicated pathway for both reporting and protection measures, and every journalist using it is supported by the trade unions involved.
Main goal	To coordinate information and data exchange in order to monitor and analyse acts of intimidation against journalists.
Specific goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To collect all threats and acts of intimidation against journalists in a national database. ● To promote analysis and study of the data collected, in collaboration with journalists' associations and professional crime analysts. ● To coordinate responses involving police forces in different locations. ● To formulate proposals for prevention strategies and adequate responses.

How does it work?	Threats, acts of intimidations, and crimes reported to police authorities in different locations are collected in a national database. This data is monitored, with reports published regularly and discussed at quarterly meetings chaired by the Ministry of the Interior.
How frequently does it meet?	The regular schedule is once every three months, but emergency meetings can be organised in extraordinary circumstances.
Does it receive any funding, and if so, from where?	The coordination centre's activities are part of the Ministry of Interior's regular activities.
Website	https://www.interno.gov.it/it/ministero/osservatori-commissioni-e-centri-coordinamento/centro-coordinamento-sul-fenomeno-atti-intimidatori-nei-confronti-dei-giornalisti
Contact	Stefano Delfini, Director, Criminal Analysis Service, Criminal Police Central Directorate, Ministry of the Interior: stefano.delfini@dcpc.interno.it Tel: +39 6465 42086 / +39 6465 42063

Latvia

Name of initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorandum of cooperation to ensure effective action on the safety of journalists • Mapping of existing mechanisms
Brief description	Provisional measures to establish a permanent system to respond effectively when journalists report harassment.
Founders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorandum: Latvian Association of Journalists, Latvian Union of Journalists, and the State Police. • Mapping: Latvian Government.
Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorandum: Latvian Association of Journalists, Latvian Union of Journalists, and the State Police • Mapping: Ministry of Culture.
Governance	N/A.
When was it set up?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The memorandum was signed in 2020 • Mapping started at the end of 2021
Why was it set up?	There were concerning incidents of journalists being harassed and no sufficiently clear procedures in place to deal with them. As a result, the Latvian Government instructed the Ministry of Culture and Ministry of the Interior to look for solutions to ensure journalists' complaints are promptly investigated.
Main goal	The Ministries' goal is to examine the possibility of establishing a permanent system for law enforcement bodies examining journalists' complaints. This would take into account the specific nature of journalists' work and the Council of Europe's recommendations on the safety of journalists and other media actors.
Specific goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The goal of the memorandum is to define how information should be exchanged in cases where a journalist has been threatened as a result of their professional activities. • The goal of the mapping exercise is to determine which institutions are – or would be – responsible for the various actions foreseen in the <i>European Commission's Recommendation on ensuring the protection, safety and empowerment of journalists and other media professionals in the European Union</i>. This would be followed by an analysis of the actions that need to be taken in the future.
How does it work?	Based on the signed memorandum, the State Police give journalists who report threats a designated contact. There is also a

	telephone hotline for journalists who require an immediate response from the police (due to imminent threat to health, life, property, etc).
How frequently does it meet?	N/A.
Does it receive any funding, and if so, from where?	N/A.
Website	N/A
Contact	Operational Management Bureau of Public Order Unit of Riga Regional Branch of the State Police of Latvia Tel: +371 2789 2039

Malta

Name of initiative	Public Inquiry Commission for Daphne Caruana Galizia
Brief description	A public inquiry into the killing of journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia.
Founders	Maltese Government.
Members	The government appointed Michael Mallia, a former judge, to chair the board of inquiry, and former Dean of the Faculty of Law and constitutional expert Professor Ian Refalo and forensic expert Dr Anthony Abela Medici as members of the Commission in September 2019. However, following concerns raised by Galizia's family, two new members were appointed to the board by the Prime Minister to replace the previous members. The new members were Chief Justice Joseph Said Pullicino and Judge Abigail Lofaro. The Chair retained his position.
Governance	There is a board of inquiry and a chairperson.
When was it set up?	December 2019
Why was it set up?	Two years after the assassination of journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia on 16 October 2017, following numerous calls by intergovernmental organisations, including UN experts , the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly , and the European Parliament , a public inquiry was launched in 2019 to determine whether the State was responsible for Galizia's death.
Main goal	To independently investigate the assassination of Daphne Caruana Galizia on 16 October 2017 and the events preceding, concomitant with, and following that assassination, and to consider responsibility, fault, and retribution.
Specific goals	The Commission was tasked with hearing testimonies from witnesses, including investigators, politicians, and journalists, collecting evidence, and publishing its findings publicly, with the purpose of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determining whether any wrongful action or omission by or within any State entity facilitated the assassination or failed to prevent it; • Establishing whether the State had and has in place effective criminal law provisions and other practical means to avoid the development of a de facto state of impunity; and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determining whether the State has fulfilled or is fulfilling its positive obligation to take preventive operational measures to protect those individuals whose lives are at risk from criminal acts, in particular in the case of journalists.
How does it work?	<p>The Commission held hearings to hear testimonies from the journalist's family, politicians, and other journalists, and collected evidence. The submissions made to the inquiry can be found here.</p> <p>In December 2020, the board of inquiry announced that it would continue its work beyond the deadline set by the government. The members also announced that they were willing to renounce payment for the extension in order for the inquiry to continue.</p> <p>In June 2021, the board declared that the collection of evidence stage was closed and they would move on to finalising their report. Their final report was subsequently published in July 2021. An English translation of the report can be found here.</p>
How frequently does it meet?	In order to fulfil its task, the board held 93 sittings and heard 120 witnesses.
Does it receive any funding, and if so, from where?	Not known.
Website	More information can be found at: https://www.daphne.foundation/en/justice/public-inquiry
Contact	N/A

Montenegro

Name of initiative	Commission for Monitoring Investigations of Attacks on Journalists
Brief description	A commission to monitor the State's handling of violence against journalists.
Founders	Government of Montenegro.
Members	Representatives of the media and media associations, the Ministry of the Interior, the Police Administration, the National Security Agency, and the Prosecutor's Office.
Governance	The Commission has no power to ensure the government responds to or engages with its recommendations as there are no enforceable rules that govern the relationship between the Commission and other stakeholders. ¹
When was it set up?	It was established in December 2013, and re-established several times. The latest Commission was established on 4 June 2021
Why was it set up?	In 2012, following a request from the European Commission, Montenegro created the Commission, which has now been re-established several times. ²
Main goal	To monitor the activities of the competent authorities in the investigation of historic and recent cases of threats and violence against journalists, murders of journalists, and attacks on media property, and to provide recommendations to improve investigations.
Specific goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To create a plan and procedures for collecting facts and establishing other circumstances in relation to investigations. • To initiate cooperation with the authorities responsible for conducting investigations (prosecutors and police) by requesting relevant government bodies submit documentation related to attacks on journalists. • To review the investigations conducted so far, based on the information obtained and circumstances considered in relation to the investigations conducted.

¹ Information obtained from MFRR's [Montenegro Mission Report](#) (page 18).

² Information obtained from MFRR's [Montenegro Mission Report](#) (page 16).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To prepare an opinion on effective means of conducting investigations and specific measures that should be taken to improve investigations.
How does it work?	In fulfilling its responsibilities, the Commission relies on the cooperation of the police and prosecutors, and the information and documents they provide. However, it can hold its own private hearings with journalists who have been attacked and officials involved in investigations, as well as employing external experts to help with its work.
How frequently does it meet?	The Commission meets at least once a month, as set out in its Rules of Procedure, and more frequently if needed.
Does it receive any funding, and if so, from where?	The Commission receives no funding for its activities, such as hiring external experts to help in considering complex investigations. However, its members receive a token monthly payment for their work from the Ministry of Interior.
Website	The Commission has no website of its own. It relies on the government to publish its reports and other communications. The Commission has asked the government to establish a website and database to digitise its documentation, in order to increase the efficiency and transparency of its work, but has not yet received a reply. For more information on the first session of the latest Commission, see: https://www.gov.me/clanak/odrzana-prva-sjednica-komisije-za-istrage-napada-na-novinare
Contact	Mihailo Jovović, President of the Commission: mihailo.jovovic@vijesti.me

Netherlands

Name of initiative	Persveilig
Brief description	A comprehensive package of protection measures for journalists from journalism industry bodies and the government to enhance safety of journalists, including a hotline to report attacks and training.
Founders	Persveilig has been developed as a joint initiative of the Dutch Association of Journalists (<i>Nederlandse Vereniging van Journalisten – NVJ</i>), the Association of Editors in Chief, the police and the Public Prosecution Service. The initiative is based on the agreement reached by the Steering Group on Aggression and Violence against Journalists in 2018, which resulted in the Protocol PersVeilig in 2019.
Members	NVJ, the Association of Editors in Chief, the police, and the Public Prosecution Service.
Governance	Persveilig's Steering Committee consists of the 4 initial members. There is also a project manager who is accountable to the Steering Committee.
When was it set up?	November 2019
Why was it set up?	Due to increasing violence and aggression against journalists, the media sector, the police, and the Public Prosecution Service have taken steps to reduce such threats, violence, and aggression.
Main goal	To strengthen the protection of journalists from violence and aggression on the street, on social media, and/or through legal action.
Specific goals	The Protocol sets out detailed and comprehensive principles for journalists, employers, law enforcement, and prosecutors on how to make sure the necessary measures are in place to protect the safety, health, and well-being of journalists.
How does it work?	As part of the implementation of the Protocol, Persveilig has been developed as a joint initiative, including the following measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A hotline for journalists to report physical, verbal, sexual, and other threats and receive information on what to do. • The police and Public Prosecution Service prioritise the investigation and prosecution of attacks and harassment against journalists. • Prosecutors demand 200% of the normal penalty in cases of aggression or violence against journalists.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 'Stop Conversation' where police can visit the home of anyone who harasses journalists online to speak to them, in cases where the threshold of criminal liability has not been reached.³ • A security plan for employers and journalists containing practical details about prevention and training, but also clear procedures about what measures must be taken after an incident, including with regard to providing public statements and aftercare.⁴ • Incorporation of a collectively agreed norm into the safety plan, setting out which types of (aggressive and intimidating) behaviour are considered unacceptable and always lead to action by the employer/journalists. • Courses and training to ensure that journalists can defend themselves against forms of aggression and intimidation. • 'First aid for online threats' online training. • Guidelines for journalists on issues such as how to prevent aggression to make themselves less vulnerable.
How frequently does it meet?	The Steering Committee and the Project Manager meet once every three months to discuss the implementation of the Protocol.
Does it receive any funding, and if so, from where?	It is funded by the Public Broadcasting Corporation, publishers, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, and the Ministry of Justice.
Website	https://www.persveilig.nl/
Contact	Peter ter Velde, Persveilig Project Leader: info@persveilig.nl

³ Information obtained from MFRR's [Netherlands Mission Report](#) (page 6).

⁴ Information obtained from MFRR's [Netherlands Mission Report](#) (page 6).

Serbia 1

Name of initiative	Agreement on cooperation and measures to increase the safety of journalists and the associated Standing Working Group
Brief description	An agreement and a working group to foster cooperation on the safety of journalists between media organisations and government bodies.
Founders	The agreement was signed between the Serbian Republic Public Prosecutor's Office, Ministry of Interior, and seven journalism and media associations: Association of Journalists of Serbia, Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (<i>Nezavisno Udruženje Novinara Srbije</i> – NUNS), Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina, Association of Independent Electronic Media, Media Association, Online Media Association, and Association of Journalists of Vojvodina (which subsequently froze its membership and left the agreement and Standing Working Group).
Members	Serbian Republic Public Prosecutor's Office, Ministry of Interior, and six journalism and media associations (Association of Journalists of Serbia, NUNS, Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina, Association of Independent Electronic Media, Media Association, and Online Media Association).
Governance	The Standing Working Group consists of representatives of the signatories of the agreement, and there are also deputy representatives. To date, the Standing Working Group has created two action plans based on the agreement.
When was it set up?	The agreement was signed in December 2016
Why was it set up?	The signing of the agreement was envisaged by the Action Plan for Chapter 23 as part of the process of Serbia's accession to the European Union. The journalism associations were also keen to improve the safety of journalists and raise awareness of the institutions dealing with this issue.
Main goal	To foster cooperation between the members of the agreement and establish a system of measures to ensure more efficient legal protection for journalists.

Specific goals	<p>The agreement has the following goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To establish a Standing Working Group, which includes authorised representatives of the signatory parties. • To establish a mechanism which includes contact persons in journalism and media associations, police stations across Serbia, and prosecutors' offices to report cases of attacks against journalists and to exchange information. • To ensure records of attacks against journalists are kept by the Serbian Republic Public Prosecutor's Office. • To introduce high priority procedures for police officers in cases of attacks against journalists. • To analyse the provisions of the Criminal Code and actions of the competent authorities. • To analyse current communication methods and the degree of openness of competent authorities to the media. • To provide education and training for journalists on the issue of their protection under criminal law, and training for representatives of competent institutions to clarify this specific issue.
How does it work?	<p>Meetings of the Standing Working Group include the following main activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Journalists and media organisations report attacks and threats, and establish contacts for ongoing communication. • Representatives receive updated records of attacks against journalists from the Serbian Republic Public Prosecutor's Office.
How frequently does it meet?	<p>The Standing Working Group usually meets every three months. If there is a need, ad-hoc meetings can be arranged more often.</p>
Does it receive any funding, and if so, from where?	<p>Representatives on the Standing Working Group do not receive remuneration for their work. Some activities envisaged by the action plans, such as the analysis of the Criminal Code, are funded by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, which has an observer role in the agreement.</p>
Website	<p>The Standing Working Group has no website, but information can be found at: http://www.rjt.gov.rs/sr/bezbednost-novinara</p>
Contact	<p>Marija Babić, NUNS: marija.babic@nuns.rs</p>

Serbia 2

Name of initiative	Commission to review the facts related to the investigation of murdered journalists
Brief description	A commission to review the investigations of journalists who have been killed
Founders	Government of the Republic of Serbia.
Members	Two journalists, three representatives of the Ministry of Interior, representative of the War Crimes Prosecutor's Office, and two representatives of the Security Information Agency.
Governance	The Commission consists of a chair and seven members. The Commission reports back to the government on its activities.
When was it set up?	2013
Why was it set up?	A willingness to reopen unsolved cases of journalists who had been killed led to the Commission being founded to analyse the investigations that had been conducted in these cases, determine the facts about why they were unsuccessful, and lay the foundation for further investigations.
Main goal	To consider the facts in the investigations into the killings of journalists Radislava Dada Vujasinovic, Slavko Curuvija, and Milan Pantic, as well as journalists and Radio Television Serbia workers during the 1999 bombing, and to consider the facts which led to investigations into the killings of journalists during the armed conflicts in the former Yugoslavia from 1991 to 1995 and the killings of journalists in the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija from 1 January 1998 to 31 December 2000.
Specific goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To determine a plan and procedures for gathering facts and other information related to the murder investigations. • To cooperate with the bodies responsible for conducting such investigations. • To provide an overview of the current state of the investigations being conducted. • To prepare an opinion as to how methods of investigation can be improved to make sure that they are conducted more effectively, with proposals for concrete measures to achieve this.

How does it work?	The Commission is required to submit a report on its work to the government every 90 days, and to the competent committee every 60 days.
How frequently does it meet?	There is no fixed frequency for meetings. The Commission meets on an ad-hoc basis.
Does it receive any funding, and if so, from where?	Members of the Commission do not receive remuneration for their work, except for reimbursement of necessary and justified expenses related to their work for the Commission, subject to the regulations regarding the reimbursement of civil servants.
Website	http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/odluka/2013/8/7/reg
Contact	None available; enquiries can be addressed to Marija Babić, NUNS: marija.babic@nuns.rs

Serbia 3

Name of initiative	Working Group for the Security and Protection of Journalists
Brief description	A working group for media associations and government to cooperate on the general improvement of journalists' safety.
Founders	Government of the Republic of Serbia
Members	<p>Representatives of the Government of the Republic of Serbia (two members), Public Prosecutor's Office, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Culture and Information, Ministry of European Integration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ombudsman, Association of Judges and Prosecutors of Serbia, NUNS*, Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina,* Association of Independent Electronic Media, Media Association,* Online Media Association,* Trade Union of Journalists of Serbia, Association of the Local Independent Media – Local Press,* Association of Radio Stations.</p> <p>*These organisations later resigned from the Working Group in protest at the government's level of commitment.</p>
Governance	The president of the Working Group, Dejan Stojanovic, is a representative of the Ministry of Culture and Information.
When was it set up?	December 2020
Why was it set up?	According to the report by NUNS, the mandate of the Working Group was not completely clear at the start, but the associations involved saw a possibility to use the platform as a means to improve the overall safety of journalists by influencing politicians.
Main goal	To increase the efficiency of reactions to cases of attacks on journalists and to monitor actions taken to protect their safety.
Specific goals	N/A.
How does it work?	The Working Group is required to monitor actions taken to protect journalists and to submit a report on its work to the Prime Minister, Vice-President, and Minister of Culture and Information at least once a month.
How frequently does it meet?	The Working Group meets with the Prime Minister and Minister of Culture and Information once a month.

Does it receive any funding, and if so, from where?	Members of the Working Group do not receive remuneration for their work.
Website	N/A
Contact	None available; although NUNS is no longer a member of the Working Group, inquiries can be addressed to Marija Babić, NUNS: marija.babic@nuns.rs

Serbia 4

Name of initiative	Agreement to establish a platform for registering cases of endangerment of security and pressures on journalists and other media stakeholders and the associated working group
Brief description	A working group involving media associations and the Ombudsman, to record attacks and pressure on journalists, and to better protect their safety.
Founders	Ombudsman, Association of Journalists of Serbia, NUNS, Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina, Association of Independent Electronic Media, Media Association, Online Media Association, Association of the Local Independent Media – Local Press, Trade Union of Journalists of Serbia, Branch Trade Union for Culture, Art and Media 'Nezavisnost' ('Independence'), and the Autonomous Trade Union of Employees in Graphics, Publishing, News and Film Industry of Serbia.
Members	The working group consists of representatives of the signatory parties listed above.
Governance	The president of the working group is a representative of the Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina.
When was it set up?	May 2020
Why was it set up?	To categorise cases of attacks and pressures on journalists and other media professionals.
Main goal	To establish a more efficient mechanism for protecting the safety of journalists and media workers and their socio-economic and professional rights.
Specific goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To establish a platform to record every case of endangered security and pressure on persons who perform activities of public importance in the field of public information. • To contribute to more effective action by State institutions, with the ombudsman committing to use all the legal powers at their disposal in cases of endangerment of security and pressures on journalists.
How does it work?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A case is submitted to the platform. • Based on the information from the platform, the ombudsman makes a report, including information on the actions and measures taken by State authorities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports should then be submitted to the National Assembly and international organisations.
How frequently does it meet?	Members communicate via email and do not hold meetings.
Does it receive any funding, and if so, from where?	Members of the working group do not receive remuneration for their work.
Website	N/A
Contact	Rade Djuric, NUNS: rade.djuric@nuns.rs

Sweden

Name of initiative	National Action Plan: Defending Free Speech
Brief description	A national action plan to monitor and reduce threats to journalists and others in public life.
Founders	Swedish Government.
Members	Swedish Government.
Governance	The actions included in the Action Plan mainly consist of specific tasks for various State authorities. These authorities carry out the tasks autonomously; however, they report the results and progress back to the government once the tasks are completed. The government then evaluates the work internally and follows up the results in different ways, e.g. round-table discussions with relevant actors from the media sector.
When was it set up?	Adopted in May 2018
Why was it set up?	To defend the open and free formation of opinion and to address the increased risk of exposure to hatred and threats, and the resulting impact on journalists, elected representatives and artists whose exposure to such threats leads to adaptation and self-censorship.
Main goal	The Action Plan is specifically intended to safeguard politically elected representatives, journalists, and artists as part of the infrastructure for democratic discourse.
Specific goals	Based on available knowledge, the government monitors ongoing initiatives in this area, as well as proposing new ones, with the aim of laying the foundations for more systematic work in the future. The ambition is to strengthen its preventive work through greater knowledge and targeted measures that can reduce the exposure of elected representatives, journalists, and artists to threats and hatred.
How does it work?	The measures mentioned in the Action Plan as 'currently being taken' include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring the work of the Swedish Police Authority and the Swedish Prosecution Authority to ensure they have knowledge of threats and hatred against, <i>inter alia</i>, journalists and an ability to handle them. • Increased capacity for crime prevention.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When a crime with the intent to influence the free formation of opinion is suspected, the Swedish Police Authority is expected to give special attention to whether such a crime can cause a journalist to refrain from operating in the public sphere. • Specialist democracy and hate crime units under the Swedish Police Authority. • Internal training for the Swedish Police Authority to increase skills and knowledge regarding offences affecting fundamental rights and freedoms. • Providing personal protection to victims of threats and hatred, via the Swedish Police Authority's crime victim and personal security division. • The Swedish Police Authority's Stockholm Development Centre, whose designated area of responsibility includes offences that threaten fundamental rights and freedoms, established consultation forums in 2015. In these forums, the Authority meets, for example, with representatives from the media industry and party organisations on a regular basis to exchange experiences and improve operational collaboration. • A national cybercrime centre has been established within the Swedish Police Authority. • The Swedish Prosecution Authority has produced a legal memorandum including guidance on the practical handling of hate crime on the Internet. • The Swedish government has commissioned the University of Gothenburg, Linnæus University, the Swedish Arts Grants Committee, the Swedish Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority, the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention, and the Swedish Police Authority – and is funding the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, and Victim Support Sweden – to strengthen work against threats and hatred (e.g. funding the Swedish Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority to produce a training and information resource concerning support for those exposed to threats and hatred while participating in democratic discourse).
How frequently does it meet?	N/A.
Does it receive any funding, and if so, from where?	This is a State-led National Action Plan, funded and administered by the government.

Website	https://www.government.se/information-material/2018/05/action-plan-defending-free-speech/ https://www.government.se/4990f9/contentassets/bd181f7b0f4640e7920807d110b3c001/action-plan-defending-free-speech.pdf
Contact	Contact information for the Swedish Ministry of Culture, including the current Minister of Culture is available here: https://www.government.se/contact-information/#2070 (The plan was adopted during the term of Alice Bah Kuhnke as the Minister of Culture and Democracy)

United Kingdom

Name of initiative	National Action Plan for the Safety of Journalists
Brief description	A national action plan to provide a package of measures for safety of journalists, involving government, police, prosecution services, and the media.
Founders	UK Government (Home Office and Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport – DCMS)
Members	Law enforcement, broadcasters, publishers, industry bodies, unions, and the government.
Governance	The government will work with stakeholders to report to the National Committee for the Safety of Journalists annually on progress against all commitments.
When was it set up?	Published on 9 March 2021
Why was it set up?	The Action Plan followed reports to the government from journalists who have suffered abuse and attacks while going about their work, including being punched, threatened with knives, forcibly detained, and subjected to rape and death threats. A survey of members of the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) in November 2020 also found more than half of respondents had experienced online abuse, while nearly a quarter had been physically assaulted or attacked.
Main goal	To ensure that journalists operating in the UK are as safe as possible, reducing the number of attacks on and threats to journalists, and ensuring those responsible are brought to justice, by increasing awareness of the safety challenges faced by journalists and introducing measures to tackle them in a joint effort by law enforcement, broadcasters, publishers, industry bodies, unions, and the government.
Specific goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase awareness and understanding of the problem. ● Enhance the criminal justice system response in tackling crimes against journalists. ● Support journalists and their employers to build the resources they need to ensure their personal safety. ● Help online platforms to tackle the wider issue of abuse online. ● Improve public recognition of the value of journalists.

How does it work?	<p>The Plan sets out a series of commitments from relevant organisations focused on protecting the safety of journalists.</p> <p>Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCMS and the Home Office will issue a call for evidence to build a better understanding of the volume and type of threats and abuse against journalists. <p>Police:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Council for the Training of Journalists (NCTJ) will work with the police to provide training for journalists reporting on police operations, initially through a workshop at the University of Portsmouth. • Every police force is to be given access to a designated journalist safety liaison officer, while the National Police Chiefs' Council has appointed a lead officer to take responsibility for crimes against journalists at national level. <p>Prosecution services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK prosecution services will take a robust approach to crimes against journalists and bring those responsible to justice. <p>Media organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisations such as the Media Lawyers Association will produce further guidance to help journalists recognise when abuse breaks the law and what they can do about it. • The NCTJ will provide safety training. • The NUJ and Society of Editors will provide a free online toolkit/support pack for journalists.
How frequently does it meet?	The National Committee for the Safety of Journalists will hold to account each stakeholder who commits to an intervention, both at the formal meetings, which it will hold twice a year, and in its day-to-day interactions within the sector.
Does it receive any funding, and if so, from where?	This is a government-led and funded National Action Plan.
Website	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-action-plan-for-the-safety-of-journalists
Contact	Home Office: public.enquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk

	DCMS: enquiries@dcms.gov.uk
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