

Shaping the Future: Media Freedom and Security in a Changing World

NEW OSCE RESOURCES ON MEDIA FREEDOM

On 22 November 2023, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RfOM) organised an event “shaping the future: media freedom and security in a changing world” which took place as a follow up event to the discussions held on the occasion of the [25th anniversary of the RfOM mandate](#) one year ago.

During this event, the priority areas of RfOM’s work over the last year were highlighted and three new and innovative [resources](#) for strengthening media freedom and its role for democracy and security were presented.

The Representative, Teresa Ribeiro opened the event by highlighting her institution’s work toward building a strong, vibrant, and resilient information landscape that protects the truth, and serves the public interest. She pointed to the fact that there can be no security without media freedom; and there can be no media freedom without safety of journalists.

Professor Can Yeginsu set the scene by delivering a keynote speech on the nexus between media freedom and security, the changing nature of the media landscape, and the interlinkage between various challenges to media freedom, including the safety of journalists and the impact of perpetually transforming technologies.

A panel of four exceptional journalists - Carole Cadwalladr, Arzu Geybulla, Emine Ziyatdinova, and Stevan Dojcinovic - discussed issues of online and legal harassment, safety of journalists in times of war, and the need for an intersectional gender approach, while drawing upon their own hostile experiences as a consequence of their journalistic work. The panel provided key recommendations to the OSCE participating States, making reference to the three new OSCE resources and their guidance for advancing media freedom across the region.



The [three new OSCE resources](#):

The [Safety of Journalists Toolbox](#) to respond to persisting challenges and new risks that journalists face in their daily work. Aside from being a platform for National Focal Points to exchange national instruments and initiatives and promote knowledge and experience on measures taken to improve the safety of journalists, the Toolbox provides a large number of tailored measures that fit various national contexts.



The [Guidelines for monitoring online violence against female journalists](#). These Guidelines provide a systematic monitoring and reporting system aiming to better protect women journalists and prevent online violence from escalating. This valuable document was created in co-operation with renowned experts from Sheffield University, under the inspired lead of Professor Dr Julie Posseti.

The [SAIFE Resource Hub](#), a compilation of resources to help address the specific harms caused by AI technologies on the information landscape. This Hub provides guidance on ensuring that new technologies which have an enormous impact on our democracies are developed and deployed in ways that benefit society in the future, and that freedom of expression and media freedom are safeguarded.



Teresa Ribeiro concluded the event by providing some reflections on the panel discussion, and by highlighting her Office's continued efforts. She re-emphasised that media freedom and security are not in contrast, but as a matter of fact are concurring to the same goals. Achieving these requires collective efforts and a shared sense of responsibility. Free, independent, and pluralistic media have a key role to play in democracy and comprehensive and collective security.