



10th Anniversary of the Safety of Female Journalists Online (SOFJO) Project

Testimonials and Film Screening

Vienna, 26 November 2025

AGENDA

14:30 – 15:00	Welcome coffee
15:00 – 15:15	Opening remarks - Amb. Jan Braathu, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media - Mr. Pere Joan Pons Sampietro, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly - Amb. Vesa Häkkinen, OSCE Finnish Chairperson-in-Office
15:15 – 16:15	Testimonials from experts and journalists - Paloma Madrigal, OSCE RFoM Associate Project Officer - Salla Nazarenko, Union of Journalists of Finland and International Affairs Specialist - Corinne Vella, Daphne Caruana Galizia Foundation - Julie Posetti, Journalist, author, and academic - Emilia Şercan, Investigative Journalist - Arzu Geybulla, Journalist and Human Rights Advocate - Anora Sodikova, Editor-in-Chief, Uzdiplomat.uz - Jelena Petkovic, Investigative journalist, Journalists Association of Serbia - Elira Turdubaeva, Academic, Media and Communications - Nektaria Stamouli, Investigative Journalist, President of the Foreign Press Association of Greece - Javier Luque, Head of Digital Communications, International Press Institute MC: Barbara Trionfi, Principal Adviser to the Head of Institution

16:15 – 18:00

Documentary screening: A Dark Place (2018)

Commissioned by: Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM) in cooperation with the International Press Institute (IPI)

Director: Javier Luque

A Dark Place focuses on the stories of women journalists as well as experts on gender and media from a number of OSCE participating States – Finland, Serbia, Spain, the Russian Federation, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The documentary explores the phenomenon of online harassment of female journalists, and how the issues this raises go beyond gender equality by directly impacting the freedom of the media and the fundamental human right of members of society to access a plurality of information.

CONCEPT NOTE

BACKGROUND

In 2025, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM) marks a decade of dedicated work on the Safety of Female Journalists Online (SOFJO) project, a pioneering initiative launched to address the gender-specific threats faced by women in media, particularly in digital spaces. Over the past ten years, SOFJO has brought together journalists, policymakers, tech experts, civil society actors, and international partners to raise awareness, strengthen protections, and promote concrete measures to ensure that female media professionals can carry out their work safely, both online and offline.

This event celebrates a decade of impact while looking ahead to the future. It provides a platform to reflect on achievements, share lessons learned, and explore new strategies to counter the evolving landscape of gender-based online violence, which can take many forms from direct and indirect attacks and abuse to doxing and targeted surveillance, and its potential escalation to offline harm.

As online hostility against women journalists is not solved and it is taking new forms, the SOFJO initiative remains more vital than ever. This anniversary event not only honours the resilience and contributions of women journalists but also reaffirms the OSCE's commitment to defending media freedom and advancing gender equality across the region. Through open and inclusive dialogue, participants will examine emerging trends, discuss good practices, and recommit to building a media landscape that is safe and pluralistic, a key component for media freedom.

OBJECTIVES

1. **Celebrate a milestone:** Mark ten years of sustained commitment to the safety of female journalists online—SOFJO is the longest-running project within our institution and a cornerstone of our efforts to promote media freedom and gender equality.
2. **Reflect and lay the groundwork for future action:** Initiate a strategic discussion that will take stock of the achievements of the past decade to inform a forthcoming studio capturing good practices, lessons learned, remaining challenges, and emerging strategies to address the evolving threats faced by women journalists.
3. **Raise visibility and engage participating States:** Highlight the continued relevance of the SOFJO initiative by listening to the experiences of women journalists (some of them targeted online), experts and State representatives, who have worked to promote greater protection for women journalists online and offline within the SOFJO project as well as on the basis of the recommendations put forward by RFoM on this topic over the past 10 years. The screening *A Dark Place* (2018), a powerful documentary that vividly illustrates the realities faced by women journalists will serve as a catalyst for informed dialogue and greater awareness among OSCE participating States.