



**JOURNALISTS'
SAFETY,
MEDIA FREEDOM
AND PLURALISM
IN TIMES OF CONFLICT**

**15-16 JUNE
HOFBURG
CONFERENCE CENTRE
VIENNA
#journosafeOSCE**

Annotated Agenda

Background

The anti-government protests in Kyiv in November 2013, followed by the crisis in Crimea and the ongoing armed conflict in the East of Ukraine, paved way for a major media freedom and journalists' safety crisis in and around the country with broader effects spanning the entire OSCE region.

At least eight members of the media have lost their lives and over the past 18 months there have been reports of more than 300 cases of violence, harassment, abduction, detention and intimidation of journalists and media. Approximately 30 editorial offices and television stations have been violently attacked, broadcast signals have been blocked and switched to different channels, dozens of journalists have been denied free passage to cover events and many media outlets in the region are engaged in propaganda espousing war and hatred.

Unfortunately, journalists and media experts in the OSCE region have gained experience from a number of armed conflicts. While each presents unique challenges for the media and the countries affected, it is important that the lessons learned and positive practices be shared as a means to help preserve media freedom.

The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFOM) is bringing together experts to assist media and authorities in Ukraine as well as those throughout the OSCE region affected by the conflict to overcome the most prevalent and problematic issues.

The conference will result in a set of recommendations on best practices and the development of practical tools on issues of conflict and war reporting, the safety of journalists, journalism ethics, dealing with propaganda and the information war, media regulation, and confidence building among journalists from different parties to conflicts.

Day 1 - Monday, 15th June

8:15 – 9:15

**REGISTRATION
& COFFEE**
2nd floor, Vorsaal

9:15 – 12:15

**SESSION 1:
OPENING PLENARY**
2nd floor, Neuer Saal

Opening remarks:

- **Dunja Mijatović**, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media
- **Ivan Šimonović**, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Keynote speech:

- **Roy Gutman**, Middle East Correspondent, McClatchy Newspapers

Statements by the Delegations:

The Delegations of the OSCE participating States are invited to make remarks on issues related to the topic of the conference.

Moderator:

Ambassador Sanja Milinković, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Serbia to the OSCE, 2015 OSCE Serbian Chairmanship

12:15 – 14:00

LUNCH & SIDE EVENTS
2nd floor, Vorsaal





14:00 – 15:30

SESSION 2: SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS

2nd floor, Neuer Saal

Safe working conditions for journalists have long since been at the forefront of OSCE commitments on media freedom. With the start of the conflict in and around Ukraine, especially in eastern parts of the country, safety of journalists and other members of the media remains one of the primary concerns. Numerous reports by the OSCE RFOM detail the killings, beatings, and harassment of journalists in and around the country since the beginning of the conflict.

In addition to being specifically targeted by perpetrators for their work, on many occasions journalists were sent on assignment without special training, protective gear, insurance or awareness of the conditions they could expect to face as a result of the conflict.

This session will explore such questions as:

- What are the main threats faced by journalists in times of conflict?
- How to make the work of journalists and their media organizations safer?
- How to combat impunity for crimes against journalists?

Moderator:

Frank Smyth, Founder and Executive Director of Global Journalist Security/Senior Advisor, Committee to Protect Journalists

Panellists:

- **Tarlach McGonagle**, Senior Researcher, Institute for Information Law, Faculty of Law, University of Amsterdam
- **Mikhail Zygar**, Editor-in-Chief, TV channel Dozhd, Russian Federation
- **Oksana Romaniuk**, Executive Director, Institute of Mass Information, Ukraine

15:30 – 16:00

COFFEE BREAK

2nd floor, Vorsaal

16:00 – 17:30

SESSION 3A: ETHICS OF JOURNALISM IN CONFLICT REPORTING

2nd floor, Neuer Saal

Journalists face unprecedented ethical pressures during times of conflict. Demands and strategic interests of governments, the call for patriotism and cultural and national sensitivities collide with ethical journalism. In an atmosphere that is often filled with hate and emotion, ethical journalists struggle to

avoid stereotypes and propaganda and hope to portray events and people in a rational context. Dealing with the victims of violence and loss also requires sensitive and careful reporting.

To provide reliable information to the public during times of conflict requires a specialized set of journalism skills. Journalists must be aware of the crucial role that they can play during times of conflict. Media can be utilized for peace-building activities to overcome tensions and build confidence among the various parties. It can contribute to dialogue, mutual understanding and, eventually, reconciliation and peace.

Propaganda and information wars generate tensions among journalists from all parties involved in a conflict. At the same time, whatever their nationality, all journalists belong to the same profession with common ethical standards. Solidarity, dialogue and co-operation among media professionals can play an important role in improving the situation for journalists working in and around Ukraine, as well as resolve issues and de-escalate conflicts.

This session will explore such questions as:

- What are the rights and responsibilities of journalists, reporters and editors reporting on conflicts?
- How to provide ethical coverage of atrocities or violations of human rights?
- What is conflict-sensitive journalism and what role can it play in conflict de-escalation?
- What is the role of journalists associations and self-regulatory bodies in supporting journalists and enhancing co-operation?

Moderator:

Aidan White, Director, Ethical Journalism Network

Panellists:

- **Boris Navasardyan**, President, Yerevan Press Club, Armenia
- **Boro Kontić**, Director, Mediacentar, Sarajevo
- **Nadezda Azhgikhina**, Executive Secretary, Russian Union of Journalists/Vice-President, European Federation of Journalists
- **Frank La Rue**, Former UN Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression/ Executive Director, Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Europe





16:00 – 17:30

**SESSION 3B: MEDIA
REGULATION IN TIMES OF
CONFLICT**
2nd floor, Room 201

17:30 – 19:00

RECEPTION
2nd floor, Vorsaal

Broadcasting is one of the most pervasive and powerful means of communication and, therefore, broadcast regulation is a challenging task that requires a set of clear and balanced rules and mechanisms. This becomes even more important in times of conflict. Strict regulation is a way for governments to ensure that they have monopoly over the means of national broadcasting and the distribution of information. But controlling information weakens the role of journalism in providing accurate and critical scrutiny of the exercise of power.

Governments have a responsibility to provide an appropriate media regulatory framework, in accord with democratic principles and with full respect for freedom of expression and freedom of the media. Particularly relevant areas of regulation include licensing, as well as content regulation regarding accuracy, balance, defamation, incitement to violence, threats to public order and national security issues.

This session will explore such questions as:

- What are the best licensing models and practices in times of conflict?
- Is there a need for specific content rules for traditional and new media in times of conflict?
- What regulatory tools can be established and applied in order to deal with biased and misleading information?
- How can media pluralism be ensured to avoid information monopolies as well as a confrontational media environment?
- How can serious threats against public order and national security be tackled without stifling free expression and free media?
- How to best guarantee the independence of the media regulator?
- What is the specialized role of public service media in times of crisis?

Moderator:

Douglas Griffin, Director, Albany Associates, United Kingdom

Panellists:

- **Helena Mandić**, Director of Broadcasting, Communications Regulatory Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Kristen Thelin**, Judge, former member of the UN Human Rights Committee and Judge at the ICTY
- **Eve Salomon**, Director, Salomon Whittle Ltd, United Kingdom





Day 2 - Tuesday, 16th June

9:15 – 10:45

**SESSION 4:
PROPAGANDA AND THE
INFORMATION WAR**
2nd floor, Neuer Saal

As part of the current conflict in and around Ukraine there has been widespread propaganda inciting war and hatred, especially on television, online and social media. This session will examine international obligations to prevent hateful propaganda in the context of freedom of expression and media freedom commitments. This session includes discussions on: national legal responses to propaganda inciting war and hatred, relevant decisions of broadcast regulators, responses of self-regulatory professional bodies, ways for media outlets to not participate in activities detrimental to the profession and to avoid the trap of replacing journalism with state-inspired propaganda. The participants will share best practices to promote ethical standards and expose advocates of war in the media.

This session will explore such questions as:

- What are the illegal forms of propaganda under international and national laws?
- How can citizens detect and confront propaganda and hate speech?
- How can the media counteract bias, disinformation and misinformation?
- How can dialogue among journalists prevent inciting war and hatred between nations?
- What is the practical influence of the state-run media on the freedom of expression and media pluralism?
- How can the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and OSCE participating States better counteract propaganda and information wars?

Moderator:

Katrin Nyman-Metcalf, Head of the Chair of Law and Technology, Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia

Panellists:

- **Andrey Rikhter**, Director, OSCE Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media
- **Georgii Pocheptsov**, Professor, National Academy of Public Administration in Kyiv and Mariupol State University, Ukraine
- **Valery Solovey**, Professor and Chair of Public Relations Department, Moscow State Institute of International Relation, Russia

10:45 – 11:15

COFFEE BREAK
2nd floor, Vorsaal

11:15 – 12:45

**SESSION 5:
CLOSING PLENARY**
2nd floor, Neuer Saal

International organisations and media NGOs have the opportunity to present their viewpoints on issues related to the topic of the conference.

Moderator:

Andrey Rikhter, Director, OSCE Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media

Closing Remarks:

- **H.E. Ivica Dačić**, OSCE Chairperson in Office, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia (TBC)
- **Dunja Mijatović**, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

12:45 – 14:30

LUNCH & SIDE EVENTS
2nd floor, Vorsaal

14:30 – 17:00

SIDE EVENTS
2nd floor, Neuer Saal & Room 201

