



UCBMUN XXI



UNESCO: Media Pluralism in the 21st Century

Update Paper

NGOs

The discussion on censorship and the safety of journalists pertain as much as to the journalists, media bloggers, and the press as it does to the governments that are being represented in this committee. Thus, in order to ensure a more comprehensive and open dialogue, the committee will be inviting various NGOs to come into committee sessions to hold a 'press conference'. It will be a time for delegates to ask the necessary questions that will offer a new perspective throughout committee when determining the content and solutions in resolution papers. The NGOs that may be coming into committee session include the following:

Reporters without Borders

Reporters Without Borders (RWB), or Reporters Sans Frontières (RSF), is an international non-profit, non-governmental organization that promotes and defends freedom of information and freedom of the press. The organization, with a head office in Paris, France, has consultant status at the United Nations. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reporters_Without_Borders_-_cite_note-2

Reporters Without Borders has two primary spheres of activity: one is focused on Internet censorship and the new media, and

the other on providing material, financial and psychological assistance to journalists assigned to dangerous areas. Its missions are to continuously monitor attacks on freedom of information worldwide; denounce any such attacks in the media; act in cooperation with governments to fight censorship and laws aimed at restricting freedom of information; morally and financially assist persecuted journalists as well as their families; and offer material assistance to war correspondents in order to enhance their safety.

Access Now

Access Now defends and extends the digital rights of at risk users around the world. By combining innovative policy, global advocacy, and direct technical support, we fight for open and secure communications for all.

Policy can help Access Now's mission by developing and promoting rights-respecting practices and policies. We seek to advance laws and global norms to affect long-term systemic change in the area of digital rights and online security, developing insightful, rights-based, and well-researched policy guidance to governments, corporations, and civil society.

Advocacy leverages deep user engagement, bold visual advocacy, and

innovative campaign tactics. Our campaigns bring our policy positions and advocacy asks straight to the halls of parliaments and corporate boardrooms, package and deliver secure technologies to protect users at risk, and mobilize global internet users to pressure the powerful.

Tech provides technology solutions and real-time advice for users at risk in circumstances where communications are not open, free, or safe. Through our 24/7 Digital Security Helpline, we offer technical guidance and incident response to inform and support activists, journalists, human rights defenders, and civil society actors on the ground.

Article 19

Article 19 is a British human rights organization with a specific mandate and focus on the defense and promotion of freedom of expression and freedom of information worldwide founded in 1987. The organization takes its name from Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Article 19 monitors threats to free expression around the globe; lobbies governments to adopt laws that conform to international standards of freedom of expression; and drafts legal standards that

strengthen media, public broadcasting, free expression, and access to government-held information. In addition, Article 19 intervenes in cases of individuals or groups whose rights have been violated; and provides capacity-building support to non-governmental organizations, judges and lawyers, journalists, media owners, media lawyers, public officials and parliamentarians.

Article 19's work is organised into five Regional Programmes—Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East—and a Law Program. It has over 100 staff and regional offices in Bangladesh, Brazil, Kenya, Mexico, Myanmar, Senegal, and Tunisia. It works in partnership with nearly 100 organizations in more than 60 countries around the world.

Committee to Protect Journalists

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) is an American independent non-profit, non-governmental organization, based in New York City, New York with correspondents around the world. CPJ promotes press freedom and defends the rights of journalists. The American Journalism Review has called the organization "Journalism's Red Cross". The Committee to Protect Journalists was founded in 1981 in response to the harassment of

Paraguayan journalist Alcibiades Gonzalez Delvalle.

Between 2002 and 2008, it published a biannual magazine, *Dangerous Assignments*. It also publishes an annual worldwide survey of press freedom called *Attacks on the Press*. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Committee to Protect Journalists](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Committee_to_Protect_Journalists) - cite note-4

The organization compiles an annual list all journalists killed in the line of duty around the world. As of June 1, 2016, more than 1195 journalists had been killed since 1992 – the first year the organization began systematically tracking killings. The organization's figures are typically lower than similar ongoing counts by Reporters Without Borders or the International Federation of Journalists because of CPJ's established parameters and confirmation process. It also publishes an annual census of imprisoned journalists.

The organization is a founding member of the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX), a global network of more than seventy non-governmental organizations that monitors free-expression violations around the world and defends journalists, writers, and others persecuted for exercising their right to freedom of expression.

Freedom House

Freedom House is a U.S.-based non-governmental organization (NGO) that conducts research and advocacy on democracy, political freedom, and human rights. Freedom House was founded in October 1941. It describes itself as a "clear voice for democracy and freedom around the

world". [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom House](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_House) - cite note-7

The organization's annual *Freedom in the World* report, which assesses each country's degree of political freedoms and civil liberties, is frequently cited by political scientists, journalists, and policymakers. *Freedom of the Press* and *Freedom of the Net*, which monitor censorship, intimidation and violence against journalists, and public access to information, are among its other signature reports.

Global Voices Advocacy

Advox is a project of Global Voices. It is a global network of bloggers and online activists dedicated to protecting freedom of expression and free access to information online. It reports on threats to online speech, share tactics for defending the work and words of netizens, and support efforts to improve Internet policy and practice worldwide.

The organization recognize that universal human rights to free expression, access to information, and privacy are being challenged by governments, companies, and other powerful actors worldwide. With over 800 contributors in 130 countries, GVA believe that the Global Voices community is uniquely positioned to do something about this.

GVA aims to leverage its strengths to make a central space for anyone eager to learn about emerging issues, discover advocacy efforts, and work together as new challenges emerge and old fights continue.

Human Rights Information and Documentations System (HURIDOCS)

Based in Geneva, HURIDOCS is an NGO that since 1982 supports human rights defenders use information technologies and documentation methods to organize and present data about violations. It is passionate about providing NGOs with the simplest and most efficient tools and techniques to advocate for their cause.

They have a team working in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Eastern Europe that understands the specific challenges of each of these contexts with a desire for human rights defenders to be able to Organize an efficient strategy as a result of the

information they have and use tools and methods that improve the impact of their work at a global level.

HURIDOCS also aims to strengthen international and regional human rights mechanisms by making their datasets openly accessible – case law, reports, communications or resolutions – that can lead to more effective advocacy and litigation.