

The United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI), in cooperation with the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), invites you to an event in commemoration of

World Press Freedom Day 2017

“Critical Minds for Critical Times: Media’s role in advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies”

***Thursday, 4 May, 2017, 10 a.m. – 1p.m.
Conference Room 2, United Nations Headquarters, New York***

RSVP

According to UNESCO, the effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will depend on building inclusive knowledge societies with the potential to achieve lasting, positive impacts on the whole range of SDGs, promoting access to education, economic prosperity, social inclusion, environmental protection, and peace. In all this, **the role of free, pluralistic and independent journalism is key.**

The explosion of fake news in 2016 may serve to raise the value of real news. The SDGs recognize the importance of public access to information and fundamental freedoms, which includes freedom of expression, notably under SDG 16. In this context, **the 2017 World Press Freedom Day is focused on why it is vital to strengthen free and quality journalism to enable the media to effectively contribute to the achievement of SDG 16.**

The interactive discussion will **examine the interrelationships between freedom of expression, peace, and inclusiveness. It shall explore ways through which Media and Information Literacy and critical thinking shall contribute to advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies and even preventing violent extremism and hate speech. Reporting on terrorism** will be featured as an example of how media is critical in avoiding sensationalism and stigmatisation, which can contribute to social and cultural divisions and lead to human rights being compromised through heavy-handed and even violent responses in sectors of society.

For the full **Concept Note** and more information please access: www.unesco.org/new/en/wpfd

OPENING SESSION

Moderator: Margaret Novicki, Officer-in-Charge, Department of Public Information

Opening Remarks:

Video Message from **António Guterres**, United Nations Secretary-General

H.E. Ms. Sofia Borges, Special Adviser to the President of the General Assembly

H.E. Mr. Jan Kickert, Permanent Representative of Austria, Chairperson, UNGA Committee on Information

Marie Paule Roudil, UNESCO Representative to the UN, Director of UNESCO’s New York Office

Sherwin Bryce-Pease, President, United Nations Correspondents Association

PANEL DISCUSSION

Moderator: Ramu Damodaran, Acting Director, Outreach Division, Department of Public Information

Panellists:

David Scharia, Chief of Branch, UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)

Jay Rosen, Associate Professor, Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute, New York University

Sarah L. Ryley, Investigative and Data Journalist, The Trace

Bob Garfield, Co-host, public radio’s “On the Media”; MediaPost Columnist; Founder, Media Future Summit

Emma Daly, Director of Communications, Human Rights Watch