

# World Press Freedom Day 2021

## Information Note

3 May 2021

### World Press Freedom Day

#### Background

In 1993, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 3 May as World Press Freedom Day following a recommendation adopted at the twenty-sixth session of UNESCO's General Conference in 1991. It serves as an occasion to inform citizens of the violations of press freedom. It is a reminder that publications and social media are censored, fined, suspended, while journalists, editors and publishers are harassed, attacked and even killed worldwide.

#### World Press Freedom Day 2021 Observance

This year's World Press Freedom Day theme "Information as a Public Good" serves as a call to affirm the importance of cherishing information as a public good, and exploring what can be done in the production, distribution and reception of content to strengthen journalism, and to advance transparency and empowerment while leaving no one behind. The theme is of urgent relevance to all countries across the world. It recognizes the changing communications system that is impacting on our health, our human rights, democracies and sustainable development.

To underline the importance of information within our online media environment, WPF 2021 will highlight three key topics:

- Steps to ensure the economic viability of news media;
- Mechanisms for ensuring transparency of Internet companies;
- Enhanced Media and Information Literacy (MIL) capacities that enable people to recognize and value, as well as defend and demand, journalism as a vital part of information as a public good.

Source:

(<https://en.unesco.org/commemorations/worldpressfreedomday>)

#### Global Observance

The global commemoration, hosted by UNESCO and the Government of Namibia, is scheduled to take place on 29 April-3 May in Windhoek, Namibia. It will include the announcement of the 2021 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize. The event will be a physical and digital experience combining virtual and in-presence participation.

In 1991, a group of brave, visionary journalists, media executives and experts gathered in a seminar in Windhoek under the UN's auspices and drafted a landmark declaration that was a bedrock for expanding and defending [#PressFreedom](#) around the world. They believed that for democracy to thrive we needed a free, independent and pluralistic press. The UN followed their lead and accepted their call to declare 3 May as [#WorldPressFreedomDay](#)

This year, we are celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Windhoek Declaration. There will be regional World Press Freedom Day celebrations, to focus on local aspects of press freedom and explore the current trends and challenges. [Learn more about the Windhoek's Declaration impact](#)

#### Contact:

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#### World Press Freedom Day Resources:

- [UNESCO Website](#)
- [Concept Note](#) (short version)
- [Concept Note](#) (long version)
- [SG World Press Freedom Day Video Message](#)
- [Media Resources](#)

#### New York Virtual Observance

The NY observance organized in collaboration with the Department of Global Communications and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO, will be virtual broadcast live on 3 May on UN WebTV from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., EDT and will include pre-recorded messages from UN senior officials and a civil society interactive panel which will focus on promoting verified information as a public good to ‘build back better’ in the post-COVID world. Additionally, it will highlight the important role the media has played in disseminating information and combating the ‘disinfodemic’ during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Monday, 3 May 2021, 9:30- 11:30 a.m. EDT

Registration: <http://bit.ly/wpfd2021>

#### NY Virtual Event Materials:

- [Save the Date](#)
- [Event Draft Scenario](#)
- [UN Civil Society website](#)
- Pre-recorded remarks requested from UN senior officials:
  - António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General (Invited)
  - Ms. Audrey Azoulay, Director-General, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (Invited)
  - His Excellency, Volkan Bozkir, President of the 75<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly (Invited)
  - Mr. Cristian Espinosa Cañizares, Chair of the UN Committee on Information (COI) (Invited)
  - Ms. Valeria Robecco, President, United Nations Correspondents Association (UNCA) (Invited)

### Social Media Assets:

- Hashtags: #WorldPressFreedomDay #PressFreedom #UNwithCivilSociety
- Twitter: [@UNESCO](#) [@UNDGC\\_CS0](#)
- Facebook: [UNESCO](#) [UNDGCCSO](#)
- Instagram: [unesco](#) [undgc\\_cs0](#)
- Social Media Cards

### Contacts:

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