

Safety of Female Journalists Online

#SOFJO event | A Dark Place Screening

Wednesday, 18 September 2019 as of 18.30
Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights
Długa 23/25, 00-090 Warszawa, Poland

Welcoming Remarks

- **Adam Bodnar**, Polish Commissioner for Human Rights

Speakers

- **Banu Güven**, Journalist, Deutsche Welle Türkçe
- **Nani Jansen Reventlow**, Director, Digital Freedom Fund
- **Sarah Clarke**, Head of Europe and Central Asia, ARTICLE 19
- **Javier Luque**, Head of Digital Communications, IPI

Moderator

- **Harlem Désir**, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media



The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and Polish Commissioner for Human Rights kindly invite you to join an event on the safety of female journalists online and screening of the documentary 'A Dark Place' which takes place on the occasion of the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting.

The world's largest regional security organization, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) has early on recognized that human rights are an integral part of any sustainable security strategy. Democracy can only thrive when a plurality of voices is heard, off- and online. However, journalists and media workers can only inform the public if they're safe to do their work. Female journalists face a double burden: being attacked as journalists and as women. Online abuse, particularly of marginalized voices such as those of female journalists, directly impacts the quality of our democracies and causes a serious obstacle to the freedom of expression, media freedom and the society's right to access a plurality of information.

OSCE participating States recently expressed their explicit concerns by the distinct risk faced by women journalists in relation to their work, including through digital technologies. They underlined the importance to ensure women journalists' greatest possible safety and that their experiences and concerns are effectively addressed. In addition, OSCE participating States committed themselves to take action to address violence, abuse, threats, and harassment, including through digital technologies, directed at women.

The online safety of women journalists goes beyond gender equality and press freedom, directly impacting the quality of our democracies and right of society to access a plurality of information. This simple truth unfolds in the documentary 'A Dark Place', which was produced by the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, in co-operation with the International Press Institute, and highlights the personal stories of female journalists who have been affected by online harassment, in a bid to raise awareness of the problem and inspire change. 'A Dark Place' will be shown in Poland for the first time.

Prior to the film, we'll hear from experts from international and civil society organizations who are working to support and protect female journalists and from women journalists themselves, on their experiences and what action would be needed to effectively implement the latest international commitments to address this type of gender-based violence. The panel will also explore how monitoring of online harassment, reliable and comprehensive statistics and national co-ordination of data collection are necessary prerequisites to effectively address online abuse of female journalists.

There is no such thing as freedom of expression if it is only the privilege of some, with the exclusion of others. Freedom can only be inclusive – for all.

The event will be in English only.
Catering will be provided.



COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

