**OHCHR request on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity**

**Submission of Ireland**

1. **April 2017**
2. **Please identify the gender-specific obstacles and human rights violations, or risks thereof, faced by women journalists working in your country or abroad. Please elaborate on how these obstacles and violations manifest themselves in practice and how they differ from the obstacles and human rights violations faced by their male counterparts.**

There is no specific data available in Ireland on the issue of gender-specific obstacles and human rights violations of women journalists. Ireland was ranked 9th out of 180 countries in the 2016 World Press Freedom Index[[1]](#footnote-1). Press freedom is guaranteed in Ireland’s 1937 constitution.

1. **Please indicate whether you monitor and collect information and disaggregated data specifically on the gender-specific barriers and human rights violations, or risks thereof, faced by women journalists.**

See response to question 1.

1. **What measures have you adopted to address the issue of the safety of women journalists, including the underlying causes of the obstacles and human rights violations experienced by women journalists? How do these measures differ from those adopted to address the issue of safety of journalists more generally, or the safety of male journalists? Please elaborate on the impact of any measures adopted.**

N/A

**4. Are the measures – if any- referred to in response to Question 3 above part of a “gender-sensitive approach” (see General Assembly resolution 70/162, page 3)? If so, what does this approach consist of?**

N/A

1. **Do you have any laws and/or policies or initiatives (e.g. training, awareness-raising) to address harmful gender stereotypes, intersecting forms of discrimination and other human rights violations experienced by women journalists in the course of carrying out their work?**

Ireland does not have any legislation specific to women journalists. The following are some Government initiatives established to promote gender equality in Ireland:

* The Programme for a Partnership Government, published in 2016, includes a range of measures intended to benefit women directly or indirectly.
* The National Women's Strategy 2007-2016 was launched in April 2007 and was developed as a national policy to implement the Beijing Platform for Action. The Strategy was the key policy document in relation to the advancement of women in Irish society, across all facets of the economy and society. A new National Women's Strategy for the period from 2017 to 2020 is being finalised.
* Comprehensive legislation and structures are put in place to address discrimination on nine grounds, including gender.
* The Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI) has put a particular focus on equality and diversity on Irish TV and radio in its 2017-2019 strategy.
* Ireland's social protection programme includes maternity leave, paternity leave and other family friendly leaves to support parents to reconcile work and family life. Childcare services have also been expanded to support the childcare needs of parents who are in employment, education or training.
* State and European Social Funding have been made available for positive action programmes to support gender equality.
* Funding support is provided for the National Women's Council of Ireland.

1. **Do you have any laws and/or policies or initiatives (training, awareness- raising) to address violations of international humanitarian law committed against women journalists?**

N/A

1. **What are the challenges you face in ensuring accountability for human rights violations committed against women journalists?**

N/A

1. **How have you cooperated with the relevant UN entities on the situation of women journalists and what is the nature of the information that you have shared on the status of the investigations into discrimination, attacks, and violence against women journalists?**

Supporting civil society space was one of Ireland’s key commitments during our membership of the UN Human Rights Council. Ireland also supported the HRC Resolution on Safety of Journalists at the 27th Session of the Council.

1. **Please indicate if you have developed specific initiatives and monitoring frameworks to ensure the safety of women journalists under the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 5 and 16**

Ireland’s policy for international development, *One World, One Future*, recognises the powerful role that a diverse, pluralistic and professional media environment can have in providing access to information and debate, and in ensuring the enjoyment of the right to freedom of expression as recognised in international human rights law. The policy highlights the important contribution media can make in holding Governments and others to account and includes a commitment to support initiatives that can strengthen their role in key partner countries.

1. <https://rsf.org/en/ireland> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)