

**International Media Support (IMS)**

International Media Support submission to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women for her next thematic report on the issue of violence against women journalists

10 March 2020

Executive Summary:

1.      International Media Support (IMS) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the anticipated thematic report on the safety of women journalists by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women.

2.      APPRECIATING the previous report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women that laid the foundation for States to establish a human rights framework with intent to encourage the development of policies or strategies to ensure the protection of women journalists;

3.      UNDERSTANDING that deeply rooted societal norms and harmful gender stereotypes present an enormous barrier to a woman’s opportunity to begin and pursue a career in journalism on equal terms as men;

4.  ACKNOWLEDGING that gender has major implications for media pluralism and is thereby essential for a healthy democracy to function and there is a glass ceiling that still prevents women from accessing positions of responsibility, particularly in complex country contexts;

5.  RECOGNISING that women journalists are harassed both as a result of the content of their reporting and at the same time targeted because of their gender, and recognising that gender is intersecting with other characteristics such as disability, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion and so on;

6.  OBSERVING that the international community has largely committed to the safety of women journalists and meaningful implementation of these pledges by States, National Human Rights Institutions and media outlets is integral and;

7.      REASSURING that an analysis of the issue of violence against women in reports is the first step in formulating a practical response and that there is a lack of research in this field;

8.      the following is a reply to the call for submissions covering three selected countries: Mexico, Pakistan and Syria.

Methodology:

9.      As preventing and protecting from violence against women journalists is part of the core work of IMS and its mandate, this submission was compiled using first-hand information of in-house staff and partner organisations and recent and upcoming IMS publications. The IMS Global Response department took the responsibility of seeking the expertise of selecting internal and cross-department staff who specifically focus on gender issues in the context of safety and media development in target countries. In addition to structuring and sending out the questions stipulated by the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women to these respective individuals, IMS commissioned reports were meticulously combed for relevant information.

10.      The content of this submission draws primarily from October 2019 IMS publication, The safety of women journalists: Breaking the cycle of silence and violence, and the replies of staff and partners with specialised knowledge in the field. This content also draws in part from the forthcoming IMS publication, Defending Journalism 2, and its chapter specifically dedicated to the intersectional issues faced by women journalists.

11. This submission was additionally shaped by IMS-supported reports by the Federation of African Women Media: Who Can I Tell? What Should I Do? Sexual Harassment in the Media; the Afghan Journalists Safety Committee: The Reporting Heroes: A Study on the Condition of Afghan Female Journalists; and the Tunis Center for Press Freedom: Les Violations Commisses sur les Femmes Journalistes from Tunisia.

12. Input was requested from IMS staff and partners in a number of different countries, but time constraints resulted in limited responses. However, the replies received span across four different regions that individually present the unique challenges regarding the situation of the safety of female journalists in the respective contexts.

Contributors:

12. This submission was compiled by IMS consultant Colette Simonne Heefner with the gracious assistance of IMS Global Response Head of Department Gulnara Akhundova and IMS Gender Advisors Malin Palm and Emma Lygnerud Boberg. Regional staff and partners also contributed swiftly and abundantly:

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 Syrian Female Journalists Network

 Women Now For Development

UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women

Call for submissions on violence against women journalists

Mexico:

1. *Please indicate whether there are cases of gender based violence and harassment against women journalists in a country you work in. If so, please specify how these cases are documented, and describe the State response, or lack thereof, to such cases, including examples of good practice.*

In Mexico, gender-based violence against women journalists is common. The documentation is done mostly by NGOs that track attacks against the press. Article 19 puts out a yearly report on all aggressions and the numbers are divided by gender: 164 attacks were documented during 2018, 23 of them particularly characterised as gender-based (that result from social roles and stereotypes assigned to women and cause differentiated violence) and 10 of which were further characterised as sexual harassment or as sexual violence.[[1]](#footnote-1) Altogether, 21% of the attacks occurred online.[[2]](#footnote-2)

To combat gender-based violence and harassment against women journalists and, more broadly, all media workers and human rights defenders, the Mexican government created the Federal Mechanism for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Journalists (Protection Mechanism) in 2012. Between 2012 and 2017, 368 people received some form of assistance from this mechanism within its Rapid Response Unit. According to Article19’s 2017 annual report, 30% of those assisted them were women (113 women).[[3]](#footnote-3)

Flaws in Mexico’s Protection Mechanism have been well documented, including under-resourcing and ineffectiveness of the measures taken for protection.[[4]](#footnote-4) Altogether there is an absence of a gender perspective in the mechanism’s risk assessment and responses. A coalition of civil society organisations working on press freedom and human rights have analysed the mechanism and concluded that its risk assessment process does not take into account factors that affect the risks that individuals face or should be considered in the safety response, such as ethnicity, age and socio-economic background in addition to gender. Also, the mechanism does not account for expectations from the society that the protection recipient should care for family members.[[5]](#footnote-5)

2. *Please indicate whether the country you work in has early-warning and rapid-response systems**in place, such as hotlines, online platforms or 24-hour emergency contact points to ensure that journalists and other media actors have**immediate access to protective measures when they are under threat.*

In Mexico, the Protection Mechanism can be activated when a person under threat requests it. Within the Protection Mechanism, the Rapid Response Unit receives the request and evaluates it. After issuing the protection measures, it carries out an “Immediate Action Evaluation” and reports it to the Mechanism’s executive director. If approved, the case goes to the Risk Evaluation Unit to determine how to continue the protection measures. Within this process, there is a protocol for women journalists.

According to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, there are important gaps in the gender approach of the Protection Mechanism on an implementation level.[[6]](#footnote-6) There is, for example, no specialised group to respond to threats against female journalists. It also notes the firm the government contracted to handle protection reported that it has 148 people trained as bodyguards, but only three of them are women. The OHCHR recommend a unit of specialists to handle cases of violence against women journalists and a training programme within the country’s Special Prosecutor’s office on handling attacks perpetrated against women journalists. The Mexican government has not responded to the recommendation.

3. *Please specify whether there are any programs in place aimed at addressing factors that increase the likelihood of violence and harassment in the world of work for women journalists, including discrimination, the abuse of power relations, and gender, cultural and social norms that support violence and harassment in the country that you work in.*

There are public policies to address gender inequality, but they have not been successful, as women continue to be harassed and minimised in the workplace. In the private sector, newsrooms usually don’t have internal policies addressing issues of harassment and violence against women, as well as workplace gender equality policies.

6. *Please indicate what challenges are faced by women journalists when reporting on cases of gender based violence, and specify whether there are any good practices in this regard.*

Though strides may have been made since 2016, a study carried out at this time found that the government does not consider the context of violence against women which hinders access to justice and protection in Mexico.[[7]](#footnote-7) Many attacks take place in environments where there is social acceptance of violence against women and a stigmatisation of the woman that can follow from attacks. Furthermore, the Espacio OSC report on Mexico identifies online abuse as a tactic used against female activists and journalists.[[8]](#footnote-8)

For example, when the Women’s Human Rights Center in the state of Chihuahua (northern Mexico) filed a criminal complaint against a former state judge for domestic assault against his wife, the judge began a public campaign against the activists and accused them of profiting from cases of gender-based violence. The report also cites the fact that institutions do not offer redress and instead often obscure or delay cases as examples of institutional abuse that take place against female journalists.

Additionally, a report by the Centro de Información para la Mujer (CIMAC) on violence against women journalists pointed out that the Special Prosecutor not only has been ineffective to guarantee justice for journalists, but does not even disaggregate its information on cases by gender, despite repeated requests over the course of four years.[[9]](#footnote-9) There is a lack of professionalism and training on gender perspective in the staff of the Special Prosecutor and the Protection Mechanism. “This means that threats and personal or professional attacks are not labelled as violence, thus denying access to justice and protection”, according to the CIMAC.

The Protection Mechanism does not have measures in place to integrate the specific context and sensitivities around attacks against women into its implementation. Although the Special Prosecutor has promoted a uniform protocol to be used by federal and state governments investigating crimes against freedom of expression which includes procedures for attacks against female journalists, this has not been put into practice.

UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women

Call for submissions on violence against women journalists

Pakistan:

1. *Please indicate whether there are cases of gender based violence and harassment against women journalists in a country you work in. If so, please specify how these cases are documented, and describe the State response, or lack thereof, to such cases, including examples of good practice.*

Violence against journalists in Pakistan is widespread. According to Freedom Network, a Pakistani media rights watchdog which also works with IMS, over 130 journalists (including one woman journalist) have been killed in Pakistan for their journalism work since 2000 – an average of nearly two journalists a month; one of the world’s highest casualty rates.[[10]](#footnote-10) Impunity of crimes against journalists is also high – in only two cases the murderers of these journalists have been convicted.[[11]](#footnote-11)

In Pakistan, much like the rest of the world, harassment of women and gendered minorities is a systemic issue. While there has been legislation on the issue, laws are proving to be ineffective or too limited to achieve their stated aim of protecting women.

Women journalists constitute only 5% of approximately 20,000 media workers in Pakistan.[[12]](#footnote-12) A large reason for this may be because their safety prevents them from entering the field in the first place.[[13]](#footnote-13)

Women face additional intimidation and harassment centred on their gender in Pakistan’s patriarchal-social backdrop. Women in media are subjected to harassment in their workplaces, in the field as well as in online spaces where they are attacked on the basis of their gender. The recent jurisprudence on the issue of workplace harassment fails to provide protection to women who work in “unconventional fields”, a vast majority of which includes women in media industries.

Further, the definitions within the laws were called into question by the expert community, in particular, the Digital Rights Foundation, regarding “employer”, “employee” and “workplace”. The definition of “complainant” should be expanded to include not just men and women, but also transgender individuals. Another major recommendation that emerged from the expert consultations convened by the DRF was that the law should not be restricted to just “sexual” harassment, but extended to “sexist” harassment. It was also pointed out that women in media experience a range of gender-based discrimination, however, not all of these experienced can be captured within the law.

Especially vulnerable are online journalists and other information practitioners. In addition to the Digital Rights Foundation, some other Pakistani rights groups such as the Freedom Network (FN) track threats and attacks against journalists, including women, and bring out period reports (monthly, annually). Recent special reports have chronicled in detail, including first person accounts, of the threats that women journalists face such as this report: Life as a Woman Journalist in Pakistan: Threats, Harassment and Rejection[[14]](#footnote-14) by IMS partner FN and this report by IMS partner DRF: Combating Threats to Women’s Activism Online[[15]](#footnote-15). However, the Pakistani state is characterised by its wanton indifference to responding to threats, including against women – as evinced by the high levels of impunity of crimes against journalists.

2. *Please indicate whether the country you work in has early-warning and rapid-response systems in place, such as hotlines, online platforms or 24-hour emergency contact points to ensure that journalists and other media actors have immediate access to protective measures when they are under threat.*

In relation to early-warning and rapid-response systems to help women journalists and information practitioners in distress, IMS partner Digital Rights Foundation has run the excellent Cyber Harassment Helpline to offer assistance and guidance since 2016. The Digital Rights Foundation has created a booklet detailing the types of threats faced, the scale of assistance provided and lessons learned from this helpline service detailing its first two years, during which time they received 2,781 calls.[[16]](#footnote-16)

3. *Please specify whether there are any programs in place aimed at addressing factors that increase the likelihood of violence and harassment in the world of work for women journalists, including discrimination, the abuse of power relations, and gender, cultural and social norms that support violence and harassment in the country that you work in.*

IMS in 2019 worked with our partner DRF to run a pilot program for women journalists and women rights activists on responding to factors such as likelihood of violence and harassment at workplace assisting. This included: holding awareness seminars for journalists and media houses to work on safety policies for their female staff. [[17]](#footnote-17)

IMS publication The safety of women journalists: Breaking the cycle of violence and silence also highlights many of the structural changes addressing violence again women journalists in Pakistani media groups, some of which are cited below:

For instance, the National Press Club in Islamabad is the establishment of a committee to address sexual harassment cases against women journalist. National Press Club additionally changed its constitution to include at least two seats for women in its 17-member government body. This was the result of demands made at a 2014 national conference on women and media organised by the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists and the National Press Club with funding and technical support from the Aurat Foundation.

The News Employees Union also elected its female president for the first time in 2014 who set up a women’s committee to look into issues such as equal pay, performance evaluations, promotions, medical insurance, maternity leave, separate washrooms, transport, working hours, safety on the job, harassment in the workplace, and gender discrimination in assignments.

4. *Please specify whether online and ICT-facilitated violence against women is recognized as a crime, particularly cases of killings, threats of rape and harassment of women journalists in the country that you work in.*

Pakistan’s controversial Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA), 2016, recognises ICT-facilitated violence against all citizens. While the law has helped the authorities address online harassment and intimidation of women in several cases, the law itself is controversial as it also criminalises dissent and has been actually invoked against journalists, including women bloggers.[[18]](#footnote-18)

5. *Please indicate whether transparent complaint mechanisms for cases of offline and online and ICT (information and communication technology) facilitated violence against women journalists have been adopted in your country, and if so, whether policies and procedures for reporting and requesting the removal of harmful content are available and easily accessible.*

Pakistan is currently in the middle of a raging controversy about a new set of rules that ostensibly aim to prevent online abuse of citizens, but is a transparent attempt to stifle dissent, restrict the ambit of social media and discourage content.

IMS partner DRF has stated that the PECA is a step in the right direction, but subsequent jurisprudence and the ensuing experience of victims deems the law to fall short in terms of scope and procedures. The DRF has outlined a series of suggestions to improve the law, such as providing for the inclusion of non-binary and transgender individuals, widening the scope of the workplace, broadening the definition of harassment and relaxing the definition of the employer-employee relationship. Reform recommendations were also given to greatly reform the Inquiry Committee Procedure by making it accessible to those with disability and who need specialised assistance, introducing rules of evidence, addressing the issue of impartiality, constitutionally requiring at least two women and ensuring confidentiality. Strengthening the role of the Ombudsperson office, instilling greater institutionally responsibility and abolishing the criminalisation of defamation under the law has additionally been recommended. Lastly DRF is encouraging the establishment of protection cells for women who have been harassed online, gender-sensitive training for those receiving victims, a fast-track for urgent cases, time limits for the different stages of cases, increased opportunity for legal aid under and amongst other recommendations concerning the recognition additional procedural safeguards.

This is explained in more detail in the analyses published in early 2020 by IMS Program Manager, Adnan Rehmat: [Wrong Direction for a Shiny Digital Future](https://www.arabnews.pk/node/1634126) and [Future of Journalism in Pakistan is Digital](https://www.thenews.com.pk/tns/detail/621170-future-is-digital).

6. *Please indicate what challenges are faced by women journalists when reporting on cases of gender based violence, and specify whether there are any good practices in this regard*.

This is best articulated in the IMS-supported study Fostering Open Spaces in Pakistan – especially with regard to women journalists and digital rights activists – see the report’s last brief chapter’s Conclusion and Recommendations sub-sections.[[19]](#footnote-19)

Additionally, Editors for Safety is an unprecedented initiative that has come out of the drive to combat violence against journalists in Pakistan. Though not aimed particularly for only women journalists, this coalition administers a WhatsApp group where attacks against journalists can be reported, and which can facilitate collective decision-making on how to respond.[[20]](#footnote-20)

UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women

Call for submissions on violence against women journalists

Syria:

1. *Please indicate whether there are cases of gender-based violence and harassment against women journalists in a country you work in. If so, please specify how these cases are documented, and describe the State response, or lack thereof, to such cases, including examples of good practice.*

A survey investigating the sexual and gender based violence-related experiences of Syrian female journalists and human rights defenders, launched by Syrian Female Journalists Network in October 2019, indicates that 70% of the respondents (39 participants at the time) witnessed a great increase in rate and frequency of physical and cyber abuse and threats in the past five years. Cyber-attack comes on the top of the list (53.8%) and includes bullying and verbal abuse, followed by denying job opportunities and/or bad working conditions such as unequal pay, gender bias in the promotion and other benefits, and the unsolicited intervention in personal freedoms like that of freedom to dress (46.2%). The responses also highlighted being exposed to direct sexual harassment and privacy breaches including the non-consensual dismantling of personal information (libel or التشهير in Arabic), hacking accounts and blocking access to technology and online platforms through targeted hacking and reporting.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cyber-attacks such as bullying and verbal abuse** |  **Denying job opportunities/ work conditions/ and/or unsolicited intervention in personal freedom**  | **Direct harassment**  | **Privacy breach** | **Blocking access to technology and online platforms** |
| 53.8% | 46.2% | 25.6% | 23% | 25.6% |

Table I: Forms of threat experienced by Syrian female journalists

During 2019 only, 41% of the respondents were impersonated on social media; 33% had their personal account hacked and 23% received death threats. In asking about the responsible parties, it was made clear that the source of the threat was not exclusive to pro-regime personas and extremist or terrorist groups, as many like to think, but also extended to include colleagues at the institutions where they work.

There, unfortunately, is neither an official, safe nor trusted reporting mechanism within Syria media institutions in Syria or abroad nor gender-sensitive responsive measures to address such cases. Legislations in Syria and neighbouring countries lack gender-sensitive lenses and are mostly ineffective. Syrian Female Journalists Network has taken initial steps to develop a reporting mechanism that is to be tested and feed into an analysis report detailing the gendered aspects of journalists’ safety and security by the end of 2020.

2. *Please indicate whether the country you work in has early-warning and rapid-response systems**in place, such as hotlines, online platforms or 24-hour emergency contact points to ensure that journalists and other media actors have**immediate access to protective measures when they are under threat.*

There are no special hotlines or platforms provided by Syrian government or near countries such as Jordan and Lebanon to support threatened or abused female journalists. Furthermore, there are no particular laws to protect them from violence or abuse. In Syria, the situation is more complicated because of the conflict and its different factions coupled with the human rights violations of the government. On the other hand, there are some civil society organisations and independent centres outside Syria concerned with defending rights of journalists or females, which provide various forms of support. The Syrian Center for Journalistic Freedom works on documenting violations against media professionals and centres through covering reports, but they do not provide any emergency support or hotlines.

There is a lack of response systems designed especially for female journalists provided by civil society organisations or independent institutions in Syria.[[21]](#footnote-21) Also, it is hard for Syrian female journalists outside Syria in particular to benefit from them because of the legal obstacles most of them face regarding their work permit; most of the Arab countries’ laws prevent Syrians from working in many sectors, including media and journalism.

3. *Please specify whether there are any programs in place aimed at addressing factors that increase the likelihood of violence and harassment in the world of work for women journalists, including discrimination, the abuse of power relations, and gender, cultural and social norms that support violence and harassment in the country that you work in.*

IMS is running a program in Syria (2019-2021) that is committed to promoting the core role that women play in building, consolidating and maintaining peace and security through media. IMS is supporting the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, which is a global commitment to ensuring that women and girls are more systematically and sustainably integrated into resolution discussion during times of conflict.

Additionally, IMS partner, the Syrian Female Journalists Network, is running a specific programme (pilot for 2020) that is concerned with the female journalists’ safety and security in Syria. It consists of three components: I) physical, mental and cyber safety and security training; II) research and advocacy; and III) development of reporting and response systems.

1. Training workshops on physical, mental and cyber safety and security:

Targeting Syrian media institutions and female journalists, the training workshops offer a comprehensive support package of information and tools on safety and security in the workplace, risk identification, and mitigation measures. More specifically, that includes discussing duty of care, travel policy, crisis and incident policies, information security and identification and assessment of risks in the work environment.

1. Research and Advocacy:

Through focused-group consultations with the female, male and LGBTQI journalists, the Syrian Female Journalists Network seeks to understand the common concerns as well as those specific to each gender group related to the safety and security of both journalists and sources; be those challenges experienced in-person or virtually (cyber-security); exercised at work within the media institution or while on deployment; or conducted by governments, other parties or the general public. Making visible of the gendered aspects of safety and security not only help develop an appropriate response (in terms of policies and services), but also uncover the hidden factors determining media production where certain issues remain under-reported or unspoken of. Unfortunately, Syrian media institutions today lack proper guidance or policies to protect or advocate for the safety and security of (citizen) journalists and sources in Syria today. The Syrian Female Journalists Network, therefore, feels responsible and obligated to open up spaces for journalists to be engaged in serious discussions and policy-advocacy about what really matters for them. The stories that the Syrian Female Journalists Network collects stand as documentation for the nature of challenges faced by Syrian journalists and reflect the magnitude of the problem. As such, the Syrian Female Journalists Network works to produce evidence-based, quality and unprecedented knowledge in the Syrian context and offers recommendations to enhance relevant policies on the institutional and country levels.

1. Development of reporting and response systems:

The Syrian Female Journalists Network has initiated the process of developing an online reporting system to which Syrian journalists in general, and female journalists in particular, can refer to when experiencing unfair treatments and sexual and gender-based violence. The Syrian Female Journalists Network is still weighing the digital risks related to the platform, so it will only be available once appropriate cyber security measures in place. Meanwhile, the Syrian Female Journalists Network is exploring possible ways to create a response system and support media organisations efforts towards adopting and putting it in effect.

4. *Please specify whether online and ICT-facilitated violence against women is recognized as a crime, particularly cases of killings, threats of rape and harassment of women journalists in the country that you work in.*

In Syria, there is a law related to network communication and fighting against information technology crimes which punish for several criminal forms and is implemented using information technology including -according to the law- description, threatening people, sexual harassment against minors, committing or inciting crimes against humanity, publishing and distributing racist content, promoting of terrorism. There are no specific clauses addressing the online harassment against female journalists or females in general which make the problem and the solutions invisible to many people. But, legally, they can use the law mentioned to access justice. As for reality, we do not see the effectiveness of this law in reducing violence against female journalists or supporting them to access justice. Also, the law is gender insensitive regarding to protect the complainer from any kind of threats or revenge she might face, or to take her complaint seriously. It is also important to mention that there are many female journalists living in areas beyond the Syrian regime control which mostly don’t have such laws to track these kinds of crimes.

5. *Please indicate whether transparent complaint mechanisms for cases of offline and online and ICT**(information and communication technology) facilitated violence against women journalists have been adopted in your country, and if so, whether policies and procedures for reporting and requesting the removal of harmful content are available and easily accessible.*

The Syrian Female Journalists Network is not aware of any complaint mechanisms adopted on the national level. The absence of adequate legislation results in many institutions enjoying impunity and dismissing gender mainstreaming and gender equality as important pillars to organisational practice.

In its efforts to support Syrian media institutions to enhance gender sensitivity, the Syrian Female Journalists Network has conducted a gender analysis and reviewed the internal policies for partner media organisations. None of the media organisations had transparent complaint mechanisms for cases of offline and online and ICT facilitated against women journalists. A couple had explicitly pointed out intolerance to any form of harassment and abuse at the workplace and listed certain measures to be taken in case of such incidents. There was no adequate complaint system in place nor a transparent investigation procedures. That led Syrian Female Journalists to believe that it is highly unlikely for women journalists to report their experience, trust their data are protected, and access tools for justice.

6. *Please indicate what challenges are faced by women journalists when reporting on cases of gender based violence, and specify whether there are any good practices in this regard.*

Barriers to reporting and accessing support:

* Lack of knowledge of services: 80% of women respondents to SFJN survey on safety and security indicated not knowing of any channels to share their experiences and get the needed support.
* Lack of trust in the response mechanisms: 84% of women respondents who knew of channels said they saw no point in complaining and had no trust in the quality and effectiveness of the response, including the aspect related to respecting privacy and confidentiality.
* Fear of putting their relatives at risk: women also expressed being afraid for their lives and the lives of the loved ones.
* Fear of losing their jobs and/or experiencing bad unfair treatment at work.
* Difficulties with disclosure
* Not recognising experiences as violence.
* Expectation of changing jobs/institutions.
* Lack of time and/or energy to follow up
* Family or partners objection to filing a complaint.

Challenges faced by women journalists reporting:

* Stigma and discrimination: being blamed for what happened.
* Exposure to more abuse: being accused of lying, of enjoying it, or using it for personal interests.
1. Article 19. (2018). *Democracia simulada, nada que aplaudir*. Article 19 Mexico. Available in Spanish at https://articulo19.org/nadaqueaplaudir. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Ibid [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Toby Mendel (2016). Supporting Freedom of Expression: A Practical Guide to Developing Specialised Safety Mechanisms. Center for Law and Democracy and United Nations Educational, Scientiﬁc and Cultural Organization. Available at http://www.law-democracy.org/live/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Safety-Report.16.04.20\_final.pdf. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Committee to Protect Journalists. (2017). *No Excuse*. Committee to Protect Journalists. https://cpj.org/reports/cpj\_mexico\_2017-04-24\_English\_Web.pdf. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Office in Mexico of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (2019). Diagnóstico Sobre el Funcionamiento del Mecanismo. UN-DH. Office in Mexico of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Available in Spanish at http://hchr.org.mx/images/doc\_pub/190725-Diagnostico-Mecanismo-FINAL.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0oD7RGU0i8Rm1GqMozHdj7CS3WpcgF1UT8Tgo-6H8QWoD4yFVucJ5sbXE. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Center for Justice and International Law, Just Associates and Protection International (2016). “Gender Focus in Protection of Human Rights Defenders in Mexico and Honduras” https://www.cejil.org/sites/default/files/el\_enfoque\_de\_genero\_en\_la\_proteccion\_a\_defensoras\_de\_derechos\_humanos-\_las\_experiencias\_de\_mexico\_y\_honduras\_final.pdf. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Espacio\_OSC. (2017). *La Deuda del Estado Mexicano*. Espacio\_OSC. Available in Spanish at http://espacio.osc.mx/la-deuda-del-estado-mexicano. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Freedom Network (2018). Chronicles of Shame: The Changing Threat Patterns and Demographics of Pakistani Media Landscape. http://www.fnpk.org/chronicles-of-shame-the-changing-threat-patterns-and-demographics-of-pakistani-media-landscape/. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. 100% Impunity For Killers, 0% Justice For Pakistan’s 33 Murdered Journalists In 2013-19 (2019). Freedom Network. http://www.fnpk.org/100-impunity-for-killers-0-justice-for-pakistans-33-murdered-journalists-in-2013-19/. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Adnan Rehmat (2017). Life as a Woman Journalist in Pakistan: Threats, Harassment and Rejection. http://www.fnpk.org/life-as-a-woman-journalist-in-pakistan-threats-harassment-and-rejection/. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Silvia Chocarro (2019). The safety of women journalists: Breaking the cycle of violence and silence. https://www.mediasupport.org/publication/the-safety-of-women-journalists/. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. See note 12, Life as a Woman Journalist in Pakistan: Threats, Harassment and Rejection. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Ramsha Jahangir. Fostering Open Spaces in Pakistan: Combating threats to women’s activism online https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/IMS-Study-Report.pdf. See also, Female Journalists in New Media: Experiences, Challenges and a Gendered Approach https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Female-journalists-in-new-media-experiences-challenges-and-a-gendered-approach.pdf. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Cyber Harassment Helpline, Two Year Report 2016-2018. https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Booklet-Helpline.pdf. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. See note 15, Fostering Open Spaces in Pakistan. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Farieha Aziz (2018). Pakistan’s cybercrime law: boon or bane? https://www.boell.de/en/2018/02/07/pakistans-cybercrime-law-boon-or-bane. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. See note 15, Fostering Open Spaces in Pakistan. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. See note 13, The safety of women journalists: breaking the cycle of silence and violence. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. In addition to a lack of response systems in Syria, IMS partners stated that there is a lack of response systems specifically designed for women journalist throughout the entire Arab region. The October 2019 IMS publication supports this conclusion in the context of Iraq, citing that one of the main challenges faced by female journalists who consider reporting incidents of harassment is the lack of legislation safeguarding women’s rights, compounded by the absence of harassment policies in media outlets. See note 13. [↑](#footnote-ref-21)