

Safety Training for Female Journalists

Risk Assessment



Female journalists are exposed to the same risks as male journalists but they are also likely to face sexual violence and sexual harassment both on and offline, including from sources, fixers, and their colleagues. There is no such thing as being one hundred percent secure but it is possible to be safer and to plan for risky situations. This risk assessment template brings together physical, digital, and wellbeing to ensure that women journalists are as prepared as possible when carrying out their work.

Journalists are encouraged to complete the document not only with details of the risk but also the ways they can mitigate it. This may include research and speaking to others about the ways they can manage risk.

The story and its risks

- *How can the topic of your story put you at risk? Please provide details.*
- *Who do you need to contact for this story and how will you contact them securely?*
- *How will you do Internet research securely?*
- *Does reporting on this story have the potential to put your mental well being at risk?*

You and your profile as a journalist

- *What factors related to your work or personal life could put you at risk?*
- *Have you revised your online profile? Y/N*
- *What steps have you taken to secure information you feel puts you at risk?*

Location and risk

- *Have you created a communications plan and informed those included of the steps they need to take if needed?*
- *Are you attending a demonstration or protest? If so, what steps will you take to protect yourself?*
- *Are you crossing an international border or a checkpoint? If so, what steps will you take to secure your data and devices?*
- *Have you researched the security of your accommodation? What steps will you take to mitigate risk?*

- *Do you have comprehensive insurance for this trip? Have you provided someone with the details of your insurance policy?*

Other

- *Please detail any other risks you feel you may encounter.*