

SUMMARY REPORT

acos ALLIANCE ANNUAL SAFETY COORDINATION MEETING-2024 LONDON 22-23 OCT

Major supporters:



Supporters:



The New York Times





The ACOS Annual Safety Coordination Meeting 2024 took place on 22-23 October at Thomson Reuters and No. 6 Events in London, UK.

Participation is by invitation.

- **116 participants**
- **32 countries**
- **38 media organizations**
- **6 journalist networks**
- **27 NGOs**
- **8 funders**

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The meeting was captured by visual recorder Emma Thomasson. We have used extracts from her illustrations throughout this report.

All photographs by Frankie Mills



INTRODUCTION

As a favourite among our community, the ACOS meeting stands out as the only global, multistakeholder meeting dedicated to advancing a culture of safety in journalism. This year, the meeting was reenergized by a new host city: London, allowing participation from a greater number of colleagues from around the world and making it our most diverse meeting to date. As always, we brought together freelance journalists and newsroom leaders with journalism NGOs, safety trainers, advisers, and funders. But this year we were able to invite more newsrooms, particularly those who are at risk, under-resourced and working regularly with freelance and local journalists. Their voices enhanced the meeting.

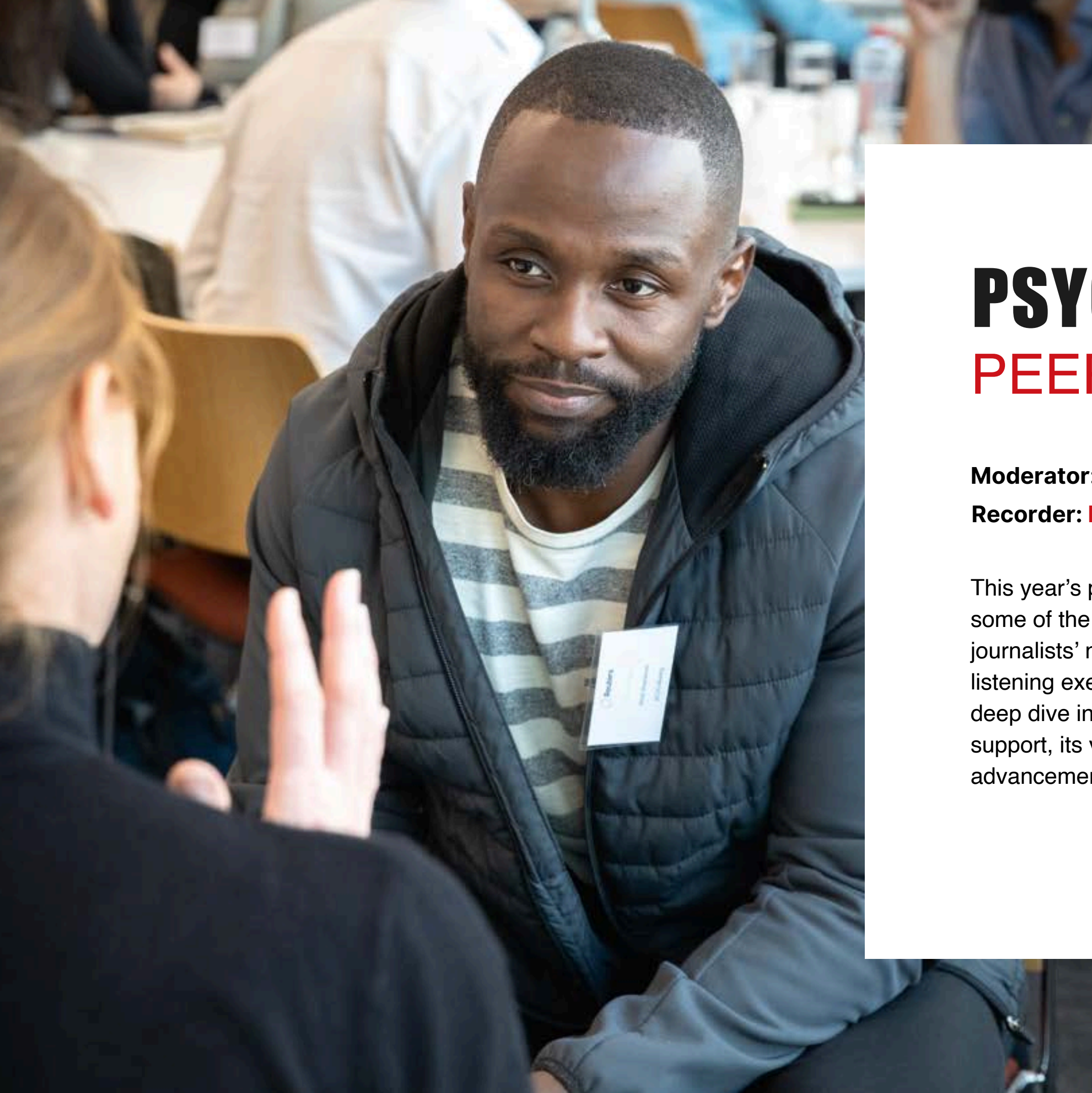
It is impossible to convey the energy, connectedness and generosity that was present during these two days, which makes the job of this summary report a very challenging one. The ACOS Meeting has a track record as a catalyst for productive new partnerships, innovations and initiatives as discussions and exchanges materialize into concrete practical actions and activities. This report seeks to capture that momentum by spotlighting the key issues, concerns and insights raised by participants and documenting our collective recommendations for the broader ACOS Alliance community, ensuring the conversations resonate beyond our gathering.

The ACOS Alliance is a coalition: that's our strength. As an alliance, we benefit greatly from our unique access to, and support from, all of our stakeholders including leading news organizations and NGO partners. The accomplishment of our 2024 meeting is due to their generosity and support of our donors and long time funders. Thank you to Reuters for hosting day one of the meeting and providing a wonderful, welcoming environment for us to come together, and to News UK for hosting a drinks reception that allowed new participants to mingle and build trust. Once again, The New York Times and Dow Jones contributed with their sponsorship and we were honored to welcome the Knight Foundation as a new sponsor.

I end this with a call to action to the ACOS Meeting participants: let the spirit of the meeting prevail in your work, and use this report as a springboard for advancing our discussions and implementing initiatives that address the critical needs raised. To future partners and participants: we invite you to join forces. No matter your size or location, there is room for you in our movement. Together, we can create a culture of safety for journalism.

Elisabet Cantenys, Executive Director, ACOS Alliance

“ Use this report as a springboard for advancing our discussions and implementing initiatives that address the critical needs raised ”



PSYCHOLOGICAL SAFETY

PEER SUPPORT

Moderator: **Gavin Rees**, Dart Center for Journalism & Trauma

Recorder: **Emma Thomasson**, Journalist, trainer and consultant

This year's psychological safety session explored peer support and some of the different approaches that are being practiced to support journalists' mental health and well-being. Using case studies, practical listening exercises and group discussions, this three hour session took a deep dive into the topic to help formulate a shared understanding of peer support, its value for journalists and editors, and recommendations for its advancement within organizations and networks.



TABLE DISCUSSION

What existing strengths in your organizations and networks provide a good foundation for peer support?

- Empathic, diverse and resilient teams - there are lots of factors built into the practice of journalism that make it a resilient profession
- De-stigmatization around mental health and awareness of this as a safety issue
- Availability of professional support and mental health subsidies
- Dedicated retreats and awaydays
- Structured and informal team outings
- Availability of external resources and sources of support from existing NGOs
- The celebration of team wins' and successes
- Existing peer support structures.



✓ Why peer support?

- It meets the issues where they show up: in the work itself
- It promotes connection
 - reduces stigma
 - improves culture
- It opens pathways to professional support

CASE STUDIES

Netzwerk Recherche Helpline for Journalists

Presented by **Malte Werner**

In 2023, Netzwerk Recherche, a journalist association based in Berlin, launched a telephone-based confidential helpline, which, to date, has helped over 50 journalists, mostly with job-related stress and anxiety. Lessons learned during the last year are informing Netzwerk Recherche's plans for the future. These include diversifying the languages and profile of their peer supporters in order to reach more journalists, - especially those in exile - and moving away from a call-only service to include Whatsapp chat: a large lesson learned was over-estimating journalists' willingness to talk to strangers about their mental health. Malte's key recommendation is to keep your peer supporters happy, engaged and valued, and to choose the right psychologist to train them: one who already has experience of working with journalists.



Solomon's Newsroom Approach to Mental Health

Presented by **Iliana Papangelli**

Solomon is one of a few investigative journalism outlets in Greece, conducting stories on topics including migration, climate, environment and corruption. Solomon has created an eight-step newsroom approach to mental health and wellbeing for its organization, and a Toolkit for Journalism & Mental Health for journalists. Iliana is its Managing Editor.

“ Mutual support is essential to how we operate, it's about creating a culture where we actively help each other, share resources, lend an ear when needed. Every journalist and collaborator should feel safe, supported and empowered. At Solomon, when we plan an investigation, checking in on everyone's mental state, challenges and concerns is just as crucial as planning which sources to interview and which documents to review. We ensure that emotional wellbeing is as important as journalistic rigour. ”



Iliana Papangelli

Reuters Peer Support Network

Presented by **Helen Reid**

The Reuters' Peer Support Network was founded in 2015 and currently has more than 70 peer supporters based in its bureaus around the world who, between them, speak 30 different languages. All Reuters peer supporters undergo training with its therapy service, and referee journalists to that service if they express a wish for professional support. Helen is Reuter's European Retail Correspondent and has been a peer supporter since 2017.

“ A big part of what the peer support network has done is de-stigmatise the seeking of professional help and facilitate the channels towards that. We have 2,500 journalists around the world, many of whom have worked in conflict zones or with graphic imagery of conflicts. We acknowledge that this is a driver of trauma, but what we've also done is raise awareness among our colleagues that regardless of whether you work in a hostile environment or not, you can be subject to burnout, stress and trauma and you should seek help. Now I think there is a broader understanding of peer support as a service for everyone. ”



TABLE DISCUSSION

What actions will help to move peer support forward in your organization or network?

- Evaluations of current peer support strategies
- Being realistic about the time needed for peer support work and ensuring its implementation doesn't add more stress on individuals and their workloads
- Creating mentorship models for managers - not all have the skills to implement support structures, even if they have the knowledge
- Exiled journalists could benefit greatly from peer support but often avoid communication due to isolation and a lack of trust. How can we find solutions for this?
- Informal networks: in some situations and communities, gathering socially can be a more effective way to build supportive networks
- Leading by example: Individual actions such as setting clear boundaries can have a powerful collective effect, eg. when a reporter says to an editor I cannot do a story in this time frame - this can have a wider impact on colleagues
- Build opportunities for physical connection. There is a reticence among Gen X to pick up the phone and talk to people.

✗ What peer support is not

- The only response that an organization or network provides for psychological support
- An opportunity for managers to abandon their duty-of-care
- A pseudo counselling environment
- An avenue for increasing power inequalities (managerial support and peer support are not the same).



A woman with curly brown hair, wearing a green long-sleeved shirt, stands and speaks into a black microphone. She is holding a white sheet of paper in her left hand. In the foreground, the backs of several audience members' heads are visible, including a man with grey hair and a woman with dark hair. The background is a light-colored, textured wall. A small inset image in the top right corner shows green foliage.

2024: CONFLICT, ELECTIONS, CLIMATE

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED ABOUT JOURNALIST SAFETY?

2024 has been a violent and volatile year for journalists so we asked this year's meeting to reflect on the safety lessons from three major topics: conflict, elections and climate. Working in moderated groups, participants were encouraged to bring case studies, research and personal observations to help them consider ways in which the safety of journalists can be strengthened in the years ahead.

CONFLICT

Moderator: **Finbarr O'Reilly**, Freelance Photographer, ACOS board member

Reporter: **Lauren Walsh**, Gallatin Photojournalism Intensive, NYU

In 2024, the on-going conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza dominated the news, with Gazan journalists suffering the most extreme example of violence the world has ever seen: 74 were killed in 2024 alone. This group sought to explore how the journalism and NGO communities can better deal with such extremes, while also understanding that other conflicts and high threat levels exist in countries such as Mexico, Sudan, Venezuela and Myanmar, where journalists face completely different challenges.



2024: Lessons learned

- The global journalism community needs to push harder for the safety of journalists in conflict and advocate collectively for improved protection and safeguarding.
- Burnout has been a huge issue for everyone in the conflict journalism ecosystem, including fact checkers, desk editors and journalists doing open source reporting. An increasing number are now re-evaluating how they cover emerging conflicts as news organizations and as individuals.
- There are a limited number of journalists with the necessary experience and skills to cover conflict. More journalists need to be trained to work in hostile environments if on-going and future conflicts are to be properly covered. This includes training in risk assessment, peer support and situational awareness.
- Funding for journalists covering conflicts often disappears when international interest for the story disappears, making their jobs harder and more dangerous. We need better funding strategies.
- There still isn't enough PPE for journalists in many countries, including Ukraine. Provision and access needs to be improved as a matter of urgency.
- Too often, freelancers are still expected to cover their own safety/insurance/resources. Support for the organizations that identify and support the role of freelancers needs strengthening.
- Assumptions should not be made about what journalists covering conflict need in terms of safety and support. Journalists are best placed to know what they need and we need to listen to them (eg. Gaza.)
- Organizations can still provide "survival mode" support to journalists when safety support is impossible. This can include help with logistics, ideas, paperwork - or just listening.

The rise of drones

Drone warfare is radically reshaping the landscape of war and the dangers facing journalists covering conflict. During a two week period in October, 19 journalists in Gaza were killed by drones, and the battlefield in Ukraine is flooded with them. Very few HEFAT courses currently cover drone safety in any depth.

ELECTIONS

Moderator: **Urszula Kifer**, Pismo Magazyn
Reporter: **Johanna Pismo**, Reference

More than half of the world's countries held elections in 2024. As a result journalists faced a range of threats and tactics designed to undermine their reporting, build mistrust and discredit independent reporting. None of these threats are new but together they can be overwhelming. This session documented the common threats facing journalists covering elections and then formulated some practical, cost-effective recommendations for improving journalist safety, with a focus on preventative measures and building resilience.

Common threats facing journalists around elections:

- Violence (hostility, verbal attacks, murder, cyber attacks, online threats, hate speech)
- Disinformation, misinformation, the creation of mistrust in news
- Law enforcement and government intimidation
- Censorship, surveillance, suppression
- Manipulation/corruption of laws and policies
- Polarisation
- Restricted access to information
- Legal threats & SLAPPs.

Session moderator, Urszula Kifer



Key Recommendations

For journalists:

- Don't be afraid to fight back against aggression and look for external support from organizations that exist to help, such as [JiD](#), [LNJAR](#), [Reporters Shield](#), [Trust Law](#), [CAOV](#), [Freedom of the Press Foundation](#), [Safety of Journalists Platform](#), [GIJN](#), [GFMD](#), [Media Defence](#) and others
- Take a **preventative** approach to safety: build skills through resources and training, conduct risk assessments; communicate with your editor(s); ask for guidance & support for online harassment and mental health
- Build resilience through self-care, peer support, well-being initiatives and resources
- Practice factual, conscious and ethical reporting that connects with communities, reflects their concerns and builds transparency with audiences
- Build strength through collaboration.

For NGOs:

- Work together as a community to get better at raising awareness of existing safety resources, training and support for journalists and newsrooms, especially at times of acute stress.

CLIMATE

Moderator: Catherine Muema, ACOS Alliance

Reporter: Jake Charles Rees, Centre for Investigative Journalism

This group shared their personal experiences of climate reporting, what they've been working on and the specific challenges journalists face. What emerged from these conversations is that climate journalists faces a myriad of complex, intersecting issues, from security and a lack of resources to the nature of collaborations, that make reporting immensely challenging. Stories are often dense and highly complex, requiring a level of technical skills and expertise that many journalists don't have. Intimidation and harassment from large corporations is also common. As a result, many important stories are not being told.

The group felt they were only able to scratch the surface of this complex topic but came up with some broad recommendations:



Key Recommendations

- More investment is needed to support local media and journalists within communities that are directly affected by climate issues, including the sharing and distribution of security and safety resources.
- Greater efforts are needed to reach, serve and support frontline indigenous defenders who are not only the guardians of information used by journalists, but also the guardians of the environment.
- More training and resources are needed to equip climate reporters with technical reporting skills: how can journalists even start to think about safety when they are trying to learn how to follow the money, conduct information requests or understand complex data, etc.
- Collaboration is key to climate reporting but there are currently many trust and cultural issues to overcome, with many local journalists left out. State surveillance is also hindering collaborative efforts. Re-focussing collaborations to a local level, between journalists who are facing common issues such as mining and deforestation could help strengthen reporting and journalist safety.

“ Climate journalists faces a myriad of complex, intersecting issues that makes reporting immensely challenging ”

A woman with dark hair and round glasses is speaking into a microphone. She is wearing a black top and has a name tag that says '9'. She is gesturing with her right hand. In the background, other people are seated at the table, and there are glass bottles and glasses on the table in the foreground.

CONFESSIONS FROM A RISK ASSESSMENT

Moderator: **Gina Chua**, Semafor

Risk assessments are essential to good safety practice, but they remain a struggle for those who find them overly bureaucratic and burdensome. We asked participants for their honest views and insights. Journalists, editors and safety advisors opened up about their frustrations, struggles, triumphs - and loves! There were even a few confessions. Here are some highlights - with names kept confidential.

Q. What's the purpose of a risk assessment?

Safety advisor

“There are two very different risk assessments: the formalised one that's been corporatized, we've seen it legalized, go through a formal process. We've also seen it weaponised by journalists themselves: they know what the editors are looking for, they know what the legal team is looking for, they know how to manipulate that. And then there is the actual risk assessment on the ground that journalists have to run through: the safety plan in their heads. I do think these are two very different things: there's the corporatized version over here and the safety plan version over there.”

Q. Do risk assessments work?

Editor

“There are still gaps in the risk assessment model between what is filled in in the newsroom and signed off by editors, and what actually happens in the field. Very often journalists have to make constant decisions about things on the ground that are not in the risk assessment form or not discussed.”

Freelancer

“One of the biggest things you can do to keep safe is not be alone. Often that's not possible. When you're freelance, time is money and often you're not paid for your time to do your own risk assessment so sometimes you're limited as to how much you can do.”



Q. What puts journalists off doing them?

Editor

“One of the things we've struggled with is how intimidating risk assessment forms can be - you can have 100 questions you need to answer. Sometimes you can feel really burdened by all of this. But it's really the three most important questions that will save you on the day: 1) How do I ensure I am safe in the field? 2) How do I get out? 3) How do I ensure the environment is safe when I'm getting out? It's also about helping journalists to form healthy habits out in the field.”

Q. Can risk assessments ever be a creative exercise?

Journalist

“In my newsroom, when you pitch a story everyone takes a bite at the risk: what you should do, what you shouldn't. We ask: what is the story? What are the dangers? What alternatives do we have? For instance, we had a recent story about mining in forest reserves where we asked ourselves: if we can't go into the field, what are the alternatives to getting images and evidence? Satellite imagery: that's what we settled on, and we got it. And the evidence was so glaring that [the companies we reported on] couldn't say this is not true. We considered alternatives instead of relying on paperwork which is often just routine. The disadvantage of not doing paperwork can be a lack of institutional memory, but in order not to make it boring, adding it to the editorial meeting and letting everybody have a go is better.”

“ There are still gaps in the risk assessment model between what is filled in in the newsroom and signed off by editors, and what actually happens in the field ”



Q. Can journalists ever love doing risk assessments?

Safety advisor

"I think you can get people to love them. It takes time but the key is to make them not just a tool for safety but a tool for empowerment. I teach risk assessment and, bit by bit, the students are starting to love it. If you start guiding someone on how it is going to make their life easier and better, and not just something that legal's asking them to do if things goes wrong, then they will engage with it."

Q. How do risk assessments help your newsroom?

Editor

"We work with a huge volunteer network who we've vetted and trained in our research techniques, so we have to think about the risks involved because we are showing them highly traumatic imagery and they're not getting the same level of support that we may have. So how do we protect them? Getting them involved in risk assessments, educating them on the resources that are available, etc., has become transformational to the number of people who are willing to work with us. It has also allowed our investigations to become smoother, more consistent and helped our debriefs become a lot more complex."

“ I think you can get people to love them...the key is to make them not just a tool for safety but a tool for empowerment ”



Moderator: Marc Perkins, BBC World Service, ACOS board member

The ACOS Alliance works to level up the safety landscape for freelance and under-resourced journalists. ACOS board member Marc Perkins asked the meeting to work together to come up with practical, cost-effective initiatives that ACOS could take forward to improve the safety of journalists. These ones gathered the most consensus:

- Train the trainers: create more capacity, diversity and depth in the safety training network
- Advance cross-border peer support for journalists in exile
- The creation of ACOS safety champions within media organisations
- Walkie-talkie software applications for smartphones
- Incorporating drone safety into HEFAT curriculums
- Extending pro-bono safety clinics for journalists and editors: both physical & online
- Research into the safety of marked versus unmarked journalists
- Train more news managers and editors on safety and security management
- Create more mental health champions.

HOW CAN AI HELP JOURNALIST SAFETY?

Moderator: Harlo Holmes, Freedom of the Press Foundation

Recorder: Abigail LP, Freedom of the Press Foundation

As journalism grapples with the existential impact of Artificial Intelligence, this breakout session explored the ways in which AI can be used to improve the safety of journalists and the potential barriers to success, including trust, ethics, consent and user safety. Discussions also highlighted the potential for duplication and overlap in the development of different AI tools and the role of ACOS Alliance in convening a space for coordination, consultation and collaboration.

The session profiled three initiatives.



AI Safety Tool

Presented by Gina Chua, Chair of Advisory Board

ACOS Alliance and the Journalism Protection Initiative at the Craig Newmark School of Journalism at CUNY are co-developing a generative AI Safety Tool aimed at providing prompt, accurate security guidance to small and under-resourced newsrooms. Semafor's Gina Chua, who is chairing the project's advisory board, gave a live demonstration of the tool's prototype to show its capabilities and the opportunities it brings to newsrooms who don't have a dedicated security advisor. Gina also discussed the limitations of AI and the importance of managing expectations around what the tool will and won't be able to do. The AI Safety Tool will be ready for testing later in 2025. Its initial development stage is being funded by the Patrick J. McGovern Foundation.



“ The AI Safety Tool creates opportunities for newsrooms who don't have a dedicated safety advisor ”



CPJ Safety Chatbot

Presented by **Catalina Cortés**
Committee to Protect Journalists

The CPJ Safety Chatbot equips journalists with safety information and resources on their phone via WhatsApp. Originally launched in 2023 for journalists covering the Russia-Ukraine war, this new version has expanded the resources available to journalists and made them applicable to multiple reporting scenarios. Once texted, the service allows users to select what kind of safety incident or support they are looking for from a menu and shares the CPJ resources that can help. It is automated so doesn't answer direct questions or requests. To access the Safety Chatbot, journalists should open Whatsapp and text 'hello' to +1 206-590-6191.

Try the CPJ Safety Chatbot:



Navigator UK

Presented by **Michelle Ferrier**
TrollBusters

TrollBusters and Media Innovation Collaboratory created Navigator UK, a generative AI tool funded by the Coalition Against Online Violence, for UK-based journalists and media professionals in distress. It provides 'just in time' coaching, resources and legal guidance related to online safety. Navigator UK uses the Claude LLM which has been trained on Trollbusters' educational materials, research on global harms for journalists and its global safety database of agencies, to provide aid to journalists under threat. The tool is responsive to context and emotionality. After five interactions the user is asked to create an account where conversations and reports can be saved for future reference. Work has begun on Navigator USA.

Try Navigator UK:



MEDIA IN EXILE

REPORTING SAFELY

Moderator: Jonathan Bock, FLIP

Reporter: Rachael Kay, IFEX

How can exiled media enhance the safety of their journalists? How can NGOs and funders work to support these? This breakout session explored the key challenges facing journalists reporting for exiled media, shared initiatives and tactics that are being implemented to support them, and formulated key recommendations for advancing the safety and support of this large and growing global community.



Key Recommendations

- **Risk assessments and safety protocols** are valuable, inexpensive tools for journalists and exiled media to identify pre-emptive safety measures and build trust and resilience. These include evacuation protocols that set out the responsibility of the media and what it needs to do when a journalist has to flee their home and/or country.
- **Peer support:** there is a growing, urgent need for psychological support among journalists in exile as issues around safety, trust and communication deepen isolation. Recent initiatives (e.g. PEN America) have shown that journalists in exile can often feel more comfortable connecting with exiled colleagues in other countries and there is potential to dig deeper into these findings for future initiatives.
- **Workspaces:** having an external place to work and connect with peers is important for journalists working in exile. A recent collaboration between Semana Media, Armando.info and FLIP showed potential in the idea of larger/ legacy media organizations hosting journalists in exile and the creation of partnerships with universities to provide dedicated workspaces.
- **Legal support:** many questions arose around immigration and the need to expand access to networks of support. Most NGOs involved in the safety of journalists are not equipped to navigate this area and need help. Visa programmes are not specifically set up for journalists and can take years to process. More trained lawyers are needed to advise and support cases.
- **Mapping:** there are currently many creative initiatives supporting the safety and well-being of journalists in exile - to leave, to set up, to transition - but most are disconnected and disparate and often specific to a certain country or region. A mapping of these initiatives, to create opportunities for exchange, learning, connection and coordination, was recommended. Extending collaborations such as the NEMO network, which exchanges knowledge and information within the exiled media, was a key recommendation.
- **Funding:** long-term support for journalists in exile is urgently needed so that media in exile can continue to do their work. Current emergency funds are not specific to journalists in exile and are not sustainable, often lasting only three, sometimes six months.



PRESENTATIONS

Every year, the ACOS Meeting invites organizations and individuals to share new safety initiatives, experiences, latest research, and opportunities.



Tamara Bralo, Radio Free Asia

Closing a Bureau: Article 23 versus RFA

In March 2024, after coming under the radar of the Chinese government, RFA closed its Hong Kong bureau, where it had operated for nearly 30 years. Tamara talked through the timeline of closure, the safety steps RFA needed to take to ensure the security of the organization and its staff, and shared lessons learned from the process, including those around the short and long-term support of RFA's journalists, freelancers and wider staff.



Catherine Muema, ACOS Alliance

The Global Directory of Safety Trainers & Advisors

Cathy invited safety advisors and trainers to join this newly-launched initiative from ACOS: a searchable database of security professionals with experience and expertise in journalist safety. The aim of the directory is to widen and diversify the global pool of safety and security experts and to connect them directly with ACOS Alliance NGO and media signatories. It will be available to search by invited ACOS partners in 2025.



Alejandra Arita, Contracorriente

Under attack in Honduras

Alejandra's presented on the dangers facing journalists in Honduras and the recent attacks against Contracorriente and its staff following stories revealing government corruption, connections to organised crime and the murder of environmental leader Juan López. As a result, Contracorriente has been taking steps to strengthen its safety protocols, review its digital and office security and make contingency plans for the possible relocation of its journalists and editors.

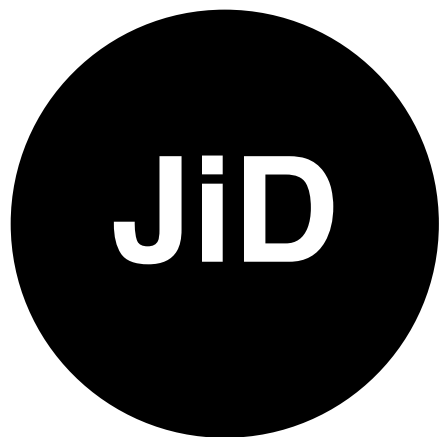


**Joel Simon, Journalism Protection Initiative,
Craig Newmark Journalism School, CUNY**

Teaching Safety

Joel spoke about his experience embedding safety across the student curriculum at the Craig Newmark School of Journalism. He argued that J-Schools have an important role to play in establishing a strong safety culture within journalism, but that a standard, one-size all model won't work: each approach needs to be tailored to the diverse needs of its own school and students.

PRESENTATIONS



Manizja Aziz, Free Press Unlimited

The Journalists in Distress Annual Meeting 2024

This year, JiD, an informal network of 29 organizations offering emergency assistance to journalists, welcomed four new members at its annual meeting. It also provided an opportunity for its members to get to know each other, build trust, share and learn about new initiatives, discuss emerging on-going crises and explore regional trends and how they could better respond to these. The meeting set realistic collaboration goals for 2025, which included a focus on its crisis protocols and on strengthening its security.



Naipanoi Lepapa, Freelance Journalist

Safety challenges as a freelancer in Kenya

Naipanoi shared the challenges she faced as a freelance journalist during her long-term investigation into surrogacy in Kenya. She spoke about the steep safety learning curve she went through, and the support and protection she received from the collaborations she made with other journalists, editors and media partners in Kenya and the UK. “Have a plan and work with editors who are supportive of your safety as well as your story. Work with editors who are going to have your back in everything that you do.”



Haruna Mohammed Salisu, WikkiTimes

Killing the journalist won't kill the story / The Safebox Network

Haruna is founder and editor of WikkiTimes, Nigeria. He spoke about Wikkitimes' partnership with Safe Box Network and how it has helped to protect its stories, evidence and critical assets during periods of threats, detention and arrest. He also described how the partnership has helped to strengthen the safety of Wikkitimes and acts as a form of advocacy that sends the message that the outlet is not alone. “Aggressors know they are a good partner.”



Katerina Sergatskova, 2402 Foundation / Daily Humanity

Safety training in Ukraine: lessons learned

Kateryna presented the results of the safety training program 2402 undertook with 1000+ journalists in Ukraine from 2022-2024, highlighting key outcomes and lessons learned. Takeaways from the program demonstrate the positive impact it has had on the safety skills, ability and confidence of the journalists it trained and the strong community it fostered. They also reveal a need for additional psychological safety skills among journalists.

SAFETY WORKSHOPS

Every year the ACOS Meeting runs a morning of safety workshops for attending freelancers, local journalists and editors. This year's workshops covered:

- **Holistic safety and security**
- **Risk Assessment**
- **Digital Security**
- **Secure Communications**
- **Online Harrassment**

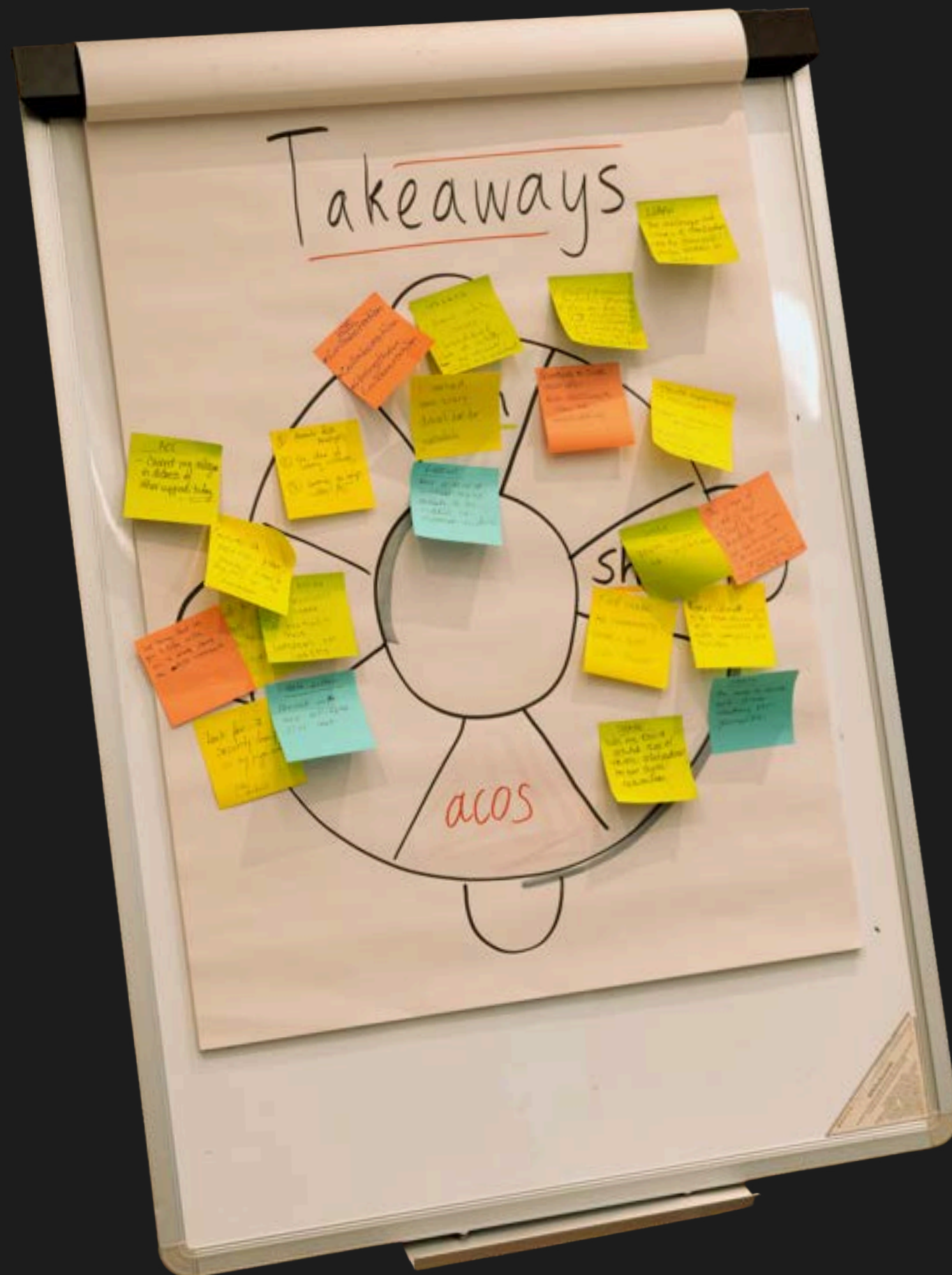
Participants were also offered access to one-to-one tailored safety advice on a topic of their choice.

Thank you to the following safety trainers, advisers and editors who donated their time and energy to deliver these workshops and clinics:

- Ephraim Muchemi, IREX
- Harlo Holmes & Abigail LP, Freedom of the Press Foundation
- Viktorya Vilks, PEN America
- Sally Fitton & Liz Grey, Secret Compass
- Nathan Puffer & Stevo Stephen, Wall Street Journal
- Sharbil Nammour, Vallaris Consulting / VICE Media
- Tamara Bralo, Radio Free Asia
- Yemile Bucay, Safety & Security Adviser
- Marc Perkins, BBC World Service
- Finbarr O'Reilly, Freelance photographer & writer



Ephraim Muchemi of IREX delivers a safety workshop



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