



# MEDIA FREEDOM RAPID RESPONSE

## Practical Support for Journalists and Media Workers

Where journalists and media workers are prevented from their work, or are unable to carry out their work safely, the public is unable to source impartial and important information, necessary for them to participate fully in society around them. As part of the Media Freedom Rapid Response (MFRR) project, Free Press Unlimited and the European Centre for Press and Media Freedom provide practical assistance to journalists and media workers in EU Member States and Candidate Countries. We can support media professionals who have been confronted with a range of threats including violence, harassment and intimidation due to their vital work.

### Support offers

Media professionals and organisations in distress can apply for support from the MFRR for the following:

<b>MEDICAL ASSISTANCE</b>  For injuries sustained in the course of the journalists' work	<b>SUBSISTENCE COSTS</b>  Short term support for journalists who are not able to work, or costs to temporarily flee an unsafe or vulnerable situation	<b>PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT</b>  Advice, referral, & funds to seek psychosocial assistance, including treatment for PTSD and STSD;
<b>WORK PROVISIONS</b>  Digital tools like VPNs for online protection and work materials in exceptional cases	<b>FAMILY SUPPORT</b>  Temporary support for family members of journalists who are unable to work, who are imprisoned, or who are deceased	<b>PREVENTIVE SAFETY MEASURES</b>  Resources and materials that help journalists protect themselves from threats, both online and offline

### What is covered

Practical support offered through the MFRR covers a range of situations. Every case is scrutinized on its own details, with support tailored to best support the individual

journalist. While there is no threshold that is required to be met to qualify, in terms of the nature of the threat, practical support has been delivered in the following circumstances:

- Funds to replace journalistic equipment that has been damaged by police officers, security officers or unknown 3rd parties;
- Providing digital tools, such as VPNs, encrypted hard drives, two-factor authorisation keys and webcam covers for journalists whose security, privacy and digital integrity is at threat from surveillance and interception;
- Providing protective equipment for journalists and media workers in high-risk situations such as conflict & post-conflict zones, and covering protests and elections;
- Cover the costs to temporarily flee an unsafe situation brought about as a result of threats of physical violence, intimidation, legal action or censorship related to the journalist's work,
- Support the access to physical and mental health support following an attack or traumatic event. This can include support for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Secondary Traumatic Stress Disorder (STSD).

## Requirements

- You are a media organisation or a practising media professional in an EU member or candidate state (including UK);
- Your emergency situation is a direct result of your work as a media professional;
- You recognise that this assistance is not structural;
- You recognise that the aim of our support is for you to be able to resume your work as soon as possible;
- Your situation can be confirmed by at least two trusted sources outside of yourself.

## To Apply

You can access support through our secure application form:

<https://www.freepressunlimited.org/en/projects/reporters-respond-emergency-funding-for-the-media>

For more information please contact [helpdesk@ecpmf.eu](mailto:helpdesk@ecpmf.eu) or [reportersrespond@freepressunlimited.org](mailto:reportersrespond@freepressunlimited.org)

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**Media Freedom Rapid Response (MFRR)** is an Europe-wide mechanism, which tracks, monitors and responds to violations of press and media freedom in EU Member States and Candidate Countries. This project provides legal and practical support, public advocacy and information to protect journalists and media workers. The MFRR is organised by an consortium led by the European Centre for Press and Media Freedom (ECPMF) with ARTICLE 19, the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ), Free Press Unlimited (FPU), the Institute for Applied Informatics at the University of Leipzig (InfAI), International Press Institute (IPI) and CCI/Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso Transeuropa (OBCT). The project is co-funded by the European Commission. [www.mfrr.eu](http://www.mfrr.eu)

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