

Topic: Ensuring the freedom of the press in the “post-truth” era

Committee: Human Rights I

Submitter: Norway

Co-submitters: Poland, Finland, Mexico, República del Perú, Venezuela, Indonesia, United Arab Emirates, South Korea, Netherlands, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, USA, Kuwait, France, République de Côte d'Ivoire

The General Assembly,

Acknowledging the increased global susceptibility to “fake news” as social media and internet becomes increasingly advanced,

Deeply concerned if any violent and illegal activities were successfully published, it can support or encourage barbarity,

Condemning governmental restrictions on news organizations and the overall freedom of speech of both reporters and citizens,

Encouraging “World Press Freedom Day” and other efforts to promote the right to freedom of expression,

Stressing the importance of every nation to raise its World Press Freedom Index rating and lower its underlying situation and abuse score,

Deeply disturbed by the hundreds of journalists killed globally while reporting on regional conflicts,

Alarmed by the fact that 11% of US citizens trust Facebook news over other networks,

Congratulates Germany on their practice of fining \$58 million for networks that post false information,

Taking into consideration that Kenyans attempted to implement a law regarding the punishment of posting fake news, but the High Court suspended its operation,

Expressing its appreciation for Brazil and how they are implementing 14 laws to prevent fake news throughout their country,

1. Suggests the implementation of training programs for journalists going into conflict zones to report on issues:
 - a. The programs shall consist of a two-week course, in which journalists shall become trained on how to handle conflict within the zones they are reporting in, including:-
 - i. First aid training

- ii. Dialogue and cultural practices that should be adhered to while in that zone
 - iii. How to respond to emergencies or physical attacks
 - b. The course shall not be mandatory but encouraged by local and regional governing bodies:
 - i. The training shall initially be held in community and educational centers,
 - ii. After a period of 2 years, the training program shall be reviewed for effectiveness and possible revision
 - iii. Social Justice and aid organizations such as Internews, Aspiration Tech, International Rescue Committee, and International Relief Teams shall help to oversee the formation and conduct of the training courses;
- 2. Proposes the international expansion of Norway's #ETTMINUTT campaign to promote independent media, media pluralism, and reliable journalism:
 - a. Both citizens and media organizations shall be encouraged to write and verbalize opinion pieces on the importance of freedom of press
 - b. The messages will then be published in newspapers, as well as video and digital advertisements to promote the role of journalism and an independent free press;
- 3. Urges countries to develop safe and protective laws and practices to protect the freedom of speech of journalist, reporters, and other individuals through any means of media, including television, newspapers, magazines, social networks, and other forms of expressional material:
 - a. This includes enacting shield laws as well as combatting the misuse of censorship against negative media opinions on topics such as the leaders of each country, the ongoing actions of the military, and the expression of theories against the government or a large group of persons
 - b. Nations are also encouraged to amend laws towards the freedom of speech and expression in a fair and respectful manner to the people of each country;
- 4. Invites increased funding and expansion of the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) Emergencies Response Team:
 - a. The funding shall support the Emergencies Response Team's efforts to protect journalists through information sharing as well as on the ground response to imprisoned, injured, or fleeing journalists
 - b. Funding shall also support the CPJ's Journalist Assistance Program, in which emergency funds are dispensed to journalists in distress;
- 5. Regrets the previous imprisonments and killings of journalists due to their participation in expressing viewpoints and other information to a public platform for the purpose of informing society on their findings or opinions;
- 6. Encourages the development of a News and Government Cooperation Council (NGCC) for promoting dialogue and cooperation between governmental bodies and news organizations:

- a. The NGCC shall link regional and local governing bodies with media and news organizations:
 - i. Monthly meetings shall be held to promote dialogue between the involved parties
 - ii. Topics of discussion shall be methods to promote journalist safety, cooperation methods between government and journalists, and other concerns
 - b. Improved dialogue through the meetings will work to promote freedom of press and shield laws as well as governmental aid to journalists in distress;
7. Calls for an annual international Journalism Protection Summit (JPS), similar to the GEN Summit, between emergency response aid organizations, press support groups, and other organizations in support of freedom of the press and journalist safety:
- a. The JPS shall be held for the purpose of developing further technological, social, humanitarian, and legal solutions to support press and media rights
 - b. Organizations and NGOs shall also be encouraged to provide funds to develop further solutions
 - c. The summit shall also bolster solidarity to protect journalist rights against government infringements and other forms of attacks
 - d. Organizations such as First Amendment Coalition, HarperCollins, Reporters Without Borders, Committee of Concerned Journalists, Index on Censorship, and International Press Institute shall be encouraged to attend and participate in discussion and solution development;
8. Welcomes the creation of an international legal council to oversee and host cases regarding the press and other communicative sources to ensure the full development of the case and to prosecute each individual in a fair and open-minded fashion:
- a. Expressing the importance for all cases to be investigated thoroughly
 - b. Requesting that each specific prosecutor be well informed on the established laws towards freedom of speech, for the purpose of staying intact with the promises of each country to their people's basic rights as a member of society
 - c. Believing in the creation of databases in order to evaluate each situation regarding issues among journalists alongside other cases to recognise similarities and differences of each reporter's role in expressing their speech to gain a further, more developed understanding of freedom of speech and the branches it may have
 - d. Suggesting that cases tried by those concerning protection of sources, freedom of press, journalist safety, and other issues relating to the rights of journalists and media;
9. Advises the education and involvement of the public on promoting respect for other people's opinions and expression on media:
- a. Supporting the use of basic lessons in schools to educate young children about the media and the respect one must have for others' opinions to influence individuals at a young age in order to have a powerful and more effective hold over the growth in peaceful views and actions

- b. Proclaiming the use of public service announcements and their efficient methods for conveying messages and information on respecting freedom of speech;
- 10.** Proposes the creation of internationally recognized and agreed upon legal instruments and documentation outlining the definition of disinformation and “fake news”,
- i. The passed resolutions will include specific and recognizable features of disinformation and “fake news” that member States can utilize in identifying and preventing the spread of disinformation
 - ii. The passed resolutions will further include agreed upon legal steps in handling cases of disinformation and spread of propaganda from extremist groups or state-owned media;
- 11.** Asks that countries enforce laws throughout their nation that punishes news platforms for posting stories that are not considered true;
- a. Tech companies and news sources will be liable for moderating their platforms including hate speech
 - b. They will also be taxed, a later determined amount, to help fund education on discerning false information on the internet
 - c. Member States that these penalties against false news reports include fines, temporary removal of license, and the adding of news sources responsible for fake news reports to a blacklist
 - i. blacklists will include a record of all news sources of whom have intentionally misinformed the public and will discredit the news company’s credibility;
- 12.** Encourages that all nations implement regulations that do not limit the freedom of the press by requiring news sources to cite their informants and their credibility on every published article as well as providing an additional publicly accessible account on their background and reliability.