

**Subject: Launch of the global online training course on freedom of expression for members of law enforcement and police agencies**

12 June 2022

**Dear members of law enforcement agencies,**

We are pleased to inform you that The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Police Association (IPA) and IBZ Castle Gimborn have developed a joint online training course to promote international and regional standards on freedom of expression and the safety of journalists for members of law enforcement agencies. The course will be launched on **11 July 2022**. It aims to deepen the understanding of the need to protect freedom of expression, freedom of speech and the safety of journalists. It also aims to strengthen the role of police officers in this matter and improve professional relations between police officials and media professionals.

The course will start on 11 July 2022 and will last five weeks.  
The live webinar takes place on **18 August 2022**.

Registrations are now open on the following link: <https://www.unesco-ipa-mooc.com>

The course will cover (1) the legal framework, (2) the limits of freedom of expression, (3) from freedom of information to right to information, (4) the role of state bodies to promote and ensure freedom of expression and safety of journalists, (5) the challenges and opportunities of social media and digital technologies. In an online webinar participants can discuss with experts the roles of the media and the police in promoting freedom of expression.

This free five-week online course will be offered not only to police members worldwide but will be open to journalists, academia, lawyers.

The MOOC (massive open online course) will build upon a series of training events organized by UNESCO and its partners since 2013, which have trained over 8,600 members of security forces from 20 countries on freedom of expression and the safety of journalists, based on the Training Manual on "[Freedom of Expression and Public Order](#)".

Please, find included a description of the MOOC modules and flyer to advertise the course. We would be very grateful if you could circulate this information among your networks and members of the police in your country and help to support this important initiative.

Please note, that participants who successfully complete the course will receive a certificate of completion.

A limited version of the online course will be available in Arabic, Chinese, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.

**If you require further information about the course, please contact**

- Mehdi Benchelah (m.benchelah@unesco.org), Senior Project Officer
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both from UNESCO's Freedom of Expression and Safety and Safety of Journalists Section or

- Ulrike Neuhoff (neuhoff@ibz-gimborn.de), Educational Officer, IBZ Castle Gimborn

Yours Sincerely,



**Pierre Martin-Moulin**  
President  
International Police Association



**Guilherme Canela**  
Chief of the Freedom of Expression  
Safety of Journalists' Section, UNESCO

## **Annex: Description of the MOOC modules**

### **Module 1 | The Legal Framework**

The module sets out the international legal framework. It gives a brief historical description and underpins freedom of expression, freedom of speech as a prerequisite for a democratic constitutional state. Furthermore, it underlines the right to information as a logical prerequisite for any participation in a democracy and it addresses dissemination possibilities and the important role of the media.

### **Module 2 | The Limits of Freedom of Expression**

The module explores the limitations to freedom of expression by other human rights, further legal standards and for reasons of state security. It examines the legality of restrictions of fundamental rights.

### **Module 3 | Freedom of Information – Right to Information**

The extension of human rights to informational self-determination and the right to access information and the role of large Internet platforms like Google, Facebook will be discussed.

### **Module 4 | Ensuring Freedom of Expression and Safety of Journalists by State Bodies**

The important role that journalists play in democratic societies, and the legal protections afforded to media professionals will be discussed. The obligations of state bodies to act open, honest, and proactive to ensure transparency of government action and the need to collaborate with media, organizations and citizens to create mutual trust will be examined. The consideration of human rights in all plannings of activities of security bodies will be underpinned.

### **Module 5 | Police: Social Media and Digital Technologies**

The module deals with dangers and threats of rapid advancement in digital technologies and social media, and the opportunities and challenges for security authorities.

### **Webinar | Freedom of Expression and the Roles of the Media and Security Bodies**