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International Standards on Freedom of Expression and Safety of Journalists

Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) for Judicial Actors

02 May 2023

Subject: Newsletter to Ministers of Justice, Presidents of Supreme Courts, Presidents of Bar Associations, Presidents of Judges' Schools and Presidents of Magistrates' Unions for the launch of the new version of the UNESCO-Bonavero Institute global massive open online course for judicial actors on the international standards on freedom of expression and safety of journalists

Dear members of the judicial community,

We are pleased to inform you that UNESCO and the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights at the Faculty of Law, University of Oxford, have developed a new multilingual version of a joint online training course to promote international and regional standards on freedom of expression for judicial actors.

This Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), which will be **launched on 29 May 2023**, aims to strengthen the role of judicial actors, especially judges, prosecutors, lawyers and representatives of judicial training institutes, in promoting freedom of expression standards and its corollaries, freedom of the press, access to information and the safety of journalists. The MOOC will cover in particular (1) the general principles and scope of freedom of expression; (2) the limitations on freedom of expression; (3) the right of access to information; (4) the safety of journalists; and (5) challenges created by the digital world. A description of each module is included in the Annex of this letter.

This free five-week online programme is specifically designed for judicial actors (e.g., judicial branches, public ministries, public defenders, electoral courts, human rights ombudsmen, judicial law clerks) from all justice systems around the world, to strengthen their knowledge and capacities on international and regional standards on freedom of expression, access to information and the safety of journalists.

The MOOC will be **available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Portuguese**, and will build on the highly successful joint [UNESCO-Bonavero Institute global MOOC on freedom of expression](#) which was delivered in English in 2021.

In the framework of this programme, UNESCO has built strong cooperation with key

institutions and partners and has in particular signed a series of Memoranda of Understanding with regional human rights courts –such as the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights, the ECOWAS Court of Justice, the East African Court of Justice, and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights– as well as with judicial institutions including the International Association of Prosecutors and the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors.

Key decisions from these regional human rights courts will be presented and discussed during the course, which will be led by experts in the field of human rights and freedom of expression and will include high-level guest speakers such as UN Special Rapporteurs, judges from regional human rights courts, prosecutors, and human rights lawyers.

This free, five-week online course will run from **29 May until 30 June 2023**.

- **Pre-registration** for the course is now open through the following link: <https://on.unesco.org/3ydrqS2>

** We will shortly notify you by email of the next steps to finalize the registration process.*

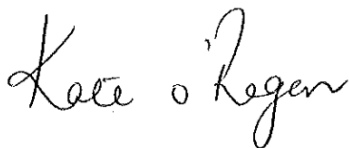
A **certificate of completion** will be issued for participants who will successfully complete the course.

A flyer with additional information on the course is available [here](#). We would be very grateful if you could kindly **circulate this information among your networks and members of the judiciary in your country and region.**

If you need further information about the training, please feel free contact the UNESCO team at FOE.course@unesco.org, or Dr Christos Kypraios (christos.kypraios@law.ox.ac.uk) Programme Coordinator from the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights.

We look forward to welcoming you to the course, in order to strengthen the respect for the rule of law and fundamental freedoms around the world.

Sincerely,



Kate O'Regan

Director of the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights, University of Oxford



Guilherme Canela

Chief of the Freedom of Expression and Safety of Journalists' Section, UNESCO

Annex: Description of the MOOC modules for judicial actors

Module 1: General principles and Scope of Freedom of Expression

Webinar convened by [Prof Sandra Fredman](#) KC (hon), Faculty of Law, University of Oxford

Module 1 sets out the international legal framework underpinning the right to freedom of expression, notably under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and provides an overview of the general scope of the right in the doctrine of important regional protection regimes.

Module 2: Limitations

Webinar convened by [Prof Nazila Ghanea](#), Faculty of Law, University of Oxford; UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief

Module 2 explores the legitimate restrictions on the right to freedom of expression, as provided for in international and regional protection regimes, as well as the doctrine of courts.

Module 3: Access to information

Webinar convened by [Prof Liz Fisher](#), Faculty of Law, University of Oxford

Module 3 sets out the legal frameworks regarding the right to access to information, with a particular emphasis on the important role that it plays in ensuring democratic political processes and sustainable development.

Module 4: Safety of Journalists

Webinar convened by [Meera Selva](#), Senior Research Associate at the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, University of Oxford

Module 4 examines the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, highlighting the physical risks that many journalists face, including the specific threats faced by women journalists.

Module 5: Digitalisation

Webinar convened by [Prof Kate O'Regan](#), Director of the Bonavero Institute & [Dr Stefan Theil](#), Faculty of Law, University of Cambridge

Module 5 explores contemporary challenges to freedom of expression that have arisen particularly through the exercise of the right online, and how existing legal frameworks can be applied online.