

SC candidate 2019: John Barsby

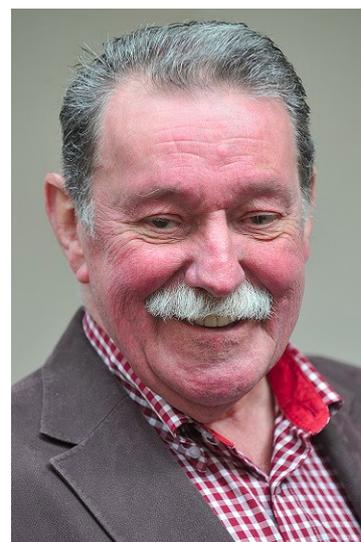
Candidate as member of the Steering Committee

John Barsby, UK / Ireland
NUJ UK& IRELAND

CV

Background: 13 years working in newspapers, 30 years at the BBC in radio and television news. Now working on a voluntary basis at the NUJ, negotiating and representing members at the BBC. I am the NUJ's Hon Gen Treasurer and also a Member of Honour of the union.

I am Deputy chair of the EFJ's Broadcasting Experts Group after being the chair for many years. Wish this practice to continue. In the mandate that I outlined, I visited each of the countries of the Western Balkans, some of them more than once, and I was convinced that the media freedom is at a very low level, that there is no political but also the will of media owners to change the situation and presence the EFJ and the pressure that it can make, remain highly needed.



CANDIDATE STATEMENT

The media industry is going through a revolutionary technological change – from digital publishing to artificial intelligence, from big data to algorithm deciding news priorities. The resulting change in jobs and working conditions, including the impact on the quality of our work, on our professionalism and on the pattern of media ownership, every aspect of the production and distribution of news and media affects our roles as journalists.

The EFJ cannot afford to be a passive recipient of such change. We must develop our collective strength – and that is significant - to help shape the future. We need to remain relevant to all these changes.

If we are to speak for our profession and exert any political strength on employers and governments to accept that journalism across all platforms is for the public good, we must increase our reach to those working in digital media. But this does not mean we abandon those fighting for their jobs in traditional media.

Survey after survey of journalists shows that they're working longer hours, have bigger workloads, they're expected to have more skills but get less training, have more health and safety concerns, face a rise in ethical and professional problems, work with smaller budgets, fewer resources and earn lower pay.

We need – all of us – more targeted and strategic research that would help affiliates to develop both recruiting and organising.

In seeking re-election to the Steering Committee I assure all affiliates I would do my utmost to address the matters I have outlined.

We need to equip your unions with the tools, the information, the experience, the training and the ability to build organisations who can act collectively to deliver both protection and a secure future for working journalists.

If delegates of GM give me confidence again and choose me as a SC member for the next three years, I will work hard with new knowledge that I have gained, to strengthen our voice even

stronger, to react jointly in all situations, and in this way we can change the working conditions and increase media freedom across Europe.