#ONTHELINE NEWSROOMS

MEASURES FOR NEWSROOMS TO ADDRESS ONLINE HARASSMENT

https://newsrooms-ontheline.ipi.media/
Visits to 45 newsrooms across Europe and interviews with 100+ editors, journalists, media experts

Focus groups with female journalists and freelancers

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A multi-actor approach to online harassment is essential. States, tech companies and newsrooms all have a role to play.

Create a **culture of safety in the newsroom** that encourages journalists to report online abuse, avoids stigmatization and victimization. Regular, visible communication is essential.

Have a **clear protocol** in place to respond to instances of online harassment.

Have clear responsibilities among newsroom actors, including a **point person** to coordinate responses.

Provide **support to targets** in different forms (legal, security, psychological, public, peer).
ELEMENTS OF NEWSROOM STRATEGY

1. Protocol to support targeted journalists
   - What to do when a journalist receives online abuse

2. Newsroom structures and support mechanisms
   - Strategies to create a culture of safety in the newsroom

3. Audience moderation
   - Strategies to block, remove and moderate abusive posts

4. Actors involved
   - Who’s who in combating online abuse and its impact
Protocol to support targeted journalists

What to do when a journalist receives online abuse

Reporting
Risk Assessment
Implementing Support Mechanisms
Tracking and Reassessment
NEWSROOM STRUCTURES

Newsroom structures and support mechanisms
Structures to create a culture of safety in the newsroom

Communications
Media organizations must establish clear policies around online harassment and communicate them to all staff members.

Formal support mechanisms
Institutional measures to support targeted journalists and lessen the personal and professional impact.

Peer support mechanisms
Through both formal and informal means, colleagues can be essential sources of support for targeted journalists.

Reporting systems
Communication channels that should be in place to allow journalists and other staff members to report online abuse.

Risk assessment
A thorough risk assessment of each case is important to determine which type of support is the most appropriate.

Training
Several different forms of training should be implemented to reinforce a culture of safety around online abuse.
**ACTORS INVOLVED**

- **Editor**: Speak openly about online abuse and create an atmosphere in which journalists feel comfortable reporting attacks.
- **Head of Audience**: Identify online threats and campaigns targeting staff members.
- **Journalist**: Understand that online abuse is unacceptable and is not simply a characteristic of modern journalism.
- **Management**: Adopt structural changes in the newsroom to create a culture of safety around online abuse.
- **Online Safety Expert**: The point person in the newsroom for the issue of online harassment.

**Actors involved**
Who's who in combating online abuse and its impact.
Be informed – understand organizational online safety guidelines.

Join peer support structures. Talk about it.

Take advantage of training opportunities

Document and report.

Avoid excessive exposure.

Coordinate response.

Depersonalize it.
Thank you