

## **ECPMF opens call for applications for the Journalists-in-Residence Programme**

**Leipzig, Germany, 6. July 2021** - Today, the European Centre for Press and Media Freedom (ECPMF) opens the 2021 call for its Journalists-in-Residence (JiR) Programme for a period of up to six months, between October 2021 and April 2022. This programme is part of the Media Freedom Rapid Response ([MFRR](#)), which tracks, monitors, and reacts to press and media freedom violations. The JiR Programme is unique in providing a safe haven for media professionals from the European Union Member States and Candidate Countries\* who are at risk and need to take a break away from a dangerous or hostile working environment. Journalists and other media workers are given temporary shelter, an opportunity to rest and recover, and - if they so wish - to continue with journalistic work in a safe place without pressure or censorship.

There are three fellowship opportunities, each for a maximum period of six months. Applications can be sent directly by media workers who are under threat, or they can come from referrals of suitable cases that have already been verified by our network of international temporary relocation institutions until 15<sup>th</sup> of August 2021. Applicants will be invited to Leipzig in the timeframe between October 2021 and April 2022. We hope that the coronavirus pandemic will be under control and the residences can go ahead without obstacles. However – in light of the situation of the past year - a lot can change, and we will adapt to the circumstances accordingly to protect the health and safety of all concerned.

### **What the programme offers**

Participants in the programme are provided with a rent-free, furnished apartment in Leipzig; a monthly stipend of 1,000 euros; and health insurance. Their travel costs to and from Leipzig are covered, and so are all the visa fees. The selected journalists are offered access to the Centre's wide-ranging network of contacts, as well as optional training sessions in useful professional skills such as secure digital communications and data hygiene. To support the mental health of the journalists in residence, ECPMF provides optional access to psychotherapy, too.

\* [https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/countries\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/countries_en)

### **How to apply**

**Eligibility:** To be eligible, journalists and media workers must hold a valid passport, live in the countries covered by the programme, and have been working as professional journalists for at least three years. They must provide proof of any risk to their person that has arisen as a direct result of their journalistic work. In addition, sufficient knowledge of either English, German or Russian language is required (minimum level A2).

### **Option 1): Applications from media workers at risk**

If you apply for a specific period for your stay, please bear in mind that the programme ends in April 2022.

To apply, please use the APPLICATION FORM and QUESTIONNAIRE pdf-documents on our website: <https://www.ecpmf.eu/support/journalists-in-residence/>

Please fill in these two documents completely, and add your CV and a scan of your identity documents in PDF format.

Email these four pdf-documents, each labelled with your name and the name of the document (YOURNAME\_CV.pdf; YOURNAME\_passport.pdf, etc.) to [journalistsinresidence@ecpmf.eu](mailto:journalistsinresidence@ecpmf.eu) until 15<sup>th</sup> of August 2021.

### **Option 2) Referrals of cases by other organisations**

ECPMF will take on appropriate cases that its network partners have already fact-checked and provide relocation fellowships in Leipzig to enable a swift reaction to urgent cases.

**How to refer a case to us:** Please get in contact with ECPMF's JiR Programme Manager by sending an email to: [journalistsinresidence@ecpmf.eu](mailto:journalistsinresidence@ecpmf.eu). Please include a meaningful description of a verified single case that underlines the importance of temporary relocation for the media worker under threat. A scan of valid identity papers and proof of their journalistic work must be included with the referral.

### **All applications and referrals will be treated as strictly confidential.**

In-depth information on the programme, application requirements, the application form, and the questionnaire are available at <https://www.ecpmf.eu/support/journalists-in-residence/>

For more information, please contact the JiR Programme Manager at: [journalistsinresidence@ecpmf.eu](mailto:journalistsinresidence@ecpmf.eu) or +49 341 200 403 16

The European Centre for Press and Media Freedom (ECPMF) is part of the Media Freedom Rapid Response (MFRR). MFRR is a Europe-wide mechanism, which tracks, monitors and reacts to violations of press and media freedom in EU Member States and Candidate Countries. This project provides legal support, public advocacy and information to protect journalists and media workers. The MFRR is organised by an alliance led by ECPMF, including ARTICLE 19, the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ), Free Press Unlimited (FPU), the Institute for Applied Informatics at the University of Leipzig (InfAI), International Press Institute (IPI) and CCI/Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso Transeuropa (OBCT). The project commenced in 2020 and is funded by the European Commission.