

## **Course Syllabus:**

### **Online Harassment: Strategies for Journalists' Defense**

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#### **Goal**

Over the next four weeks you will learn about the global context of online harassment and hear from women journalists who will speak about the strategies they have used to deal with it. You will learn about online privacy and how to better protect yourself while working as a journalist, and you'll hear about the people behind the trolling and the strategies that they use. This course will also provide you with practical guidance on how to document and report abuse, while giving you basic digital security tips to secure yourselves online.

We have designed this course to focus on strategies for dealing with online harassment, however it does cover themes about online abuse that may be upsetting for some participants.

#### **Objectives**

By the end of this course participants will:

- Understand the global context of online harassment
- Learn about online privacy and how to better protect it
- Gain an understanding of who is attacking them online and their strategies
- Have methods for protecting their online data
- Gain coping strategies for dealing with online abuse
- Learn basic digital security techniques and apply them
- Participate in an international community of journalists to share strategies of defense

#### **Tools/Applications Required**

This course requires you to have access to the Internet and a web browser.

#### **How the course works**

First of all, note that this is an asynchronous course. That means there are no live events scheduled at specific times. You can log in to the course and complete activities throughout the week at your own pace, at the times and on the days that are most convenient for you.

Despite its asynchronous nature, there are still structures in place for the duration of the course. The material is organized into four weekly modules. Each module will be taught by one of the course instructors and will cover a different topic through videos, presentations, readings and discussion forums. There will be a quiz each week to test the knowledge you've gained through the course

materials. The weekly quizzes, and weekly participation in the discussion forums, are the basic requirements for earning a certificate of participation at the end of the course.

This course is very flexible, and if you are behind with the materials, you have the entire length of the course to complete them. We do recommend you complete each of the following before the end of each week so you don't fall behind:

- Video lectures
- Readings and handouts/exercises
- Participation in the discussion forums
- Quizzes covering concepts from video lectures and/or readings

## **The course is divided into four weekly modules**

### **Introduction Module: Course description**

During this introductory module you will be able to watch our welcome video where you will find out information about your instructors and the topics they will cover over the coming weeks. You can also check out our reading materials to get you started on the topic of online harassment and its effect on women working in media.

### **Module 1: Introduction to online harassment**

Module one is taught by Arzu Geybullayeva. Arzu is a freelance journalist from Azerbaijan, currently based in Istanbul. She covers Azerbaijan while some of her recent work looks at the use of information controls and authoritarian technology.

During week one you will gain an insight into online harassment around the world through the stories of women journalists who have experienced it. Arzu and her guest speakers will also teach you coping strategies for dealing with abuse online.

*This module will cover:*

- Global overview of online harassment
- Introduction to research and resources dealing with harassment online
- Coping strategies for dealing with online harassment

### **Module 2: Understanding privacy**

This module will be taught by Catherine Gicheru. Catherine is an ICFJ Knight fellow and the Project Director of the African Women Journalism Project (AWJP) an initiative supported by the ICFJ. She is

a veteran journalist and was the first woman bureau chief in East Africa and the first female news editor of the Nation Media Group in the region.

During this week, we will look at how to understand privacy online especially as a journalist, since you face the difficult task of needing to have an online presence while trying to protect your privacy online.

*This module will cover:*

- *What data is best kept private and why*
- *Learning how to better protect your online privacy*
- *How to speak with your colleagues and sources about online privacy*

### **Module 3: Trolls and their strategies**

Taught by Ela Stapley, former freelance journalist and digital security trainer working with the International Women's Media Foundation on their online harassment initiative. Ela supports journalists around the world with their digital safety needs.

This module will examine the types of people who harass you online and those that support and, in some cases, pay them. We will also look at common troll strategies, and some techniques for documenting attacks.

*This module will cover:*

- *Types of trolls and who organizes them*
- *Strategies that trolls use*
- *Techniques for recording and documenting abuse*

### **Module 4: Digital security steps for online harassment**

Module 4 is taught by Myra Abdallah. Myra is a Lebanese journalist and gender rights activist. She is currently the Women in News communications manager for the Arab region at the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers (WAN-IFRA), the Head of Media Department at the Arab Foundation for Freedoms and Equality (AFE), and an online harassment advisory board member at the International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF). She is also a Lebanese independent journalist and a trainer, specialized in gender literacy, digital and organizational security, gender bias in media, gender-based violence against sexual minorities and protection of women journalists.

During this week you will gain practical knowledge on how to counter online harassment and be safe online, through learning the different steps and tools of digital security. Myra will present the best practices for a safe online experience.

*This module will cover:*

- *Protecting your accounts online*

- *Online privacy: safe browsing and communications*
- *Online and offline reporting and support systems when experiencing online harassment*