

# Syllabus - How to report safely: Strategies for women journalists & their allies

Course Dates: 3 May - 30 May 2021

Instructor: **Alison Baskerville**, Lead Inclusive Safety Trainer, IWMF

Welcome to the Knight Center's new MOOC, "How to report safely: Strategies for women journalists & their allies", organized by the Knight Center for Journalism in the Americas, in partnership with the International Women's Media Foundation and UNESCO, with financial support from the Swedish Postcode Foundation. During this four-week massive open online course, which will be held from May 3 to May 30, 2021, students will learn frameworks to mitigate and manage associated risks for all women (cis, trans and femmes) and allies.

## Goals

For the next four weeks you will learn you will learn frameworks to mitigate and manage associated risks for all women (cis, trans and femmes) and allies. You will be provided with tools to create your own personal safety plan as well as manage and mitigate associated risks in the field.

## Who can enroll

This course is open to anyone interested in how to plan and mitigate risks for women journalists - cis, trans or femmes who are interested in improving their knowledge on the basics of personal safety from a global perspective in the field of journalism.

## Objectives

Upon completion of this course you will be able to:

- Understand some of the risks, specifically those that women journalists face.
- Identify and manage risks using the risk assessment process.
- Create a better understanding of situational awareness and personal safety.
- Develop strategies to support yourself if you face harassment or sexual violence.
- Understand the consequences and support for those who face harassment and sexual violence.
- Develop pre- and post-assignment emotional preparation strategies.

## 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 **Alison Baskerville** 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

## **Tools/applications required**

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

## **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 instructor and the topics she will cover over the coming weeks. You can also check out our reading materials to learn more about the global threats that women journalists face, and the effects they can have.

*Introductory reading materials:*

- CJR, “Photojournalism’s Me Too Moment” - [https://www.cjr.org/special\\_report/photojournalism-sexual-harassment.php](https://www.cjr.org/special_report/photojournalism-sexual-harassment.php)
- IWMF, “Attacks and Harassment: The Impact on Female Journalists and Their Reporting” - <https://www.iwmf.org/attacks-and-harassment/>
- Nieman Reports “Why We Need More Visual Journalists and Editors of Color” - <https://niemanreports.org/articles/a-new-focus/>

**Module 1: Introduction to safety planning for journalists**

(May 3 - 9, 2021)

In this module we will focus on how to develop a risk assessment and a communication strategy. We will look at the considerations needed to create a realistic and workable plan to share with your editor or newsroom security manager, as well as advice for freelancers working for multiple outlets. How we communicate in the field is an essential component to our safety, as is having a working safety plan in place.

***This module will cover:***

- Risk assessments

- Creating a basic communication plan
- Q&A with Tanya Warnakulasuriya - a safety expert based in Sri Lanka

## **Module 2: Situational awareness and personal safety**

(May 10 - 16, 2021)

As we head out on assignment it's important to also consider our own strategies for safety in the field, as we often work in fast-paced and changing environments. In this module we'll take a personal approach to how we mitigate risk in the field, and we'll explore other factors such as kit and equipment we need to protect ourselves.

### ***This module will cover:***

- Understanding how situational awareness affects our personal safety
- Travel and location safety
- Kit and personal protective equipment

## **Module 3: Harassment and gender-based violence**

(May 17 - 23, 2021)

Here we will focus on a selection of threats that journalists, especially women, face while reporting. We will share some strategies on how to be prepared in the field and how to support and be an ally to someone who is experiencing or has experienced harassment.

### ***This module will cover:***

- An understanding of the types of physical harassment and gender-based violence, including sexual violence
- Support for those experiencing harassment and how to support as an ally
- Reporting, signposting and after care
- A Q&A with Kristen Chick a freelance journalist focused on gender, conflict, and migration

#### **Module 4: Self care and mental wellbeing**

(May 24 - 30, 2021)

We often face challenging situations as journalists, and this module will focus on some simple strategies to create a peer support network and share information on support services for working women journalists.

#### ***This module will cover:***

- A basic understanding of our emotional wellbeing both pre- and post-assignment
- How to create a self-care plan
- A conversation with a mental health expert in understanding the effects of trauma on our physical and mental well-being