

An Opportunity for Police Officials Worldwide: Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Freedom of Expression and Safety of Journalists



Course introduction

We are pleased to inform you that The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Police Association (IPA) and IBZ Castle Gimborn have developed a MOOC to promote international and regional standards on freedom of expression, freedom of speech and the safety of journalists for members of law enforcement agencies. The course will be launched on July 11, 2022. It aims to deepen the understanding of the need to protect freedom of expression, freedom of speech and the safety of journalists. It also aims to strengthen the role of police officers in this matter, and improve professional relations between police officials and media professionals.

The course will cover (1) the legal framework, (2) the limits of freedom of expression, (3) from freedom of information to right to information, (4) the role of state bodies to promote and ensure freedom of expression and safety of journalists, (5) the challenges and opportunities of social media and digital technologies.

This free five-week online course will be offered not only to police members worldwide but will be open to journalists, academia, lawyers.

Please, find a description of the MOOC modules and flyer to advertise the course. We would be very grateful if you could circulate this information among your networks and members of the police in your country and help to support this important initiative.

The course will start on July 11, 2022 and will last five weeks.

The live webinar takes place on August 18, 2022.

Please note that participants who successfully complete the course will receive a certificate of completion.

A summarized version of the online course will be available in Arabic, Chinese, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.

[Register now!](#)

Description of the MOOC modules

Module 1 | The Legal Framework

The module sets out the international legal framework. It gives a brief historical description and underpins freedom of expression, freedom of speech as a prerequisite for a democratic constitutional state. Furthermore, it underlines the right to information as a logical prerequisite for any participation in a democracy and it addresses dissemination possibilities and the important role of the media.

Module 2 | The Limits of Freedom of Expression

The module explores the limitations to freedom of expression to keep an equilibrium with other human rights, further legal standards and for legitimate reasons of state security. It examines the legality of restrictions of fundamental rights.

Module 3 | Freedom of Information – Right to Information

The extension of human rights to informational self-determination and the right to access information and the role of large Internet platforms like Google, Facebook will be discussed.

Module 4 | Ensuring Freedom of Expression and Safety of Journalists by State Bodies

The important role that journalists play in democratic societies, and the legal protections afforded to media professionals will be discussed. The obligations of state bodies to act open, honest, and proactive to ensure transparency of government action and the need to collaborate with media, organizations and citizens to create mutual trust will be examined. The consideration of human rights in all plannings of activities of security bodies will be underpinned.

Module 5 | Police: Social Media and Digital Technologies

The module deals with dangers and threats of rapid advancement in digital technologies and social media, and the opportunities and challenges for security authorities.

Webinar | Freedom of Expression and the Roles of the Media and Security Bodies