



A THOUSAND CUTS



Maria Ressa, Journalist, CEO and Co-founder of Rappler

A journalist in Asia for 35 years, Maria Ressa co-founded Rappler, the top digital only news site that is leading the fight for press freedom in the Philippines. As Rappler's CEO and president, Maria has endured constant political harassment and arrests by the Duterte government, forced to post bail ten times to stay free. Rappler's battle for truth and democracy is the subject of the 2020 Sundance Film Festival documentary, A Thousand Cuts.



Guilherme Canela, Section Chief, Freedom of Expression and Safety of Journalists UNESCO

Guilherme Canela holds the position of chief of the section of Freedom of Expression and Safety of Journalists at UNESCO headquarters in Paris. For 8 years, he held the position of Communication and Information Regional Adviser for Latin America and the Caribbean at UNESCO Montevideo Office. During those years, he performed as Regional Coordinator of the UNESCO Initiative for the Promotion of Democracy and Freedom of Expression in judicial systems in Latin America.



Laura Bretea, Democratic Governance Policy Officer, European Commission

Laura is a Democratic Governance Policy Officer at the European Commission. Her work supports Freedom of Expression and Independent Media. She is the project manager for Media4Democracy and other media development projects." Media4Democracy is an EU-funded Technical Assistance Facility strengthening the European Union Delegations' ability to implement the EU Human Rights Guidelines on Freedom of Expression Online and Offline.



Louise Haxthausen, Director, UNESCO Liaison Office Brussels

Louise Haxthausen (Denmark) joined UNESCO in 1993, as Associate Expert in the Human Rights Division at UNESCO Headquarters (Paris). She has worked on conflict and crisis response at country-level in Afghanistan and in Palestine; and most recently as Director of the UNESCO Office for Iraq. At UNESCO HQ, she has acted as Focal Point for the Middle East in the Office of the Director-General; as Senior Coordinator, Crisis Response in the Arab World, Bureau of Field Coordination; and as Senior Coordinator, Crisis and Transition Response, in the Office of the UNESCO Director-General. She has an academic background in political science and international public law.



Deborah Seward, Director of the United Nations Regional Information Centre (UNRIC)

Prior to arriving in Brussels, Deborah served as Director of the Department of Public Information's Strategic Communications Division at UN Headquarters. Before joining the UN in 2011, Deborah was an international journalist for nearly 25 years, with postings across Europe.

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UNESCO

UNESCO is the United Nations agency with a mandate to defend freedom of expression and press freedom. Article 1 of its Constitution requires the Organisation to “further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion, by the Charter of the United Nations.” To realise this purpose the Organisation is required to “collaborate in the work of advancing the mutual knowledge and understanding of peoples, through all means of mass communication and to that end recommend such international agreements as may be necessary to promote the free flow of ideas by word and image”.



Social Media 4 Peace

The overall objective of this UNESCO project is to strengthen the resilience of societies to potentially harmful content spread online, in particular hate speech inciting violence while protecting freedom of expression and enhancing the promotion of peace through digital technologies, notably social media. The increasing digitalization of societies worldwide has led to unprecedented opportunities for the free flow of information. But there are growing concerns about how digital communication tools have become instrumental platforms to spread harmful content with a significant impact on conflict dynamics and peace. The project will contribute to the achievement of SDG 16, to promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies and to the UN Plan of Action on Hate Speech launched by UN Secretary General Antonio Gutierrez to combat the online disturbing groundswell of xenophobia, racism and intolerance.



The European Union & Media 4 Democracy

Media4Democracy is an EU-funded Technical Assistance Facility strengthening the European Union Delegations' ability to implement the EU Human Rights Guidelines on Freedom of Expression Online and Offline. Their mission is to support the EU Delegations' broad and coherent implementation of the EU Guidelines on Freedom of Expression and to help them to identify, design and implement appropriate near-, medium- and long-term actions. Media4Democracy is based in Brussels and provides advocacy support and capacity building services to all EU Delegations (EUDs) worldwide, as well as customised technical support to individual EU Delegations.



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