“When journalists are under attack, democracy is under attack.”

- Maria Ressa, Nobel Laureate

The Coalition For Women in Journalism
Impact Report 2023
In an era filled with misinformation and global conflicts, the Coalition For Women In Journalism (CFWIJ) fiercely defends press freedom and champions the critical role of women and non-binary journalists.

Journalism is often dangerous, with many facing threats ranging from violence to harassment. Since 2019, CFWIJ has supported and advocated for thousands of journalists in distress. Our team works across timezones and round the clock to ensure we dont miss a beat, when a journalist from a gender or racially diverse background faces a challenge while doing their job. Our advocacy work ensures journalists’ safety and empowers them to work freely and fearlessly.

CFWIJ’s efforts have resulted in over 1000+ evacuations and relocations of women and non-binary journalists from high-risk regions such as Afghanistan, Ukraine, Iran, Mexico, Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Pakistan, and Turkey. Through strategic partnerships and a robust global support network, CFWIJ not only helps women journalists build resilience but also amplifies their collective voice.

Our work shows the importance of diverse and independent journalism in fostering dialogue, promoting human rights, and ultimately strengthening democracy.
“I have watched the CFWIJ build a dynamic and inclusive community of women journalists across many countries. They are at times the only voice for local journalists targeted by an aggressive state or on-line intimidation. The CFWIJ has built a structure of resources which women journalists can access to aid their reporting, but also to help them navigate the minefield that can be freelance journalism. The need for advocacy groups, who reach deep into the journalism community they serve, is critical in today’s particularly volatile time. I have worked for decades in conflict zones, covering some of the world’s most intractable wars. I speak from experience when I say the need for the CFWIJ’s quick and effective advocacy is invaluable. The CFWIJ is an extraordinary organization with a small but dedicated team that is deeply deserving of donor support. It is an organization that puts it work first and themselves a distant second.”

Kathy Gannon, Award-winning Veteran Correspondent with Associated Press.
CFWIJ in Numbers
Our Global Impact

1000+ Journalists and Leaders Evacuated and Relocated
3000+ Journalists Received Advocacy Support
60 Journalists Received Mental Health Therapy

250+ Organization, Media and General Partnerships
1500+ Journalists Within Our Network
50 Global Mentors

128 Countries Monitored in Press Freedom
21,000 Followers on Twitter
9,000 Followers on Instagram
Major Events
Panels and Seminars We Joined and Led

Collision
CFWIJ’s founding director Kiran Nazish joins Collision Conference every year. She has been in conversation with industry leaders including Sally Buzbee, Lindsay Peoples, Ann Curry and other leaders.

Multiple Campaign events for Alsu Kurmasheva and others
CFWIJ partnered with several organizations like RFE/RL, National Press Club & others to raise awareness and enhance advocacy. This includes several event in Washington D.C featuring different journalists including Alsu Kurmasheva

The Future of Press Freedom
Discussion with Kiran Nazish, Vera Jourova – Vice President of the European Commission for Values and transparency, Jodie Ginsberg — President of Committee To Protect Journalists and Corinne Vella — sister of Daphne Caurana Galizia.

ECPMF Conference
CFWIJ’s Mâire Rowland often shares her expertise in industry panel. e.g on left an ECPMF event on gender disinformation campaigns targeting women journalists.
In 2023, CFWIJ proudly introduced the Kathy Gannon Legacy Award, honoring the veteran correspondent who has shattered barriers in journalism while passionately covering some of the most critical global stories with integrity and compassion. This award recognizes distinguished women journalists who continue to break new ground in today’s journalism landscape, displaying remarkable courage and conscientiousness.

The inaugural recipients of this award, Zahra Nader, Afghan-Canadian journalist and founder of Zan Times, and Joanna Chiu, international affairs journalist at the Toronto Star and chair of NuVoices, exemplify these qualities through their courageous reporting from challenging regions and their commitment to their communities.

Their achievements not only honor the legacy of Kathy Gannon but also inspire future generations of women journalists worldwide.
Audience Growth between 2019–2023

- Twitter Growth
- Instagram Growth
- Total

Year
- 2019
- 2020
- 2021
- 2022
- 2023

Growth (in thousands)
- 0
- 5000
- 10000
- 15000
- 20000
- 25000
- 30000
Growth in Global Partnerships

“I want to thank Kiran and the whole team at CFWIJ, for the incredible and absolutely vital work you do. I am so glad that this org exists and I hope that more and more women journalists around the world can benefit from the work that happens here.”

Mona Eltahawy,
Leading Feminist Activist, Egypt/United States
Partnerships

**International Organisations**

IPI, RSF, Reuters, CPJ, OPC, CWA, CAJ, CJFE, SAJA, NAJA, AJA, Pen America, Pen Canada, Canadian Journalism Forum, NYU Asian Women Journalists, Black Women Journalists

**Academic Partnerships**

New York University, Columbia School of Journalism, Lahore University of Management Studies, Carleton University, University of Ottawa, Concordia University, University of Delhi, Arizona University, Missouri School of Journalism, Umass Amherst, University of British Columbia, Tufts University, London School of Economics, Barnard College, New York
Impact Map

“I don’t recall any organization or non-profit that is solely focused on the risks and dangers that female journalists face doing their job before CFWIJ.”

– Bukalo Adebayo, Nigeria
Harvard Nieman Fellow

Orange-colored countries on the map below represent all the countries where we have intervened to support and advocate for women and non-binary journalists in the last few years.
As violence against journalists increases, CFWIJ amps up our advocacy and support.

This year has been identified as the deadliest for journalists, casting a spotlight on the heightened dangers they encounter, especially in conflict zones and under authoritarian regimes.

- **15 journalists killed** in conflict in Ukraine, Israel, Palestine, Sudan, Lebanon
- **116 journalists behind bars**, Iran remains the highest jailer of women journalists
- **86 cases of threats and intimidation** targeting journalists, alarming increase in 2023
- **15 cases of transnational repression**. Authoritarian states are increasingly targeting exiled journalists.
Endorsement of our impact

The last two years have been extremely difficult for me, having gone through repeated attacks after I revealed in January 2022 that the country’s then prime minister, a former four-star army general, had plagiarized his doctoral dissertation. The Coalition For Women In Journalism (CFWIJ) has stood by me during this period, providing me with the support I needed as a journalist and as a woman. The mentorship from CFWIJ and access to a powerful network that defends the rights and safety of women in journalism have been very important to me. CFWIJ has been the point of balance and support that I have needed to manage the legal actions to protect myself and my emotional state.

Emilia Sercan,
Prominent Investigative journalist. Romania

“Being made redundant was a huge disappointment but I’m grateful for the solidarity and support that the CFWIJ has shown me. With major cutbacks and layoffs within the media industry, the CFWIJ’s work has been vital in tracking the impact that this has been having on journalists and independent media.”

Anita Mureithi
Freelance Journalist, UK
Impact Highlights

Programs and Initiatives

**CFWIJ Emergency Relief**
Our emergency fund provides an immediate lifeline for journalists in times of crisis, covering safety gear, mental health support, legal fees, and relocation expenses.

**Press Freedom Newsroom**
CFWIJ’s Press Freedom Newsroom serves as a dedicated platform for monitoring, researching, and reporting on press freedom issues globally. The newsroom covers press freedom conditions in 128 countries, providing insights and updates on the challenges journalists face.

**Mentorship**
CFWIJ’s unique mentorship program is aimed at enhancing the careers and lives of mid-career women journalists globally, focusing on the status of free press for women and non-binary journalists. Participants in the mentorship program have published in top media outlets such as NYT, the Guardian, and BBC and have received prestigious awards, including the Pulitzer Prize.

**Mental Health Support**
CFWIJ’s mental health support includes a dedicated initiative offering tools and an open platform for journalists to share their experiences and needs. We recognize that mental well-being enhances journalists’ ability to effectively navigate their work environments and continue their storytelling missions.

**Peer Support**
Our peer support programs facilitate the sharing of knowledge, experience, and emotional, social, or practical support among journalists and mentors. The initiative leverages CFWIJ’s global network of over 1500 journalists to create nurturing and safe spaces for women journalists, helping them expand their skills and stay connected.
In 2023, our work garnered significant press coverage across global media outlets. Our documentation of the Iranian government’s ongoing crackdown on press freedoms as well as our work covering women journalists covering major events like post-earthquake developments in Turkey, war in Ukraine, Russian attack on journalists was covered by major outlets like The Guardian, New York Times, VOA News and dozens of international outlets.

**Iran: Anniversary of Mahsa Amino’s Death and Our Documentation of Press Crackdown**
Covered by Voice of America, New Dehli Times

**Q1 2023 Report**
Covered by Voice of America, Rabble, The Sunday World, Bianet etc.

**Escalating Press Violations In Turkey Following February Earthquakes**
Covered by the Independent UK, Politika Haber, Bianet etc.
Join Us

Your support is what makes our work possible. Join the CFWIJ in our mission to continue connecting, supporting, and protecting women and non-binary journalists worldwide. By contributing, you help create an equitable, practical, and collaborative future for all.

Donate here

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