



Provisional programme

**International Leaders Programme alumni meeting:  
Sustainability of independent media**

Tuesday 07 September 2021 | WP1970V

1300-1530 BST

**To be held virtually**

The 2021 International Leaders Programme Alumni series provides an online forum to strengthen the alumni network through discussion on key policy issues.

**Context**

The [Media Freedom Coalition](#), currently co-chaired by the UK Government and the Government of Canada, was formed in July 2019 at the [Global Conference for Media Freedom](#) and is a partnership of countries working together to advocate for media freedom and safety of journalists and hold to account those who harm journalists for doing their job. This commitment was re-affirmed in the G7 Foreign and Development Ministers' Meeting: Communiqué, May 2021. Internationally, Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) sets out that public access to information and the associated protection of fundamental freedoms is key to the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, justice and strong institutions.

Drawing on the range of expertise and experience across the International Leaders Programme, the workshop will focus on the sustainability of independent media and aims to identify ways to work together to exchange insights, and co-ordinate and share best practice in this area.

The workshop will also assist alumni members to forge further links for future activities and to cement relationships established through the ILP network.

The sessions will be participatory with numbers limited to ensure there is an opportunity for input from everyone involved in the meeting. Speakers will provide brief introductory remarks in order to stimulate a free-flowing and inclusive dialogue. Discussion will be held off the record under the Chatham House Rule to enable an open and frank exchange.

The meeting will be conducted in English.

**In association with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)**



**Tuesday 07 September 2021**

**1245**

## **Arrival and orientation**

**1300-1310**

## **Welcome**

**Julia Purcell**

Programme Director, Wilton Park, Steyning

**1310-1315**

## **Introduction to meeting**

**Sheila O'Connor**

Head of VIP Visits and the International Leaders Programme, FCDO, London

**1315-1330**

## **1. Introductory remarks**

**Kanbar Hossein Bor**

UK Coordinator, Media Freedom Campaign; Deputy Director, Democratic, Governance and Media Freedom, FCDO, London

## **Pause for photograph**

**1330-1415**

## **2. How to ensure sustainable media?**

Media freedom is a vital part of upholding democracy and human rights around the world. It is important to secure long-term financial support and maintain independence, while also providing high quality, transparent and factual reporting.

- What are the threats to high quality media?
- What are the different financial models that can facilitate independent media and how transferable are they?
- What other measures could be taken- eg legal and regulatory frameworks?

**Susan Valentine**

Acting Deputy Director, Program on Independent Journalism, Open Society Foundations

Followed by contributions from ILP participants.

**1415-1420**

## **Break**

**1420-1425**

## **Introduction to breakout groups**

**1425-1450**

## **3. Strategies for change: breakout group discussion**

This session will provide an opportunity for more in depth discussion in smaller breakout groups. Participants are asked to share insights, experience and best practice and make practical recommendations.

- What needs to be in place to support high quality, transparent and independent media that operates for the public interest?
- New digital and mobile technologies are reshaping the media landscape. In this context, how to sustain trust in quality reporting?

**1450-1500**

## **4. Reflections from breakouts: brief summary of proposals from each of the groups**

1500-1515

## 5. Wrap up and conclusions

### Final announcements

#### Clare Magloire

International Leaders Programme Manager, FCDO, London

#### Julia Purcell

Programme Director, Wilton Park, Steyning

1515-1530

### Informal networking (optional)

**This is an invitation only conference.**

Enquiries about the programme: Julia Purcell, Programme Director

T: +44 (0)1903 817699 | E: [julia.purcell@wiltonpark.org.uk](mailto:julia.purcell@wiltonpark.org.uk)