



Bonavero
Institute
of Human
Rights



6 April 2021

Subject: Newsletter to Ministers of Justice, Presidents of Supreme Courts, Presidents of Bar Associations, Presidents of Judges' Schools and Presidents of Magistrates' Unions for the launch of the global training programme on freedom of expression for members of the judiciary

Dear members of the judicial community,

We are pleased to inform you that UNESCO and the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights of the University of Oxford have developed a joint online training to promote international and regional standards on freedom of expression for legal professionals. The Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), which will be launched on 10 May 2021, aims to strengthen the role of judicial actors, especially judges, prosecutors, lawyers and representatives of judicial training institutes, in promoting freedom of expression standards and its corollaries, freedom of the press and access to information. The MOOC will cover in particular (1) regional and international human rights law safeguards for freedom of expression; (2), access to public information; (3), safety of journalists; and, (4) challenges created by the digital world.

This free five-week online programme will be offered to a wide audience of judges, prosecutors and lawyers as well as other actors worldwide. In particular, the MOOC will build upon the [previous series of trainings](#) organized by UNESCO and its partners, which have trained over 18,000 judicial actors from Latin America, Africa and the Arab world since 2013.

In the framework of this programme, UNESCO has built strong cooperation with key institutions and partners and has in particular signed a series of Memoranda of Understanding with regional human rights courts such as the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, the ECOWAS Court of Justice, and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, as well as with judicial organizations including the International Association of Prosecutors and the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors.

Please find enclosed a brief description of the MOOC modules, as well as a flyer to advertise the course. We would be very grateful if you could circulate this information among your networks and members of the judiciary in your country and region, in order to publicise this important initiative.

The course will start on 10 May 2021 and will last five weeks. Registrations are now open on the following link: <https://bit.ly/3rfwzeD>.

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In addition, please note that participants who successfully complete the course will receive a certificate.

If you need further information about the training, please contact Mehdi Benchelah (m.benchelah@unesco.org), Senior Project Officer, Namara Burki (n.burki@unesco.org), Associate Project Officer from UNESCO's Freedom of Expression and Safety of Journalists Section, or Stefan Theil (stefan.theil@law.ox.ac.uk) from the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate O'Regan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'O' in the middle.

Kate O'Regan
Director of the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights, University of Oxford

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Guilherme Canela". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'G' at the beginning.

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

Annex: Description of the MOOC modules for legal professionals

Module 1: General Principles and Scope of Freedom of Expression

The Module sets out the international legal framework underpinning the right to freedom of expression, notably under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and provides an overview of the general scope of the right in the doctrine of important regional protection regimes.

Module 2: Limitations on Freedom of Expression

The Module explores the legitimate restrictions on the right to freedom of expression, as provided for in international and regional protection regimes, as well as the doctrine of courts.

Module 3: Right of access to information

The Module sets out the legal frameworks regarding the right to access to information, with a particular emphasis on the important role that it plays in ensuring democratic political processes and sustainable development.

Module 4: Safety of Journalists

The Module examines the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, highlighting the physical risks that many journalists face in the pursuit of the truth, including the specific threats faced by women journalists, and the role of the judiciary in protecting freedom of expression

Module 5: Digitalisation

The Module explores contemporary challenges to freedom of expression that have arisen particularly through the exercise of the right online, and how existing legal frameworks can be applied online.