



INFORM. CONNECT. EMPOWER.

REUTERS/ Jorge Lopez

Thomson Reuters Foundation - *An Overview*



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REUTERS INSTITUTE FOR
THE STUDY OF JOURNALISM



ANTONIO ZAPPULLA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

As the pandemic continues to sweep around the world, our work as an organisation has never been as critical, relevant or transformational.

Covid has accelerated inequalities, exacerbated the decline in free media, and profoundly affected civil liberties all over the world. But it has also galvanised global calls for a big Reset, one that puts both people and planet at the centre of a just and sustainable recovery underpinned by human rights.

The Foundation uniquely uses the combined power of journalism and the law to build global awareness of some of the most critical issues currently faced by humanity. We work with many different stakeholders – from civil society leaders to purpose-driven professionals – to inspire collective leadership, and to find scalable solutions that can help shape a more prosperous world where no one is left behind.

Our expertise and thought leadership is divided into three areas of focus: advancing media freedom, fostering more inclusive economies, and promoting human rights.

This document provides an overview of the breadth, scope, impact and legacy of the Foundation's work – past and present. It showcases what an organisation can achieve if it can adapt and change to channel its expertise in response to the most pressing needs of the time. Here, you'll find innovation both from previous years, alongside highlights of our work from the past year alone – a period of extraordinary growth and development for the Foundation.

For example, in 2021, we worked with investors, lawyers, civil society, and private sector leaders to improve the understanding of the many social issues at the centre of ESG frameworks, so that social performance components can be strategically considered as the conversation around ESG gathers momentum.

We also produced practical legal tools for journalists and newsroom practitioners to respond to the growing threat of online harassment, an issue that affects the mental wellbeing of many reporters – often women – and their ability to hold power to account.

And we delivered hard-hitting journalism, exposing sexual abuse by aid workers in the Congo which led five UN agencies and NGOs – including the World Health Organization – to launch “robust investigations”. At the Thomson Reuters Foundation we believe that societies should be free, fair and informed. The converging crises of health, economy, and climate are deepening divides and putting our democracies and our planet under threat. But there is also great opportunity for a global and collaborative response. Our job is to accelerate this response by leveraging our unique mix of stakeholders, one that includes grassroots voices, CEOs, policy makers and professionals.

We have an opportunity to ensure that our response is inclusive, equitable and sustainable, and that the new solutions ahead of us will continue to protect fundamental human rights and our democratic freedoms.

Now is the time for the Big Reset.

Human Rights Day, December 10, 2021



TRUST PRINCIPLES

The Thomson Reuters Foundation adheres to the same ethical standards that Thomson Reuters has adopted through its Trust Principles. The Trust Principles were created in 1941, in the midst of World War II, in agreement with The Newspaper Proprietors Association Limited and The Press Association Limited (being the Reuters shareholders at that time). The Trust Principles imposed obligations on Reuters and its employees to act at all times with integrity, independence, and freedom from bias.

Reuters Directors and shareholders were determined to protect and preserve the Trust Principles established in 1941 when Reuters became a publicly traded company on the London Stock Exchange and Nasdaq. A unique structure was put in place to achieve this. A new company was formed and given the name 'Reuters Founders Share Company Limited', its purpose being to hold a 'Founders Share' in Reuters.

In 2008, the Trust Principles were adopted by the new company, Thomson Reuters.

- 01** That Thomson Reuters shall at no time pass into the hands of any one interest, group or faction;
- 02** That the integrity, independence and freedom from bias of Thomson Reuters shall at all times be fully preserved;
- 03** That Thomson Reuters shall supply unbiased and reliable news services to newspapers, news agencies, broadcasters and other media subscribers and to businesses, governments, institutions, individuals and others with whom Thomson Reuters has or may have contracts;
- 04** That Thomson Reuters shall pay due regard to the many interests which it serves in addition to those of the media; and
- 05** That no effort shall be spared to expand, develop and adapt the news and other services and products so as to maintain its leading position in the international news and information business.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REUTERS/Toby Melville



JIM SMITH

*Chairman of the Board
Former President and CEO of Thomson Reuters*



DAVID BINET

*President and Chief Executive Officer,
The Woodbridge Company*



MARY ALICE VUICIC

*Chief People Officer,
Thomson Reuters*



VIVIAN SCHILLER

*Executive Director,
Aspen Digital*



EILEEN LYNCH-SUSSAN

*Chief Marketing Officer,
Refinitiv*



BRIAN PECCARELLI

*Chief Operating Officer,
Thomson Reuters*



NICOLE YOUNG

*Producer,
60 Minutes*



MENDI NJONJO

*Regional Director for Hivos Foundation
(Eastern Africa)*

WHO WE ARE

We are the corporate foundation of Thomson Reuters, the global news and information services company. As an independent charity, registered in the UK and the USA, we work to advance media freedom, foster more inclusive economies, and promote human rights. Through news, media development, free legal assistance and convening initiatives, we combine our unique services to drive systemic change.

OUR VISION

We believe that societies around the world should be free, fair and informed.

OUR MISSION

We use the combined power of journalism and the law to build global awareness of critical issues faced by humanity, inspire collective leadership and help shape a prosperous world where no one is left behind.

OUR VALUES



TRUST

We are independent and impartial. We adhere to the Thomson Reuters [Trust Principles](#).



INNOVATION

Innovation is at the heart of our work.



DIVERSITY

We are global. We strive for diversity across all our work.



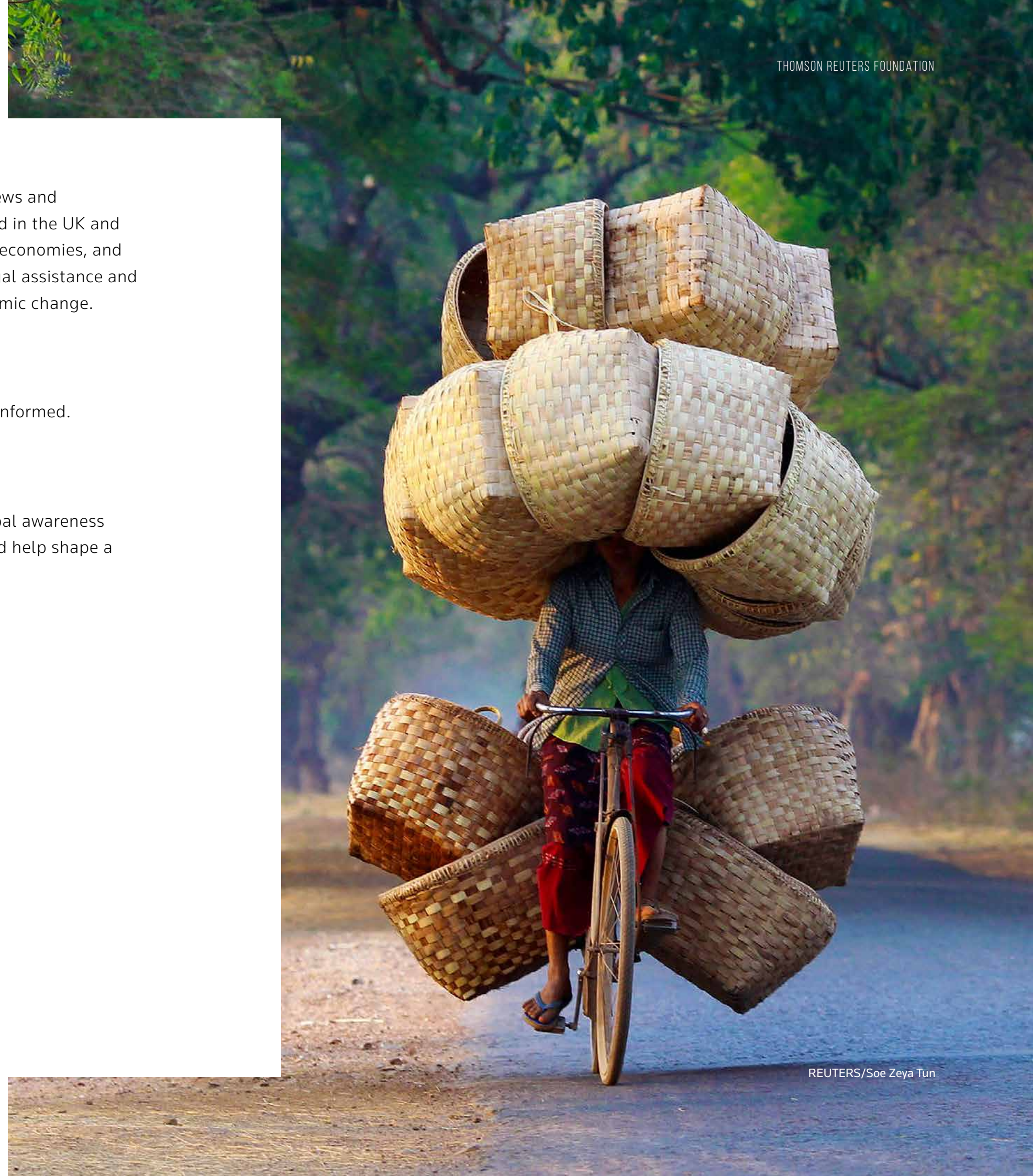
COLLABORATION

We act as a convener across sectors, connecting key stakeholders to further our mission.



IMPACT

We work to achieve positive, sustainable impact.

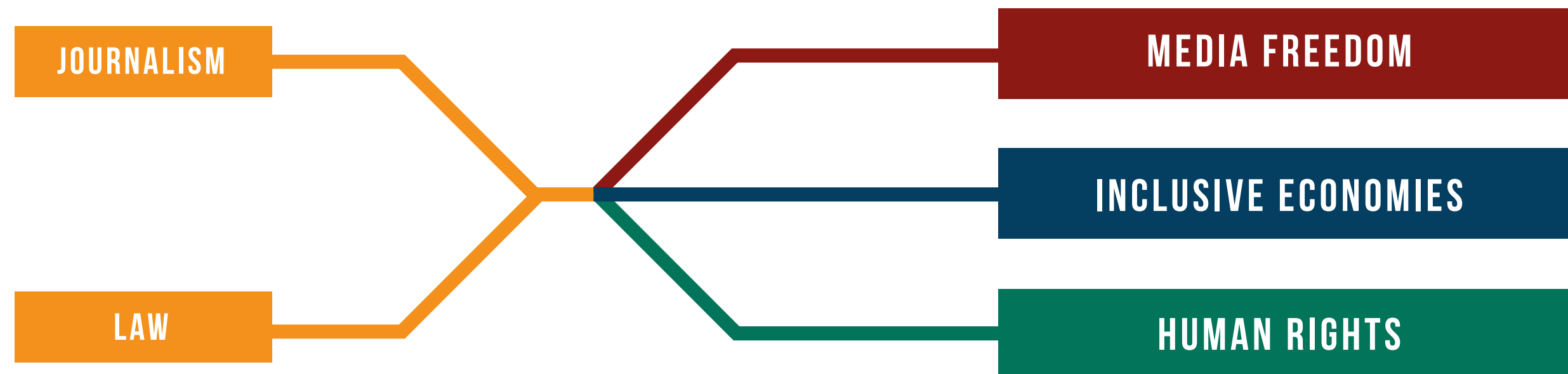


OUR APPROACH

Accurate and balanced news coverage is critical to informing public opinion, revealing previously undocumented stories, exposing abuses of power and holding authority to account. The law is fundamental to establishing and protecting the rights of individuals and to upholding free, fair and informed societies.

As the corporate foundation of Thomson Reuters, our unique expertise combines the power of **journalism** and the **law** to advance media freedom, foster more inclusive economies, and promote human rights.

We believe there is a symbiotic relationship between our three focus areas, and that one cannot thrive independently of the others.



OUR FOCUS AREAS: IN BRIEF

MEDIA FREEDOM

- The media is a crucial pillar of any free, fair and informed society.
- Media outlets are facing unprecedented economic and technological challenges and there is an alarming increase in attacks on journalists around the world.
- ✓ We work with journalists, media managers, legal practitioners, policymakers, regulators, technologists, academia and businesses to foster a free and prosperous media ecosystem that can play a vital role in supporting democracy and development.

OUR MEDIA FREEDOM WORK CENTRES ON THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

MEDIA FOR DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

DEFENDING MEDIA FREEDOM

STRENGTHENING THE FUTURE OF JOURNALISM

INCLUSIVE ECONOMIES

- There is increasing recognition that while capitalism can produce growth and spur innovation, it is also generating a deepening economic and social divide, and is hurting our planet.
- Growing inequality, the climate crisis, modern slavery, and the erosion of privacy and freedoms caused by the latest technological developments are among the biggest challenges of our time.
- ✓ We work with journalists, legal practitioners, civil society, policymakers and the private sector to foster equitable, participatory and sustainable economies that create opportunities for everyone.

OUR INCLUSIVE ECONOMIES WORK CENTRES ON THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS MODELS

- ESG
- JUST TRANSITION
- PURPOSE DRIVEN BUSINESS MODELS

IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY ON SOCIETY

- DATA AND DIGITAL RIGHTS

HUMAN RIGHTS

- Human rights are inalienable, universal rights belonging to every single human being, irrespective of race, religion or creed.
- They are fundamental to our mission – societies cannot be free, fair or informed without respect for these human rights.
- ✓ We raise awareness of human rights issues around the world via our news coverage and by training local journalists to report accurately on these issues.
- ✓ We facilitate legal assistance and research to support frontline human rights organisations, and drive collaborations to advance these rights and influence policy change through partnerships, working groups and events.

OUR HUMAN RIGHTS WORK CENTRES ON THE FOLLOWING THEMATIC ISSUES:

FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION

CLIMATE

DATA AND DIGITAL RIGHTS

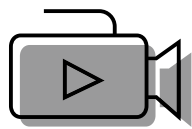
FORCED LABOUR AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

LGBT + RIGHTS

OUR SERVICES: IN BRIEF

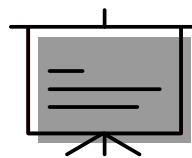
REUTERS/Amir Cohen



JOURNALISM

Reporting from the ground in more than 70 countries, our global news team covers the most critical issues of today and their impact on people. Our editorial focus areas include climate change, socio-economic inclusion, and the impact of technology on society. From the drive to build new, greener and equitable economies, to the implications of a rapid growth in data-driven technology on privacy, we report on challenges affecting fundamental human rights and freedoms. In a rapidly-changing world, we expose undiscovered issues and voices, highlight innovation and progress and examine possible solutions.

We adhere to the Thomson Reuters Trust Principles of integrity, independence and freedom from bias. All of our news coverage is distributed on the Reuters wire, reaching an estimated daily audience of one billion readers.



MEDIA DEVELOPMENT

For more than 35 years, we have promoted the highest standards in journalism by training reporters around the world to cover issues relevant to their local context, accurately and impartially.

Today, we work to strengthen local and national journalism, improve media ethics, standards and regulation, combat misinformation, and explore and shape the future of the profession. We do this through newsroom consultancy, journalism training and mentoring, capacity-building, and via our funding of the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at the University of Oxford.



FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND RESEARCH

We run the world's largest pro bono legal network, TrustLaw. Working with leading law firms, we facilitate free legal support, groundbreaking research and resources for NGOs and social enterprises in 175 countries.

By spreading the practice of pro bono worldwide we strengthen civil society and drive social change. Our network has grown to more than 6,500 members, including more than 1,000 law firms and in-house legal teams.



CONVENING INITIATIVES

We convene experts to build global awareness of critical issues linked to our areas of work, to inspire collective leadership and to help shape a prosperous world where no one is left behind.

Our annual flagship event, Trust Conference, brings together frontline activists, thought leaders and top decision-makers in the areas of media freedom, inclusive economies, and human rights.

Other initiatives include thematic working groups convened around the world to share expertise, drive new partnerships, facilitate media coverage and produce legal research.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

REUTERS/Giorgos Moutafis

As the enormity of the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic became apparent in Spring 2020, the Foundation leveraged its unique blend of journalism and legal skills, as well as its experience, networks and reach, to strengthen the global response.

Our interventions began with the launch of the [Coronavirus Crisis Reporting Hub for Journalists in the Global South](#), an initiative to equip journalists with the core skills, information, and accessibility to key experts and peers that they needed to report on the global pandemic. Participants in the first hub included reporters in Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, Ghana and South Africa.

This series of eight-week hubs, delivered to cohorts of up to 15 participants, consisted of live video masterclasses on reporting and production techniques, as well as the economic and social impact of the pandemic, the science behind it, the race to find a vaccine, countering misinformation, the safety of journalists online and offline, and ethical standards and legal dangers. It also included briefings from journalists on different frontlines of the crisis, discussions on story ideas and how to approach them in the local context. A skills lab offered the latest digital and multimedia tools and techniques to enhance the production of stories.

Thanks to subsequent donor funding from IFAD and the National Endowment for Democracy, we introduced additional hubs in sub-Saharan Africa, Eastern Europe and across Eurasia, and in 2021 we have launched further programmes in Latin America, Africa and the Middle East.

At the same time, the Foundation's news team highlighted key issues arising from the pandemic – specifically its impact on marginalised and vulnerable communities, alongside global sustainability trends – and housed the coverage on a dedicated section of our news site. This newly-established section showcased innovative longform presentations, used for the first time in 2020, such as:

- [‘A pandemic in a pandemic’: Coronavirus deepens racial gaps in America](#)
- [‘Black urban farmers in the U.S. sow seeds to end ‘food apartheid’](#)
- [‘Will COVID-19 change our relationship with meat?’](#)

Our global pro bono legal network, TrustLaw, working closely with our legal partners around the world, increased efforts to provide dedicated and tailored pro bono support to assist NGOs and social enterprises to survive and thrive beyond the pandemic.

We delivered more than 40 live webinars for more than 1,000 organisations across Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas, with lawyers providing practical guidance on legal issues arising from the pandemic for NGOs and social enterprises. Topics included employment issues, contractual rights, insurance, data privacy, and protection and governance. Several of these webinars were hosted in local languages.

In addition, we established a [TrustLaw COVID-19 Resource Hub](#), a global repository of resources and FAQs on the legal implications of COVID-19, alongside a COVID-19 Legal Checklist and a series of tools to identify the unique challenges arising from the onslaught of the pandemic. Since its launch in March 2020, the Hub has been accessed over 7,000 times.

To date, we have facilitated 129 COVID-19 related legal projects which have provided NGOs and social enterprises with pro bono legal assistance during these challenging times.

In 2020, the Foundation also became a member of the [COVID Response Alliance for Social Entrepreneurship](#). This alliance brings together more than 50 leading global organisations to amplify support for social entrepreneurs who are under extreme stress as a result of the global health emergency.

Finally, with support from Baker McKenzie and Omnia Strategy LLP, we hosted a series of virtual roundtables - which brought together leading brands from a wide range of sectors - to discuss issues related to human rights and supply chains in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.



OUR FOCUS AREAS: IN DEPTH

**MEDIA
FREEDOM**



**INCLUSIVE
ECONOMIES**



**HUMAN
RIGHTS**

MEDIA FREEDOM

REUTERS/Mussa Qawasma

The media is a crucial pillar of any free, fair and informed society. An independent and thriving media holds governments and businesses to account and empowers citizens to make better decisions for themselves and their communities. Societies in which journalists are able to report freely and professionally are safer and more inclusive. Institutions are more transparent and accountable, and power and resources are distributed more justly.

The vital role that journalists play is increasingly under attack around the world. The profession faces unprecedented economic and technological challenges. Rising government control of the news industry, disruption of traditional business models, rapid changes in how people consume news, growing competition from alternative media, proliferation of misinformation and disinformation, and the resulting erosion of public trust in news sources undermine accurate and impartial journalism. At the same time, there has been an alarming increase in attacks on journalists globally.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

We work with journalists, media managers, legal practitioners, policymakers, regulators, technologists, academia and businesses to foster a free and prosperous media ecosystem that can play a vital role in supporting democracy and development.

Our media freedom work combines our unique blend of expertise in the journalism, media development and legal fields, with the aim of:

- Strengthening local and national journalism
- Improving media ethics and standards, and combatting misinformation
- Exploring and shaping the future of the profession

OUR MEDIA FREEDOM WORK CENTRES ON THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

**MEDIA FOR DEMOCRACY
AND DEVELOPMENT**

**DEFENDING
MEDIA FREEDOM**

**STRENGTHENING THE FUTURE
OF JOURNALISM**



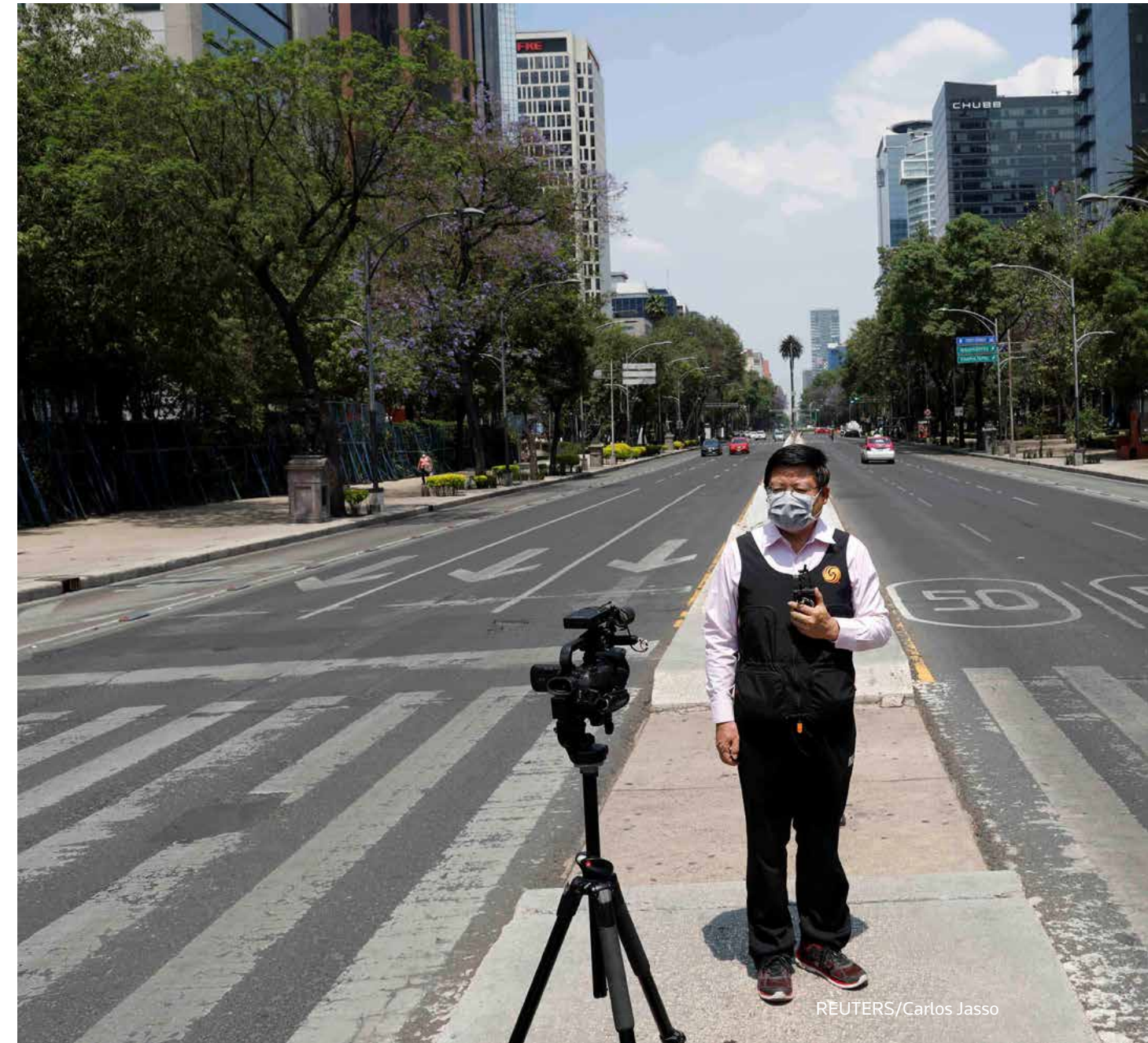
MEDIA FOR DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

We support local media to produce accurate, impartial and reliable journalism that bolsters government and business accountability and ensures public access to information.

Training and mentoring for journalists

We train reporters around the world, promoting integrity, independence, and freedom from bias in news reporting. The core of our training is focused on:

- Journalism ethics and standards
- Mobile journalism
- Elections reporting
- Investigative reporting
- Good governance reporting
- Anti-corruption reporting
- Environmental reporting
- Financial reporting
- Human rights
- Data and digital rights
- Equality, pluralism and social cohesion



REUTERS/Carlos Jasso

Combining our Media and Legal Expertise

Since 2020 the Foundation built on its unique combination of legal and media offerings to amplify impact. As part of the Baltic Independent Media (BIM) initiative, we worked with the Baltic Centre for Media Excellence to produce comparative legal research on the legislative frameworks for media freedom and freedom of speech in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Following the completion of this research, we ran a series of workshops for independent media in each country to help outlets in the Baltics better understand how media legislation could impact on their work.



WEALTH OF NATIONS



Despite receiving large sums of money through foreign aid and remittances, Africa loses huge amounts to illicit financial flows – money that pours out of economies through aggressive tax avoidance, corruption, smuggling, and other means, to the tune of an estimated \$30-60 billion annually. This deprives African nations of vital tax revenues that could be spent on social programmes including healthcare, education and basic infrastructure, and of funds that could otherwise be invested in projects to create jobs and drive development.

Reporting on this subject is a major challenge for journalists, as it requires specific knowledge of complex financial agreements and access to carefully hidden information. This makes corruption a largely untold story.

Our Wealth of Nations initiative aims to strengthen and scale up independent media across Africa with the goal of exposing the financial manipulations that stop the continent from flourishing. It brings together journalists and media practitioners from across the continent, to increase their investigative capacity and boost the effectiveness of newsrooms.

An investigative report by a journalist participating in *Wealth of Nations* revealed how Egypt's free-trade zone was being used as a tax haven by many companies operating there. The story, which uncovered new data about the tax evasion and ensuing loss of government revenue, was cited and praised by the Ministry of Finance when making the case for reform. Despite stiff opposition from the investment authority, the law was changed.

Wealth of Nations is supported by a grant from Norway's development agency, Norad.



Radio Loliondo FM

The COVID-19 pandemic has thrown into sharp relief the critical need for free-flowing, accurate and independent information. Yet there are communities around the world who are often overlooked, or who do not have access to mainstream media, meaning that mediums such as community radio become even more critical in disseminating life-saving information.

With the aim of bolstering local media and providing on-the-ground support to indigenous communities in Africa during the health crisis, we formed a consortium with InsightShare and PALCA to deliver a 12-month media training programme, funded by Refinitiv, to Radio Loliondo FM - a community radio which serves audiences spanning the Ngorongoro district in Tanzania to the National Park of Serengeti in Kenya.

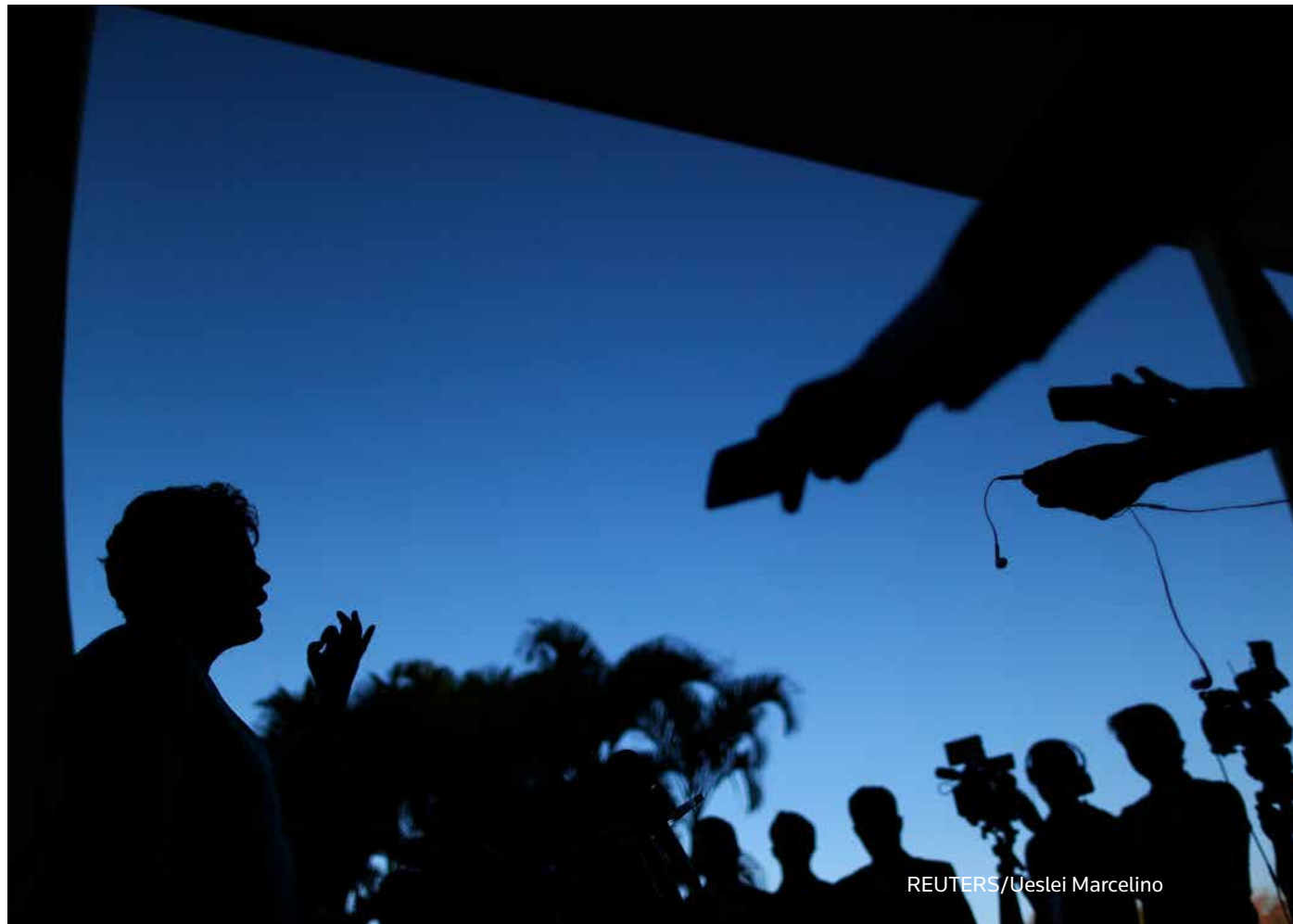
The radio was struggling to fulfil its mission to reach and engage vulnerable communities with trusted and culturally relevant information. Utilising our bottom-up approach to training, we began by upskilling Tanzanian journalists and supported aspiring reporters in Kenya to propel the reach and impact of the community radio. We also collaborated with local community leaders to understand their needs and helped the radio station to develop new radio programmes in the local language.

The consortium's intervention has already had a tangible impact on individual's lives. For example, with our support, reporters from Radio Loliondo FM developed a show, raising awareness of the harm that FGM inflicts on women and girls. As a result, a local woman stopped practising FGM, and listeners reported they were unaware of its harm.



DEFENDING MEDIA FREEDOM

We work to create a positive environment for media to operate independently and safely, and to improve the professional and business standards of independent media in countries at risk.



Legal research and guides to promote media freedom

We work with media professionals and law firms to research media laws and regulation, to strengthen the media ecosystem and to guide journalists and media managers seeking to produce free and independent journalism.

We provide a whole host of resources, including tools, guides and country-level research for lawyers, media professionals and regulators.



PRACTICAL LEGAL TOOLS TO COUNTER HARASSMENT

From impersonation accounts to hateful slurs and death threats, journalists around the world are facing increasing levels of abuse. The consequences are significant, ranging from physical and psychological harm to the individual, to preventing their work and effectively silencing their reporting.

In response to these surging attacks, we partnered with UNESCO, the International Women's Media Foundation and the International News Safety Institute to develop a range of practical and legal tools for journalists, media managers and newsrooms to strengthen responses to online and offline harassment and to protect free and independent media.

[The Practical Guide for Women Journalists on How to Respond to Online Harassment](#) and [Checklist and Guidelines on Gender-Sensitive Safety Policies for Newsrooms](#) address the challenges experienced by reporters and media workers in a climate where nearly three-quarters of women journalists surveyed say they have experienced online abuse. [The Online Attacks Against Journalists: Know Your Rights Guide](#) provides those targeted with specific legal tools to deal with online harassment and covers the legal rights of journalists across 13 countries.





'KNOW YOUR RIGHTS' GUIDE PUBLISHED FOR JOURNALISTS COVERING PROTESTS IN THE UNITED STATES

2020 was a crucial year in the United States; presidential elections took place amidst harsh social tensions across the country. The death of George Floyd in Minneapolis in May 2020 sparked outrage, led to widespread demonstrations and put the Black Lives Matter movement at the forefront of the national stage. Journalists covering the Black Lives Matter movement were being attacked in an unprecedented manner by both police and activists. The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) reached out to TrustLaw, the Thomson Reuters Foundation's global pro bono service, and was quickly connected with an international law firm that drafted a concise "Know Your Rights" guide for journalists covering protests in the U.S. This Guide describes in simple language the protections afforded to journalists during a protest under the American constitution and practical tips.



REUTERS/Jonathan Ernst



REUTERS/Jorge Silva



DEFENCE HANDBOOK FOR JOURNALISTS AND BLOGGERS ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Freedom of expression and freedom of information are among the most essential human rights. These principles are enshrined in international law, and governments can be held accountable if the voices of journalists are silenced. We connected non-profit organisation Reporters Without Borders with legal firm Paul Hastings, and its international team of 70 lawyers, to develop a handbook of decisions and recommendations made by international and regional bodies and courts, relating to freedom of expression. The handbook allows journalists to work with greater confidence, knowing they are complying with international laws. It is also useful for journalists' legal representatives, who can lack expertise in international law, by allowing them to quickly access examples of relevant international cases and standards.



CRITICS ARE NOT CRIMINALS - COMPARATIVE STUDY OF CRIMINAL DEFAMATION LAWS IN THE AMERICAS

According to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), in 2019 alone 250 journalists were imprisoned around the world for reporting on matters of public interest. The vast majority of those were sentenced under anti-state charges or defamation laws, which permit journalists to be prosecuted for the content of their reporting. Governments in the Americas are increasingly using these defamation laws to suppress journalists and crack down on dissent. We connected CPJ with 12 law firms, led by Debevoise & Plimpton, to research the enforcement of criminal defamation laws, uncovering best and worst practices across 33 countries in the Americas. The resulting report revealed that 32 out of the 33 countries surveyed use these laws to continue to silence journalists who are critical of politicians and public officials. This has, in some cases, led to the closure of many independent news outlets. The report has enabled the CPJ to actively advance their legal reform agenda. They have engaged in critical dialogue with governments and inter-governmental stakeholders, including discussions with the President of the Peruvian Congress about a prospective bill to decriminalise defamation.



REUTERS/Issei Kato



PROTECTING WHISTLEBLOWERS IN THE UK: A NEW BLUEPRINT

Whistleblowing is a type of freedom of expression in which a person or group exposes illegal, unethical or incorrect information or activity within an organisation. For this reason, whistleblowers often put themselves at risk of backlash, harassment or retaliation. Until recently, despite pressure from civil society and major disclosures such as LuxLeaks and the Panama Papers, the laws protecting whistleblowers across European countries have been limited.

We connected Blueprint for Free Speech – a non-profit dedicated to improving freedom of expression – with global law firm Dechert LLP, to draft a memorandum on the legal process for creating an EU directive that could provide a more comprehensive and universal standard of protection for whistleblowers.

The legal research empowered Blueprint to inform the EU community on this process, as well as the legal arguments to improve transparency.

In April 2019, whistleblowers were, for the first time, given EU-wide protection through landmark legislation passed by the EU Parliament. The legislation shields whistleblowers from retaliation, creates 'safe channels' to allow them to report breaches of EU law, and aims to encourage reports of wrongdoing.

Convening initiatives to share best practice and strengthen the media ecosystem

We regularly bring together media practitioners, media freedom NGOs, lawyers and academics to provide practical collaborative opportunities – including partnerships, alliances, networks and events – to share best practice and develop tangible solutions to strengthen media freedom and the independent media ecosystem generally.



KURT SCHORK AWARDS IN INTERNATIONAL JOURNALISM

Since 2009, we have supported and hosted the [Kurt Schork Awards in International Journalism](#). Named in honour of American journalist Kurt Schork, who was killed in Sierra Leone while on assignment for Reuters in 2000, the three annual awards recognise the courageousness of freelance journalists, local reporters and news fixers who are reporting on conflict, corruption, human rights transgressions and other related issues.

2021 marked the 20th anniversary of the Awards and saw Samantha Power, Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, deliver a powerful [keynote speech](#) during our [online webinar](#), where she reflected on her experiences of reporting on the frontlines of the Bosnian War with Kurt and his enduring legacy.



REUTERS/Soe Zeya Tu



MOBILISING AN ECOSYSTEM OF LEGAL SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENT JOURNALISTS AND MEDIA ORGANISATIONS

Around the world, powerful actors are weaponising laws to silence independent journalism. Journalists routinely face protracted legal battles that all too often end in financial ruin, bans from practicing, or imprisonment. At the same time, when journalists are assaulted or even murdered, the perpetrators are rarely prosecuted.

To address this growing threat, we teamed up with the Committee to Protect Journalists and Media Defence to establish the [Legal Network for Journalists at Risk](#) (LNJAR).

The Network provides a single access point to an ecosystem of legal support for independent journalists and media outlets, which is essential to ensuring that they can continue to cover key public interest stories that spark critical debate and hold power to account without fear of retribution.



Advisory support to independent news outlets

We provide bespoke support to media organisations on all aspects of their operations, from editorial standards and operational management to business sustainability, with the aim of strengthening independent media voices in countries where free and independent media is at risk of shrinking.

Our eight-week programme of support to Latvian Radio 4 – a Russian-language public sector radio station – focused on the challenges and opportunities that arise when a news organisation transitions to digital. It was delivered to a cohort of around 30 participants via three modules – Contemporary Radio Journalism, Digital & Social Media, and Podcasting. These were complemented by ongoing mentoring activities to support the staff to design and implement digital-focused pilot activities.

The Foundation has increased its focus on supporting newsrooms to strengthen their resilience to the changing business and news environments. As part of this, we've worked with around 20 newsrooms in Eastern Europe, lending our support to editorial, technical and financial resilience initiatives. We have also provided emergency funding to help newsrooms navigate the financial challenges amplified by the pandemic, worked with them to develop new editorial products that they can monetise, collaborated on how to safeguard their staff and produced training on how they cover elections.

As part of our work to support independent media across Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova, we [commissioned research](#) - funded by the U.K. Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's Eastern Partnership Independent Media Project - to provide outlets in each of the three countries with key audience insights and to identify additional activities that can build trust with their core audiences.



TV8 MOLDOVA



Since 2017, we have been supporting TV8 to become financially sustainable, and, as such, a stronger provider of unbiased, high-quality news and information. Having contributed to TV8's organisational restructuring and capacity-building, we continued to deploy experienced journalists and media managers who have helped the team develop and implement a business plan, and ensure appropriate coverage of elections.

Our newsroom consultancies on editorial policy and business generation helped TV8 improve its programming, increase its audiences across all platforms and diversify its revenue to include commercial activities. As a result, TV8 has strengthened its financial sustainability and its ability to continue to hold power to account, to become one of the country's most trusted sources of political news.

In December 2018, TV8 received the Special Award 'Evolution of the Year' from the Chisinau Press Club at the Press Gala organised by the Independent Journalism Centre.

Our work with TV8 is supported by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) of the UK government.



STRENGTHENING THE FUTURE OF JOURNALISM

We work with journalists, editors and media executives to ensure they face the opportunities and challenges of a changing media environment from a position of strength and to help them build better and more sustainable journalism for tomorrow.



THE DIGITAL NEWS REPORT

Each year, the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism (RISJ), at the University of Oxford, produces the Digital News Report, the world's largest international comparative study tracking online news access, consumption and engagement around the world. The 2021 report looked at the impact of coronavirus on news consumption and on the economic prospects for publishers. It also examined progress on new paid online business models, trust and misinformation, local news, impartiality and fairness in news coverage.



Research into the State of Journalism in the Global South & COVID-19

The pandemic has had deep and far-reaching consequences for the journalism profession and practice. Understanding these issues is critical to strengthening an independent and thriving media and safeguarding its future in a post-COVID era. We commissioned and published a report on [‘The Impact of COVID-19 on Journalism in Emerging Economies and the Global South’](#), which focused on journalists and the industry in geographies and economies largely overlooked by other research, and combined both fact-based data and first-hand experience.

The study takes a deep dive into the critical challenges faced by the profession, examining issues including the pandemic's impact on the personal safety and welfare of journalists, the structure of newsrooms and disruption to business models, the proliferation of fake news, and surging threats to media freedom. It also identifies best practice and innovative approaches that have been developed as a response to the challenges of COVID-19.

Fifty-five members of the Foundation's unique network of alumni, working in 26 different countries, provided insights from the ground and shared their own experiences to illustrate the reality of delivering journalism outside of North America and Western Europe. Since publication, the report has generated widespread interest from thought leaders in the sector, and has been shared by organisations including the Nieman Journalism Lab, the Columbia Journalism Review, the International Press Institute, the Committee to Protect Journalists, the Pulitzer Crisis Reporting Center and the Foreign Press Association. The resource will be used to inform future stakeholder convenings hosted by the Foundation.



REUTERS/Anushree Fadnavis

Increased support for alumni community

In a year that has caused huge disruption to the journalism profession, the Foundation channelled its efforts into strengthening the ecosystem, in part by engaging closely with, and providing ongoing support for, our journalism training alumni network. We produced tailored workshops for alumni, as well as offering them access to online training in areas matching their expertise. These included alumni-only workshops based on the energy transition in Southeast Asia, and a global hub session on rural development reporting which included opportunities for mentoring and grant support. We also identified opportunities for this network to contribute to other journalism programmes.

Journalists from the sub-Saharan Africa, Eastern Europe and APAC regions joined a series of 'Training of Trainer' schemes and were offered opportunities to 'shadow' experienced TRF trainers. Our alumni were also invited to attend our annual human rights forum, Trust Conference – alongside other public events – as speakers or audience contributors. Interviews with more than 55 alumni featured in our report on ['The impact of COVID-19 on Journalism in Emerging Economies and the Global South'](#).



Training the next generation of journalists

Since 2018, we have been partnering with the [Arab Youth Center](#) to deliver innovative training solutions as part of the [Youth Arab Media Leaders Programme](#), an initiative aimed at educating future media leaders in the MENA region on topics ranging from media literacy to video journalism – all of which are fundamental pillars in the work of sustaining a positive media ecosystem.

We also work with academic institutions to strengthen professional development opportunities for journalists.

A young girl wearing a bright blue headscarf and a patterned sweater is working in a lush green field, likely a wheat field. She is holding a bundle of harvested wheat stalks. The background shows a vast field of green crops under a clear sky, with some trees and buildings visible in the distance.

INCLUSIVE ECONOMIES

There is increasing recognition that the mainstream economic model is generating a deepening divide and hurting our planet. Economies are only truly inclusive when they are equitable, participatory and sustainable, and when they respect and preserve the environment around us.

According to Oxfam, the world's richest 1% have more than twice as much wealth as 6.9 billion people. The global economy is now five times larger than it was 50 years ago, but inequality is rising, and more people are excluded than ever. Around the world, 40.3 million people live in conditions of slavery. Ten million of them are children. 24.9 million of them trapped in forced labour, hiding at the bottom of global supply chains, and some 4.8 million people are victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

The climate crisis has also risen to the top of the international agenda with global efforts being undertaken by governments and businesses alike to mitigate the consequences of rising global temperatures. Companies are moving towards the adoption of more standardised ESG disclosure mechanisms to improve the quality and availability of non-financial indicators that can help investors and the general public to understand the corporate impact on both people and the environment.

Meanwhile, data has become the world's most valuable commodity, and the rapid rise of unregulated technology has ushered in new forms of discrimination, challenging the traditional notions of privacy.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

We work with journalists, legal practitioners, civil society, policymakers and the private sector to foster equitable, participatory and sustainable economic models that take into account the interests of all stakeholders and create fair opportunities for everyone.

We employ a unique blend of our expertise in journalism, media development, legal research and convening initiatives to promote the development of ESG agenda, the advancement of social entrepreneurship, and to support a just transition. We also work to make sure that the benefits of technology are spread more widely and shared more fairly, so that they enhance human rights and freedoms.

OUR INCLUSIVE ECONOMIES WORK CENTRES ON THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS MODELS

- ESG
- JUST TRANSITION
- PURPOSE DRIVEN BUSINESS MODELS

IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY ON SOCIETY

- DATA AND DIGITAL RIGHTS



FOSTERING RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS MODELS

Economies can only be regarded as inclusive when they are equitable, participatory and sustainable. Inclusive economies are critical to shaping free, fair and informed societies.

Since the global adoption of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, CEOs and business leaders have been urged to provide a new type of leadership, pivoting the focus from shareholder profit to stakeholder value.

Multi-national companies have been embracing Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) criteria, a set of standards that socially conscious investors are increasingly using to screen potential sustainable investments. Environmental criteria consider how a company performs as a steward of nature. Social criteria examine how it manages relationships with employees, suppliers, customers, and the communities where it operates. Governance deals with a company's leadership, anti-corruption mechanisms, internal controls, and shareholder rights.

In parallel, the emergence of impact investment and social entrepreneurship has introduced new ways of using business to tackle social problems. The Global Impact Investing Network (GIIN) estimates the current size of the global impact investing market to be \$715 billion. We create public awareness of the importance of this emerging global sector through our journalism, and provide valuable free legal support to social enterprises around the world.

We also leverage the ESG framework to engage businesses, the legal community, policymakers, civil society and social enterprises to foster new approaches and decision-making models that take into account economic and social justice, together with environmental sustainability.



REUTERS/Faisal Mahmood

Award-winning journalism

Our inclusive economies coverage focuses on vulnerable and marginalised groups affected by historical and ongoing inequalities. Our journalism shines a light on the many workers and communities that are most impacted from the fallout of the continuing and converging climate and coronavirus crises, whilst also examining the mainstream economic model that delivers profits for the wealthiest.

As investing in companies based on their Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) performance continues to gather momentum, our stories explore the importance of evaluating a company's ESG impact across myriad industries - from agriculture, social enterprises and retail, to the ever-growing gig economy. They examine issues around business and human rights, gender and LGBT+ equality, as well as racial justice.

Our coverage highlights the need for a more resilient, sustainable and inclusive economic model, including holding companies accountable for their social actions and inactions.



PICKED BY SLAVES: COFFEE CRISIS BREWS IN BRAZIL

Our six-month investigation uncovered extensive slave labour running largely unchecked through Brazil's billion-dollar coffee industry, despite years of efforts to clean up the sector.



LEBANESE BANKS SWALLOW AT LEAST \$250M IN U.N. AID

Unfavourable dollar exchange rates meant refugees and poor communities in Lebanon received less aid, even as prices of essentials soared amid an economic crisis.



TUNISIAN GARMENT WORKERS FIGHT FOR UNPAID WAGES IN PANDEMIC'S SHADOW

More than 150,000 Tunisians - most of whom are women - work in garment factories, and the COVID-19 pandemic has shone a light on widespread labour abuses.



COVID-19: THE BIGGER PICTURE

Building New Narratives Around Inclusive Economies

In partnership with the Omidyar Network, we launched [COVID-19: The Bigger Picture](#), a photo-led initiative to spotlight how the pandemic had affected the lives and livelihoods of some of the most vulnerable workers around the world. The project combined a series of five photo-journalism essays published on our news site with a photo competition that was open to anyone in the world able to capture the most powerful images of the pandemic's impact on everyday people. We received 550 submissions to the award. The winners were announced at the close of 2020 and received a series of photojournalism masterclasses, tailored workshops and mentoring, alongside the opportunity to work with the Foundation's reporters.



Journalism training

In a world of information overload, we work with journalists, news organisations and partners - including the United Nations Foundation, UNICEF, the Skoll Foundation and the International Fund for Agricultural Development - to make sure that environmental, sustainability and socio-economic issues remain at the top of the news agenda. Our training programmes help journalists to write compelling stories on the Sustainable Development Goals, cover health and child immunisation in India, and understand the myriad issues affecting those in rural poverty.



REPORTING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

We partnered with the United Nations Foundation to train more than 700 journalists, and government and non-governmental communicators from 40 countries, on how to effectively report on the Sustainable Development Goals. The programme aimed to show how integral environment and sustainability issues are to political, economic and humanitarian news stories. It also raised the profile of international development projects that are often under-reported but have the power to transform global living standards.



UNDERSTANDING THE GLOBAL REPORTING INITIATIVE

Companies from many sectors are coming under increasing scrutiny and pressure when it comes to sustainability reporting. There is a wealth of data and information on the sustainability strategies and efforts undertaken by companies. Thorough investigation of this publicly-available information can help journalists hold organisations to account and uncover stories on a wide array of themes, be they political, financial, social or environmental. In partnership with the Global Reporting Initiative, an international independent standards organisation that helps businesses, governments and other organisations understand and communicate their impacts on issues such as climate change, human rights and corruption, we delivered an intensive workshop to journalists in India, Brazil and the Philippines. The workshop provided participants with the information, tools and strategies they need to understand the complexities of sustainability and enable them to better report through that lens.



Legal research and support

We work with social impact partners and law firms to produce a host of legal resources - including tools, guides and country-level research that helps lawyers, entrepreneurs and investors to navigate the evolving legal and regulatory landscape for social entrepreneurship, ESG and impact investing.

We also support social enterprises through facilitating pro bono legal advice from leading law firms, enabling these organisations to adopt sustainable business models, strengthen their operations and, ultimately, help them to balance profit and purpose.



WORKPLACE GENDER EQUALITY AND INCLUSION

In October 2021, TrustLaw launched a report titled '[Gender Pay Gap Reporting: A Comparative Analysis](#)', which mapped international gender pay gap reporting legislation across 11 countries - Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Japan, Spain and Sweden - with the goal of highlighting best practices internationally and suggesting a way forward for the UK.

The research was requested by the Fawcett Society and the Global Institute for Women's Leadership at King's College London, and was coordinated by Latham & Watkins with contributions by Castrén & Snellman and BBA Fjeldco.

The launch event for the report received more than 700 registrations and featured a panel chaired by former Australian PM Julia Gillard, with speakers from the Fawcett Society, Latham & Watkins, the UK Government Equalities Office and the Trade Union Congress. The report was picked up by several news outlets, including [The Telegraph](#), [The Guardian](#), [The Independent](#) and [Yahoo Finance](#). The Independent also [cited the research](#) again in response to Labour MP Stella Creasy introducing an Equal Pay Bill to Parliament, one which was co-written with the Fawcett Society and would allow women in the workplace to request data from their employer if they suspect a male colleague is taking home different wages for doing the same work.

REUTERS/Luke Macgregor



Convening initiatives

The Foundation regularly organises events and convenings, bringing together key players from across the corporate, investment and professional service sectors to work with civil society, social enterprises, and experts. The aim of these convenings is to help drive the shift towards business and economic models becoming more equitable, participatory and sustainable - and to encourage a fairer distribution of benefits from technological growth.

Our annual forum Trust Conference dedicates a [full day](#) to addressing the need to build more inclusive and sustainable models of growth, and explores practical approaches to creating socio-economic opportunities for marginalised groups, as well as the transition to greener economies.

We have also convened companies with pro bono lawyers to share best practice on ways to uphold the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. This corporate community released a [joint statement](#) in support of the European Commission's Sustainable Corporate Governance Initiative.

With support from Baker McKenzie and Omnia Strategy LLP, we brought together law firms and businesses at a series of virtual roundtables to discuss issues related to human rights abuses in supply chains during COVID-19, as well as to share best practice. In 2020 we were joined by more than 60 businesses, and the series continues to provide valuable opportunities for collaborating on practical and scalable solutions to protecting human rights in supply chains.



REUTERS/Minzayar Oo



BANKS ALLIANCE

Recognising the powerful contribution the financial sector can make to the anti-trafficking movement, in 2013 the Thomson Reuters Foundation and the New York County District Attorney created the Banks Alliance Against Trafficking – a series of regional multi-stakeholder working groups that support financial institutions to fight human trafficking, using their data.

Since then, the Banks Alliance has grown to include the United States Banks Alliance, European Banks Alliance and Asia Pacific Banks Alliance. Each regional alliance has mapped the financial footprint of human trafficking in the formal banking system and produced toolkits that help financial institutions to refine their monitoring and investigation processes, and develop training programmes for staff.

All three regional toolkits have been formally endorsed by the Wolfsberg Group, the association of leading global banks that develops frameworks and guidance for the management of financial crime risks. The association recognises the benefits of using the toolkits and has urged its members and other financial institutions to put the indicators into practice, noting the importance of collaboration, information-sharing and partnership to tackle this crime.

“ The Thomson Reuters [Banks] Alliance groups now provide three Anti-Human Trafficking Toolkits, relevant across three substantial geographic regions, that are designed for specific use by banks and financial institutions in the fight against human trafficking. We positively endorse this work and the benefits of utilising these toolkits and all participants are to be congratulated on pursuing this initiative and setting an example for others to follow.

THE WOLFSBERG GROUP

Strategic initiatives

Launched in 2015, the Stop Slavery Award marked the first global recognition for businesses that had set a gold standard in efforts to eradicate forced labour from their supply chains. The initiative successfully ran for six years and was expanded in 2019 to acknowledge journalists, innovative solutions, impactful collaborations between sectors, public awareness campaigns, and grassroots organisations on the frontlines.

During that time, the Stop Slavery Award helped to demonstrate the critical role businesses can play in addressing modern slavery, drive transparency in the corporate sector, raise awareness of the crime to global audiences, and inspire companies and organisations to take action. The Award also facilitated connections between key stakeholders, with the annual award ceremony convening representatives from all sectors, geographies and professional backgrounds for the exchange of expertise and best practice.

“ We are proud to have worked with the Thomson Reuters Foundation since the inception of the Stop Slavery Award. As a Firm, we are honoured to support the work that is being done across the world to highlight what is one of the most overlooked global issues of our generation, and to fight for those who need help.

ALYSSA AUBERGER,
CHIEF SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER, BAKER MCKENZIE





Driving Collaboration and Strengthening Legal Frameworks

As part of our collaboration with the Laudes Foundation, we hosted a series of regionally focused, multi-stakeholder convenings in Asia and Latin America to raise awareness of forced labour and to foster strategic collaboration. Bringing together NGOs, journalists, legal professionals and the private sector, the convenings explored collaborative solutions to improving labour rights and recruitment processes, as well as strengthening legal frameworks to support this work. We also established specialised working groups with legal professionals to assist NGOs in identifying and scoping legal research projects needed to support their advocacy work. TrustLaw has since connected the participating NGOs with legal members of its pro bono network so that the research can be undertaken for free.

We are also working to combat modern slavery and human trafficking through ecosystem support in Colombia, India, Thailand and Malaysia. Leveraging our media and legal expertise, we have delivered 20 different activities - ranging from journalism training to free legal support for NGOs. Additionally, we have delivered a number of private sector convenings in each country to amplify best practice in protecting vulnerable workers and to drive impactful change within supply chains. In recognition of the impact that can be achieved through a collective response to modern slavery, we have also driven cross-sector collaboration between participating businesses, NGOs and media organisations.

ESG

Amplifying the 'S' in ESG: Influencing the Finance Sector to Change Investment Practices

Investors are under increased pressure to consider the "S" (social) performance component in their investments. Yet in the world of ESG investing, the integration of social performance assessment has seen insufficient progress. We brought together civil society, experts and the private sector to form a working group to emphasise the importance of the 'social' criteria within ESG investing. The ESG Working Group included [Refinitiv](#), the [International Sustainable Finance Centre](#) (ISFC), [White & Case](#), [Eco-Age](#), [The Mekong Club](#), and the [Principles for Responsible Investment](#) (PRI) and [Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights](#), (as observer participants). Together, the Group produced a white paper: '[Amplifying the "S" in the ESG: Investor Myth Buster](#)', to further the understanding of "S" issues, and to enable a wider adoption of social criteria in investment strategies through the provision of concrete actions.

Since its release, the white paper has been downloaded over 4,000 times and has been cited in [a report](#) by the UK's Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Dame Sara Thornton DBE QPM, where she supports the Group's position that social performance is as financially material as environmental risks.

To further drive the adoption of ESG criteria around the world, the Group delivered a series of strategic multi-stakeholder convenings with lawyers, corporates, civil society, government officials and thought leaders to discuss practical tools, available data and examples of best practice.



[Amplifying the "S" in ESG: Investor Myth Buster](#)

“ This myth-buster couldn't be timelier and more useful exactly as the "S" in ESG has finally come to the forefront. From inequality and racial injustice to human rights and worker rights, social issues are more salient—and often material—than ever. This report should clear away the misperceptions that have held investors back from taking these issues and risks as seriously as they should.

BENNETT FREEMAN,
FORMER SENIOR VP, SUSTAINABILITY RESEARCH AND
POLICY, CALVERT INVESTMENTS

JUST TRANSITION

Groundbreaking journalism

In 2021, we launched dedicated coverage of the 'just transition', exploring issues at the nexus between climate, inequality, and workers' rights. Pursuing a just transition – one that creates new, greener job opportunities, without leaving workers in high-carbon sectors behind – has become a key challenge for policy makers and companies alike when tackling climate change. While the issue confronts both rich and poor countries, our focus is on the developing world, with dedicated reporters in India, Bangladesh and Brazil and support from our correspondents based in Africa, Europe and North America.



HOW COP26 PUSHED 'JUST TRANSITION' UP THE GLOBAL CLIMATE AGENDA

New financial support and a scuffle with developing countries over ending coal power at the Glasgow talks grabbed attention for the need to ensure a socially fair shift to greener economies.



INDIA'S ENGINEERING COLLEGES EQUIP STUDENTS FOR FUTURE BEYOND COAL

From solar energy to robotics and even mining on other planets, courses that once focused on coal production offer skills for future green jobs.



ETHANOL: BRAZIL'S SUGAR-BASED BIOFUEL BUILT ON LABOUR ABUSE

An investigation by the Thomson Reuters Foundation found that workers who are contributing to the fight against climate change by harvesting sugarcane - which is used to produce the biofuel ethanol - are working in hazardous conditions.



BANGLADESH'S HAZARDOUS SHIPYARDS LAUNCH RACE FOR CLEANER, SAFER FUTURE

The shipyard industry in Bangladesh is evolving to come in line with new regulations designed to improve worker safety and environmental protection.

Convening initiatives

Held shortly after the world convened in the UK for COP26, the first day of our Trust Conference addressed how to build more sustainable and inclusive economies post-pandemic.

Our panel *Making a 'Just Transition': Will the future of work be truly inclusive?* saw the participation of General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation **Sharan Burrow**, Head of Labour Rights Programme at the Laudes Foundation **Jill Tucker**, Strategic Advisor at the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative **Harjeet Singh**, and Global Director for Social Protection and Jobs at the World Bank Group **Michal Rutkowski**. The speakers explored how the transition to a greener economy can also be just, outlining solutions to help ensure that quality jobs will replace those that are lost, and how to limit the risk of economic disenfranchisement.



■ PURPOSE DRIVEN BUSINESS MODELS

Legal research and support

We support innovative organisations that are addressing environmental, humanitarian and social problems by providing more than 1,000 social enterprises, across 80+ countries, with pro bono legal advice from leading law firms.

We provide vital tools and resources, including guidance on navigating regulatory frameworks, accessing crowdfunding, and registering in various jurisdictions.

Since 2015, we have hosted accredited legal training on social enterprise and impact investing for lawyers, which focuses on legal issues and trends in the burgeoning social innovation sector and provides lawyers with the skills and knowledge they need to advise clients. In 2021, we expanded the training's curriculum to include an entire day dedicated to ESG compliance and disclosure.



FIGHTING BLOOD SHORTAGES IN KENYA

Blood shortages are a critical issue in Kenya. In 2019, the Kenya National Blood Transfusion Service collected only 16% of the 1 million units the country needed. Global health experts believe that one of the reasons behind this shortage is the absence of a culture of donating blood in the country; another is funding gaps.

Sisu Global Health - a US-based social enterprise - developed an autotransfusion device called Hemafuse, which can salvage and recycle a patient's blood from internal bleeding, without relying on blood donation.

Through TrustLaw, they were connected with two leading law firms - CFL Advocates based in Kenya and Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton in the United States - for free legal support on how to trademark their company name and product. This has since helped them to roll out their device in under-resourced communities.

While Kenya was struggling with blood shortages during the COVID-19 pandemic, Sisu Global Health and their product stepped in. Hemafuse is now used in ten different hospitals across Kenya and covered by the National Health Insurance Fund - the medical insurance provider most low-income people in the country have.

IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY ON SOCIETY

Data has become the world's most valuable commodity. Economists have called it the 'oil of the 21st Century'. But unlike oil, data is a renewable source made by people who are constantly giving it away.

By 2035, the world will have a trillion connected computers. This new wave of computerisation is often referred to as 'the internet of things' (IoT). The ethical, practical and legal ramifications of the IoT are complex and crucial. The implications for people's lives are immense.

Digital rights are a new frontier of human rights. We use all our services to raise awareness of the global impact of technology on people and society, providing legal frameworks and practical solutions to help navigate this constantly-evolving ecosystem. Our specific focus is on matters related to data privacy and data-led discrimination.

Groundbreaking journalism

In a world where digital technology is increasingly pervasive, our reporting uncovers the impact of data, algorithms and artificial intelligence (AI) on people's lives and society.

With new technological challenges constantly arising, our stories look at how people, governments and companies are adapting and responding in this uncharted digital environment.

Examples of our work include:



OUT OF MY MIND: ADVANCES IN BRAIN TECH SPUR CALLS FOR 'NEURO-RIGHTS'

As scientists learn more about how to manipulate the brain, ethicists say data could one day be collected, sold and exploited.



THE IMPACT OF AI ON RACIAL JUSTICE

From candidate selection in hiring processes to credit allocation, we explore the use of AI-based software and its potential repercussions in terms of discrimination and lack of economic inclusion.



HALF LONDON COUNCILS FOUND USING CHINESE SURVEILLANCE TECH LINKED TO UIGHUR ABUSES

UK councils' reliance on Chinese surveillance tech has sparked concern among privacy advocates and lawmakers.



FOR THIS AMAZON VAN DRIVER, AI SURVEILLANCE WAS THE FINAL STRAW

For Vic, an Amazon driver since 2019, the company's decision to install a four-lens, AI-powered camera in his van was the final indignity. This month, he quit.



CRYPTO TEARS: BITCOIN MINERS FACE BLAME FOR ABKHAZIA ENERGY CRISIS

Isolated from much of the world, Georgia's breakaway region of Abkhazia has become a cryptocurrency hotspot - but at a cost.



ARE NON-PROFIT VACCINE PASSPORTS THE KEY TO PRESERVING PRIVACY?

Vaccine passports built by non-profits may assuage some privacy concerns, but the underlying problem of access remains.

Legal research

Our legal research enables our NGO and social enterprise members to navigate the often uncharted and challenging territory of data regulation and legislation, allowing them to remain compliant and improve their organisational robustness.



SUPPORTING THE NGO SECTOR IN NAVIGATING THE EU GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR)

The EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which came into force in 2018, introduced strict obligations in relation to the processing of personal data. Civil society organisations are subject to GDPR regulation but often lack the legal guidance needed to translate the new requirements into practical outcomes.

We published two guides and delivered webinar training for NGOs and social enterprises to help them understand how to comply:

[Data Protection: A Guide for Charities and Non-Governmental Organisations](#)

[Impact of the EU General Data Protection Regulation on NGOs in Latin America](#)



Advancing Data and Digital Rights

To equip journalists with the necessary skills and information to report on data and digital rights, the Foundation - with support from Fondation Botnar - hosted a five-week online Digital Rights Reporting Hub. The training ran for two cohorts of journalists from 11 countries - including Colombia, Senegal, Indonesia, India and Egypt - and focused on the long-term impact of data sharing on privacy, as well as the threats that big data poses to human rights and democracy.

The programme helped participants to navigate the complex digital ecosystem and report on ever-changing legislation, whilst also providing a platform for knowledge sharing and network building.



REUTERS/Kacper Pempel/Illustration

Convening initiatives

Each year at our flagship annual event, Trust Conference, we convene digital rights experts, lawyers, policymakers, technologists and data rights NGOs to highlight and explore the many intersections between human rights and technology.

Additionally, throughout the year we host seminars and events in partnership with digital rights NGOs, such as an event held in the Netherlands looking at the implications of domestic laws that expand the powers of civil and military intelligence services to collect data en masse, titled [‘What does the secret service know about you?’](#)

The Thomson Reuters Foundation had a prominent presence at RightsCon 2021, Access Now’s annual human and digital rights forum. We hosted a range of events with key partners and thought leaders on the impact of strategic litigation on internet shutdowns, reporting on digital rights beyond silicon valley, the pandemic and freedom of expression, and an interactive social networking session between lawyers and experts championing digital rights.



HUMAN RIGHTS

REUTERS/Mariana Greif

Human rights are inalienable, universal rights belonging to every single human being, irrespective of race, religion or creed. These rights are firmly enshrined in international law, most notably in the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), which has been ratified by most national governments around the world. Human rights are fundamental to our mission because societies cannot be free, fair or equal without respect for these rights.

For as long as the Thomson Reuters Foundation has existed, protecting and advancing human rights has been at the core of our work. Whether it be reporting on hidden human rights issues, training journalists around the world to do the same, providing free legal support and impactful research to frontline organisations, or convening diverse and global actors in this space, all our work has been focused on empowering individuals and helping to strengthen free, fair and informed societies. While human rights underpin all of what we do, our work is grounded in the [Thomson Reuters Trust Principles](#) of independence, integrity, and freedom from bias.

The fight to secure or defend human rights around the world is ongoing, with basic freedoms and access to necessities being eroded, threatened or failing to exist entirely. At the same time, the technological revolution has created multiple evolving and complex threats to human rights – with grave concerns about privacy, discrimination and exploitation, to name but a few.

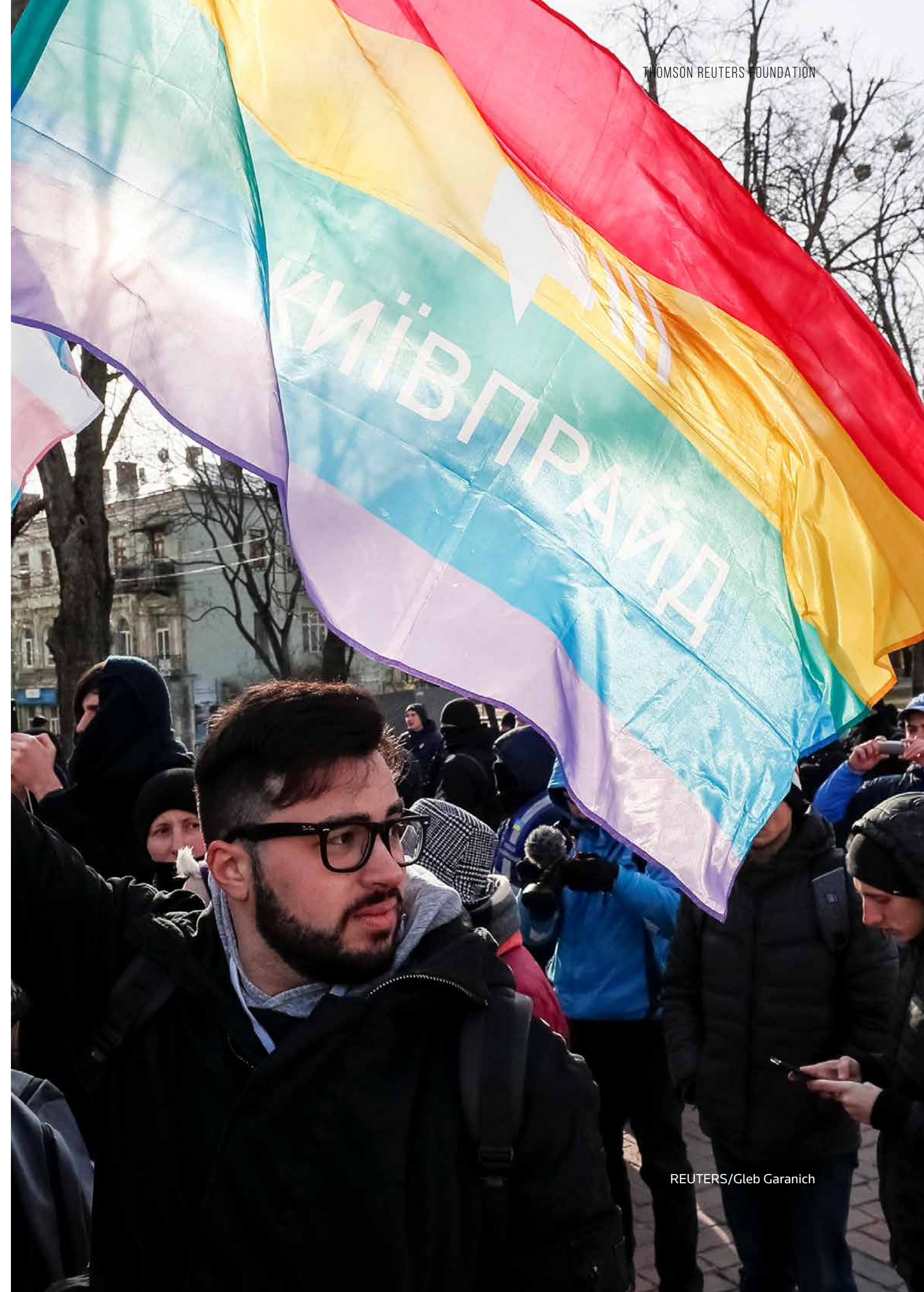
WHAT ARE WE DOING?

We work to shape public discourse about new and ongoing human rights issues through our own news coverage as well as our journalism training, legal support and research for NGOs influencing policy change, and by seeking out experts and activists with whom we can work to advance human rights, with the aim of:

- Highlighting some of the most critical human rights issues
- Driving policy change to advance human rights
- Leading collaborative approaches to amplify impact at scale

OUR HUMAN RIGHTS WORK CENTRES ON THE FOLLOWING THEMATIC ISSUES:

- FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION
- CLIMATE
- DATA AND DIGITAL RIGHTS
- FORCED LABOUR AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING
- WOMEN'S RIGHTS
- LGBT + RIGHTS



This section outlines our approach to all the thematic issues within the focus area of human rights.

Award-winning journalism

Reporting from the ground in more than 70 countries, our global news team covers the most critical issues of today and their impact on people. Our editorial focus areas include the human impact of climate change, issues affecting the LGBT+ community, socio-economic inclusion, and the impact of technology on society. We report on challenges affecting fundamental human rights and freedoms, we expose undiscovered issues and voices, we highlight innovation and progress, and we examine possible solutions.



INVESTIGATION INTO CLAIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE BY AID WORKERS IN THE CONGO

Our investigation into widespread allegations of abuse of women by Ebola aid workers in the Democratic Republic of Congo is our most-read story to date. The investigation, conducted over a year in collaboration with The New Humanitarian, found that more than 50 women accused aid workers from the World Health Organization and other leading NGOs of sexual exploitation and abuse during the 2018 to 2020 Ebola crisis – despite “zero tolerance” policies and pledges to crack down on such abuses. Women interviewed by our reporters said that numerous men had either propositioned them or forced them to have sex in exchange for jobs, and that contracts were often terminated when these improper solicitations were refused. The story received global coverage - appearing in more than 700 international publications - and sparked a six-minute segment on the BBC.

As a result, five of the seven UN agencies and NGOs named in the exposé launched dedicated inquiries, with the World Health Organization – the institution with the largest number of allegations levelled against it – the first to say that all claims would be “robustly investigated” and that anyone found to be involved would face serious consequences, including instant dismissal.

The Foundation and The New Humanitarian subsequently gave evidence to UK lawmakers seeking to stamp out abuse in the aid sector, and the UK has since banned sexual relations between government staff giving aid and people receiving it.

Our follow-up investigation with The New Humanitarian uncovered a further 22 allegations by Congolese women of sexual abuse by aid workers - including rape and unwanted pregnancies - in the city of Butembo during the Ebola outbreak. Seven organisations - including three UN agencies - were named in the piece, with 14 claims made against the World Health Organization.



BLOOD MICA

We investigated India's illegal mica mines in the states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh, to reveal that children as young as five had been working to source the shiny mineral that puts the sparkle in make-up and paint. Our [three-month multimedia investigation](#) also found that seven children had died in the mines, and that their deaths had been covered up by their own parents for fear of retaliation and financial losses. The findings were backed up by India's child protection group Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA) – the organisation funded by Nobel Peace laureate Kailash Satyarthi – which separately documented more than 20 mica-related deaths in June 2016. Our investigation received worldwide coverage, and a few weeks after its publication the biggest carmaker in the world, Volkswagen, announced it had suspended ties with some mica suppliers in India. India's Ministry of Mines admitted it lacked an effective mechanism to inspect the mica mines.





MISSING WOMBS: INDIA'S HEALTH SCANDAL

Our investigation, 'Missing Wombs: The health scandal enslaving families in rural India', into unnecessary hysterectomies forcing Indian women and their families into debt and bonded labour, was spotted by the head of the Maharashtra State Commission for Women, who submitted the story to central government to show it is a pan-India problem. This led to the country's Ministry of Health setting up an expert committee to tackle the problem.

India's Ministry of Tourism launched a campaign throughout the government's overseas offices to highlight that women are safe in India, after our 2018 poll of experts ranked the nation as the most dangerous country for women. A letter sent three weeks after our poll to all Indian diplomatic missions, trade and hospitality organisations, and tourism offices, listed a series of safety initiatives taken since the fatal gang-rape of a student in New Delhi in December 2012, and urged government offices to publicise these facts to address concerns people may have.



THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION/Roli Srivastava



Coverage of the LGBT+ community tends to be conducted through an LGBT+ lens, resulting in an 'echo chamber' approach. This has created the perception that LGBT+ news is akin to advocacy and lacks journalistic authority. LGBT+ news is also provided by a limited number of small web-only outlets, predominantly offering content with a US or UK focus. There was therefore a clear gap in the market for an authoritative digital platform offering fair, accurate and balanced news reporting that reflects the issues affecting the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community around the world.

In 2018, we created [Openly](#) for this very purpose. Openly is a global digital platform delivering fair, accurate and impartial LGBT+ news to a world that isn't. Powered by original coverage from the Thomson Reuters Foundation, Openly also aggregates select LGBT+ news and authoritative reports from other sources, with the ambition of becoming the ultimate destination for trusted LGBT+ news and information from around the world.



BRUNEI AND UGANDA'S DEATH PENALTY LAWS FOR LGBT+ PEOPLE

We were the first to break the news, in March 2019, that [Brunei planned to implement delayed changes to its law introducing stoning to death and whipping for gay sex and adultery](#). Our story was picked up and published in a long list of other national and international publications, leading to a global backlash and boycott of Brunei-owned businesses that led to the proposed changes being shelved.

We were first globally with the news that [Uganda was going reintroduce a bill to parliament that would impose the death penalty for gay sex](#). As a result of our coverage all major aid donors to Uganda expressed concern and outrage, prompting the government to announce that there would be no such bill.

Groundbreaking legal research

Our pro bono legal network connects organisations working at the frontline of advancing human rights around the world, with lawyers who can assist with their legal needs for free.



ENDING FGM IN AFRICA

Across the African continent, 55 million girls are at risk of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), half of whom live in three countries that already have legislation around the practice.

We connected 28 Too Many – a UK-based charity working to eradicate FGM in the 28 African countries in which it is still practised – with a team of more than 120 lawyers. Coordinated by law firm Latham & Watkins, the team worked tirelessly to produce ground-breaking reports that highlight examples of best practice, lessons learned, and recommendations for the formation of sound legal frameworks that will contribute to the global elimination of FGM. The resulting reports are already having an impact in multiple African countries and are being used by a range of stakeholders. In Kenya, the country report is helping local and international FGM activists in a court case against Kenyan medic, Dr Tatu Kamau. In Egypt, it has been used in conversation with parliamentarians, and in Geneva 28 Too Many presented their findings to the Human Rights Council.



ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE IN THE US

It's increasingly recognised worldwide that child marriage, defined as a formal marriage or informal union before the age of 18, is a human rights violation and a serious barrier to socio-economic development. The US named the fight against child marriage as a foreign policy objective, yet the early or forced marriage of children is ongoing in the country. While most US states set 18 as the minimum age for marriage, exceptions in every jurisdiction exist. According to marriage licence data collected by advocacy group Unchained At Last, the only US non-profit dedicated to ending child and forced marriage in the country, more than 167,000 children as young as 12 were married in 38 states in the US between 2000 and 2010. The organisation estimates nearly a quarter of a million children were married across all US states between 2000 and 2010.

We connected Unchained At Last with law firm White & Case, to assist with free legal advice to underpin their advocacy efforts and outlaw child marriage in New Jersey. Following months of campaigning by the group, in November 2016 the New Jersey Assembly voted in favour of the new law, and in March 2017 the bill was passed by the state senate. Unchained at Last continues its partnership with White & Case, writing, introducing and advocating for legislation, state by state, to ensure that the entire country enshrines 18 as the absolute minimum age for marriage in law, with no exceptions allowed. The scope of the pro bono research has since been expanded to cover other US states, including California, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts.



REUTERS/Suhaib Salem



REUTERS/Kacper Pempel



PROTECTING VICTIMS OF SEXTORTION WORLDWIDE

'Sextortion' is a pervasive, yet under-reported, form of corruption involving sexual exploitation, such as: judges demanding sex in exchange for visas or favourable custody decisions; landlords threatening to evict tenants unless they have sex with them; supervisors making job security contingent on sex; and principals conditioning student graduation on sex. Today the crime has become digital, and women, as well as children, are especially vulnerable.

In 2015, in collaboration with the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) and a global team of law firms (Marval, O'Farrell and Mairal, Hogan Lovells, Mishcon De Reya, Norton Rose Fulbright South Africa, Simba & Simba Advocates, Torys LLP and Rakhee Ditta), we launched the guide 'Combating Sextortion: A Comparative Study of Laws to Prosecute Corruption Involving Sexual Exploitation'. The study outlined laws and practices relating to the crime in nine jurisdictions, spanning six continents: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Kenya, Mexico, Taiwan, Uganda and the United Kingdom.

In 2016, together with Legal Momentum and law firm Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, we produced a report entitled 'A Call to Action: Ending 'Sextortion' in the Digital Age', taking a more specific look at the United States and at how sextortion has evolved.

Following the publication of the research, Legal Momentum and Orrick embarked on a nation-wide advocacy campaign to update state laws to take into account 'sextortion'. Within a few months, Utah, Arkansas and Alabama had passed the first pieces of legislation in the US which make 'sextortion' a punishable crime.

“ The Thomson Reuters Foundation has been instrumental in helping us launch and sustain cutting-edge projects that protect the rights of girls and women both nationally and internationally.

CAROL ROBLES-ROMÁN,
PRESIDENT AND CEO, LEGAL MOMENTUM



BAN ON CONVERSION THERAPY FOR LGBT YOUTH IN ILLINOIS

We connected LGBT-rights NGO Equality Illinois and international law firm Kirkland & Ellis, which produced legal research used to advocate for the ban of conversion therapy for LGBT youth in Illinois. The research looked at federal and state laws regarding the ban of gay conversion therapy as well as the gay and transgender 'panic defence', a tactic invoked against charges of assault or murder where the defendant claims to have acted in a state of temporary insanity triggered by the victim's sexual orientation or gender identity. In May 2015, the Youth Mental Health Protection Act was passed, banning the practice of conversion therapy on minors in the state of Illinois. Equality Illinois continued to advocate for a bill to make the 'gay panic' defence inadmissible in the courts of Illinois, and succeeded when it was officially banned in August 2017.



REUTERS/Mike Blake



ENSURING JUSTICE FOR SURVIVORS OF ACID VIOLENCE

Acid violence is on the rise, with several thousand attacks occurring across the world every year. However, only a few countries have passed specific laws in relation to the crime. One of the biggest challenges faced by NGOs working on this issue is a lack of information on the effectiveness of existing laws and the way they have been interpreted by the courts. We connected Acid Survivors Trust International (ASTI) with Baker & McKenzie, J. Sagar Associates, Linklaters and P&A Asia, to produce a comparative study on laws and case law relating to acid violence. The result was the groundbreaking report, 'Justice? What justice? Tackling acid violence and ensuring justice for survivors', which analyses data from four different jurisdictions – Cambodia, Colombia, India and the United Kingdom – presenting a comparative legislative framework to assess how acid attack survivors are treated and how perpetrators are punished.

The report is now being used by ASTI as an advocacy tool to secure political and judiciary support and to ensure justice for the survivors of acid violence worldwide. In 2018, after a series of meetings and consultations with ASTI and other stakeholders, the UK Home office announced a series of significant policy changes, including but not limited to listing acid as a potentially dangerous weapon in sentencing guidelines and, under changes to the Poisons Act, requiring members of the public wishing to import, acquire or use sulphuric acid above 15% have to obtain a Home Office licence.

“ The report informed much of our work when developing policy briefings for parliamentarians and representatives from the British government’s Home Office. It proved essential to ASTI’s advocacy and awareness-raising work.

JAF SHAH,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ASTI

REUTERS/Damir Sagolj



'KNOW YOUR VOTING RIGHTS' GUIDE FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESSES

In partnership with the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty (NLCHP) and law firm Goodwin Procter, TrustLaw launched You Don't Need a Home to Vote, a 'know your rights' guide to voting across the 50 US states for people experiencing homelessness. This guide covered key questions on registering to vote and voting during the 2020 elections, including practical information about establishing a registered address to vote, finding polling places, voting by mail and voting with a criminal record. Working with the National Alliance to End Homelessness and the National Low-Income Housing Center, the NLCHP disseminated the guide to all national state and local organisations that address homelessness and poverty, with the goal of having a meaningful impact in upholding the fundamental right to vote during a critical election time in the US.



REUTERS/Lucy Nicholson



SECURING SOCIAL STANDARDS FOR INMATES

In partnership with law firm White & Case, TrustLaw facilitated a comparative legal report entitled 'Prison Labor: Its Regulation'. The analysis was used by La Cana, a non-profit organisation working to secure social standards for inmates in Mexico and across the region. The report compares how prison work is regulated in Mexico, Bolivia, Spain, Chile, Colombia and Costa Rica, and was used by La Cana to draft a bill that was presented to the Mexican Congress. The research was referenced in two important newspapers in Mexico: Periódico Excélsior and ABC Noticias.

Journalism training

We run courses and mentorship programmes to help journalists navigate the complexities of reporting on human rights issues, from trafficking and slavery to women's rights and LGBT+ issues. All courses are tailored to the needs relating to the geographic areas in which the journalists operate.



STATELESS UZBEK WOMAN IN KYRGYZSTAN AWARDED CITIZENSHIP

Journalists participating in our Perspektiv programme, which aims to strengthen independent media in Russian-speaking countries through workshops, mentoring and network-building, uncovered the plight of 17,000 stateless Uzbek women fighting to gain citizenship and social rights in Kyrgyzstan. The investigation attracted global media attention and led the President of Kyrgyzstan to grant citizenship to the protagonist of the film.

Targeting malaria through media training

Progress against diminishing deaths from malaria have stalled, with excess deaths caused by shortfalls in prevention and treatment, whilst public awareness has plateaued; meanwhile the pandemic and other economic and pressing health issues have absorbed the media's attention.

In response, the Foundation ran journalism training programmes in English and French for journalists based across sub-Saharan Africa – where malaria killed 384,000 people in 2019 and 385,000 in 2018 [WHO] – to equip local media to produce accurate, reliable and trusted reporting on this disease. Stories published as a result of our training programme helped to shed light on the human impact of the disease, with one Kenyan participant reporting that pregnant women were missing critical malaria drugs due to hospital shortages.



REUTERS/Bruno Kelly

Strategic initiatives

The unique approach underpinning the Foundation's strategic initiatives is to harness the combined power of the media and the law. Using our expertise in these areas, we deploy all our services in the design and execution of initiatives to maximise impact.



COMBATting THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOUR IN AFRICA

We are a member of the Partnership Against Child Exploitation (PACE) a consortium of partners – led by World Vision UK and including War Child UK, Columbia University, the UN Global Compact Network and Fifty Eight – working to combat the worst forms of child labour in three African countries. Launched in 2018 with support from the UK's Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), the four-year Aid Connect initiative focuses on Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Central African Republic, and leverages cross-sector expertise to strengthen safeguards against child exploitation in communities and global supply chains, to support law enforcement to hold perpetrators to account, and to build children's agency to advocate for their own rights.

At a time when the number of children in the worst forms of child labour is rising globally, by addressing the management of global supply chains, strengthening legislative frameworks, shedding light on the issue through media coverage, and empowering survivors to articulate their experiences, the project aims to change the lives thousands of children, while simultaneously building a knowledge base for what types of intervention are most effective in tackling the scourge. This work includes mobilising the business sector to examine more effective models for supply chain due diligence, as well as supporting local policymakers and government officials to help tackle the worst forms of child labour at a national level.



BREAKING DOWN HUMAN RIGHTS BARRIERS TO ACCESSING HEALTHCARE

We are working in partnership with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and malaria to support its innovative 'Breaking Down Barriers' initiative, with a focus on gender and LGBT+ human rights-related barriers. The Foundation is facilitating legal research and legal capacity-building for civil society partners in key countries supported by the Global Fund. This includes pro bono research on human rights laws, as well as capacity-building workshops for health practitioners, service providers and their clients, and legal guidance for NGOs and civil society groups working in countries with challenging political situations.

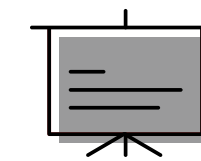
The programme also provides training for journalists across eastern and southern Africa to strengthen reporting skills on human rights and health-related issues, and to support awareness-raising on human rights-related barriers to health.



OUR SERVICES: IN DEPTH



JOURNALISM



MEDIA DEVELOPMENT



FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE



CONVENING INITIATIVES

Through journalism, media development, free legal assistance and convening initiatives, we combine our unique services to drive systemic change.

JOURNALISM



Reporting from the ground in more than 70 countries, our global news team covers the most critical issues of today and their impact on people. Our editorial focus areas include climate change, socio-economic inclusion, and the impact of technology on society. From the drive to build new, greener and equitable economies, to the implications of a rapid growth in data-driven technology on privacy, we report on challenges affecting fundamental human rights and freedoms. In a rapidly-changing world, we expose undiscovered issues and voices, highlight innovation and progress and examine possible solutions.

We adhere to the Thomson Reuters Trust Principles of integrity, independence and freedom from bias. All of our news coverage is distributed on the Reuters wire, reaching an estimated daily audience of one billion readers.

TESTIMONIALS

...ON OUR 'MISSING WOMBS' INVESTIGATION

“ The Foundation’s investigation gave us an in-depth understanding of the problem and its link to debt bondage. That link was made for the first time. We are keen to find a solution.

DINESH BASWAL,

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF MATERNAL HEALTH IN INDIA’S HEALTH MINISTRY



...ON OUR EXPOSE OF BRUNEI’S ANTI-LGBT+ LAWS

“ Your article helped us make a case for a full statement by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michele Bachelet. Yesterday afternoon, OHCHR Geneva sent out a new release which we distributed regionally. My colleagues tell me it had a good international media response. We’re really grateful to you for helping us raise the alarm on such an important issue.

XABIER CELAYA,

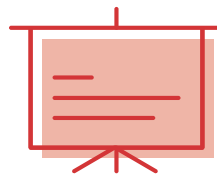
OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS SPOKESPERSON



More than 40 correspondents across five continents, supported by a network of 200+ freelancers, enable us to cover unique and original stories globally.



■ MEDIA DEVELOPMENT



For more than 35 years, we have promoted the highest standards in journalism by training reporters around the world to cover issues relevant to their local context, accurately and impartially. Today, we work to strengthen local and national journalism, improve media ethics, standards and regulation, combat misinformation, and explore and shape the future of the profession. We do this through newsroom consultancy, capacity building, journalism training and mentoring, and via our funding of the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at the University of Oxford.

TESTIMONIALS

Mercy Adhiambo, participant in Reporting on Illicit Finance mentoring scheme, Johannesburg, South Africa:

“ Being a features writer in a newsroom dominated by males who constantly remind us that a woman has no space in doing investigative stories can sometimes have the idea reinforced so much in us that it becomes difficult to shake it off. I am glad that I did the story. The programme has awakened my desire to keep writing, at a time when I was almost giving up on journalism.

Shamsuddin Illius, participant in Reporting on Migration and Slavery workshop, Dhaka, Bangladesh:

“ The course equipped me with the tools to come out with a perfect story in an unbiased way, maintaining the ethics which play a positive role in the life of survivors of... migration and slavery.

Participant, Mobile Journalism Training workshop, Suva, Fiji:

“ Mobile journalism skills are vital in an era where mobile phones have become part and parcel of one's life. Getting the news out quicker in a way that still adheres to journalism ethics and conduct is also a challenge for most journalists. This particular training allowed us to re-examine the way news is produced using a mobile phone, and present the news in an effective and compelling way while still maintaining journalism integrity.

Agnieszka Romaszewska-guzy and Aleksy Dzikawicki, Director and Deputy Director of Belsat:

“ The newsroom interventions designed by the Thomson Reuters Foundation changed our way of thinking and opened our eyes on many topics – from news planning and newsgathering, to digital production and management techniques. We understand this is only the beginning of a very exciting journey toward upgrading Belsat, particularly its news division.

20,000+
JOURNALISTS
TRAINED

35
NEWSROOM
CONSULTANCIES
IN 2021

117
COUNTRIES
HOSTING OUR
COURSES

1,000+
MENTORING
HOURS

100+
ONLINE JOURNALISM
TRAINING COURSES
SINCE 2020

11
TRAINING LANGUAGES,
INCLUDING ARABIC,
RUSSIAN AND MANDARIN

4
INDEPENDENT NEWS
PLATFORMS SET UP IN
IRAQ, EGYPT,
ZIMBABWE AND
MYANMAR



FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE



We run the world's largest pro bono legal network, TrustLaw. Working with leading law firms, we facilitate free legal support, groundbreaking research and resources for NGOs and social enterprises in 175 countries. By spreading the practice of pro bono worldwide we strengthen civil society and drive social change. Our network has grown to more than 6,500 members, including more than 1,000 law firms and in-house legal teams.

TESTIMONIALS

Alex Radcliffe, Professional Support Lawyer and Managing Pro Bono Lawyer, UK, Cooley (UK) LLP:

“ Cooley has, over a couple of years, developed an excellent relationship with TrustLaw. The opportunities it provides our lawyers to work on important projects for exceptional clients such as Surviving Economic Abuse is invaluable. The process of bidding for legal projects is straightforward and transparent. The team is highly responsive and provides support whenever required. We have had consistently positive experiences in all our interactions.

Annette Bain, Pro Bono Counsel – Asia, DLA Piper:

“ The Rights to Work project was a complex collaboration of lawyers from many organisations, law firms and corporate counsel. From introduction to completion, this could not have happened without TrustLaw's vision and expertise. Pulling all that together required significant project management across several jurisdictions, and TrustLaw was amazing, weaving together the different expectations and experiences of the parties involved.

Wendy Atrokhov, Public Service Counsel, Latham & Watkins:

“ We could not accomplish what we do globally without our partnership with TrustLaw. It provides critical legal services to hundreds of social enterprises, charities and non-profits, and enables lawyers to experience the joy and gratification of engaging in pro bono work, in some cases for the very first time.

Nick Broad, Co-Founder, The Busking Project:

“ Ideally, we'd live in a world where lawyers weren't necessary, or if they were, they'd be free, so we're all on a level playing field. Unfortunately, we live in a world where lawyers are expensive and indispensable.... so thank God something like TrustLaw exists. They provided our small, nascent non-profit with free legal experts to help us with an issue we simply couldn't have dealt with ourselves, and who stuck with us while the project morphed and dragged on. Highly recommended, a zillion stars.

The Pro Bono Index

TrustLaw continues to strengthen the pro bono ecosystem across the globe through the relaunch and expansion of the TrustLaw Pro Bono Index, launched in 2014. The Index, the first such global survey, examines trends and data on pro bono legal assistance on a country-by-country basis. While information on the scale of pro bono is readily available in markets like the US, England, and Australia, it is scant or nonexistent in most jurisdictions around the world. The Index fills that void.

Support for the Index has grown dramatically since its launch. Partner law firms – including Allen & Overy, Ashurst, DLA Piper, Freshfields and Hogan Lovells – pledged support towards the 2020 Index.

Compiled with data collected from 215 law firms - marking a 60% increase from its previous iteration - and representing 150,000 lawyers in 91 countries, the [2020 Index of Pro Bono](#) illustrates a story of global growth and commitment to pro bono legal assistance during one of the most challenging times in recent history.

Our next Index of Pro Bono will be published in 2022.

THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION

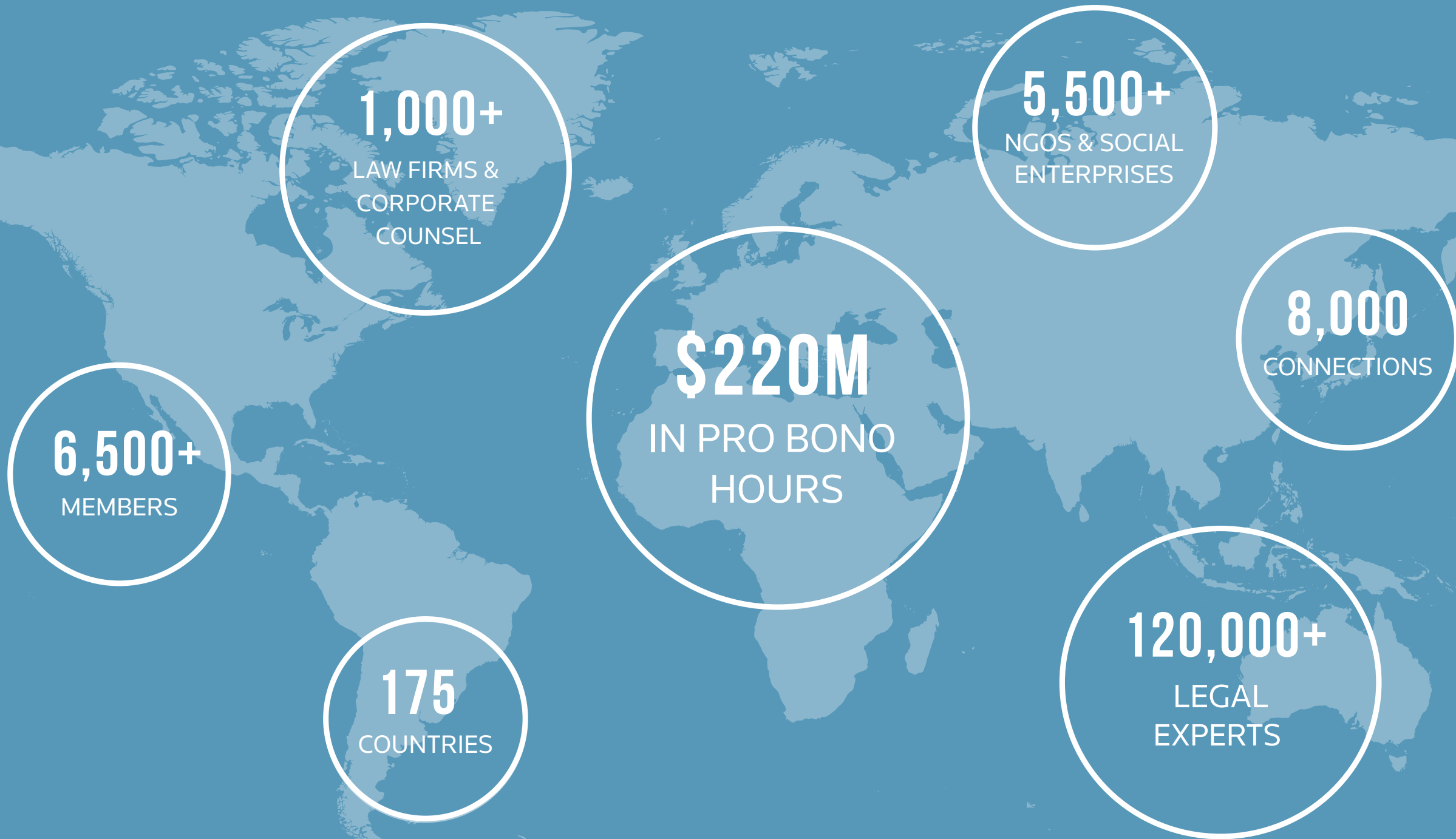
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TrustLaw™

TrustLaw is the Thomson Reuters Foundation's global pro bono legal programme. We connect high-impact NGOs and social enterprises working to create social and environmental change with the best law firms and corporate legal teams to provide them with free legal assistance. We produce groundbreaking legal research and offer innovative training courses worldwide.

Member Login Join TrustLaw

ABOUT US FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE OUR IMPACT TRUSTLAW AWARDS INDEX OF PRO BONO TRAINING AND EVENTS TOOLS & R



CONVENING INITIATIVES



We convene experts to build global awareness of critical issues linked to our areas of work, to inspire collective leadership and to help shape a prosperous world where no one is left behind.

Our annual flagship event, Trust Conference, brings together frontline activists, thought leaders and top decision-makers in the areas of media freedom, inclusive economies, and human rights.

Other initiatives include thematic working groups convened around the world to share expertise, drive new partnerships, facilitate media coverage and produce legal research.



trust conference INFORM. CONNECT. EMPOWER.

Our annual human rights forum brings together leading experts, NGOs and decision makers across the three thematic focus areas of the Thomson Reuters Foundation. In 2021, Trust Conference was held online for the second time due to the coronavirus pandemic. The forum brought more than 20 live keynotes, insight sessions, panel discussions and fireside chats to an audience of 800 tuning in from 75 countries.

Trust Conference 2021

The first day of the conference addressed the need to build more inclusive and sustainable economies post-pandemic. We explored topics including whether reframing climate change as a human rights risk might propel greater action, whether a sustainable economy can be truly inclusive, and – in the same month as the world convened in the UK for COP26 – a deep-dive into what is needed to ‘achieve net-zero’. We concluded the day with a panel discussion exploring the business case for economic inclusion, beyond the obvious moral imperative.

The second day explored the link between media sustainability and media independence, emerging digital rights risks in the Global South, online harassment against women journalists, diversity in the newsroom, emerging models of cyber sovereignty, and the role of philanthropy in supporting independent media. We also launched the [Legal Network for Journalists at Risk](#), as well as [practical and legal tools](#) to protect the safety of journalists in partnership with UNESCO, the International Women’s Media Foundation and the International News Safety Institute.



2021 highlights

We were joined by speakers including **Maria Ressa**, CEO of Rappler & 2021 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, **Dr Hilda C. Heine**, Senator and Former President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, **Jeffrey D. Sachs**, Professor and Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, **Yvonne Aki-Sawyers OBE**, Mayor of Freetown, **Khadija Patel**, Chairperson of the International Press Institute & Head of Programmes at the International Fund for Public Interest Media, **Scott Carpenter**, Director of Policy and International Engagement at Jigsaw, **Alessandra Galloni**, Editor-in-Chief of Reuters, **Danielle Belton**, Editor-in-Chief of HuffPost, and **Craig Newmark**, Founder of craigslist and Craig Newmark Philanthropies.

[VIEW ALL SPEAKERS](#)

The screenshot shows a website page titled "2021 Speakers" with a grid of 12 speaker profiles. Each profile includes a circular portrait, the speaker's name, and their title and organization. The speakers listed are:

- Adrian Cockcroft**, VP SUSTAINABILITY ARCHITECTURE, AMAZON
- Alessandra Galloni**, EDITOR IN CHIEF, REUTERS
- Alina Polyakova**, PRESIDENT AND CEO, CENTER FOR EUROPEAN POLICY ANALYSIS
- Alinda Vermeer**, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MEDIA DEFENCE
- Andrea Calrola**, PROGRAMME SPECIALIST AT THE DIVISION FOR FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, DEMOCRACY AND PEACE OF THE COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION SECTOR, UNESCO
- Andrew Mason**, STEWARDSHIP DIRECTOR, ABBIN
- Antonio Zappulla**, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION
- Brett Solomon**, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ACCESS NOW
- Callum Voige**, GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS AND ADVOCACY MANAGER, INTERNET SOCIETY
- Caolifhionn Gallagher QC**, BARRISTER AT DOUGHY STREET CHAMBERS
- Carolina Henriquez-Schmitz**, DIRECTOR OF TRUSTLAW, THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION
- Cheryl L. Dorsey**, PRESIDENT, ECHOING GREEN & BOARD MEMBER, SKILL FOUNDATION

trust conference

CHANGEMAKERS PROGRAMME

The [Trust Conference Changemakers Programme](#) returned in 2021 for its eighth year to bring together some of the most inspiring pioneers and innovators from across the globe, committed to developing concrete solutions to pressing human rights issues in alignment with Trust Conference themes. These include climate change, socio-economic inclusion, media freedom, and data & digital rights.

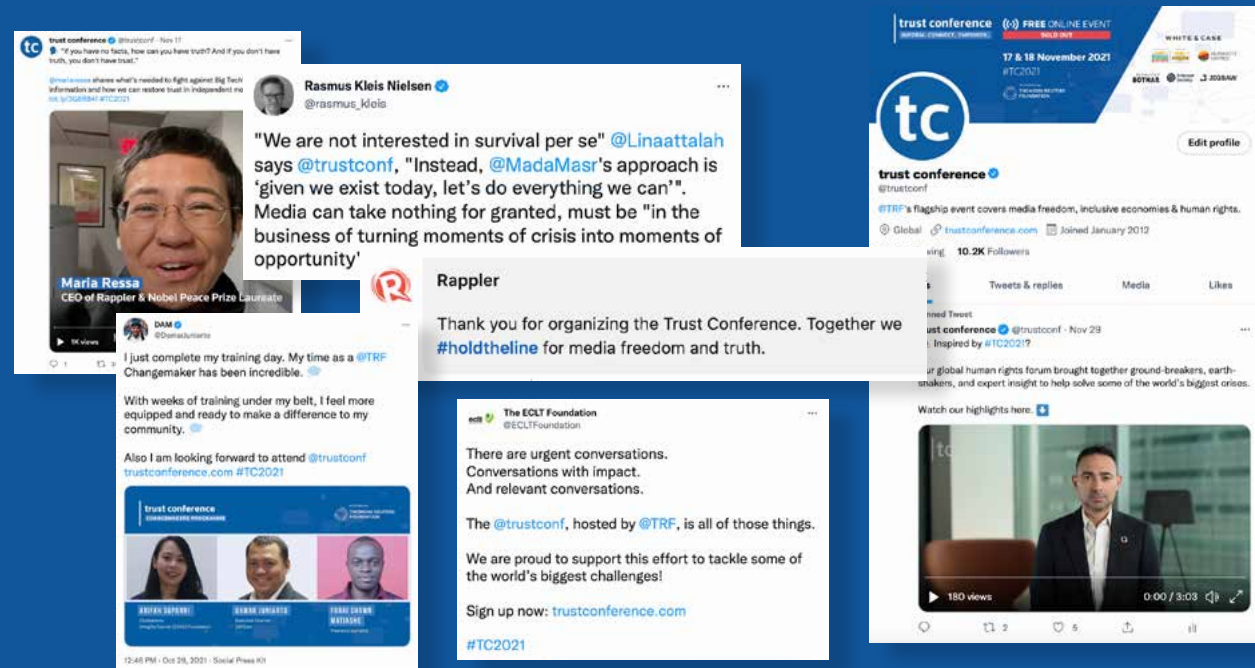
The 2021 Programme funded the participation of 24 Changemakers based in sub-Saharan Africa and the APAC region, who participated in a multi-week learning programme that aimed to build the capacity – and strengthens the global network – of two pivotal actors driving positive change and impact in society: frontline advocates striving for solutions to some of the world’s most pressing challenges, and local independent journalists who are explaining and amplifying those issues through media.

A select group of Changemakers from both cohorts also appeared on the Main Stage of the event on both days, sharing their experience of the programme, as well as their own work, with the audience.

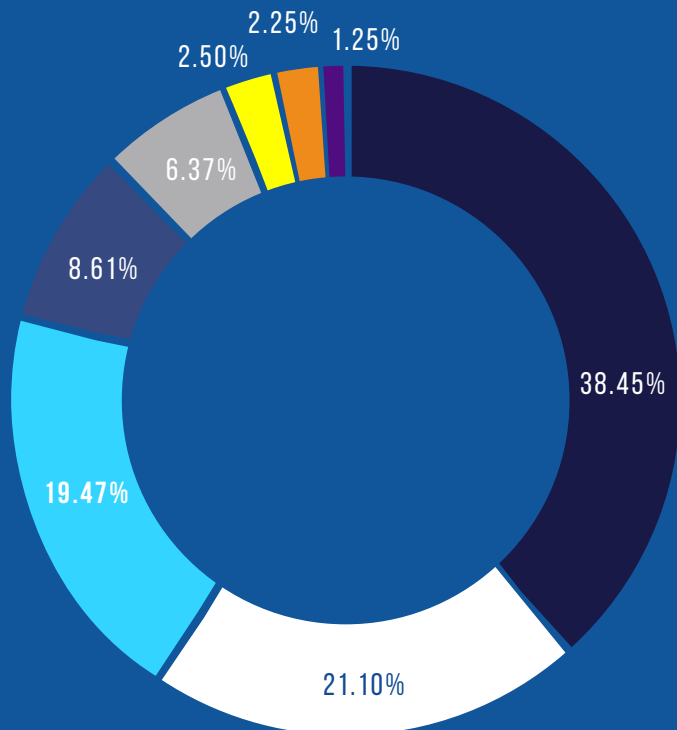
The screenshot shows a video player interface for a Trust Conference event. The header includes the "trust conference" logo with the tagline "INFORM. CONNECT. EMPOWER." and the Thomson Reuters Foundation logo. The video content shows a panel of five participants in a virtual meeting. A play button icon is visible in the bottom right corner of the video frame.

Social

Each year, Trust Conference fuels engaging discussions on social media, reaching audiences all over the world. In 2021, Trust Conference reached **26.5 million people** through conversations and social posts.



Attendees



Sector attendance

- NGO 38.45%
- CORPORATION 21.10%
- OTHER 19.47%
- MEDIA ORGANISATION 8.61%
- SOCIAL ENTERPRISE 2.50%
- EDUCATIONAL ORGANISATION 6.37%
- GRANT-GIVING ORGANISATION 2.25%
- GOVERNMENT BODY 1.25%

Feedback

“ Humbling to be surrounded by world changers ”

“ Hard hitting ”

“ Inspiring ”

“ Excellent networking and interesting speakers ”

“ A seamless online event, engaging and well delivered throughout ”

“ Unforgettable ”

“ Life changing ”

“ A very slick and impressive event with impressive speakers ”

“ An extraordinary depth of information and knowledge ”

“ A fantastic learning forum ”

“ A real high-quality conference for human rights defenders ”

“ Thought-provoking and energising ”



REUTERS INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF JOURNALISM



PROFESSOR RASMUS KLEIS NIELSEN
DIRECTOR

At the Reuters Institute, we are committed to the timeless journalistic aspiration of seeking truth and reporting it, as well as the ongoing work of remaking the profession and the organisations that enable it. We don't think journalism is perfect. We don't believe it ever was or will be. But we believe in the power of journalism.

Throughout this year we were reminded daily of the importance of independent reporting as journalists tracked the spread and impact of the coronavirus pandemic, and investigated the ways in which governments handled it.

Although COVID-19 dominated headlines and profoundly affected the work of the news media, many pre-pandemic challenges persist. Press freedom is still being undermined in many countries, declining levels of public trust in news is worrying and once stable business models are continually being disrupted. The rapid evolution of digital media platforms and their role in shaping the news ecosystem is also a constant concern for editors around the world. The news media faces a set of internal challenges, too, including ensuring journalists and newsroom leaders are representative of the audiences they serve. Our mission to explore the future of journalism through our research programmes, our leadership programmes and fellowship programmes plays a vital part in finding ways to rise to these challenges and plot a better way forward.

Based on core funding from the Thomson Reuters Foundation, which provides the foundation of everything we do, we have welcomed around 50 journalists to the institute, providing space, time and expertise to allow them to work through the challenges they face in their profession and confront them head on when they return to their newsrooms. We have gathered almost 90 news media executives for private, off-the-record discussions, and we have published research that is used by decision makers in newsrooms, boardrooms and other corridors of power across the world.

Despite global travel being disrupted, we have been able to carry out a range of activities through online and blended means. We have hosted inspirational speakers from around the world to engage directly with our Journalist Fellows, while opening our virtual doors to a global audience previously unable to attend such events in person. We have worked with international bodies including the European Commission and the World Health Organisation on issues of misinformation generally and in the context of COVID-19 specifically. We have given briefings to the European Parliament, NATO, and the UK government. All of this is made possible through the generosity of the Thomson Reuters Foundation, and we are proud of its support for free, trusted, and independent media across the world.



The Digital News Report 2021

The Reuters Institute's Digital News Report is the world's largest international comparative study tracking online news access and engagement around the world. The 2021 report looked at the impact of coronavirus on news consumption and the economic prospects for publishers. It also examined progress on new paid online business models, trust and misinformation, local news, impartiality and fairness in news coverage.

The report highlights that the pandemic has hastened the demise of printed newspapers, further impacting the bottom line for many once proud and independent media companies. The country pages are full of stories of journalistic lay-offs as advertisers take fright in the face of a full economic downturn. And while new business models such as subscription and membership have been accelerated by the crisis, in most cases, this has still not come anywhere near making up for lost income elsewhere.

The crisis has also shown the value of accurate and reliable information at a time when lives are at stake. In many countries, audiences are turning to trusted brands – in addition to ascribing a greater confidence in the media in general. The gap between the 'best and the rest' has grown, as has the trust gap between the news media and social media. Of course, these trends are not universal and this year's report also exposes worrying inequalities in both consumption and trust – with the young, women, people from ethnic minorities, and political partisans often feeling less fairly represented by the media.

This tenth edition of the Digital News Report is based on data from six continents and 46 markets, with over 92,000 respondents. The global sample, which includes India, Indonesia, Thailand, Nigeria, Colombia, and Peru for the first time, provides a deeper understanding of how differently the news environment operates outside the United States and Europe.

Within a week of publication the report was mentioned in more than 1,300 news articles in 62 countries worldwide, and it was viewed well over 100,000 times on the Reuters Institute website.

Leadership programmes

The Reuters Institute's leadership programmes provide news media executives, editors and experienced journalists with a space to learn from one another and benefit from the latest research through off-the-record, private discussions with small groups of peers from around the world. The programmes provide participants with confidential and constructive settings for a valuable exchange of actionable ideas and practical insights, free of internal organisational politics, with independent research input, and hosted by an institute fully committed to journalism and news.





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