**Delegate:** Ireland 

**Committee:** Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM)

**Agenda:** Attaining Freedom of Press and Security of Journalists Inside Conflict Zones

Freedom of the press and protection of journalists in war zones are integral parts of a robust democracy and an informed world society. Not only do journalists convey news, but often they are the only means of communication between war-torn areas and the rest of the world. Media professionals, however, are becoming more vulnerable to threats including abduction, censorship, surveillance, and violence at the hands of state and non-state actors. These violations directly undermine human rights as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 19) and the Geneva Conventions, particularly in civil wars, interstate wars, and post-conflict zones. It is imperative that the international community works together to strengthen both legal frameworks and enforcement to ensure the safety of journalists and accountability.

Ireland makes press freedom and human rights a priority in its foreign and domestic policies. As a European Union member country and advocate for democratic standards, Ireland absolutely subscribes to global treaties like the Geneva Conventions and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Ireland continually places itself near the top in press freedom listings and is worldwide at the front in the protection of journalists with active engagement with UNESCO, European Union External Action, and the UN Human Rights Council. Ireland condemns the attack on journalists in places such as Syria, Ukraine, and Gaza, and welcomes action that brings perpetrators to justice. We also believe that freedom of expression is a prerequisite for reconciliation and justice following conflict.

Ireland urges the establishment of an independent International Observatory for the Safety of Journalists within the United Nations system to monitor abuse and support rapid response mechanisms. This organization should work closely with institutions like Reporters Without Borders (RSF) and the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ). Further, Ireland supports increased funds in digital security training for journalists reporting from conflict zones, particularly against surveillance and cyberbullying. Ireland further proposes that SOCHUM call on an international protocol that would obligate states and non-state actors to facilitate access by journalists to conflict zones under UN control with legal measures against violation. Finally, we request Member States to adopt and put into effect national action plans as per UN Security

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