

RPT JOINS COUNCIL OF EUROPE SAFETY PLATFORM



21/02/17 Written by Rory Peck Trust



The Trust has become an official partner of the Council of Europe's (CoE) Platform for the Protection and Safety of Journalists.

RPT's Director, Tina Carr, was in Strasbourg on Tuesday 21st February to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with CoE Secretary General, Thorbjørn Jagland.

The Platform for the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists facilitates the compilation, processing and dissemination of information on media freedom and the safety of journalists in CoE member States. It allows trusted media freedom organisations to post "alerts" when individual journalists are in danger or their work is under threat - opening the way for swift reactions from international organizations such as the CoE, European Union (EU), United Nations (UN) and the Organisation for the Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Representative.

A key element of the platform is documenting and reporting of instances of violence against journalists.

"As an organisation dedicated to the support and safety of freelance journalists, the Rory Peck Trust is uniquely placed to make a strong contribution to the Council of Europe Platform for the Protection of

Journalism and the Safety of Journalists," said **Tina Carr**. "Freelancers are still the most vulnerable when it comes to threats, intimidation and attacks - despite their significant, and growing, contribution to newsgathering. We see the Platform as an important mechanism for ensuring freelance safety across the continent and look forward to contributing to it as a partner organisation."

The platform was launched in Paris in December 2014 in response to the growing attacks against journalists in Council of Europe countries, with the participation of journalist safety organisations including Reporters Without Borders (RSF), Article 19 and the Association of European Journalists (AEJ). The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) and Index on Censorship have also become partners. the International News Safety Institute (INSI) joined yesterday, alongside RPT.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Council of Europe and official partners notes the safety of journalists as a "fundamental aspect of freedom of expression".

Since April 2015, when the platform became operational, partner organisations have issued 259 alerts in 34 member states.