



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

The Director-General

Mr Sergiy Tomilenko
President
The National Union of Journalists
of Ukraine
Kyiv
Ukraine

Ref.: DG/5/2022/2616

13 APR 2022

Dear Mr Tomilenko,

I wish to thank you for your letter of 22 March 2022, underlining the dire situation of journalists covering the war in Ukraine and thanking UNESCO for its work to protect them. The National Union of Journalists of Ukraine's own efforts to ensure the safety of media professionals in the country are brave and inspiring, and I applaud you for them.

In moments of peace, information is crucial for citizens to make informed choices, but in times of war, accurate and timely information can be the difference between life and death. The role of journalists is critical in this respect, and the responsibility of your organization to support those risking their lives daily to report on the war is therefore a formidable one.

In this context, our cooperation with the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine, which has previously included the training of law enforcement officers and prosecutors on freedom of expression and safety of journalists, has taken on an urgent new dimension.

We are honoured to be working with you in collaboration with our global partners Reporters Without Borders and the International Federation of Journalists to support emergency actions in Ukraine. This includes, as you know, the provision of training and personal protective equipment to journalists, and assistance in the relocation of your offices to safer ground. Since the beginning of the war, I have also condemned the killing of seven journalists and the wounding of several others covering the conflict, in addition to the targeting of media infrastructure.

Despite these efforts, we understand that further action is required from the international community to effectively meet the urgent needs of journalists in the field, and citizens more broadly. In response, we will keep providing concrete support to journalists reporting on the war, in Ukraine and across the region.

We will continue to monitor the situation in Ukraine closely and invite you to remain in close contact with our colleagues within the UNESCO Section for Freedom of Expression and the Safety of Journalists.

Thank you for your courage and determination in your unerring fight for freedom of expression at this extremely challenging time.

Yours sincerely,

Audrey Azoulay