Sample Profiles of Journalist Security Fellows

The profiles below are fictional; however, they represent examples of the types of individuals we expect to participate in the Journalist Security Fellowship. These are only examples, and individuals from all backgrounds and skill-levels are encouraged to apply.

Fellow 1: Ana

Ana works at a local NGO which deals with cultural heritage. The topics she researches have sometimes proven politically contentious. As such, both she and the journalists she's been working with have been targeted by phishing attempts. They suspect that attackers might have tried to break into their social media accounts as well. Ana has started to read a bit about how to keep her communications secure. She is thinking of organising a short meeting for the journalists she's working with to help them do the same as well.

Fellow 2: Olga

Olga is a computer scientist who has been working for a small, 11-person investigative journalism outlet for the past three years. There, she's been doing all sorts of IT-related things, from managing the outlet's webpage to automating data collection for a big investigative story. Recently, she's worked on making the journalists' email system more secure. In the course of her work, Olga has learned much about how journalists at her outlet interact with technology and use secure communication, and would like to share this knowledge with a wider group of journalists across the region as well.

Fellow 3: Jan

Jan has worked as a journalist for the past decade and has become increasingly interested in secure communication tools over the past couple of years. He knows that journalists could do more to keep their sources and notes secure and would like to attend more trainings on that topic, but has never had the opportunity to do so. Jan dreams of becoming an editor one day but feels that he will need to improve his digital safety and security knowledge before he can feel responsible for leading a bigger news-gathering team.

Fellow 4: Maria

Maria is a digital security specialist and trainer who has been working with corporate and government clients for a while. Recently, she's noticed an uptick of trolling and social media break-ins that targeted journalists in her home country. She knows that many of the techniques that she learned in her professional life could also be used to protect journalists, but would like to first learn a little more about what the media environment — and the threats it faces — looks like.