

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: Anja



Anja is a journalist who focuses on culture, human rights, and youth affairs. She has written many articles about the local LGBTQ community, with particular focus on LGBTQ teenagers. In recent months, Anja has been targeted by phishing attempts. She suspects that attackers might have tried to break into her social media accounts as well, and that they would like to deface her publications' websites and obtain the names and personal details of the teenagers she has been writing about. Anja has similarly been targeted by harassment campaigns, and it looks like at least some of those have been conducted by bots. She has started to read a bit about how to keep her communications secure. She would like to both upskill herself and other journalists working in her space to help them better protect vulnerable sources.

Fellow 2: Marija



Marija is a computer scientist who has been working for a small, 11-person investigative journalism outlet for the past three years. The investigative outlet specifically focuses on telling the stories of a sizeable ethnic minority in her country. 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. Since ethnic minority affairs can prove deeply politically contentious in her country, Marija suspects that her organization's website and accounts might have been targeted by state-based attackers. In the course of her work, Marija has learned much about how journalists at her outlet interact with technology and use secure communication. She would like to share this knowledge with a wider group of journalists across the region as well.

Fellow 3: Viktoria



Viktoria 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 targeting 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. She would then like to work with some of her journalist and editor friends to organize workshops that teach journalists how they could better secure themselves.

Fellow 4: Ivan



Ivan 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. He would like to attend more trainings on that topic but has never had the opportunity to do so. Ivan 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.