Programme

Monday 9th September

09.00-09.30  Registration of Seminar Delegates
Venue: Attlee Suite, UK Parliament

09.30-10.00  Welcome
An address outlining the state of global media freedom and stressing the importance of collective action to protect journalists and maintain democracy.
Venue: Attlee Suite, UK Parliament

10.00-11.00  SESSION 1: Parliamentary Perspectives on the Foreign & Commonwealth Office Conference
This session will introduce the themes of the seminar as well as provide a review of the outcomes and areas for follow-up from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office’s Media Freedom Conference. It will also allow for a discussion of the role of parliamentarians in ensuring that the commitments made in the Conference are upheld and that progress continues.
Chair: Rt Hon. John Whittingdale OBE MP, Chair of the International Parliamentary Seminar on Media Freedom, Chair of the British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
Speakers: Alastair King-Smith, Co-ordinator for Global Media Freedom Campaign, Foreign & Commonwealth Office
Senator Julie Miville-Dechêne, Parliament of Canada
Insights from delegates on Conference
Venue: Attlee Suite, UK Parliament

11.00-11.30  Tea & Coffee Break
11.30 - 13.00 SESSION 2: International Frameworks for Protecting Media Freedom

This session will provide an overview of the existing responsibilities and obligations imposed on states to maintain media freedom and protect journalists. It will also cover the challenges faced when implementing the international legislation and open a discussion about how parliamentarians can work with government partners and other stakeholders to make these international mechanisms more effective.

Chair: Rt Hon. Baroness Anelay of St Johns, International Relations Committee, UK Parliament

Speakers: Maria Ordzhonikidze, Director, Justice for Journalists

Professor Ivor Gaber, UK Representative on the International Programme for the Development of Communications, UNESCO

Joy Hyvarinen, Head of Advocacy, Index on Censorship

Venue: Attlee Suite, UK Parliament

13.00 - 13.30 Walk to lunch venue and take group photo

13.30 - 15.00 Welcome Lunch hosted by Rt Hon. John Whittingdale OBE MP

Chair of the International Parliamentary Seminar on Media Freedom
Chair of the British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Venue: CPA & IPU Rooms, UK Parliament

15.30 - 17.00 SESSION 3: Media Sustainability

The panel will address the importance of ensuring that states maintain a fair, open and competitive environment for journalists to operate within. The session will cover issues such as funding, independence and technological development. There will also be an opportunity for participants to share examples of good practice and discuss pressing issues.

Chair: Belinda Goldsmith, Editor-in-Chief, Thomson Reuters Foundation

Speakers: Nishant Lalwani, Director of Investments, Independent Media at Luminate
Moez Chakchouk, Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, UNESCO

Shaimum Sarwar Kamal MP, Parliament of Bangladesh

Lord Black of Brentwood, Deputy Chairman, Telegraph Media Group

Venue: Attlee Suite, UK Parliament

17.30-18.00  Bus transfer to Lancaster House

18.00-19.30  Welcome Reception hosted by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, Minister of State (Minister for the Commonwealth, the UN and South Asia), Prime Minister’s Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict and Prime Minister’s Special Envoy on Freedom of Religion or Belief

Address given by Paul Conroy, Photojournalist and Documentary Maker

Venue: Lancaster House

19.30  Bus transfer back to Parliament

End of Day One

Tuesday 10th September

09.00-10.30  SESSION 4: Regional Perspectives

This session will explore the challenges and opportunities faced in different regions and will cover the initiatives that have been taken by countries and regional organisations to address the decline in media freedom.

Chair: Senator Julie Miville- Dechêne, Parliament of Canada
Speakers:  Afrah Nasser, Independent Journalist & Winner of CPJ’s International Press Freedom Award 2017

Lord George Foulkes of Cumnock, General Rapporteur on Media Freedom and Safety of Journalists, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Solomon Mugera, Head of Journalism for Africa, BBC World Service

Venue:  Attlee Suite, UK Parliament

10.30- 11.00  Tea & Coffee Break

11.00- 12.30  SESSION 5: Ending Impunity

A review of national and international attempts to bring those who have murdered journalists to justice and a discussion of how we can reduce the rates of impunity. This session will draw upon parliamentarians’ ability to use their powers of scrutiny to ensure countries call out those who abuse the rights of journalists.

Chair:  Rt Hon. John Whittingdale OBE MP, Chair of the International Parliamentary Seminar on Media Freedom

Speakers:  Professor Jackie Harrison, UNESCO Chair on Media Freedom, Journalism Safety and the Issue of Impunity

Rebecca Vincent, UK Bureau Director, Reporters Without Borders

Matthew Caruana Galizia, Investigative Journalist and son of murdered Maltese journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia

Caoilfhionn Gallagher QC, Barrister specialising in human rights and media law

Venue:  Attlee Suite, UK Parliament

12.45- 14.15  Lunch Reception hosted by Rt Hon. Jeremy Hunt MP

Former Foreign Secretary and Convenor of Foreign & Commonwealth Office Media Freedom Conference
14.30- 15.30  SESSION 6: Building Trust in Media

This session will outline how having an open and ethical media contributes to the maintenance of a functioning democracy. Speakers will discuss the disinformation phenomenon and explore initiatives which have been taken to build capacity for journalists to ensure the maintenance of a media the public values and trusts.

Chair: Matthew Amroliwala, Presenter, BBC World News
Speakers: Hannah Storm, CEO, Ethical Journalism Network
            Caroline Nursey, CEO, BBC Media Action
            Rosie Parkyn, Director of Programmes, Internews

Venue: Attlee Suite, UK Parliament

15.30  Bus transfer to Broadcasting House

16.00- 18.00  Visit to BBC Headquarters
Venue: Broadcasting House

18.00-18.30  Bus transfer back to Parliament

End of Day Two

Wednesday 11th September

09.30- 11.00  SESSION 7: Using Domestic Legislation to Protect Journalists
This session will address how security and defamation laws can have a negative impact on the freedom of the media and explore ways of ensuring that the right balance is achieved in domestic legislation. It will provide an opportunity for parliamentarians to share examples of good practice and encourage them to utilise their role as legislators to create a favourable environment in their home countries for journalists to work within.

Chair: Jo Stevens MP, Digital, Culture, Media & Sport Committee

Speakers: Sue Turton, Series Editor, Correspondent & Writer
Barbora Bukovská, Senior Director for Law & Policy, Article 19
Dr Damian Tambini, Associate Professor, London School of Economics
Rt Hon. Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury, Chair of High-Level Legal Panel on Media Freedom, Former President of UK Supreme Court

Venue: Attlee Suite, UK Parliament

11.00-11.30 Tea & Coffee Break

11.30-12.30 SESSION 8: Seminar Outcomes
Speakers: Rt Hon. John Whittingdale OBE MP

Contributions from delegates on their perspectives on topics covered during the seminar.

Venue: Attlee Suite, UK Parliament

End of Seminar