



December 2022

## **New Year, New Board, New Newsletter format**

2022 has been a year of transition for CMFE with a new board, the decision to move out of our original Bruxelles base in Belgium to a new CMFE home in Luxembourg, establishing all anew from bank accounts, over a physical address, to formal registration. From February several new and former board members engaged in Ukraine-support groups, planning integration within our stations and communities, training, and fundraising. Also, we were successful in some of our European project applications and have worked to start them up with new European partners, while finalizing publications from earlier projects and continuing our work as observers in the Council of Europe CDMSI committee. Just to mention a few of the many engagements CMFE's board members and members of the Expert Group engage in.

All of this we report on in this newsletter – and in those to come.

***The CMFE newsletter is back – on a quarterly basis: four issues a year***

Also the CMFE newsletter – this one you are reading just now – has had to find its own 'legs' in the new set-up, and as the new CMFE President

Lina Chawaf mentioned in her President's report during the CMFE Annual General Assembly on November 25, less than two weeks ago (you can find a link to the one-hour GA in the article about it, below), the new board has not found a way to continue curating and producing it. It is therefore myself, Birgitte Jallof, the former CMFE President (2019-2021) and then 'newsletter-mama', who has taken up the invitation to continue curating and coordinating, supported by another CMFE household name: Nadia Bellardi, former CMFE board member, CMFE project manager (among others of Media Against Hate, New Neighbours and Get the Trolls Out), co-editor & co-author of several of the CMFE publications. Both Nadia and I are members of the CMFE expert group.

The newsletter will, from now on appear four times a year: in March, June, September, and December. We would and will love to hear from you: anything from one paragraph about important issues around your community media realities - to longer articles!!!

### ***Zooming in on the value and role of community media in Europe in the issues to come***

Hopefully moving out of the Covid-era with a life-threatening pandemic changing our lives for what was experienced as eternities, it has also in many European countries had significant impacts on the community media scene: our realities in the stations and in our national associations; in the communities we serve – and their relation to us, to their community radio or TV; and in the authorities' view of who we are and our importance – often with an elevated recognition of the power of community media.

Wait for it.

### ***The 'new' era of the newsletter continues with our strategic focus***

The newsletter will continue to present the world of community media in Europe the way it has done the past couple of years, based on the CMFE strategic plan: honing in on the important enabling environment, celebrating engagements ensuring visibility of our sector and world, moving on to the presentation of cooperation projects for action and change. As always we end with a series of classifieds: new – or important – publications, events, training offers, fundraising, jobs ... you name it.

Enough is enough.

Welcome back! On behalf of Nadia and myself – and the board inviting us in to continue this external face of CMFE – we wish you a lovely season and a very happy new year.

***Stay safe*** ❤️

Birgitte Jallo  
CMFE Newsletter Editor-cum-curator



## From our own world



CMFE has reconfirmed its commitment to advance the legal space,  
visibility and recognition of Community media in Europe

## CMFE General Assembly 2022



CMFE held its annual general assembly in Brussels Belgium, on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2022, hosted by the 2022 European Journalism Symposium - l'Institut des Hautes Études des Communications Sociales (IHECS). The assembly took place as an in-person and online meeting via zoom.

With five CMFE members present (Lina Chawaf, Larry Macaulay, Nyima Jadama, Fabian Ekstedt, and GFMD's Christopher John Chanco), 15 online (as partially seen in the screenshot below) and an additional 15 proxy votes received from people not able to be present, 70% of paid up CMFE members with a voting right had a voice.

The Assembly covered the ground needed as per its statutes with approved agenda, accounts, and budgets, and a new board member was elected: Rui Monteiro, CEO and Director of Aarhus Global Media in Denmark. Vladimir Radinović was re-elected for a second term and the assembly sent warmest greetings and thanks for service to our membership secretary Ragnar Smittberg, who stepped down from his role and the board for health reasons.

The CMFE board President's reflections on the past year's work can be heard [here](#) at 8:08" – or you can watch the full GA.

An international 'lifetime achievement award' to community media  
advocate

## Honouring Birgitte Jallov



Birgitte Jallov, the former CMFE President (2019-2021), was honored in Washington DC with a lifetime achievement award for her work to strengthen women's opportunities to have a voice in the media for a

lifetime by the "Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press", women and media think tank in Washington DC, USA. The institute's leadership (see picture) emphasized that they wanted to present her with this award precisely this year when they celebrate the institute's 50th anniversary.

Birgitte's work in more than 70 countries has always combined a focus on the fact that women can and must have a role and a voice when the world is interpreted, and where the future is planned. She has done this by supporting local communities in many African and Asian countries in their work to create their own local community radio stations, where women have always been an equal and significant part of both planning, management, and implementation; and she has been a mentor and coach when many small women's organizations had to find their way forward with strategic planning, inclusive management, and sustainable frameworks.

Birgitte currently uses, among other things, time to support women journalists in Moldova to build up a 'digital safe house': a one-stop shop where journalists can report when they experience online and offline harassment and threats of the worst kinds. At the moment it's mostly Putin's 'troll army' trying to scare especially female journalists from writing the truth about what is happening in Ukraine and what impact the war has on Moldova. In the digital safe house, there is access to advice and counseling, to addresses where help can be found, and to a supportive community. It is, among other things, this Birgitte will work with when in November she is involved as a speaker and workshop facilitator during the IAWRT biennial conference in Zanzibar, Tanzania.

Birgitte runs EMPOWERHOUSE, an initiative she founded almost 20 years ago, as a framework for her work. In addition to advising, evaluating development projects, lecturing, and training, Birgitte has written books, manuals, policy documents, and articles about her work areas and experiences.

CMFE board President, Lina Al-Shawaf ,in Riyadh to receive first prize:

**The Arab Radio and TV Festival:  
"Rozana" wins the first prize for parallel  
radio stations for service programmes**



Rozana Radio won the first prize for the category of service programs within the parallel awards at the 22nd [Arab Radio and TV Festival](#), which was organized in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, between 9-12 November.

As a representative of Rozana Radio, the Executive Director Lina Al-Shawaf, CMFE board president, received the award, and the local program, "Nabd Al-Balad", won a prize in the festival, as a service episode from Raqqa Governorate, presented by the reporter Abdullah Al-Khalaf, was shown as a model for coverage.

The "Nabd Al-Balad" program is a daily morning program broadcast within Syria, and it discusses the most significant problems and needs of the Syrians within the country, and it is presented by colleague Nilofer Al-Barrak.

This festival was organized in cooperation and partnership between the Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU) and the hosting authority in Riyadh.

## CMFE Newsletters Archive

[Read previous issues here.](#)



**Strengthening an enabling environment**





AMARC Asia-Pacific and AMARC Latin America and Caribbean join hands to advance a global community media agenda of coordination and support

## **AMARC: STRENGTHENING OUR LOCAL VOICES WORLDWIDE**



To contribute to the transformation of our societies and strengthen democracy from below, communities and social organizations must have collective ownership of media, the two regional networks stress. “To forge a material and symbolic space that represents their interests and expresses their protests, proposals, and perspectives about the future, a diverse and plural media system is required, where community media develop and strengthen together with state, public and commercial media.”

Just as community broadcasters are crucial and important for the development of their societies, **community media networks** are equally crucial and important for protecting and promoting these important media. A global community media network can, in turn, be a strong voice to advance an understanding of why community media are important and how they must be supported nationally by appropriate legislation and other central elements of an enabling environment.

AMARC International emerged in 1983 as a network of community radio stations precisely to respond to this need and has been a strong advocacy voice since, as community stations have mushroomed on all continents and in most countries. Unfortunately, AMARC International has not been operational since the past global conference in 2015 and the regional offices have grown apart, thus missing out on great opportunities for greater inter-regional collaboration.

For this reason, two regional AMARC networks based in Asia-Pacific and in Latin America and the Caribbean have joined hands and hope to conclude a

year-long assessment process with a formal launch of a new and stronger AMARC by mid-2023. This initiative is taken by Dr. Ramnath Bhat and Monica Valdes, Presidents of the two regional AMARC networks, and their regional directors Suman Basnet and Oscar Antonio Pérez.

The organizers invite comments and proposals to help activate and strengthen AMARC by writing to this email: [strengtheningamarc@gmail.com](mailto:strengtheningamarc@gmail.com).

## COMMUNITY MEDIA contributions to citizens' participation – a new report



Building upon expertise and research conducted across Europe, the study **COMMUNITY MEDIA contributions to citizens' participation**, commissioned by the Council of Europe, analyses how community media provide spaces for local dialogue and cohesion across generations and different communities.

It does so by exploring the following questions:

- How do community media support and facilitate debate, dialogue, and public participation both at the local level and across different generations and communities?
- How do community media, both in rural and urban contexts, facilitate the involvement of the youth and elderly and how can community media claim its role in local networks of civil society?



- How can policymakers support the long-term viability of community media and what are the positive experiences and promising practices in different national contexts that we might learn from?

This report is based on case studies from Austria, Bosnia, and Herzegovina (BiH), France, Germany, the Netherlands, Serbia, Slovenia, and Switzerland. The selection of these countries was motivated by the objective of offering recommendations based on case studies from very distinct regional frameworks and the different conditions in which community media in Europe operate. The respective national reports are available for consultation online at <https://www.commit.at/materialien/studien/citizens-participation>.

The **Overall Recommendations** underline the need for:

- **Recognition of community media as a defined third sector**
- **Transparent and reliable funding schemes**
- **Recognition of volunteer engagement**
- **Support for the local anchorage of community media and their activities**

The report is available on the Council of Europe page dedicated to Community Media. [LINK](#)

The report was coordinated by Helmut Peissl (COMMIT) in collaboration with Judith Purkarthofer, Nadia Bellardi (CMFE), and Salvatore Scifo (Bournemouth University).



## Improving the Visibility of CM



“We Do Something because We Think that It Is Important for Society and that We Should Be Heard”

## Experiences of Racism and strategies of empowerment

How do journalists and media producers experience racism? Are community media an effective antidote to counter it? These questions were tackled by Prof Judith Purkarthofer, Esther Domke, and Özge Zar from the University of Duisburg-Essen and by Nadia Bellardi in a pilot study for the National Racism Monitoring (NaDiRa) of the DeZIM e.V. (Deutsches Zentrum für Integrations- und Migrationsforschung).

For their Racism Monitoring short study, they talked to young media makers between 25 and 35. They report on everyday racism, which is mostly based on origin and appearance and can sometimes be wrapped up in well-meaning questions. The findings indicate that creating your own productions for radio, TV or podcasts can be a means to become visible to mainstream media. However, free community media are also perceived as a bubble that functions differently from mainstream society. Such projects are mostly supported by voluntary and unpaid engagement. These networks and alliances strengthen individuals. They are innovative but often fragile and rarely sufficiently and sustainably funded.

The pilot study – *Strategies of Recognition. Community Media as a Space for Potential Participation and Perspectives on Experiences with and Counter-Strategies to Racism* – was one of 34 pilot studies of the National Racism Monitoring of the DeZIM, funded by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women, and Youth. Racism is understood in this study as a practice based on hierarchical oppositional distinction and connected to the practical effects of this distinction. Community media are media that are

independent, non-commercial, organized from the community, and directed to the community. Their aim is to enable citizens to take control over their own representation, produce media content that is representative of a diverse society, and raise issues often overlooked by commercial and large-scale public-service media.

The findings on agency and strategies of migrant media producers in Germany with a specific focus on experiences with racism, visibility of marginalized voices, and negotiations of belonging in alternative spaces are now available in the NaDiRa working paper (in German) [Strategien der Sichtbarkeit](#) and were developed further in an article (in English) for [COMUNICAZIONI SOCIALI - 2022 - 1. MIGRATIONS / MEDIATIONS Promoting Transcultural Dialogue through Media, Arts and Culture](#) (edited by Pierluigi Musarò, Nikos Papastergiadis, and Laura Peja). The article also highlights that community media can act as catalysts for (multi)media initiatives and projects led by migrants and refugees. Several refugee journalists are currently working in community radios, hoping to later continue a professional career. Research projects in Switzerland and Austria further showed that regardless of whether they later pursued a 'professional' media career, migrants have been able to engage on equal terms in society and improve their professional and social integration skills thanks to their work in community radio.

## Women on the European Community Airwaves – Anno 1983



Anyone with an interest in women in community radio, in history, in what happened in the feminist movement in Europe in the 1970'-80s? Well, then an article just published in the 'Women's History Today' special issue on 'Women and Broadcasting' might be of interest. The journal focuses on broadcasting on the occasion of the celebration of the centenary of the BBC. The editors contacted Birgitte Jallo, who in 1983 carried out research and prepared the first-ever directory of women in community broadcasting in Europe at that time. The article is **'Women on the Air': A Contribution to the History of Women in Community Radio in Europe**. Read it [here](#).

An excerpt from the article, describing how it was to gain access to information and documentation never before collected and made available – Birgitte writes:

*“In 1983 there was no internet, no international or all-European community media mapping or networks in existence, so I was really starting from scratch, on my own. But I was fired up by the desire to find out, and I had the backing of a very supportive, activist University.<sup>2</sup> Without internet – or fax – I started by carrying out a documentation search. With the assistance of the university librarians and my university advisers, I contacted the networks and people who we could collectively come up with. I telephoned and sent letters. But the outcome was quite meagre. I realised that I would have to travel to the capital cities I could reach.*

*With funds from the university for the train-rides, I embarked on a journey of discovery with my notebooks, recorder, camera and my sleeping bag under my arm. When I arrived in a capital city, I went straight to the telephone booth at the central station where I called the Ministry of Culture, the national broadcaster or a women's documentation centre, and asked – do you have community radio in your country? In 1983, this information was not centrally available anywhere. Any women's stations or collectives known? I visited them all, slept on the floors in the squatted communes or apartments of the women – and moved on.”*

Read the article [here](#)

Read the full directory [here](#)

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**Action for Coop. and Change**

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How is public health covered in European community media? Could we improve this?

## Public Health and Community Media in Europe



CMFE is with the Austrian community media training and research organization COMMIT, working on a new 2-year European project called 'E3J' for short, with RSF, Free Press Unlimited, and CoPEAM. (See the new one-pager [here](#).)

The European Excellence Exchange in Journalism (E3J) aims to unleash the combined potential of European values and cross-border collaboration for better journalism and, as a result, a better-informed polity. It provides a single-entry point for all types of media organizations, networks, and individuals to connect, based on mutual trust and common rules.

Right now CMFE and COMMIT are finalizing research on Public Health, Media Literacy, and community media in Spain, Austria, Ireland, and Denmark, and will in the new year offer some competitive production grants in these four countries. We will continue to keep you updated here!

**Community media in Get the Trolls Out!**



We are delighted about the continuing cooperation between CMFE and the Get the Trolls Out project! (GTTO) by the Media Diversity Institute (MDI). GTTO supports community media productions focusing on inter-religious dialogue, inclusion and empowerment of religious minorities, anti-discrimination, and countering faith-based hate and disinformation. The shows bring different perspectives and stories than those available in the mainstream and highlight solutions or positive experiences.

A total of 17 productions in five different languages and various formats – podcasts, radio and TV broadcasts, videos, articles, and events – have been realized, and several more are underway. You can access them all via <https://getthetrollsout.org/community-media-forum-europe>.

The podcasts are also available on the MDI podcast pages on [Anchor](#) and [Spotify](#).

Most recently, we talked about:

- [Antisemitic allegations at the Documenta 15 in Kassel](#) in the podcast ‘On Art and Censorship’ for Freies Radio Kassel
- **Protests in Iran** in two articles by Iranian journalists in exile - [A Diversity of Voices in and from Iran](#) and [Our Hair As The Flag](#)



- [Strategies to counter online hate](#) and, in particular, [Antisemitism on the Internet and Dark social](#) in two broadcasts/podcasts by Our Voice at Radio Dreyeckland in Freiburg and by Radio LORA in Munich

You can follow GTTO and sign up for regular updates here: <https://getthetrollsout.org>.

All that you did not know you might be missing...

# CLASSIFIEDS



## Other offers



**RSF offers access to a Digital Security Lab**



On the other side of [the Pegasus revelation](#) Reporters Without Borders (RSF) offers a new service not only made for (investigative) journalists but the service may be especially interesting for (investigative) journalists at risk.

Through [the Digital Security Lab](#) RSF wants to offer journalists forensic analysis services, checking devices for traces of malware. If you feel endangered if you have clicked on any phishing links, or see suspicious behavior in your devices, contact directly our Digital Security Lab.

**What can we unfortunately not offer?**

- We can't prove the absence of malware and
- We can't offer an urgent incident response and help with securing devices. For that, we closely collaborate with other relevant organizations in the field.

You can find more information here:

German: <https://www.reporter-ohne-grenzen.de/en/assistance/digital-security-lab>

English: <https://rsf.org/en/rsf-launches-digital-security-lab>



## Publications



Where are Women in the News:

# Checklist to increase women's space in the media



## The Missing Perspectives of Women in News

A report on women's under-representation in news media;  
on their continual marginalization in news coverage  
and on the under-reported issue of gender inequality

Author: Luba Kassova  
November 2020

Women's voices continue to be underrepresented in the global news media. This is documented in the global study: "The Missing Perspectives of Women in News". To address the challenges uncovered by this research, the report offers **50 evidence-based recommendations and a checklist for newsrooms to use as they work to increase women's representation**, challenge biases, and work to achieve gender parity. With these recommendations, the journalism industry can further its work to uplift women's voices and create a more diverse, free global news landscape.

In community media, we can also be inspired by the questions – it is always healthy to reflect on practices. What does it look like in your station?

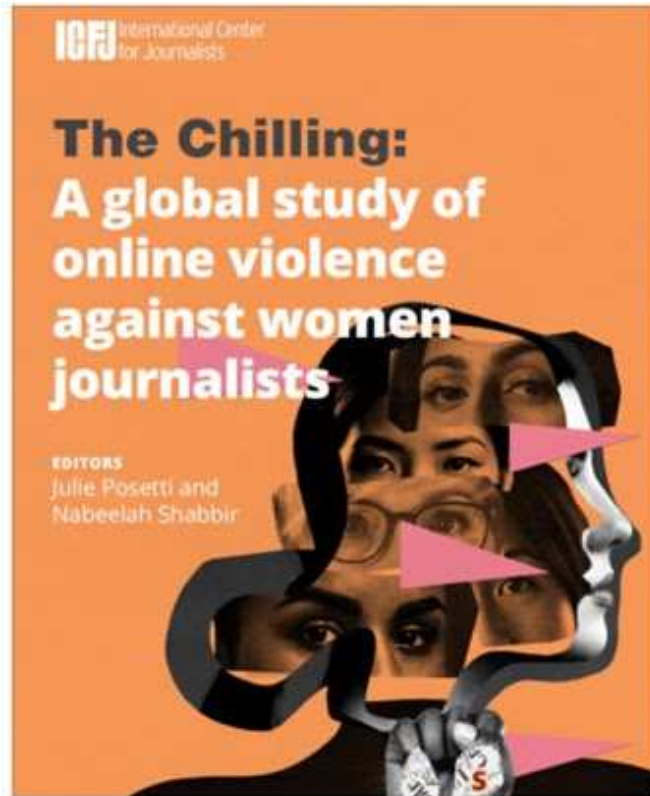
The study examines women's representation in newsrooms, newsgathering, and news coverage in India, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, the UK, and the US. Analyzing three audiences – journalists, decision-makers, and the public – the report seeks to understand the status of women in the news media through the political, economic, socio-cultural, regulatory, technological, and news consumption contexts of each country.

The report finds that women's representation in the news has flatlined – if not reversed – in the 21st century. This alarming marginalization is clear in all areas of the news media: women are underrepresented in newsroom leadership, gender equality stories are going untold, and men remain the vast majority of quoted experts and sources. The study is commissioned by The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and authored by Luba Kassova.

[Read more](#)

The Chilling – a global study of online violence against women journalists  
released:

## “A gut-wrenching call to action”



As Maria Ressa writes in the foreword to the new study: "The Chilling is a vital, at times gut-wrenching, call to action".

After three years of research and collaboration with women journalists around the world, a new UNESCO-supported book about gender-based online violence was released in November 2022:

[The Chilling: A global study of online violence against women journalists,](#)

It includes:

- 107 recommendations for action
- 15 x new country case studies
- The insights and voices of over 850 women research participants
- A new 25-step tool for assessing online violence responses
- A new thematic chapter assessing legislative and legal responses around the world
- High impact big data case studies

- A critical analysis of newsroom and Big Tech responses with practical assistance for addressing gaps

Ressa is one of three journalists in focus in big data case studies produced for the book, based on an analysis of 3 million social media posts, produced in collaboration with University of Sheffield computer scientists. The law case studies take readers into the world of abuse that these women face on an hourly basis.

“This has been a long and difficult project - due in part to the subject matter - but we hope the work is useful to all the organisations and experts seeking to address this crisis and especially to the women journalists on the frontlines of online violence” Julie Posetti, one of the study’s editors write.

You are welcome to share the study by the International Centre for Journalists (ICFJ) with your networks. It can freely downloaded from the project landing page: <https://www.icfj.org/our-work/icfj-unesco-global-study-online-violence-against-women-journalists>

ICFJ's media release about the book is here: <https://www.icfj.org/news/vital-call-action-global-study-offers-solutions-fight-against-online-violence>

How to Include the Missing Perspectives of Women of All Colours in News Leadership and Coverage:

## **From Outrage to Opportunity**

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[From Outrage to Opportunity: How to Include the Missing Perspectives of Women of All Colors in News Leadership and Coverage](#) is a solutions-focused sequel to the award-winning independent report, [The Missing Perspectives of Women in News/COVID-19 News](#), authored by [Luba Kassova](#) and commissioned by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The report examines the harsh realities facing women of all colors in news leadership and coverage in India, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, the UK, and the USA and presents and presents 12 solutions to help news organizations, and reveals that the broader engagement of women could revitalize the news industry and generate billions of dollars of additional revenue.

In both editorial leadership roles and in news coverage, women continue to be significantly under-represented in an industry persistently dominated by men. While women in news have it hard, women of color have it even harder. In countries with multi-racial populations, women of color experience greater exclusion in the news industry.

The report showcases the most extensive research ever carried out in these areas, presents 12 solutions themes to help news organizations, and reveals that the broader engagement of women could revitalize the news industry and generate billions of dollars of additional revenue.

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