

Minister of Foreign Affairs Nikos Dendias' address, via video recorded message, at the "Hate-speech and the safety of Women Journalists", UNESCO's Commemoration event of the 2021 International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists (2.11.2021)

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to address today's commemoration of the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists.

Greece is proud to co-host this event along with the Group of Friends for the Protection of Journalists, and UNESCO.

We attach particular importance to the freedom of speech, because we feel the effects in our immediate vicinity. For instance, in a neighbouring country, there are currently 80 journalists convicted, 93 arrested and 167 in the wanted list.

Our aim today is to focus on the impact of hate speech on the safety of women journalists and media workers.

Unfortunately, women journalists and media workers are no exception to violence, attacks and harassment.

Against this backdrop, the right of women journalists to be safe and free from gender-based violence must be adequately protected.

In parallel, impunity for crimes committed against journalists must be adequately addressed.

Greece with a core group of like-minded countries submits, for adoption by the UN General Assembly, the Resolution on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity.

Moreover, Greece has recently ratified the ILO Convention on Violence and Harassment in the Workplace.

We encourage countries that have not done so, to ratify it as well.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Information is a public good to which everyone is entitled.

As such, information empowers citizens and enables participation in democratic governance.

A more gender-inclusive approach to the protection of journalists and media workers, is a *condition sine qua non* for building democratic and resilient societies.

Thank you.