



**THE SANTA FE STATEMENT  
ON  
*JOURNALISM UNDER FIRE***

Several hundred citizens, including journalists from around the United States and the world, came to Santa Fe, NM for the seminal conference *Journalism Under Fire*. From December 4-7, 2018, participants actively explored the critical bonds connecting journalism, democracy, and civil society.

Hosted by the Santa Fe Council on International Relations and supported by prominent national and international partners, the event spotlighted ideas about, opinions, comments, and support for the following themes:

- Freedom of speech is a basic human right, and thus the role of journalism in pursuit of free speech must, by extension, be a core dimension of every society.
- Those individuals, groups, and nations with the greatest access to truth have the greatest capacity to contribute to their own liberty, prosperity, and security.
- Through its dedication to exploring and discovering the truth and holding power to account, professional journalism is indispensable to this endeavor and is a universal public good.
- Deliberate falsification and misinformation aid and abet those individuals or groups that seek to extract unfair economic or political advantage.
- All forms of persecution against journalists pursuing their professional duties is a violation of the fundamental human right of free expression.
- Diversity within journalism – with specific attention to women and ethnic minorities – is crucial to ensuring human rights and incorporating the perspectives, needs, and realities of all constituents.

Among the ways that participants suggested action on these themes were:

- Defending the independence of journalists in their pursuit of the truth in countries and societies across the globe.
- Condemning persecution or intimidation of journalists, and insisting that justice be brought against the perpetrators of abuses.
- Protesting misinformation perpetrated by media or leaders.
- Demanding that news media reflect the constituents they serve, through diverse newsrooms featuring a representative array of voices.
- Financially supporting independent, professional journalists, media, and journalism advocacy organizations in all possible ways, from the local to the national and international levels.
- Supporting media literacy to ensure that elementary, secondary, and post-secondary education cultivates students who can think critically.
- Support the election of officials who recognize freedom of speech as a basic human right, who understand the essential role journalism plays in self-determination and self-government, and who support and defend journalism and journalists.

Further, the Santa Fe Council on International Relations committed itself to staging a follow-up event on many of these themes in 2019.

The Santa Fe Council on International Relations  
December 19, 2018.