



THOMSON REUTERS
FOUNDATION

Nobel Peace Laureate Maria Ressa, economist Jeffrey Sachs and philanthropist Craig Newmark amongst speakers to address world-leading human rights forum

Thomson Reuters Foundation to host two-day conference focused on a post-pandemic roadmap to inclusive growth and the protection of free media and civil liberties

10 November 2021

London, UK - Nobel Peace Prize winner Maria Ressa, and an Afghan reporter who fled the Taliban, Zahra Joya, will join a distinguished line-up of speakers that also includes world-renowned Professor of Economics Jeffrey Sachs, Executive Director of Aspen Digital Vivian Schiller and founder of craigslist, philanthropist Craig Newmark at the Thomson Reuters Foundation's flagship annual forum [Trust Conference](#) on 17 and 18 November.

They will join human rights defenders, innovators, media experts, policymakers and business leaders at the online forum, which brings together thousands of delegates from around the world. The event comes at a critical juncture of the COVID-19 crisis and the UN climate summit and will address how the pandemic has deepened longstanding social and economic inequalities, has revitalised the drive for a sustainable future and has triggered an alarming spike in media freedom and human rights violations.

With 18 hours of live-streamed talks, plenaries and insight sessions, leading experts from a variety of disciplines will share new insights on shifting the post-pandemic economy onto a more inclusive and sustainable path, one built on the principles of human rights, media freedom and climate justice. They will weigh in on cutting-edge solutions to tackle the world's most consequential challenges, including the business case for economic inclusion, the path to zero emissions, the human cost of internet shutdowns and a legal network for journalists at risk.

This year's diverse speakers are at the forefront of their respective fields, and also include **Dr Hilda C. Heine**, Senator and former President of the Marshall Islands; **Yvonne Aki-Sawyer** OBE, Mayor of Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown; **Zahra Joya**, Journalist and founder of Rukhshana Media in Afghanistan; **Javier Pallero**, Policy Director at Access Now; **Shamina Singh**, Executive VP for Sustainability at Mastercard; **Jorge Rubio Nava**, Global Head of Social Finance at Citi; **Danielle Belton**, Editor-in-Chief of the Huffington Post; **Lina Attalah**, Co-founder of independent Egyptian news outlet Mada Masr; **Alessandra Galloni**, Editor-in-Chief of Reuters; **Kanbar Hossein Bor**, UK Coordinator Media Freedom Campaign & Deputy Director Democratic Governance, FCDO; **Ma Jun**, Founding Director of the Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs and **Caoilfhionn Gallagher QC**, Barrister at Doughty Street Chambers, specialising in human rights and civil liberties.

"The converging economic, health and climate crises are putting our democracies, people and planet under an existential threat," said Thomson Reuters Foundation CEO Antonio Zappulla. "But there is also a great opportunity for a coordinated global response - the success of which depends on how well we work with and learn from each other."

“Collaboration is key to the work of the Thomson Reuters Foundation, where we harness a unique combination of expertise in journalism and the law to support free, fair and informed societies. Together with experts from across sectors, Trust Conference is a critical platform to rethink how to address the power imbalance that defines the world’s population and that derails global efforts to build inclusive economies, free societies and fair institutions.”

In response to the ongoing, drastic deterioration of media freedoms, the Foundation will also be launching a new Legal Network for Journalists at Risk (LNJAR) at Trust Conference, an initiative in partnership with the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) and Media Defence. The LNJAR comprises 15 organisations, and strategically coordinates different types of legal support to enable journalists and independent media outlets to continue to cover public interest stories and hold power to account without fear of retribution.

Additionally, the Foundation will unveil its partnership with UNESCO, the International Women’s Media Foundation and the International News Safety Institute (INSI) through which it has developed practical and legal tools for journalists, media managers and newsrooms to counter harassment.

“At UNESCO, we have a specific mandate to foster freedom of expression, the safety of journalists and access to information,” said Guilherme Canela, Chief, Freedom of Expression and Safety of Journalists Section at UNESCO. “Our research has shown that gender-based and misogynist violence against women journalists is pervasive online and offline. The sexist comments they receive are often combined with racist, homophobic, Islamophobic and antisemitic attacks that exacerbate the violence they are subjected to. Such violence can lead to self-censorship, and with less women journalists in the newsrooms, how can media reflect the diversity of opinions and voices of our societies?

“We hope to contribute to creating a safer environment for women journalists. Our collaboration with the Thomson Reuters Foundation is an example of this, and we are excited to publish this series of practical guides.”

Now in its ninth year, Trust Conference reflects the Thomson Reuters Foundation’s work in tackling the world’s most complex societal issues, with a focus on socio-economic inclusion, sustainability, media freedom and human rights.

The programme and the speaker line-up of Trust Conference are available [here](#). Register for your complimentary ticket [here](#).

TRUST CONFERENCE AGENDA

The 2021 forum will address urgent global challenges through a series of talks, debates and high-profile exchanges. Themes include:

- Climate change as a human rights risk
- Making a ‘Just Transition’
- The impact of financial vulnerability on editorial independence
- The race for cyber sovereignty
- Defending media freedom
- Newsroom diversity

SUPPORTERS

- Platinum supporters: White & Case, People’s Postcode Lottery and Postcode Justice Trust
- Gold supporters: Internet Society and Jigsaw
- Silver supporter: Humanity United
- [Changemakers](#) supporter: Fondation Botnar

About the Thomson Reuters Foundation:

The Thomson Reuters Foundation is the corporate foundation of Thomson Reuters, the global news and information services company. As an independent charity, registered in the UK and the USA, it works to advance media freedom, foster more inclusive economies, and promote human rights. Through news, media development, free legal assistance and convening initiatives, it uses the combined power of journalism and the law to build global awareness of critical issues faced by humanity, inspire collective leadership and help shape a prosperous world where no one is left behind.

Media Enquiries:

UK: Jenny Vereker

Global Director of Communications

Thomson Reuters Foundation

Office: +442075428111

Mobile: +447932966331

jenny.vereker@thomsonreuters.com

UK: **Snober Abbasi**

Associate Communications Manager

Thomson Reuters Foundation

Mobile: +44 (0) 7547 753669

snober.abbasi@thomsonreuters.com