

Risk Assessment for Journalists

(modified from Rory Peck Trust)

Assignment outline

- To identify risks, you need to outline your project. Before beginning your risk assessment, it is important to write an assignment outline. Try to identify and list the key elements of your project: interviews, travel and actions that are vital to your plans.

Locations and brief schedule

- Where are you going, when, and for how long?

Assignment details

- Give specific details of what you intend to cover to complete your assignment. What will you film, photograph, record, write about to make your piece? Including relevant meetings, sequences, interviews and locations. This is the basic foundation of your risk assessment, and will give you a clear idea of what you want to achieve and how you want to achieve it.

Project specific risks

- Is this a sensitive topic?
- Are you covering a high risk location, activity or event?
- Who will you be meeting, and might they be at risk if they talk to you?
- Is your security threatened by talking to specific people, visiting or working in a specific area?
- More than anything, effective risk management is about asking questions, listening to the answers, and working within the realm of the possible. Seek advice from experienced journalists, if possible.

Travel Risks

- Have you made travel arrangements? Plan and research the safest means of travel.
- Have an alternative plan in case you need to adjust travel arrangements or if you do not feel comfortable with your initial plan.

Profile Risks

- This is not about how you perceive yourself, but how others may perceive you. Be aware of your image and presence online. The same questions apply to those accompanying you.
- Is there an increased risk as a result of your gender, age, ethnicity, religious beliefs or nationality? What about those accompanying you, and how does your profile affect them?