



2016-2017

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S MEDIA FOUNDATION

# IMPACT REPORT



INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN'S MEDIA  
FOUNDATION



## ABOUT THE IWMF

**OUR MISSION** is to unleash the potential of women journalists as champions of press freedom to transform the global news media. Our vision is for women journalists worldwide to be fully supported, protected, recognized and rewarded for their vital contributions at all levels of the news media. As a result, consumers will increase their demand for news with a diversity of voices, stories and perspectives as a cornerstone of democracy and free expression.



Indian photojournalist and writer Rucha Chitnis photographs Rwandan women who are part of a female coffee co-op. Although many Rwandans drink tea, coffee is a major export for the country.

PHOTO BY CLAUDIA GONZALEZ





Dear Friends,

It matters who reports the news and who decides what's newsworthy. To be balanced and ensure a healthy range of stories and perspectives, we need a diversity of voices in the global news media. Only then can it be an effective enterprise and a driver of democracy.

This belief and our passion for righting the gender imbalance in journalism are at the core of the International Women's Media Foundation's (IWMF) mission: to unleash the power of female journalists to transform the global news media.

**Over the past two years, women-identifying journalists have joined the rising tide of the #MeToo movement and spoken out about sexual harassment and assault in media organizations. Online trolling of journalists, especially women, has become a growth industry that is adversely impacting journalists and their stories. Add to that a stubborn glass ceiling, unequal pay, and—in many countries—the ever-present threats of imprisonment, injury, or death and it can feel like the odds are stacked against women in this profession.**

Fortunately, we regularly hear stories from our Courage Award winners and others in our remarkable global network about how female journalists are overcoming these odds while speaking truth to power. Whether it's Saniya Toiken, who has exposed government corruption in Kazakhstan throughout her career; Hadeel Al-Yamani, who against all odds became the first female broadcast reporter for Al Jazeera Arabic in Yemen; or Deborah Amos, who spent a career reporting from war zones around the globe, women's contributions are vital to our understanding of life on this planet.

As the only nonprofit organization that provides female reporters and photojournalists with safety training, emergency support, and opportunities to produce bylines and other news content through reporting trips and grants, the IWMF is equipping women to challenge the status quo. We step in where news organizations leave off and we spotlight the inequities through cutting-edge research. We do this so women can contribute for the long-term and rise to the top, where they can navigate the job hazards with the proper skills and support.

It's a fight that we're proud to lead and a community we're honored to serve. I hope you enjoy this biannual exploration of our collective impact, and that you'll consider joining us.

Sincerely,



**Elisa Lees Muñoz**  
Executive Director

**“...it's on reporting trips like these, and mornings like today, when I'm reminded of the privilege and responsibility of this job. It's never about being a 'voice for the voiceless.' Everyone in this world has his or her own voice. Journalism is simply a mechanism for amplifying what those voices have to say. The question, for all of us, is: do we want to listen?”**

**— Jean Friedman-Rudovsky,  
Colombia fellow, April 2016**



“Without the IWMF’s fellowship, I would not have been able to explore [these] themes in Mexico...The fellowship pushed me to sharpen my reporting, second guess my prejudices, and expand my horizons -- all while being supported by the intelligence, leadership, and kindness of IWMF facilitators, fixers, and fellow journalists. This is a rare luxury in my industry.”

— Sara Mojtehdzadeh,  
Mexico-U.S. Border fellow, April 2016

Freelance journalist Veronica Bouloubasis from North Carolina and freelance video journalist Monica Wise based in Mexico City interview Guadalupe Vásquez, a Salvadoran woman who was incarcerated for 7 years after being unfairly convicted under anti-abortion legislation.



Dear Friends,

We're experiencing a critical moment in the news industry, in which protecting press freedom, combating the culture of sexual and digital harassment, and enhancing the safety of journalists has never been more important. We all believe that the media is not truly free or fair without the equal voices of women. Yet female journalists continue to face an array of job-related threats. When female journalists are targeted because of their work, the International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF) is there to support them.

The IWMF works tirelessly to support, protect, recognize, and reward female journalists around the world for their vital contributions as leaders at all levels of the news media. Through in-country training and international reporting opportunities, the IWMF is providing women journalists with much-needed resources and assistance. The stories produced by IWMF fellows and grantees appear in leading news outlets around the globe and help them land jobs, promotions, and ascend into leadership positions, where women's voices are grossly underrepresented.

We are honored to lead the IWMF Board of Directors during this amazing period of growth and renewal for our organization. In the past two years, we have added new members to the already-impressive group of television, radio, print, digital, and marketing powerhouses that comprise our board. This diversity and wealth of experience helps us support the IWMF in carrying out its mission.

We are proud to be a part of this organization as it sustains and builds new programs, awards, and grant-making activities that expand its global reach and promote a diversity of voices, stories, and perspectives. From studying online harassment to honoring courageous women journalists, we are shifting power, amplifying women's voices, and improving global storytelling as a whole.

We thank you for your commitment and unwavering support.

Sincerely,



**Linda Mason**  
Co-Chair, Board of Directors  
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**Alexandra Trower**  
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# Courage in Journalism Awards

#IWMFCOURAGE

From weathering threats and oppression to cracking a stubborn glass ceiling, courage is celebrated at these awards, which will turn 30 in 2019.

The Courage in Journalism Awards honor the brave female journalists who report on taboo topics, work in hostile environments, and share difficult truths. These women demonstrate a commitment to press freedom and extraordinary strength of character, overcoming danger and misogyny to become leaders in their industries.

In 2016 and 2017, we honored nine incredible women and brought their harrowing and poignant stories to audiences around the world. One of our 2017 honorees, **Hadeel al-Yamani**, braved a warzone to cover the conflict raging in Yemen and its impact on local families. That she was denied a visa to travel to the United States and accept her award became the top news story of the 2017 event—attendees even launched a hashtag, #Hadeelsvisa.

Our Lifetime Achievement Award winners—**Diane Rehm** in 2016 and **Andrea Mitchell** in 2017—made their impact over decades and have built careers that are nothing short of legendary.

Also in 2017, the IWMF established a new award in honor of Gwen Ifill, the legendary co-anchor of PBS NewsHour who passed away in November 2016. Ifill was a bright light in the news industry, an incredible role model for young journalists—especially women journalists of color—and a friend of the IWMF. The inaugural winner, veteran NPR reporter **Michelle Norris**, was chosen for her commitment to promoting diversity in the newsroom and mentoring young women journalists as well. The 2017 awards also saw the addition of a third ceremony—in Washington, DC—to the Courage series, which previously had been celebrated in New York City and Los Angeles.

The Courage Awards are the IWMF's signature event and truly represent a sisterhood of accomplished reporters. Since the program's inception, IWMF has honored 114 groundbreaking journalists in 56 countries, many of which are largely unreported for U.S. audiences. Amid immense risk and hardship, they have managed to bring to light some of the most important global stories of our time.

(Right) Janine di Giovanni in Afghanistan, 2010. Giovanni was a IWMF 2016 Courage in Journalism Awards awardee.



Since 1990, the  
Courage in Journalism  
Awards has honored:

**114 JOURNALISTS** in  
**56 COUNTRIES**



## 2017 WINNERS COURAGE IN JOURNALISM

### **DEBORAH AMOS** | USA | Middle East Correspondent, NPR

In her nearly 40 years reporting from conflict zones, Amos covered such world-changing events as the Tiananmen Square massacre, the U.S. invasion of Iraq, and the “Arab Spring” series of popular revolutions across the Middle East and North Africa.



### **SANIYA TOIKEN** | Kazakhstan | Reporter, Radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty

Toiken has been repeatedly harassed and threatened for her work. Despite being constantly under scrutiny, run off the road, evicted and more, she remains committed to covering oil and gas workers’ rights and government corruption in Kazakhstan.



### **HADEEL AL-YAMANI** | Yemen | Correspondent, Al Jazeera Arabic

Al-Yamani was the first woman to become an Al Jazeera Arabic television correspondent in Yemen. She reports from the front lines, covering the humanitarian issues that affect Yemen’s most vulnerable and paving the way for other women journalists to follow.



### LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

#### **ANDREA MITCHELL** | USA | Chief Foreign Affairs Correspondent, NBC News

Mitchell has been a leading reporter at NBC for nearly 40 years. She has extensive experience as a political reporter and as a lead correspondent for numerous presidential campaigns and administrations. Mitchell’s past assignments for NBC News included exclusive reports from North Korea, Afghanistan, the Middle East, Bosnia, Kosovo, Pakistan, and Haiti; today she hosts her own show, Andrea Mitchell Reports on MSNBC.



### GWEN IFILL AWARD

#### **MICHELLE NORRIS** | USA | Founding Director, The Race Card Project

For more than a decade, Norris served as a host of NPR’s “All Things Considered.” In 2010, Norris created The Race Card Project to cultivate and archive the unheard conversations around race in America after the publication of her family memoir, The Grace of Silence. Previously, Norris worked for ABC News, the Washington Post, the Chicago Tribune, and the Los Angeles Times.

## 2016 WINNERS COURAGE IN JOURNALISM

### **MABEL CÁCERES** | Peru | Editor-in-Chief, El Búho Magazine

Cáceres founded El Búho (The Owl) in response to intense press suppression in 1990s Peru. Cáceres’ life has been threatened time and time again for delving into complex, often corrupt, political and cultural news in Peru—and reporting it with unflinching accuracy.



### **JANINE DI GIOVANNI** | USA | Middle East Editor, Newsweek; Contributing Editor, Vanity Fair

Di Giovanni has witnessed more than 15 conflicts and humanitarian disasters and shared them with the world. She has covered conflict zones in Syria, Iraq, Kosovo, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Liberia, Chechnya, Liberia, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Palestine, Iran, Libya, Jamaica, Pakistan, India, Yemen, and many more.



### **STELLA PAUL** | India | Freelance

Paul shares stories of those who have been silenced. Consistently enduring death threats, threats against the safety of her family, and detention in pursuit of her stories, Paul is perhaps best known for amplifying the voices of rape and sexual violence survivors, sex workers, and other marginalized communities in India.



### LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

#### **DIANE REHM** | USA | Former Host of The Diane Rehm Show, WAMU

Rehm is one of the United States’ foremost news interviewers and a fierce advocate for women in the media. She became the first radio journalist of any gender to interview a sitting president in the White House when she interviewed President Bill Clinton in 2000. She culminated her momentous career at the end of 2016.



# Anja Niedringhaus Courage in Photojournalism Award

#ANJACOURAGE

In its second and third years, the Anja Niedringhaus Courage in Photojournalism Awards honored women who overcame extraordinary challenges to capture pressing global issues—from child brides to people living in civil war.

Pulitzer Prize-winning AP photographer Anja Niedringhaus dedicated her life to documenting conflict and its impact on the people of war-torn regions. She had the ability to capture moments of humanity and joy in some of the worst of times, and give viewers insights into moments they otherwise would never see. A native of Germany, she primarily covered the Middle East, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. For her compassion and commitment to capture the whole picture, the IWMF recognized her with the 2005 Courage in Journalism Award.

Niedringhaus was killed on April 4, 2014, while working in eastern Afghanistan.

In 2015, with the generous support of the Howard G. Buffett Foundation, the IWMF launched the annual Anja Niedringhaus Courage in Photojournalism Award, which recognizes the exemplary work of female photojournalists who overcome extraordinary challenges to bring us images of humanity. Each year we honor one winner and two honorable mentions who display Niedringhaus's blend of grit and compassion.



"I could have stayed out of trouble most of my life but always have been drawn to the people who suffer in difficult situations."

— Anja Niedringhaus

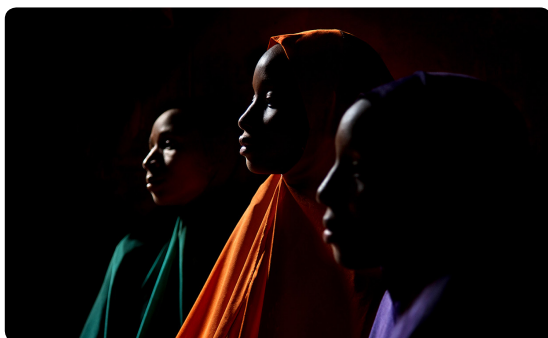


PHOTO BY STEPHANIE SINCLAIR

## 2017 WINNER: STEPHANIE SINCLAIR



Sinclair is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist known for gaining unique access to some of the most sensitive gender and human rights stories globally. Based in Hudson Valley, New York, Sinclair was selected for her gripping and enduring portrayals of barbaric practices such as child marriage and genital mutilation that are faced by women and girls around the world. Her photos are deeply intimate; they touch your soul.

## 2016 WINNER: ADRIANE OHANESIAN



Ohanesian is a freelance photojournalist based in Nairobi, Kenya. She has documented the civil war in South Sudan, the fighting in the Nuba Mountains of South Kordofan, and the conflict in Darfur. Ohanesian was recognized for her evocative images and tenacious dedication to documenting the effects of conflict on citizens in these perilous regions.



PHOTO BY ADRIANE OHANESIAN

(Left, top) Portraits of three Nigerian sisters, who were abducted and held captive for years by Boko Haram militants, taken in Maiduguri, Nigeria, in 2016. (Left, bottom) A young Ethiopian girl on her way to a meeting with smugglers in Obock, Djibouti. (Opposite page) The arrival of refugees on the islands of Lesbos and Chios on February 1, 2016, which was part of coverage of the crisis that led to hundreds of thousands fleeing war and poverty.



## 2017 HONORABLE MENTIONS

**LOUISA GOULIAMAKI**, a Polish-Greek photographer, was recognized for displaying masterful visual storytelling on both the European refugee crisis and the revolution in Ukraine.



**NICOLE TUNG**, an American citizen born and raised in Hong Kong, was recognized for work that shows the devastating and traumatic effects war has on civilians in places such as Syria, Iraq, Libya, and Egypt.

## 2016 HONORABLE MENTIONS

**LYNSEY ADDARIO** is a London-based photojournalist and author. She was recognized by the jury for her powerful images documenting humanitarian crises in Afghanistan, Iraq, Italy, the Philippines, South Sudan, Uganda, and Ukraine.



**PAULA BRONSTEIN** is a Bangkok-based veteran photojournalist. She was acknowledged for her coverage of refugees, natural disasters, and political protests in Thailand, Afghanistan, Greece, Hong Kong, and Nepal.



“It is a tremendous, if bittersweet, honor to win an award in Anja’s name. I’ve long been a fan of IWMF’s mission and am humbled and proud that your jury would recognize my photojournalism in this way. Not only will this award support my continued work, but I am grateful for the awareness such a high profile honor will bring to the stories I share.”

—Stephanie Sinclair



# Adelante Reporting Initiative

#IWMFFELLOWS

2016/  
2017

By the  
Numbers

ADELANTE

**1,121 APPLICATIONS**  
(in English and Spanish)

**82 FELLOWS**

**13 REPORTING TRIPS**

**221 STORIES**, published in

**100 INTERNATIONAL OUTLETS:**

- The New York Times
- National Geographic
- Marketplace
- PBS Newshour
- Businessweek
- Foreign Policy
- Christian Science Monitor
- Univision
- Le Monde
- The Atlantic
- Cosmopolitan
- USA Today
- Houston Chronicle
- EFE

## IWMF's fellows are reshaping traditional media narratives in and about Latin America.

On September 19, 2017, 14 Adelante fellows touched down in Mexico City for Hostile Environment and First Aid Training, only to find that a 7.1-magnitude earthquake had arrived as well. Pivoting quickly, the group postponed the training and jumped right into reporting from the scene of a natural disaster. Fellows filed stories for the *Houston Chronicle* and posted Facebook Live videos with Univision, and helped residents dig out before continuing on to their reporting trips in El Salvador and Guatemala.

This is just one of countless stories that erupt on the ground during IWMF's in-country reporting trips. Adelante, or "onward" in Spanish, is a five-year initiative that is increasing coverage by and about women in Latin America and boosting the skills and safety acumen of women who report there. In years two and three of the program, Adelante accepted 82 fellows who joined 13 reporting trips to Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and at the Mexico-U.S. border, and filed 221 stories for major outlets. Adelante is made possible through a generous grant from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation.

Adelante fellows have unprecedented access to sources and locations in environments where journalists working alone face myriad logistical and security challenges. The fellowship is structured to allow for a mix of group and individual reporting, with an emphasis on peer-to-peer learning.

Here's how Adelante has helped fellows take their careers to the next level:

- Freelancer **Deepa Fernandes'** reporting on climate change, natural resources, and youth in El Salvador landed her a commission from PRI's *The World* for the series "Kids and Climate: Our Mess, Their Future."
- **Irene Caselli's** story about how corpse rehydration can help officials recover DNA and identify deceased migrants found in the Mexican desert was the "one thing to read" on the BBC's daily newsletter, reaching more than 600,000 readers in the first 24 hours.
- **Valeria Fernández's** coverage of a family torn apart by deportation was among the reporting that landed her the inaugural American Mosaic Journalism Prize from the Heising-Simons Foundation. The purse? \$100,000.
- Freelance photographer **Natalie Keyssar's** photo essay for *The Intercept* was included in BuzzFeed's weekly "Photo Stories That Will Challenge Your View of The World." Keyssar's work highlighted El Salvadoran youth who are trapped between gang violence and police abuse.

"I owe most that has happened  
in my career in the last year to  
you guys. Thank you so much for  
offering this opportunity to me."

— Christine Bolaños,  
August 2016 El Salvador fellow



“This reporting initiative really transformed my life. I realize my potential and am going to find other ways in which I can cover more international news or localize international news whenever I can. It’s important for more women to be that voice.”

— Amaris Castillo, July 2017 Honduras Fellow

“It was life-changing to connect with such a dynamic group of women journalists. That was incredible. The knowledge and expertise in the group was a gift . . . I’m so thankful for the connections I made and all that I learned from watching and witnessing the different approaches brought by the women participating.”

— Tennessee Watson,  
Mexico fellow, December 2016



PHOTO BY JUANITA CEBALLOS



PHOTO BY JUANITA ISLAS

(Top) Mexican multimedia journalist Ximena Natera photographs family members and survivors from the 1981 El Mozote massacre in El Salvador. (Above left) Freelance investigative journalist Jean Friedman-Rudovsky examined land issues in Valle de Cauca, Colombia, and interviewed different actors involved in opposition movements during the decades-long struggle for Colombia’s natural resources. (Above right) UK based freelance photographer Alison Baskerville, a former Sergeant in the British Army, rode along with police forces in Chiapas to continue her work exploring the changing roles of women in the armed forces around the world.



# Africa Great Lakes Reporting Initiative

#IWMFFELLOWS

2016/  
2017

By the  
Numbers

AFRICA GREAT LAKES

**92** FELLOWS

**17** REPORTING TRIPS

**117** JOURNALISTS who  
received HEFAT training

**4** IN-COUNTRY  
TRAINING PROGRAMS

**250+** STORIES,  
published in outlets such as:

- The New York Times
- Agence France Presse
- Christian Science Monitor
- Vice News
- BBC
- Washington Post

**IWMF's fellows navigate tough reporting environments to bring us stories that enhance our understanding of African communities.**

Pizza. Mobile courts. Coffee production. Chinese investment. These may not sound like the topics that typically hail from Africa's Great Lakes region, and that's exactly why this reporting initiative exists.

IWMF's Africa Great Lakes fellows are charged with uncovering stories that disrupt the region's typical narrative of political instability, armed conflict, and crisis. Instead, they go deep on local policy issues such as conservation and food security, while exploring the daily realities of artists, politicians, activists, poachers and more.

The reporting initiative was created in 2014 to support journalists interested in bringing to light underreported stories from Central African Republic (CAR), Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. Building on the success of IWMF's earlier reporting initiatives in Western Sahara and Eastern DRC, the initiative offers security training and reporting trips along with year-long, in-country, skills-building fellowships for local reporters in each of the six program countries, all thanks to the generous support of the Howard G. Buffett Foundation.

In 2016 and 2017, IWMF's Africa Great Lakes team led an incredible 17 reporting trips to the African continent and named 92 fellows who produced more than 250 stories that would otherwise remain untold.

Our fellows' successes show the power of in-country reporting experiences:

- Brazilian freelance video journalist **Ana Terra Athayde**'s TV documentary on Umuganda, a mandatory monthly community service day in Rwanda, was a finalist for the Red Cross's International Humanitarian Coverage Award.
- South Africa-based **Ryan Brown**, an editor for Christian Science Monitor when she started an IWMF fellowship three years ago, was recently promoted to Johannesburg Bureau Chief.
- **Giuliana Miranda Santos** published the IWMF's Portuguese-language story about Uganda's struggle to cope with a surging refugee population for Folha de São Paulo, Brazil's largest daily newspaper.
- Staff writer **Danielle Paquette** and video journalist **Whitney Shefte** profiled Rwanda's children of rape coming of age for a front-page piece in the Washington Post; both the article and the images were recognized as top stories for 2017.





(Opposite page) Nyasha Kadandara, Zimbabwean video journalist, photographs Easter celebrations in South Sudan's capital, Juba. (Below, large photo) Brazilian videographer Ana Terra Athayde films a mural painted by a collective of young Rwandan artists in the country's capital, Kigali. Ana Terra's short documentary on youth in the country was nominated for the Red Cross' 2017 International Humanitarian Coverage Awards. (Below, inset photo) A woman working in the charcoal industry in the DRC.



“One of the most rewarding aspects of this fellowship was realizing that I, along with the other women on this trip, am capable of smart storytelling that spans countries and continents. I was overwhelmed with inspiration and admiration for all the fellows and instructors, many of whom I hope to work with and collaborate with in the future. This fellowship granted me the ability to increase my visibility within the company as a young journalist with ambition, ideas and a continued ability to explore new regions and identify stories that have a universal appeal.”

— Alexandra Petri, November 2017 Rwanda Fellow

“Years later I’ve worked in Sierra Leone, Nigeria, and Guinea for a variety of international magazines and outlets because of the initial faith and continuing support the IWMF placed in me as a young journalist.”

— Monique Jaques,  
IWMF Reporting Fellow

“The security training was excellent and made me feel better prepared to take on different situations...I wouldn’t have been able to spend ten days reporting [in CAR] without the IWMF — that means ten days of exploring, of trying to understand regional dynamics, of getting a close-up look inside the long-term effects of conflict and tension on people’s lives.”

— Susana Ferreira, July 2016 CAR Fellow



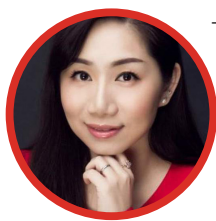
# Elizabeth Neuffer Fellowship

#IWMFNEUFFER

This fellowship advances journalism focused on human rights and social justice, and includes internships at The Boston Globe and The New York Times.

Elizabeth Neuffer (1956–2003) believed passionately that writing and reporting could bring the world together, provide justice for victims of atrocities and prick the conscience of powerful decisionmakers. Neuffer was a correspondent for The Boston Globe and winner of the 1998 IWMF Courage in Journalism Award. She was killed while reporting in Iraq on May 9, 2003.

In 2004 the IWMF, in collaboration with Neuffer's family and friends, started the Elizabeth Neuffer Fellowship to honor her legacy. One fellow is selected each year for a seven-month fellowship in the U.S. that includes research and coursework at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and journalism internships with The Boston Globe and The New York Times. Journalists representing ten countries have served as Neuffer Fellows and explored a wide range of underreported issues including gender-based violence, indigenous rights, and religious intolerance.



The 2017/18 Neuffer Fellow was **Audrey Jiajia Li**. Li is a freelance columnist and independent filmmaker, based in Guangzhou, China. Her opinion columns, written in both Chinese and English, cover current affairs in China, with a focus on politics, human rights, social justice, and freedom of speech. During her fellowship, Li is pursuing coursework and projects to better understand the use of government propaganda on social media and its impact on the rise of ultra-nationalism in China.

The 2016/17 Neuffer Fellow was **Jacey Fortin**. Fortin covers human rights, politics, economic development, and media freedom in the Horn of Africa. She has focused on conflict as well, reporting on the civil war in South Sudan, militancy in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and violent unrest in Ethiopia. At MIT, Fortin sharpened her investigative, finance, and data journalism skills to uncover the deeper trends that drive current events around the world. She focused on city reporting for the Boston Globe and regional issues in the United States for The New York Times. Fortin was hired by The New York Times after the fellowship.



“We owe it to our sources to tell their stories.” — Elizabeth Neuffer



“In my observation, two real Chinas exist in parallel: One is a super power with rapid economic growth and a quick rise of living standards, while the other is a vast nation where a sizable number of people still suffer from inequality, injustice, and a lack of individual liberty. Journalists have the obligation to raise awareness about these important yet ignored issues to make my country a better place.”

—Audrey Jiajia Li, 2017/18 Neuffer Fellow



“I applied for this fellowship because I was looking for a way to lay down a better foundation in my work,” Fortin said. “Freelancing is great in so many ways . . . but it’s also a difficult and unpredictable way to make a living. I wanted the chance to feel embedded in a news organization and I got to do that at both The Boston Globe and The New York Times. Seeing how these institutions work up close has given me a much wider perspective on how newspapers work behind the scenes. This fellowship has been transformative. I’m sure it has changed the course of my life.”

—Jacey Fortin, 2016/17 Neuffer Fellow



Elizabeth Neuffer, Courage in Journalism awardee and trailblazing human rights reporter, whose legacy the fellowship aims to continue.



# Hostile Environment and First Aid Training

#HEFAT

2016/  
2017

By the  
Numbers

HEFAT

**20** HEFATs IN LATIN  
AMERICA AND AFRICA

**295** FELLOWS and  
LOCAL JOURNALIST  
PARTICIPANTS

**1<sup>st</sup>** FIRST-EVER  
TRAINING IN DRC

**HEFAT helps journalists report safely in an increasingly complex world by improving their situational awareness, self-defense, and first aid skills.**

Nothing demonstrates the power of Hostile Environment and First Aid Training (HEFAT) like the story of someone who has applied it in the field. Photojournalist Adriane Ohanesian shared an encounter from July 2017 in which the training saved her life:

“I was working in the Okapi Wildlife Reserve with park rangers in DRC when our jungle camp was attacked by a militia. I know for a fact that my survival was impacted directly by lessons that I learned at the HEFAT training last year. If nothing else, I wanted to thank you, but I also thought that this knowledge could help others.

The first reaction that I learned in the training was visual. [A similar-looking scene from the training] occurred during the attack and once I heard the shooting my reaction was to run and dive down.

The second lesson was about the way in which the attackers were thinking, and this was a lesson that I learned during the [training's] kidnapping scenario. This lesson kept me safe in the real attack in Congo. I had run from our camp in the opposite direction as the shooters and jumped down into a deep hole in the ground — the remains of an old gold mine. With the attackers just above me and the hole that I was hiding inside, I stayed there for about 20 hours. I was starting to convince myself that they knew I was there and of course by that time I was desperate to get out. The [training] scenario reminded me that they weren't thinking in the same way that I was and therefore probably had no idea that I was so close by.”

— Adriane Ohanesian, 2016 Anja Niedringhaus Courage  
in Photojournalism Award winner, 2017 Nairobi HEFAT trainee

Each of the IWMF's reporting trips begins with a four-day HEFAT course for fellows and for local journalists as well. The trainings are tailored to women and the specific location where they will be reporting and include classroom learning and realistic simulations.

Topics covered include:

- Digital security
- Self-defense
- Hotel and personal security
- Civil unrest/demonstrations
- Kidnapping/navigating checkpoints/  
reaction under gunfire
- Situation awareness
- Emotional self-care

Many of our HEFAT participants wouldn't be able to afford this life-saving training without our support. Watch a video about these trainings at [bit.ly/HEFATvideo](http://bit.ly/HEFATvideo).





“I cannot emphasize enough how important the skills I learned from HEFAT — through IWMF’s support — were to keeping me safe.”

— Alice Su, Howard G. Buffett Fund for Women Journalists  
Grantee and IWMF South Sudan Reporting Fellow, 2016

“The HEFAT training was invaluable to me and was probably the most significant and clear step in my career at this moment.”

— Jean Friedman-Rudovsky, IWMF Colombia reporting fellow, April 2016

*(Opposite page) IWMF fellows during a training scenario. (Large photo) 2016 African Great Lakes reporting trip fellows participating in drills to learn how to react under fire as part of their fellowship. (Above, first circle) Mexico City HEFAT before the Ciudad Juárez and Chiapas December 2016 Reporting Trip. (Above, second circle) Mexico City HEFAT before the Guatemala and Honduras Reporting Trip.*





## IWMF Emergency Fund

**Our Emergency Fund provides a lifeline during times of crisis, from legal aid to medical care. In 2017 the fund was depleted for the first time.**

Now more than ever, journalists around the world face real on-the-job dangers. The IWMF Emergency Fund protects and provides for female journalists worldwide when they need help the most. There is a special and dire need among freelance journalists who often lack institutional support; they come to us and it's our mission to help.

One journalist had to flee her country after her colleague was murdered and was temporarily unable to work. Another had to have emergency eye surgery after an acid attack. Another, crippled from the stress of pervasive and repeated sexual harassment, had to relocate and seek treatment for PTSD.

In 2016 and 2017 we awarded \$130,000 to 37 women in 25 countries; total disbursements since 2013 come to \$220,000. Recent demand has been so high that we have had to turn some journalists away — 2017 was the first year that the fund was depleted.

On average, we receive one Emergency Fund request every 72 hours. Many are complex cases that require careful vetting and research, and we are able to respond quickly with the help of our extensive on-the-ground networks in all parts of the world.

The fund is sustained with the support of individual donors, whose contributions make a significant impact. You can:

- Provide a journalist with partial protective gear for only \$600 or full protective gear for \$2,000
- Support legal fees for asylum for \$1,500
- Help a reporter who's been sexually assaulted receive counseling to move forward for \$3,000

The IWMF is the only organization that offers this kind of assistance exclusively for female journalists. Learn more and donate: [bit.ly/IWMFemergency](http://bit.ly/IWMFemergency).

PHOTO BY JUANITA ISLAS

(Above) Photojournalist Marie de Jesús traveled to the Barrio de San Carlos, La Unión, El Salvador to do a story on US deportees returning to gang controlled areas. (Left) Freelance photojournalist Meghan Dhaliwal visited Little Haiti, a community in Tijuana, Mexico, where a number of Haitian migrants have resettled.





## Kim Wall Memorial Fund

**This new fund inspires adventurous women to report on subcultures around the globe; IWMF recently named its first grantee.**

“The undercurrents of rebellion.” That’s how Swedish journalist Kim Wall described her unique approach to reporting on subcultures, broadly defined, around the globe. Whether reporting on Cuba’s underground market for digital content and culture or how the politics of opportunity played out inside Kampala’s emerging Chinatown, the former IWMF fellow introduced us to interesting people whom others had overlooked. Her reporting appeared in outlets such as Harper’s, The New York Times, Foreign Policy, The Atlantic, TIME, Slate, Vice, and The Guardian.

In August 2017, Wall disappeared after boarding the Danish inventor Peter Madsen’s submarine off the coast of Copenhagen. Ten days later, her body was found. Madsen has since been convicted in her murder.

After her death, Wall’s family and friends, in partnership with the IWMF, created the Kim Wall Memorial Fund. Beginning in 2018, one \$5,000 reporting grant will be awarded annually to a female journalist whose reporting carries forward Wall’s legacy.

### *2018 Sneak Peek*

The inaugural Kim Wall fund was awarded to **Anne Kristine Hermann**, a print and radio journalist based in Copenhagen and New York. Details are available at [iwmf.org](http://iwmf.org).

“We can never get Kim back, but we can see to it that her spirit will live on and inspire other young journalists to go out in the world and find the stories. More than ever, we need brave female journalists who give voice to the people that normally never hit the front pages.”

— Ingrid and Joachim Wall





# Reporting Grants for Women's Stories

This new initiative supports journalism produced by and about women — from a podcast series on the gray areas of consent to a series on the impact of solar technology on Masaai women in Kenya.

In an era of increased globalization, there is a need for varied coverage of stories surrounding issues that impact women and girls' daily lives. Yet stories about women and the issues that affect their lives remain severely underreported, and female journalists remain underrepresented in both media organizations and bylines across the world.

The IWMF's Reporting Grants for Women's Stories, sponsored by The Secular Society, challenges this reality by funding female journalists to pursue underreported stories in a gender-sensitive way. The grants promote the work and advance the role of women in the news media worldwide, contributing to a more transparent, free, and representative press.

Grants average \$5,000 and cover reporting-related costs. In 2016 and 2017, the IWMF awarded 30 grants to women from 14 countries. The reporting generated by these grants is critical to developing gender-balanced reporting and embracing the diversity of women's voices across all media platforms.

The Reporting Grants for Women's Stories enables the IWMF to support journalists and stories such as these:

- Photographer **Nicole Tung** and writer **Dalia Mortada** teamed up for a piece about women's rights in Turkey for Foreign Affairs Magazine.
- **Noemie Serfaty** interviewed female community leaders of the Black Lives Matter movement in Oakland, California, for a documentary film.
- **Karen Dias** profiled female athletes fighting against poverty and prejudice in Haryana, India, which was published by GOOD Magazine and other outlets.
- **Yumna Al Arashi** created a photo essay about the last generation of women to receive facial tattoos in Iraq, Tunisia, Libya, Morocco and Algeria that was published by CNN, Fast Company, and other outlets.
- **Ginnette Riquelme** documented a day in the lives of transgender children living in Chile to show the impact of the country's four-year debate over its gender identity law.

"The funding and support I received from IWMF for my project Face was so incredibly important to supporting a project that helped shaped my career. The project went on to be exhibited worldwide, nominated for various awards, and gained widespread media attention, all of which helped to share an important story which would have been left untold otherwise. I am eternally grateful for IWMF's support in my work."

—Yumna Al Arashi (2016 Round 2 Grantee)



"We are enormously thrilled to partner with The Secular Society through the Reporting Grants for Women's Stories Initiative, as it not only amplifies the voices of female journalists, but the untold stories that impact the lives of women and girls around the world."

—Elisa Lees Muñoz,  
the IWMF's Executive Director





“The Reporting Grant for Women’s Stories enabled me to tell important stories about women refugees in Lebanon that I wouldn’t have been able to otherwise. The grant gave me the freedom to do deep reporting and uncover meaningful stories. And it gave me the opportunity to publish in a publication that had been a goal for me.”

— Kristen Chick (2016 Round 1 grantee)

“The IWMF grant allowed us to take the time and effort to respectfully report on Senegal’s infanticide epidemic, [which is] due in large part to the country’s strict anti-abortion laws, according to women’s rights activists. The IWMF’s belief and support of these important stories is so crucial at a time when it seems so much foreign coverage focuses on the antics of a few policymakers, often at the expense of amplifying the voices of those whose lives are affected by the policies.”

— Ricci Shyrock (2016 Round 1 Grantee)

(Opposite page) Colombia August 2016 Fellow Eloisa D’Orsi photographs members of the Wayuu indigenous group in La Guajira, Colombia. Eloisa is a freelance photojournalist based between Barcelona, Spain and Milan, Italy. (Top) 2016 Reporting Grants for Women’s Stories grantee Sonia Narang worked on a multimedia piece about climate change in Fiji during her grant. Here she interviews women and girls most deeply affected by the climate crisis. (Bottom) 2016 Reporting Grants for Women’s Stories grantee Sonia Narang’s work on climate change in Fiji was featured on NPR.



# The Howard G. Buffett Fund for Women Journalists

#IWMFGRANTEE

This fund advances the contributions of women in the media around the globe—from a trauma training workshop to a database of female photographers.

The Howard G. Buffett Fund for Women Journalists was launched in 2015 with the generous support of the Howard G. Buffett Foundation. This fund supports important projects in a media landscape that increasingly struggles with changing revenue models, lack of funding for independent reporting, and few professional development opportunities. With a flexible grantmaking approach, the fund is the only initiative of its kind.

In 2016–2017, the IWMF awarded \$541,700 in grants to 45 journalists through the fund, and has granted \$626,438 to 123 journalists from 26 countries since the fund's inception.

In addition to making possible initiatives like a trauma training retreat for frontline journalists and a film about the roots of violence in Honduras, the fund helps women journalists pursue critical professional development opportunities like security trainings, digital journalism conferences, language classes, and technical skills-building workshops.

Consider these game-changing projects:

- Photographer **Katie Orlinsky** published a multi-page spread on climate change in Alaska in The New Republic that led to her being awarded Paris Match Magazine's 2016 Female Photojournalist of the Year.
- Investigative reporter and author **Priyanka Dubey**, whose book on the rape crisis in India will be published in late 2018, was one of only eight featured authors when Simon & Schuster launched in India.
- Nigerian photojournalist **Rahima Gambo**'s stunning three-part series on Boko Haram's effects on childhood education in northern Nigeria was published on Roads and Kingdoms and, when cross-posted on her own site, received 14.1K views upon its launch.
- In 2017, the IWMF made its first grant to a group of Cuban journalists from 14ymedio, the only independent journalism outlet in Cuba, under the leadership of noted reporter **Yoani Sanchez**. Her team published a five-part series on women's rights in a changing Cuba.

“This Fund will give outstanding women journalists the ability to turn their reporting ambitions into reality.”

— Howard G. Buffett

PHOTO BY JUAN CARLOS

(Left) El Salvador-Guatemala Fall 2017 Monica Wise. Freelance video journalist and documentary filmmaker based in Mexico City. The photo was taken in El Salvador. (Opposite page, top) Heather Gies takes notes during an interview in El Salvador. (Opposite page, bottom) El Salvador-Guatemala Fall 2017 Fellow Andrea Patiño. Video journalist for Univision Digital News based in Miami, Florida. Photo was taken in El Salvador.





PHOTO BY JUAN CARLOS

“The IWMF has allowed me to provide tangible support to a diverse range of female and non-binary documentary photographers — elevating the voices of women visual storytellers and helping to shift the dramatic gender imbalance in our industry.”

— Daniella Zalcman,  
2017 grantee, Women Photograph

“I’m so deeply grateful for this grant. My project Silent Evidence, is a collaborative multi-segment audio documentary on childhood sexual abuse. It’s a hybrid of first-person narrative and investigative journalism. As a survivor I live this issue at the intersections of those forces. It’s an emotional conundrum as well as a policy conundrum for me every single day. The grant from the IWMF allowed me to take time to capture those moments, to do in-depth research, and to collaborate with two unique partners. This grant made pulling all the pieces together possible. It was healing and hopeful to be able to work in a way that honored my experience as a survivor and my multi-platform approach to media distribution.”

— Tennessee Watson, 2016 grantee, Silent Evidence



“There is no other organization in the world that values women journalists or takes us as seriously as the IWMF.”

— Siobhan O’Grady, DRC Fellow, June 2015 and South Sudan and Tanzania Fellow, May 2016

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(Above) Colombia August 2016  
Fellow Kamilia Lahrichi. Video  
journalist based in Buenos  
Aires, Argentina. Photo was  
taken in La Guajira, Colombia.



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“I knew that the border was complex, but I have a much better idea of just how complex and diverse the border actually is now. The trip deepened my knowledge...it made me realize that there are many stories to tell and that we need to look deeper to get past the cliché stories we often tell when parachuting in.”

— Jika Gonzalez, Mexico-U.S. Border fellow, April 2016

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# ABBREVIATED FINANCIALS 2016 & 2017

Honduras Fellow Anna Spelman. Documentary filmmaker and photographer based in between Phoenix, Arizona and Washington, D.C. Photo was taken in a banana plantation outside of San Pedro Sula, Honduras.

	2016	2017
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	100,261	137,326
Grants and Other Receivables, Net	828,272	155,650
Investments	12,207,870	9,334,159
Fixed Assets	66,076	61,248
Prepaid and Other Assets	116,721	216,876
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>13,319,200</b>	<b>9,905,259</b>

<b>LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>		
Accounts Payables & Accrued Expenses	236,203	194,197
Deferred Rent	84,194	61,939
Net Assets	12,990,693	9,648,673
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>13,319,200</b>	<b>9,905,259</b>

<b>REVENUE</b>		
Grants and Contributions	1,074,321	7,730,442
Other Income	110,212	61,723
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>1,184,533</b>	<b>7,792,165</b>

<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Direct Program Expenses	3,495,224	3,632,196
General & Administrative	417,351	522,477
Fundraising	475,113	371,880
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>4,387,688</b>	<b>4,526,553</b>

<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>3,404,477</b>	<b>(3,342,020)</b>
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Full audited financials and IRS 990 forms are available on the IWMF website.





