



Human Rights Watch, the Committee to Protect Journalists and Amnesty International

invite you to

Media freedom in danger in Hungary

When: **23 February 2024**

09h30 – 11h00

Where: **Participate online or in person (register below) at Amnesty International's European Institutions Office, Avenue de Cortenbergh 71, 4th floor, 1000 Brussels**

Independent journalists and media outlets are coming under increasing pressure in Hungary. The Fidesz government has distorted the media market, politicized the media regulator and public service broadcaster, and the majority of private media companies are under the control of pro-government owners. The authorities have made it nearly impossible for independent media and journalists to do their work in holding the government to account and are preventing the public from accessing independent and factual information to make informed decisions.

In its new report [*I Can't Do My Job as a Journalist: The Systematic Undermining of Media Freedom in Hungary*](#), Human Rights Watch documents how independent and investigative journalists are increasingly restricted in their work. The systematic assault on media freedom in Hungary is both a violation of free expression and a tool of the Hungarian authorities' broader erosion of the rule of law.

The European Parliament raised concerns about the lack of media pluralism in 2018 when it [triggered Article 7 proceedings](#) against Hungary, the EU treaty-based mechanism to deal with EU states that put democracy and fundamental rights principles at risk. In the context of EU scrutiny of Hungary under the Article 7 procedure, ongoing infringement proceedings initiated by the European Commission with regard to media freedom and the continuous assessment of Hungary's compliance with relevant financial conditionality, what can the EU do to promote press freedom in Hungary and uphold the rule of law?

Program

09h30 – 10h00: Arrival and networking coffee

09h55: Welcome and opening comments – **Iskra Kirova**, Advocacy Director for Europe and Central Asia, Human Rights Watch

10h00 – 11h00: Interactive panel discussion

Lydia Gall, senior Europe and Central Asia researcher, Human Rights Watch

Viktória Serdült, Journalist, Hungarian news portal HVG

Zoltan Gyevai, Correspondent, Radio Free Europe

Tom Gibson, EU Representative, Committee to Protect Journalists (chair)

Please register to attend by filling in [this form](#), by Thursday 22 February 12:00 PM (CET).