

**MONDAY, 8 DECEMBER 2008 (09.00am – 10.30am)**

**Workshop 6: Freelancers – why should we care ?**

**PELLA , LEVEL 1, English**

**Workshop Title: Freelancers – why should we care?**

**Workshop Coordinator: Nadine Jurrat**

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**Language: (Please mark one) English, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic**

**Workshop description:**

1. What are the main points you want to raise in the workshop?
  - How important are freelance newsgatherers for media development and democracy
  - What challenges are freelancers facing in different parts of the world
  - How do media development organisations relate to freelancers and their challenges, and is there room for improvement?
2. Give some background information to the issue you want to raise.

The Rory Peck Trust believes that freelance newsgatherers play a vital part in the free flow of information and an ever increasing role in the newsgathering industry worldwide. However, this is not always recognised and many freelancers are excluded from local initiatives and journalist associations. Many freelancers do not even recognise themselves as freelance. The Rory Peck Trust has been working towards their recognition with UK, US and European media as well as a number of international and local media development organisations. This workshop will openly debate the challenges faced by freelance newsgatherers, comparing their situation in different parts of the world and trying to find ways raise their profile so that they are included in regulations, codes of practice and local initiatives.

3. List three key questions you want the workshop to address.

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- a) Who do you consider freelance in your part of the world?
- b) Do you agree that freelancers are important for media development/the free flow of information/democracy?
- c) Do you agree that they face specific challenges in their work?

4. What would be the main desired outcome of the workshop?  
Recognition that freelancers play an important role and that their needs and rights to work in safety and freedom are not only recognised but included in practical initiatives

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