



# ONO Shoptalk Assaults on Journalists

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## Talking Points

- + How prevalent is the abuse of journalists? Where does it take place, and what is the damage done?
- + How abuse is typically handled by media organizations
- + Some recent examples of abuse
- + What is the role of ombudspople/standards editors?

# How prevalent is the online abuse of journalists?

- + In a [2022 survey](#) of 1,251 Canadian journalists:
  - + 56% had received online harassment and threats
  - + 35% received harassment in the field
- + Of more than 850 international [women journalists surveyed in 2022](#):
  - + 73% experienced online violence
  - + 20% attacked offline following online incidents
  - + 48% received harassing private messages online
  - + 25% were threatened with physical violence; 18% were threatened with sexual violence
- + A survey of 40 [LGBTQ journalists in the UK](#), published in 2023, found that 86% had experienced abuse and harassment

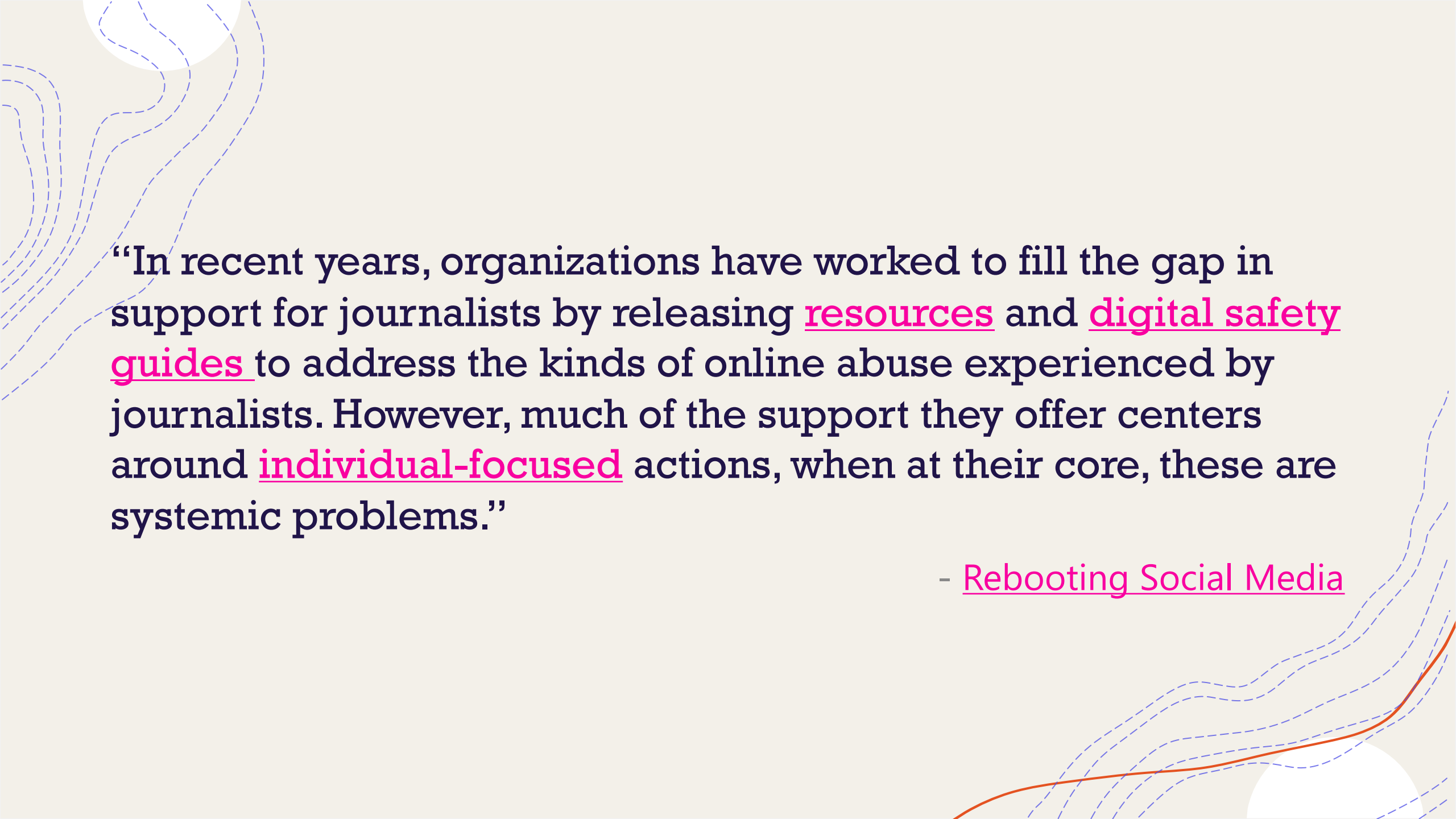


**“A 2021 [survey](#) of more than 1,000 journalists and media workers in the country, conducted by Ipsos, shows a growing online bullying campaign, including offensive messages targeting gender or ethnic identity, that leave many women and minority journalists struggling with mental health challenges.”**

- [Reuters Institute](#)

# How abuse is typically handled by media organizations

- + Some media organizations offer online safety training or support, which may help to reduce incidents of doxing and some other forms of online abuse
- + Employers largely respond after the fact, if at all



“In recent years, organizations have worked to fill the gap in support for journalists by releasing resources and digital safety guides to address the kinds of online abuse experienced by journalists. However, much of the support they offer centers around individual-focused actions, when at their core, these are systemic problems.”

- Rebooting Social Media

# How abuse is typically handled by media organizations

- + In the survey of LGBTQ journalists, 87% of respondents said not enough is being done to address abuse and harassment
- + Reuters Institute published the [recommendations listed below](#). How many of these are in place at your organization?
  - + Build digital rights literacy
  - + Establish safety practices
  - + Conduct risk assessments
  - + Implement support mechanisms
  - + Assign roles and tasks

STORY KILLERS | A GLOBAL INVESTIGATION

# These women journalists were doing their jobs. That made them targets.

Tackling difficult subjects and holding powerful people accountable often triggers online attacks that torment and humiliate women journalists. Some even lose their jobs as news organizations struggle to respond to the hate.



By Taylor Lorenz

Updated February 14, 2023 at 2:23 p.m. EST | Published February 14, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. EST

## Recent examples of abuse

Source: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/2023/02/14/women-journalists-global-violence/>



**The New York Times**

# ***How London Became a 'Hot Spot' for Threats Against Iranian Journalists***

Iranian reporters and broadcasters in Britain have suffered physical attacks, threats and surveillance, a report by Reporters Without Borders said, weeks after a newscaster was stabbed in London.

## **Recent examples of abuse**

Source: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/2024/04/17/world/europe/uk-london-iranian-journalists-repression.html>

# What is the role of ombudspeople/standards editors?

- + Abuse can occur within article comments, which are often under the purview of ombudspeople and standards editors
- + More broadly, community conduct may extend to activity on social media and email correspondence
- + Ombudspeople and standards editors are uniquely qualified to address difficult or oppositional situations