

# : Programme

Draft: 22 May 2018

## **Public Evening Event**

**Building Peace through Media Engagement?**

**The role of local media in armed conflict**

**29 May 2018**

**Berlin Town Hall, Louise-Schroeder-Saal**

**Conference languages**

German/English (simultaneous interpretation)

**As part of the Berlin Summer Dialogue 2018**

**Strengthening Local Peacebuilding –**

**Establishing the Basis for Sustaining Peace**

**In cooperation with the**

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)



Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
and Development

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## BACKGROUND

Around 45 per cent of the world's people have no access to a free press, according to the latest World Press Freedom Index. Free speech is particularly constrained in authoritarian regimes and intra-state conflicts, where journalists face considerable risks to their personal safety. In addition, there are limited financial resources available to support independent journalism.

The media have a responsibility, however, to report sensitively on conflicts and diverse social groups. The spread of disinformation or “fake news” can escalate conflicts, so it is important to raise media professionals’ awareness of conflict-sensitive, peace-oriented journalism. Its aim should not be to steer the public in a particular direction but to foster mutual understanding and facilitate dialogue in accordance with the universal principles of journalism. Local media are often an important source of information for the public in conflict settings. In many instances, they are the first to spot emerging conflicts or abuses and their reporting helps to shape opinion. The local media can also foster social cohesion by giving all groups within society a voice.

What are the challenges facing the local media in conflict regions? What are the opportunities for – and limits to – peace-oriented reporting during conflict? How do economic restraints influence conflict-sensitive journalism? And which forms of external support may be beneficial?

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## PROGRAMME

- 17.00 hrs                      Registration
- Chair
- Ute Schaeffer**  
Deputy Director  
DW Academy, Bonn
- 17.30 hrs                      Welcome
- Christian Rickerts**  
Secretary of State  
Senate Department for Economics, Energy and  
Public Enterprises, Berlin
- 17.35 hrs                      Opening Speech
- Dr Elke Löbel**  
Director for displacement and migration; crisis prevention and  
management, Commissioner for refugee policy  
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development  
(BMZ), Bonn
- 17.45 hrs                      Round table discussion
- Nicolas Boissez**  
Head of Communication and External Relations  
Fondation Hirondelle, Lausanne
- Rev Geraldine Fobang**  
Station Manager, CBS Radio Buea  
President, CCMN - Cameroon Community Media Network, Buea
- Dr William Tayeebwa**  
Senior Lecturer  
Department of Journalism and Communication  
Makere University, Kampala
- Followed by                      Plenary discussion
- 19.00 hrs                      Reception  
hosted by the Governing Mayor of Berlin

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