

H.E. Mr Vadym Omelchenko
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary to France, Permanent
Delegate of Ukraine to UNESCO
UNESCO House

13 October 2026

**Communication and Information Sector
Assistant Director-General**

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Dear Ambassador,

On behalf of the Director-General, I acknowledge receipt of your Note Verbale dated 9 September 2026, accompanying the "Statement by the IFAP National Committee of Ukraine on Russia's Systematic Attacks Against Journalists and the Media in Ukraine," addressed inter alia to the UNESCO Secretariat. We have taken careful note of the concerns and recommendations contained in the Statement.

UNESCO is aware of the 8 September attack affecting the premises of "We Are Ukraine" and "We Are Ukraine+" in Kyiv, which injured six media workers, and we thank you for the additional information.

The UNESCO Antenna Office in Kyiv is in direct contact with the affected media outlet to better understand its needs and to facilitate access for the concerned media workers to UNESCO-supported assistance programmes available in Ukraine, as relevant.

More broadly, UNESCO continues to support Ukrainian journalists and media workers affected by the war through safety assistance, protective and energy equipment, psychological support, capacity-building and other emergency support measures. Such support contributes to preserving access to independent information and enabling journalists and media workers to continue their essential work under extremely difficult circumstances.

Furthermore, UNESCO will continue to recall the obligations of all parties, under international humanitarian law and United Nations Security Council Resolution 2222 (2015), regarding the protection of journalists, media professionals and associated media personnel as civilians in situations of armed conflict, a commitment recently reaffirmed in the Pact for the Future. We also recall that media infrastructure is protected under international humanitarian law as civilian objects.

UNESCO remains fully committed to protecting and promoting freedom of expression and the safety of journalists in accordance with its mandate.

Yours sincerely,

Mariya Gabriel

