



Ten reasons for freelance journalists to join the NUJ

1 **Working collectively** – journalists face intense pressure from subjects, corporations, governments and even our own bosses. Working together is critical to defend our interests and fight for fair treatment of journalists. The NUJ spearheaded the creation of the National Committee for the Safety of Journalists, and meets regularly with government ministers, police chiefs, court officials, and security-industry representatives to ensure that we can work unimpeded.

2 **Personal support** – every day the NUJ's freelance office chases late invoices, challenges copyright thefts, advises on contracts, and provides guidance to members. Dependable, professional support allows freelance journalists to concentrate on what they do best – finding and selling stories.

3 **Defending free reporting** – since its inception the NUJ has promoted legislation and fought test cases to support and extend the right to report. Without the NUJ, we would have no legal source protection, journalistic privilege under PACE (England and Wales), nor the right to trades union representation. Fresh challenges to these and other rights are constant.

4 **Accreditation** – the NUJ is the only organisation in the UK and Ireland that gives eligible members access to the UK, Irish and International Press Cards. Proof that you are a journalist can be the difference between getting the story and wasting your time.

5 **Financial support when its most needed** – the NUJ's charity, NUJ extra, assists members in the most challenging situations, be it collapsing income after ill health, the consequences of domestic

violence, or unexpected bereavement. NUJ extra offers members cash grants and practical help getting back on track.

6 **Ethical journalism** – journalists get a bad rap. The NUJ Code of Conduct and Ethics Council are demonstrable roots that bind our work to clear, public standards.

7 **Continuing professional development** – NUJ members have access to training that is relevant, up-to-date and affordable (often it's free). Be it media law, broadcast skills, marketing your work, or deploying AI, the NUJ has a course for you.

8 **Personal contacts** – freelancing can be isolating. The NUJ provides connection through our branches, events and online networks. All are great opportunities to share ideas, seek information, and develop your networks.

9 **Collective support for better rates** – freelance rates have stagnated for years. The NUJ has pushed up freelance rates at The Guardian, The Financial Times, and the BBC. The more freelancers who join the union, the better we will be able to maintain upward pressure on rates. The NUJ also produces vital tools such as The Rate For the Job, the Freelance Fees Guide, and the Freelance Fact Pack.

10 **Support at critical moments** – arrested on a demonstration or harassed by the unhappy subject of an article – NUJ support at critical moments often averts crisis in times of greatest need. The union operates 24-hour emergency legal support lines, and staff are always available to intervene on members' behalf.

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