



1990 - 2009

The International Women's Media Foundation is a vibrant global network dedicated to strengthening the role of women in the news media worldwide as a means to further freedom of the press. The IWMF cultivates effective news media leaders, pioneers change in the world through innovative approaches to reporting on global issues and honors the courage of women who report the news under difficult and dangerous circumstances.

Highlights of the IWMF's work include:

- ◆ **The *Courage in Journalism Awards*.** The only international awards dedicated exclusively to recognizing the bravery of women journalists, the *Courage Awards* shine a light on the lack of press freedom around the world. *Courage Award* winners have suffered harassment, physical attacks, rape and death threats because they report stories about government malfeasance, genocide, war, human rights violations and crimes against humanity.

The IWMF also supports women journalists in trouble around the world by advocating for them on a world stage with petition campaigns and appeals to governments.

- ◆ **Innovative programs to help women become newsroom leaders.** The IWMF has pioneered leadership training for women journalists, beginning in Africa in 1998 and continuing with programs in Latin America, the former Soviet Union and the United States. All programs are designed to give women journalists the skills they need to become effective leaders and decision-makers in the news media. In 2008, working with the Kazickas Family Foundation and Internews, the IWMF held a Leadership Institute in Lithuania for women journalists from former Soviet Republics. In 2009, the IWMF organized a Leadership Institute for African women journalists in Uganda. The U.S. Leadership Institute for Women Journalists will be held in July 2009 in Chicago.

- ◆ **Pioneering change through innovative approaches to reporting on global issues that saves lives.** Sub-Saharan Africa is a region of farmers, but there is a "profound disconnect" between the news media and the reality of most people's lives, particularly when it comes to reporting on agriculture. For that reason, the IWMF in 2008 began a new initiative, *Reporting on Agriculture and Women: Africa*, to enhance media coverage of agriculture and rural development. A key component of the project is improving the media's treatment of women – both as journalists and as sources for stories.

Women's status in the international media is also a key concern for the IWMF. A new project launched in 2009, *The Global Report on Women in the News Media*, is examining the structure of the news media industry worldwide using a gender lens. The ground-breaking study will give a clear snapshot of where women stand in the news media and provide a solid base from which to advocate for change.

- ◆ **The Elizabeth Neuffer Fellowship.** This extraordinary opportunity was established by the family and friends of Elizabeth Neuffer, a 1998 IWMF *Courage in Journalism Award* winner who was killed while reporting in Iraq in May 2003. Neuffer's life mission was reporting on human rights and social justice, which is the focus of the fellowship. For nine months, a fellow combines research at MIT's Center for International Studies with access to *The Boston Globe* and *The New York Times*.

"The IWMF Leadership Institute did wonders for my confidence as a leader.
I draw on the things I learned every day."

– Lori Shontz, 2007 U.S. Leadership Institute participant