

# Journalism Initiative on Gender Peace and Security (JiG)

## 2025 Executive Report

Rutgers Global and the Institute for Women's  
Leadership, Rutgers University

# Introduction

Friends,

I am thrilled to present an overview of the Journalism Initiative on Gender Peace and Security.

The initiative works to promote rigorous reporting on a gendered world in crisis through feminist advocacy, research, and education. JiG delivers training for newsrooms and schools, creates curricula, multi-lingual ethics tools for reporters on-the-go, and contributes gender-informed analysis of international peace and security, helping human rights defenders, journalists, students, and policymakers create lasting change. JiG advocates for press freedom, with an emphasis on women and marginalized journalists facing job insecurity, intimidation, and threats.

The initiative was founded in 2018 by the Center for Women's Global Leadership at Rutgers University and is now based at Rutgers Global and the Institute for Women's Leadership. JiG workshops, talks, trainings, and seminars take place globally. The initiative's practical work on gendered press attacks led to a 2020 UN Report on violence against women journalists.

JiG manages a network of journalists, offering support and guidance to reporters in the field, running programs for reporters on gender, peace, labor, climate, migration, and more. JiG authored and co-authored guides are published in English, French, Arabic, Sorani Kurdish, Mandarin Chinese, and Russian. A Spanish translation of JiG's 2021 Silence and Omissions guide for covering gender-based violence is set for publication this year.

Support JiG by following this [link](#) and donating to the Rutgers Foundation, specifying the Journalism Initiative on Gender Peace and Security at Rutgers Global. You can subscribe to the [newsletter](#), [email](#) JiG for more detailed information, visit the [website](#), or follow JiG on [bluesky](#).

Cathy Otten

Director, Journalism Initiative on Gender Peace and Security

Visiting Associate Professor of Media Ethics and Journalism, Rutgers Global

Visiting Global Associate, Institute for Women's Leadership, Rutgers

# Landmark Media Guides & Reports

JiG reports provide critical policy recommendations to states, newsrooms, media organizations, and law makers on the protection of women and marginalized journalists. The initiative produces standard-setting ethics guides for journalists reporting on gender-based violence, digital toolkits in multiple languages, targeted thematic reports on covering human rights abuses, and forthcoming research on humanitarian journalism and migration.

JiG's 2021 print and digital guide *Silence and Omissions: A Media Guide for Covering Gender-Based Violence* defined best practice in the field, garnering much praise and positive feedback.

The JiG co-authored guides in Arabic and Kurdish for gender reporting reached 224 trainee journalists, 250 students, and 122 organizations in Iraq in partnership with SEED Foundation, positively impacting reporting. Two journalist participants said they had a more comprehensive and clearer understanding on key journalism principles following the training. "We will address important topics, conduct programs, and present news," one journalist stated. The second added "I will help the channel by coming up with ideas on how to assist people from this area."

**WORLD NEWS DAY**

**Media must take responsibility for the power of their words and actions**

- Ethical reporting
- Survivor-centered storytelling

**SILENCE AND OMISSIONS: A MEDIA GUIDE FOR COVERING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**

**JiG**  
JOURNALISM INITIATIVE ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE  
WOMEN'S GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

**A media guide for covering gender-based violence**

A STANDARD-SETTING HANDBOOK TO POSITIVELY IMPACT GLOBAL REPORTING ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AS PART OF THE JOURNEY TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY AND JUSTICE

**START READING**

[WWW.GBVJOURNALISM.ORG](http://WWW.GBVJOURNALISM.ORG)

# Impactful Training, Workshops, and Seminars

JiG is home to an exciting program of talks, workshops, and seminars on key progressive media developments and themes such as reporting on contemporary crisis and conflict with a feminist lens. Most recently, JiG presented work at New York University and Columbia University. Further JiG training sessions for journalists in Iraq are scheduled for spring/summer 2025.

JiG delivers workshops, lectures, seminars, and special talks to hundreds of student journalists and human rights students every year, including mid-career journalists and press advocates in the US, UK, India, Jordan, Iraq, Nepal, the Bahamas, Kenya, and Mongolia.

JiG organizes practical sessions on ethical interviewing techniques and gender justice for journalists and media professionals, including a book launch in Kenya, a UN side event on gender violence and climate change, a workshop for LGBTQ+ journalists in Nepal, and a talk on the media's coverage of femicide in Canada and the US.



Participants during a JiG session on ethical reporting on survivors of gendered violence for Kurdish women trainee journalists in Iraqi Kurdistan with UNFPA and SEED.

THE ALISON R. BERNSTEIN MEDIA MENTORING PROGRAM PRESENTS:

## PHOTOS AND STORIES: Who Gets to Decide?

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2024 | 6:30 PM | ZOOM

Join journalist **Cathy Otten**, documentary photographer **Daniella Zalcman**, and Rutgers Center for Innovation in Worker Organization Global Program Manager **Ardra Manasi** for a conversation on exploring how to navigate sensitive topics, understand biases, and advance inclusivity across all forms of media, using a global human rights lens.

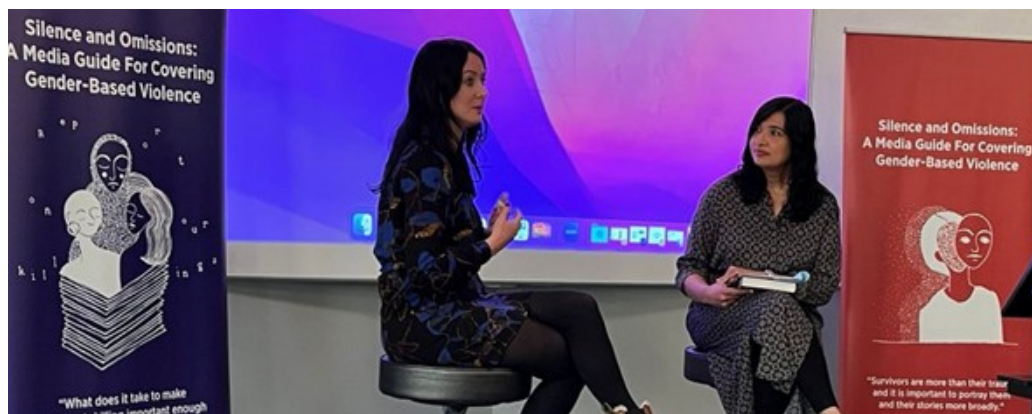
ARB MMP      [RSVP HERE](#)      **RUTGERS**  
Institute for Women's Leadership

# Feminist Advocacy and Research for Peace

JiG research focuses on new gender approaches to technology, the media, migration, peace, justice, and security. Upcoming JiG sessions and reports highlight ethical feminist AI tools for journalists and readers, and safe reporting under hostile conditions.

JiG advocates for press freedom in collaboration with civil society, producing original work on digital and practical safety for women and marginalized journalists, and running a global support network. JiG worked with NGO SEED on a new charter for media ethics and the protection of women journalists for newsrooms in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Photo from a February 21 2023 talk at the Rutgers School of Communication and Information with JiG's Cathy Otten and Rutgers Ph.D. scholar Niki Natarajan on gender media trends and journalist safety.



# Measuring Progress

JiG positively influences media reporting on gender-based violence. JiG's work contributes to key research by civil society, the UN, and legal scholars. JiG highlights gendered social problems, brings forward solutions, and runs a global support network of women and LGBTQ+ media professionals. The initiative joined the judging panel on the 2023 Solutions Journalism Awards, promoting knowledge and awareness of exciting new modes of progressive journalism.

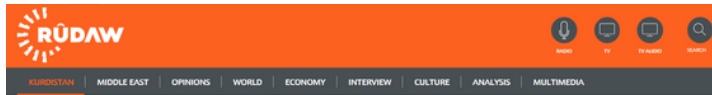
Student Priyanka Sarkhel wrote: "What I really liked hearing about during your presentations in class is how you give your interview subjects dignity when you are reporting. I feel that that is often lost, especially in the digital age where people's stories move in and out of the cycle so fast. It's wonderful that you are creating those guidelines"

Brazil-based Photographer Lianne Milton wrote: "[I am] very grateful to receive this important book [Silence and Omissions] for my photo project A Myth of Silence about sexual abuse in the Amazon -- arriving at the right time when I was feeling discouraged about my work. This was a reminder to keep going."



Participants during a JiG session on ethical reporting on survivors of gendered violence for Kurdish women trainee journalists in Iraqi Kurdistan with UNFPA and SEED.

# In the News



## Organizations, media collaborate to empower storytelling in Kurdistan

11-10-2024  
Chris Johannes

The Latest

## The Daily Star

Sports Business Entertainment Life & Living Youth Tech & Startup

## What's wrong with how we report on violence against women?



Rudaw English interviews JiG about ethical gender violence storytelling and our work in Iraqi Kurdistan

JiG members Lagipoiva Cherelle Jackson and Shuprova Tasneem report on key social issues for the Guardian and the Daily Star Bangladesh

The Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at Oxford University cites our work in a study on responsible reporting on sexual violence



# Projects 2025-2027

## Gender, peace, and justice reporting

Promote peace reporting among reporters, editors, students, and media professionals via research and training. Embed progressive peace principles in all our work.

Contribute policy recommendations, academic reports, and briefs on foreign policy, gender, justice, and security. JiG's research is gleaned from on-the-ground knowledge of crisis, conflict, and gender justice.

## Supporting critical, ethical reporting on social issues

Create curricula and guides for journalism schools, human rights organizations, and newsrooms on progressive approaches to reporting gender, politics, crisis, and conflict.

Build a detailed knowledge base through interviews, seminars, and guides for journalists reporting on trans rights, labor rights, migration, disability rights, and for journalists reporting under threats.

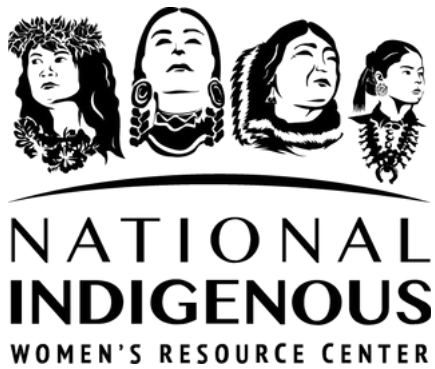
## Advocacy

Collaborate and support human rights defenders, journalists, and community organizers working for global gender, peace, and security.

Continue cultivating and extending journalistic support groups and networks focusing on journalist safety, press freedom, security, and mutual knowledge sharing.

Respond to the needs of women and marginalized journalists reporting under crisis.

# Our Partners





# Join Us

Help JiG's efforts to encourage higher standards of reporting on gender, peace, security, and advocate for the safety of women and marginalized journalists. Together we can raise the standard of information for everyone.

JiG has done a lot with a limited budget so far, but with your help we can continue educating large numbers of journalists, editors, and the next generation of human rights leaders. We can improve reporting ethics, and push for better policies on gender, crisis, and conflict.

Support JiG by following this [link](#) and donating to the Rutgers Foundation, specifying the Journalism Initiative on Gender Peace and Security at Rutgers Global. You can subscribe to our [newsletter](#), [email us](#) for more detailed information, visit our [website](#), or follow us on [bluesky](#).

Thank you.

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