

VOICES TO BE RECKONED WITH

Rights, Resistance, Resilience

The 2017 IFEX Strategy Conference Agenda offers new opportunities to network, share skills and address common challenges to our work. We've included a variety of themes and formats, so you can tailor your experience to your priorities and interests. It's designed to be a hands-on dynamic and experiential conference, so please come prepared with questions, issues and ideas to contribute over the three days!

SUNDAY 11 JUNE 2017

17:00 – 19:00 Registration

Location: Outside Salle de bal ouest

MONDAY 12 JUNE 2017

7:30 – 9:00 Registration

Location: Outside Salle de bal ouest

9:00 – 9:45 Opening

Location: Salle de bal ouest

9:45 – 10:30 Plenary: A Question of Principles

Location: Salle de bal ouest

“Freedom of expression is not merely one among many freedoms. It is the one upon which all others depend.”

Drawing examples from his book *Free Speech*, author, historian and columnist for the Guardian Timothy Garton Ash will present his principles for a connected world and explore how combining freedom and diversity can ensure more – but also better – free speech.

10:30 – 11:00 BREAK

11:00 – 12:30 Plenary: Field Notes on Resistance

Location: Salle de bal ouest

In the current political context “resistance” appears to be on the tip of everyone’s tongue, but it isn’t new. In fact, it has always framed much of our work in the defense and promotion of freedom of expression and information. Hear resistance stories from invited guests involved in other movements, learn about their successes and challenges, and be inspired by their personal experiences.

12:30 – 13:45 LUNCH

Location: Salle de bal centre

13:45 – 15:30 Parallel Sessions

1. Think Tank: Violence Principle

Location: Salon Drummond est

“We neither make threats of violence nor accept violent intimidation.”

People like Hrant Dink, Anna Politkovskaya and the journalists of Charlie Hebdo were murdered for exercising their right to freedom of expression. Join Timothy Garton Ash to look at the many ways violence is used to threaten free expression and explore non-violent options to help counter it.

2. Atelier: Planning Power Shift

Location: Salon Drummond ouest • Interpretation available in Spanish

What difference does a plan really make? In this workshop we will explore the power shifts that a solid plan can enable: helping your organisation navigate pressures around fundraising and priorities, rapidly evaluate and respond to new funding programs and opportunities, and position you to survive and even thrive in challenging circumstances.

(Also offered at 15:45 on Tuesday)

3. Atelier: The OGP – Translating Commitments into Actions

Location: Salon 6 & 7

Whether it's through the development of national action plans or holding governments' feet to the fire when they fail to deliver on their commitments, the Open Government Partnership (OGP) is built on the participation of civil society. This workshop will explore the OGP process and what civil society organisations can do to ensure free expression and information is on the national agenda. Check to see if your country is an OGP participant:

<https://www.opengovpartnership.org/participants>

(Also offered at 15:45 on Tuesday)

4. Defend: Access

Location: Salle de bal est • Interpretation available in Arabic

An informed public is critical to any functioning democracy. Access to the Internet, net neutrality – and the broader principle of access to information, including government and corporate transparency – need to be defended. This is a facilitated, informal, solutions-oriented and lively conversation. We hope participants will leave with (i) broadened understanding of the specific issue in global context, (ii) new campaigning and advocacy strategies and (iii) new allies and connections to build on.

15:30 – 17:15 Parallel Sessions

1. Think Tank: Diversity Principle

Location: Salon Drummond est

“We express ourselves openly and with robust civility about all kinds of human difference.”

Whether it's hate speech or hate speech bans, join Timothy Garton Ash in examining the many tripwires in creating a diverse and robust civil society and explore creative strategies to address them.

2. Atelier: Beyond Funding – Increasing your Organisation’s Financial Independence

Location: Salon Drummond ouest • Interpretation in Arabic

There’s strength in numbers, especially when adding up the dollars your organisation needs to do its work. This workshop presents ideas and advice for diversifying your revenue and making an action plan to help strengthen your financial sustainability.

(Also offered at 14:00 on Tuesday)

3. Collaboration: Turkey – Strategy and Action

Location: Salon 6 & 7

With no end in sight to the crackdown on free expression in Turkey, there is no shortage of work to be done. This session provides an opportunity for groups working on Turkey to hear about the priorities of groups on the ground and to map strategies to determine where collaboration and coordination can have an impact.

4. Confront: Mis/disinformation, and Attacks on Facts

Location: Salle de bal est • Interpretation available in Spanish

Speaking truth to power takes on a whole new aspect when those in power are using expressions like ‘alternative facts’, and a battle cry of ‘fake news!’ is being used to delegitimize media and position governments as the only trusted source of information. This is a facilitated, informal, solutions-oriented and lively conversation. We hope participants will leave with (i) broadened understanding of the specific issue in global context, (ii) new campaigning and advocacy strategies and (iii) new allies and connections to build on.

(Also offered at 15:45 on Tuesday with interpretation available in Arabic)

TUESDAY 13 JUNE 2017

9:00 – 10:45 Parallel Sessions

1. Think Tank: Privacy and Secrecy Principles

Location: Salon Drummond est

'We must be empowered to challenge all limits to freedom of expression...'

Secrets and spies - be it a question of reputation and the public interest, or whistleblowers and national security, join the conversation with Timothy Garton Ash to discuss the complexity in understanding and dealing with these two important principles of free speech.

2. Moving Forward On: Gender Equality

Location: Salon Drummond ouest • Interpretation available in Spanish

Bringing a gender focus to your free expression work can take many forms. Come and exchange experiences on how we can integrate it into our work culture, operations and advocacy.

3. Atelier: The Cycle Continues – How to Make the Most of the UPR I

Location: Salon 6 & 7

Every four years, the human rights record of UN Member States is put under the microscope through the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process. From the submission to following up on recommendations, this workshop will walk you through the process and provide strategies to ensure your UPR campaign is successful.

4. Moving Forward On: Journalists' Safety

Location: Salle de bal est • Interpretation available in Arabic

Networking for safety: As threats to the safety of journalists multiply – from harassment and arrests to physical attacks and murder – how can free expression groups help improve journalists' safety? Hear from organisations about their projects in this area, and share your group's strategies and challenges as well.

10:45 – 12:30 Parallel Sessions

1. Confront: Surveillance

Location: Salon Drummond est

If you have nothing to hide, you have nothing to fear? Hardly. The Internet doesn't forget – and governments can quickly change from apparently tolerant democracies to autocracies using these tools to retaliate against any and all dissent. This is a facilitated, informal, solutions-oriented and lively conversation. We hope participants will leave with (i) broadened understanding of the specific issue in global context, (ii) new campaigning and advocacy strategies and (iii) new allies and connections to build on.

2. Atelier: Digital Security – Not Optional

Location: Salon Drummond ouest

Activists have always been subjected to a high level of scrutiny by a number of adversaries. By exposing our own data, we put vulnerable people around us at risk. When every electronic communication we make or receive can be recorded, stored, analysed, and acted upon, learn how simple changes in the way we behave on digital media can help us defend ourselves and prevent future threats.

(Also offered at 11:15 on Wednesday)

3. Think Tank: Campaigning – Beyond the Usual Suspects

Location: Salon 6 & 7 • Interpretation available in Arabic

When it feels like conventional approaches are going nowhere, it's time to explore alternative pressure points. Join the conversation on how groups have been leveraging unconventional powerbrokers in their free expression campaigns, and lessons learned along the way.

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12:30 – 13:00 Plenary: Risky Business – Members Under Threat

Location: Salle de bal ouest

Everyone is asked to meet together to hear from colleagues facing great risks in their work and acknowledge those in the network who find themselves in incredibly dangerous and difficult conditions.

13:00 – 14:00 LUNCH

14:00 – 15:45 Parallel Sessions

1. Confront: Online Abuse

Location: Salon Drummond est

An enormous number of people live, love and work in the digital space. But it can be a hostile and extremely dangerous place, especially for women. This is a facilitated, informal, solutions-oriented and lively conversation. We hope participants will leave with (i) broadened understanding of the specific issue in global context, (ii) new campaigning and advocacy strategies and (iii) new allies and connections to build on.

2. Atelier: Beyond Funding – Increasing your Organisation's Financial Independence

Location: Salon Drummond ouest

There's strength in numbers, especially when adding up the dollars your organisation needs to do its work. This workshop presents ideas and advice for diversifying your revenue, and making an action plan to help strengthen your financial sustainability.

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(Also offered at 10:45 on Monday)

4. Defend: Protest

Location: Salle de bal est • Interpretation available in Arabic

In a healthy society, people need to be free to call out corruption and injustice, and demand change. Openly and safely. Protest as a form of expression is an important and powerful tool, and it is under attack. This is a facilitated, informal, solutions-oriented and lively conversation. We hope participants will leave with (i) broadened understanding of the specific issue in global context, (ii) new campaigning and advocacy strategies and (iii) new allies and connections to build on.

5. Ciné-Resistance: Jim - The James Foley Story

Location: Salle de bal ouest

An in-depth look at the life and work of American journalist James Foley, who was killed by ISIS terrorists in 2014.

15:45 – 17:30 Parallel Sessions

1. Moving Forward On: Media Literacy

Location: Salon Drummond est

The importance of media to the public's right to know is undeniable. But the ability to critically navigate media messages is more complicated than ever. Join a discussion on how to define media literacy today, and learn about concrete steps we can take to foster and promote it.

2. Atelier: Planning Power Shift

Location: Salon Drummond ouest

What difference does a plan really make? In this workshop we will explore the power shifts that a solid plan can enable: helping your organisation navigate pressures around fundraising and priorities, rapidly evaluate and respond to new funding programs and opportunities, and position you to survive and even thrive in challenging circumstances.

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(Also offered at 15:30 on Monday, with interpretation available in Spanish)

19:30-23:00 Party: Resist-Dance!

Location: At Bar Apartment 200, 3643 Boulevard St. Laurent

WEDNESDAY 14 JUNE 2017

9:00 – 11:15 Plenary: Keeping it Strong

Location: Salle de bal ouest

Situations change and organisations can find themselves facing extreme conditions challenging their work, their staff and often their very existence. How do they deal with the impact of political upheaval, attacks on and offline and increasing government restrictions? IFEX members in the midst of unprecedented change discuss their context and share tactics on their strategies for survival.

11:15 – 12:45 Parallel Sessions

1. Think Tank: New Context? New Message?

Location: Salon Drummond est

Communicating our core messages is critical to our work. How do we defend our work and reputations against smear campaigns? Is there an effective counterspeech strategy? What principles can guide our messaging in these dark times?

2. Atelier: Digital Security–Not Optional

Location: Salon Drummond ouest

Activists have always been subjected to a high level of scrutiny by a number of adversaries. By exposing our own data, we put vulnerable people around us at risk. When every electronic communication we make or receive can be recorded, stored, analysed, and acted upon, learn how simple changes in the way we behave on digital media can help us defend ourselves and prevent future threats.

(Also offered at 10:45 on Tuesday)

3. Atelier: The Cycle Continues – How to Make the Most of the UPR II

Location: Salon 6 & 7 • Interpretation available in Spanish

Every four years, the human rights record of UN Member States is put under the microscope through the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process. From the submission to following up on recommendations, this workshop will walk you through the process and provide strategies to ensure your UPR campaign is successful.

**This session assumes a basic understanding of the UPR process and will be held predominantly in Spanish with English interpretation available.*

4. Think Tank: Resourcing our Work – New Ideas for New Challenges

Location: Salle de bal est • Interpretation available in Arabic

Funding for free expression can be elusive and unpredictable which is everyone's challenge. Political contexts change, priorities shift and needs evolve. What is currently impacting access to the resources we need to do our work? Are there new ways, spaces or ideas we can imagine for keeping the lights on and the work going?

(Also offered Wednesday at 14:15)

12:45-14:15 LUNCH

14:15-16:00 Parallel Sessions

1. Think Tank: Resourcing our Work - New Ideas for New Challenges

Location: Salon Drummond est

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(Also offered Wednesday at 11:15)

2. Defend/Confront: TBA

Location: Salon Drummond ouest

3. Collaboration: Advocating for Accountability - Impunity Coordination Meeting

Location: Salon 6 & 7 • Interpretation available in Spanish

In this session, groups actively working on the theme of impunity will explore monitoring and reporting tools and will map out strategies to determine where priorities align and collaboration is possible.

4. Think Tank: It Takes a Network

Location: Salle de bal est • Interpretation available in Arabic

Civil society organisations are very familiar targets of harassment and attacks. Often they bear the brunt alone. Having a strong network for sourcing ideas and support can provide an effective and necessary lifeline. Take part in a case study to explore and design an effective collaboration strategy that works across borders and organisations.