



## **CPJ Gift Acceptance Policy**

October 2024

### **Our Mission and Standards**

The Committee to Protect Journalists promotes press freedom worldwide and defends the right of journalists to report the news safely and without fear of reprisal. CPJ protects the free flow of news and commentary by taking action wherever journalists are under threat.

We seek and accept selected funding to help support this work. We are funded by contributions from individuals, corporations, foundations, and multilateral funding organizations. We are committed to acting with responsibility and transparency when soliciting and accepting funding.

This gift acceptance policy outlines the types of funding we accept, our guidelines for maintaining independence and transparency, and what our donors and partners should expect.

### **Our Independence**

Since our founding in 1981, we have earned the trust of our journalist colleagues as an independent and reliable source of credible information on press freedom issues and a trusted advocate for journalists under threat around the world. As an organization founded by journalists, our credibility rests on a bedrock of accuracy, transparency, fairness, accountability, and independence.

We seek contributions to enable us to innovate and protect press freedom and journalists to the best of our abilities. CPJ is an organization committed to freedom of expression and believes strongly that all individuals, corporations and foundations must be able to voice their views.

However, CPJ may decline contributions it determines are not compatible with its mission and compromise our ability to conduct accurate and independent research and advocacy and provide assistance to journalists in need around the world, or harm our financial sustainability.

We abide by the following standards:

- CPJ maintains editorial control over all its publications. Donors and sponsors do not – and cannot – direct or influence our content & publications, statements, or official positions.
- Donors and sponsors do not review editorial content produced by CPJ before it is made publicly available.
- CPJ does not accept restricted gifts or programmatic support from media companies whose employees may benefit from CPJ's journalist assistance program. Support from these institutions are designated for general operations.
- CPJ staff determine our research areas and activities. Funders, sponsors, and partners may provide funding restricted towards specific activities, however they may not exercise undue influence over our priorities, activities, or the employment of staff members.
- Acceptance of a gift, grant, sponsorship, or partnership does not indicate that CPJ endorses a donor's, organization's, or company's products, activities, or viewpoints.
- CPJ will not recommend a particular product, service, resource, or organization on condition of acceptance of a gift, grant, sponsorship, or partnership.



Committee to Protect Journalists

### **Nature of Support**

We accept gifts and grants that are unrestricted in nature or that support specific programs and projects provided that they are consistent with our mission, purpose, and priorities.

CPJ does not accept:

- Funding that we determine might compromise our ability to carry out our mission or exercise undue influence on our decision making and priorities, research, programs, editorial, and advocacy work.
- Funding from any individual governments, government entities, or government organizations. CPJ will accept support from government-funded media organizations, and multilateral government bodies (e.g. Council of Europe, Unesco), provided they operate with independence and the support is designated for general operating purposes.
- Gifts from political parties or campaigns, or 501(c)(4) organizations closely aligned with them.

We strive to maintain a balanced and diversified revenue structure from a variety of sources including individual donations, grants from private and family foundations, and support from corporations, to protect the organization from significant fluctuations or undue influence from any one source. Any gift representing ten percent or more of the organization's annual fundraising income will be referred automatically to the Development Committee for consideration and approval.

All gifts, grants, and partnerships are carefully vetted by CPJ's Development staff. CPJ's Development Committee may render judgments on the advisability of accepting gifts or whether to consider exceptions to this Gift Acceptance Policy. At its discretion CPJ's Board of Directors, with ultimate fiduciary responsibility for the organization, may make a final determination on whether to accept or decline a gift.

### **Transparency & Disclosure**

CPJ is committed to transparency and discloses our relationships with donors and partners in the following ways:

- The IRS Form 990 Schedule B lists contributors who donated more than \$5,000 or over 2% of revenue. The form is available to the public on CPJ's website and upon request. In addition, the names of all donors making a gift or grant of \$5,000 or more are listed in our annual report.
- At the request of a donor, CPJ may keep an individual donor or family foundation's name anonymous.
- Corporate donors are listed publicly on our website, in no circumstance will a direct corporate gift or partnership be kept anonymous.