

LONDON FREELANCE BRANCH MEETINGS

Snooper's charter, undercover cops, migration

THE THREAT to journalists posed by the draft Investigatory Powers Bill is the subject of the LFB meeting on **Monday 9 May**.

The draft Bill requires internet service providers to keep records of what websites someone has visited, which they must give to the police without a warrant. The Bill's currently in Committee stages and then goes to the House of Lords where the real work of defending democracy, bizarrely, tends to happen.

One speaker is Ross Anderson, Professor of Security Engineering at the University of Cambridge and a designer of encryption systems. He has been warning for many years that large databases will never be free from abuse by security breaches.

The LFB meeting on **Monday 13 June** is on the current Undercover Policing Inquiry (UCPI) chaired by Lord Justice Pitchford.

The Inquiry looks at police "undercover", officers who infiltrated

campaign groups using the identities of dead children. Some undercover had long-term relationships, with activists, even fathering their children.

Our speaker is Mike Schwarz of Bindmans Partners, lawyer for many of the people affected recognised by the Inquiry as "Core Participants". These include current and former NUJ members, some of whom were in the course of their work detained or subject to police seizures – possibly as a result of intelligence from undercover.

Reporting on migration and diversity is the subject of the meeting on **Monday 11 July**. Our speaker is journalist and blogger Kiri Kankhewende, Special Projects Manager at Media Diversified and a contributor

This issue went to press on **Wednesday 20 April**.
Deadline for the June online-only issue: **Monday 23 May**.

to Newsnight, BBC TV and radio and Al-Jazeera

- LFB meetings are from 7pm to 9pm at Friends' House, Euston Road NW1 (opposite Euston Station), which is accessible to people who use wheelchairs. If you need the Branch to pay for care for a child or dependent so you can attend a meeting, call a Branch officer.

- For updates on meetings see the Branch calendar web page www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/meetings.html and LFB's Twitter feed http://twitter.com/NUJ_LFB.

Can members who have difficulty reading the agenda on paper please contact us to get the agenda in electronic form ahead of the meeting.

For etiquette on recording or live-tweeting from LFB meetings, see www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1507film.html.

For details of NUJ London Photographers' Branch meetings, see londonphotographers.org

Giornalisti Italiani a Londra

A NEW group of 100 London-based journalists named GIL – *Giornalisti Italiani a Londra* (Italian Journalists in London) – has just celebrated its first anniversary. It's organised on a closed Facebook group, on LinkedIn and via email.

It is composed of Italian reporters working for UK news organisations, correspondents of the main Italian newspapers, freelances and journalism masters students at universities in and around London. Some of them have developed professionally in the UK and are NUJ members; others have been living in this country for some years and are members of the Italian Order of Journalists.

One of the most common issues raised from Italian freelances in London is not getting paid work from Italian publications in either the UK capital or Italy. The Italian com-

munity in London has three printed newspapers, four online newspapers, two radio stations and several online magazines. Most are community journalism with only one professional reporter plus volunteers as contributors. The lucky ones get as little as £10-£15 an article.

Freelance Selene Luna Grandi explains: "Some asked me to swap payments with visibility. Maybe they think UK is a golden place and that writing articles or producing multimedia materials is not demanding". Selene's experience is typical. The aim of the GIL group is clear; namely, to help journalists strengthen their professional role, encourage a feeling of pride in their work and never accept unpaid roles.

GIL membership is free: members can ask for support on courses.

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texts and law reports is here to help. Reasonable rates and fast-turnround. Contact David dnh@sfp.net

FAR EAST I'm a freelance correspondent, 36 years experience in S.E. Asia including BBC work, with a vast network of contacts. I'm Manila-based and available for freelance assignments. Contact Robert at rharland@mozcom.com

GALLOWAY COTTAGE. Wood-burning stove and games room. One mile from Scotland's book town, two minutes walk to good village pub and distillery. Beautiful countryside and unspoiled beach. woodpeckercottage@btinternet.com woodpecker-cottage.co.uk

RESOURCES

London Freelance Branch has a vast amount of information and advice available for members (and others).

- The Freelance Directory is the first and best listing of actual freelance journalists – rather than wannabes – entries are free to NUJ members: www.freelancedirectory.org

- The *Freelance Fees Guide* suggests rates for hundreds of categories of work, and provides a mass of advice on your working life as a freelance: see www.londonfreelance.org/feesguide

- The Branch has a Frequently Asked Questions page – let us know what needs updating at www.londonfreelance.org/FAQ

- Members who join as freelances, or shift to freelancing, can download the *Freelance Fact Pack* – www.nuj.org.uk/work/freelance/freelance-fact-pack

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FREELANCE

Branch contacts: www.londonfreelance.org/lfb
Online Freelance contents: www.londonfreelance.org/fl

Branch plan

You can see the plan of activities for the year drawn up by London Freelance Branch Committee at www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/plan.html – and comment and make suggestions.