

# Supporting freelances in crisis

THE WORK OF the Rory Peck Trust which supports freelance journalists in crisis, was described by its communications officer Molly Clarke at October's LFB meeting. (We also heard from Gavin Rees, director of the Dart Centre Europe, speaking on journalists and trauma: see p 1.)

The Trust was set up 1995 to help Juliet Peck, widow of freelance cameraman Rory Peck, who was killed filming clashes between Yeltsin loyalists and supporters of Russia's Parliament in Moscow in 1993. Since then it's "evolved and grown," says Molly: it's gone beyond supporting just broadcast journalists. It now has a staff of 12 in its London office, working with local and international partner organisations.

Assistance grants are "at the heart of our work", says Molly. They make 120 of these grants a year to freelancers and their families "in a critical situation" – imprisoned, injured, in crisis, disappeared, in exile" and families of journalists who have been killed or kidnapped.

And "we do support UK freelancers... who have got into trouble on the frontline." The Trust is responding to "new challenges" including "replacing kit stolen or confiscated". A lot of Rory Peck clients are in their own country – the front line is coming closer. Increasingly "journalists come under attack in countries where that wasn't necessarily common" in the recent past.

The Trust also works "to help freelancers safety, self-reliance and professionalism". This includes grants of



up to £750 towards safety training courses" to "make them affordable for freelancers". Online resources on budgeting, negotiating, sources of funding, risk assessment are available from the Trust, "not just for people travelling to hostile environments, but for any job": see [www.rorypecktrust.org/resources](http://www.rorypecktrust.org/resources)

A new initiative by the Trust and the Frontline Club is half-hour "safety surgeries with a security expert" including digital security. Then there are the Rory Peck Awards every October. These raise the "profile of freelancers and what wonderful work they do, how the contribute to the industry" why "they need support – not only from us, but from news organisations" for which they work.

But "we're not a union." Their work is more supporting and strengthening the person, through which "you are then better prepared to do your work."

The Trust works closely with Dart with projects in different countries. According to Molly, "We are seeing more requests for assistance grants around trauma and psycho-social needs," and for digital security.

Encouraging people to do risk assessments before they go on assignment is another Trust activity. This goes beyond the more obvious risks: "crime, car crashes and robbery... are some of the biggest dangers... all these can stop journalists doing their work."

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Molly Clarke of the Rory Peck Trust – [www.rorypecktrust.org](http://www.rorypecktrust.org)  
Photo: © Hazel Dunlop

## Briefing on sexual harassment

The NUJ has produced a briefing on sexual harassment, including what to do if you face it, the employer's duties to prevent it, what other NUJ members can do, action the NUJ can take and other relevant contacts: see [www.nuj.org.uk/documents/nuj-briefing-for-members-on-sexual-harassment](http://www.nuj.org.uk/documents/nuj-briefing-for-members-on-sexual-harassment)

## Be more careful with Tweets™ now

"COULD YOU take down that screenshot of my Tweet? It's private and it breaches my copyright," someone asks. OK then. But... there's an interesting question here, which affects journalists told to compile stories from Tweets. And: are screenshots of Tweets™ allowed?

It used to be a good rule of thumb in UK law that a headline was too short to attract the protection of copyright. (This was before the days when all online headlines were topped and tailed with "Several things that will astound you about..." and "...here's why!") We'd say a Tweet using all the traditional 140 characters is firmly in the grey area; and we'd predict that a court would say that a new-style 280-character Tweet was copyrightable. That'd be a matter for the court, in the end, of course.

Tweeters' contract with Twitter, its Terms of Service, say "You re-

tain your rights to any Content you submit, post or display" – and then of course go on to claim a blanket licence to do what the Twitter corporation wants with that content, and to license others to do unspecified stuff. Then Twitter's Developer Agreement and Policy grants you a licence to "Copy a reasonable amount of and display the Content on and through your Services to End Users..." So it looks as though the Tweeters granted Twitter a licence to grant this licence... and that this says you're OK in law.

This means that if you give someone permission to Tweet a photo, for example, you are granting a lot more people a "licence" to do a lot more.

But then we come across Twitter's Display Requirements, one of eight agreements embedded in the Developer Agreement. These appear to attempt to prohibit displaying a screenshot of a Tweet – on Twitter



or elsewhere online – for example by specifying that all the clickable/tappable links must work, which is probably impossible on a screenshot on Twitter. We're not sure how they'd enforce this – but trademark law seems like a likely option. They do explicitly permit printing Tweets and using them in broadcasts. The *Freelance* hasn't yet had any response from Twitter clarifying this.

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• For details see [www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1711twit.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1711twit.html) and for the things you should know about quoting other people's words and not using their photos see [www.londonfreelance.org/quoting.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/quoting.html)

A self-referential screenshot of a Tweet: is it legal to put this online?

Image and text of Tweet © Mike Holderness (probably); incorporates a portrait image © Pennie Quinton

## More online

There are more stories and, we hope, updates to some of these, at [www.londonfreelance.org/fl](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl) – and see NUJ President Tim Dawson's column at [www.londonfreelance.org/president](http://www.londonfreelance.org/president)