

Conference Information Guide for participants and reporting journalists

JOURNALISM WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOUR

**WORLD PRESS FREEDOM
CONFERENCE 2020**

THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS, 22-24 APRIL

#JournalismUnfiltered



NL Kingdom of the Netherlands

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW



Conference Venue

The site for the 2020 World Press Freedom Conference (WPFC2020) is the World Forum Convention Center in The Hague, the Netherlands. The conference is from April 22 to April 24, 2020.

On April 24, there will be a Festival Day. This is an integral part of the World Press Freedom Conference. World Press Freedom Festival will give a dedicated platform to a broader audience, targeting more particularly youth/students, the wider public, netizens, and everyone interested in the state of press freedom in 2020.

Address: Churchillplein 10, 2517 JW, The Hague

Website: <https://worldforum.nl/en>

On April 21 there will be an opening reception, hosted by the acting Mayor of The Hague Mr. Johan Remkes, for all participants.

Address: City Hall of the Hague, Spui 70, 2511 BT, The Hague

WPFC Desk at Amsterdam Schiphol Airport

Upon your arrival at the airport Amsterdam Schiphol Airport, there will be two WPFC 2020 Meet & Assist Desks in the arrival halls. These desks will be recognizable by the WPFC branding and logo. There will also be hosts who can show you the location of the train station. They will be recognizable by a shirt with the logo of the conference.

Conference Attire

Smart casual. Please note that the average high temperature in the Netherlands in April is normally 14°C/57°F, but temperatures can go up to 22°C/70°F.

Language

The working language of the WPFC is English. There will be limited possibilities for English-French, English-Spanish and English-Arabic translation in selected sessions. Participants will not be allowed to bring their own interpreters.

How to get there

Route description by Public Transport

World Forum is easily accessible by public transport. Within walking distance are various tram stops.

From The Hague Central Station (CS):

Take tram no. 16 direction Statenkwartier. You get off at the Statenplein stop. The walk is roughly 9 minutes to World Forum.

From The Hague Hollands Spoor (HS):

Take tram no. 1 direction Scheveningen Noord. You get off at the World Forum stop. The walk is roughly 5 minutes to World Forum.

Plan your journey to World Forum: <https://9292.nl/en>

Parking

Dedicated parking for WPFC participants will not be provided at the World Forum due to security.

In the Netherlands, a fee needs to be paid for parking per hour. This can be paid through designated parking machines or meters or through (international) parking apps. The general rule is that parking on the street is more expensive and less safe than parking in a car park.

More information on parking near the World Forum can be found at: www.car-parking.eu/netherlands.

CONFERENCE ACCESS AND CREDENTIALS

Badges

WPFC 2020 will be implementing a badge system throughout the conference and related events. WPFC 2020 organizers will provide color-coded, personalized badges for all conference participants, support staff, vendors, suppliers and media. **These credentials are non-transferable.**

A WPFC 2020 access badge will be issued after registration in the Web-based registration system and these applications have been vetted.

As a participant of the WPFC, you are required to wear a badge in order to attend the conference and gain access to the conference site, the World Forum.

For access to the Opening Reception at the City Hall of The Hague, the WPFC badge will also be required.

No registration, no badge. No badge, no entrance.

Badges must be worn visibly entering any conference session and while inside any official conference spaces.

Badge Collection

To avoid lines and for your own convenience, we advise you to collect your badge prior to the conference. You can collect your badge on:

- Monday, 20 April: At the conference venue World Forum from 12:00 noon – 6:00 PM
- Tuesday, 21 April: Only at the City Hall of The Hague from 12:00 noon – 9:00 PM
- Wednesday, 22 April: At the conference venue World Forum from 07.30 AM – 6:00 PM
- Thursday, 23 April: At the conference venue World Forum from 07.30 AM – 6:00 PM
- Friday, 24 April: At the conference venue World Forum from 07.30 AM – 13.00 PM

Please have your valid ID and the personalized message "How and where to collect your badge" ready to collect your badge. You will be asked to show ID upon check-in. This will prevent queuing for you and the other participants.

Attendees do NOT need to check-in at the registration desk each day; your WPFC badge is valid during the whole conference.

Mobile App

The purpose of the app for your mobile device is to ensure you have a wide range of information about WPFC 2020 all on your preferred mobile device.

Before you arrive at the conference, you will receive your login credentials for the WPFC 2020 app. This app is available in the Play Store (Android) or App Store (Apple) for devices such as smartphones and tablets.

The app allows you to access the following information and interactive tools:

- Announcements from the WPFC 2020 organization.
- Calendar, including an option to create your own personal calendar.
- Detailed program information.
- Indoor map of the event location, including a navigation functionality.
- List of special guests.
- Transportation information.
- Location information.
- Goodie bag with relevant and interesting links.
- Social media wall.
- FAQ.

In case you lose or are unable to use your initial login credentials, new credentials may be requested via the "forgot your password?" option on the login page in the app. You can also contact the IT Service Desk or the IT Floorwalkers.

Use of the app is not compulsory to attend the conference.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

For the most up-to-date schedule, please visit our website www.government.nl/WPFC2020, or the WPFC 2020 app.

GENERAL TRAVEL INFORMATION

Visa

The Netherlands is part of the Schengen Area, which consists of a group of 26 European countries that have abolished passport and immigration controls at their common borders. The following website shows which passport holders need to apply for a Schengen visa and provides information about the application process: <https://www.netherlandsworldwide.nl/travel/do-i-need-a-visa-to-travel-abroad>

If the nationality of the passport holder is not listed on the website, a Schengen visa is not required to enter the Netherlands. Via the above link, you will also find a list that contains the embassies responsible for dealing with short stay (Schengen) visa applications for the Netherlands in each country.

All attendees who need a visa are encouraged to apply for a Netherlands visa as early as possible. Please note that you must be able to produce all the original documents required for your visa application. The immigration authorities are entitled to view the relevant documents upon request. A visa does not automatically grant you the right to enter Schengen.

Information on Schengen Visas for the Netherlands is searchable at:
<https://www.netherlandsandyou.nl/travel-and-residence/visas-for-the-netherlands/short-stay-schengen-visa>

Participants are advised to apply for a short stay Schengen visa for the Netherlands with a WPFC 2020 acceptance letter attached to your visa application. Please apply for a visa as soon as possible. The organization WPFC 2020 and the UNESCO has no influence on this process and the outcome of your Visa-application. Applying for a visa at the border is not possible.

Airport Process

All persons arriving at the initial airport (or "Port of Entry") are subject to inspection by Dutch customs enforcement personnel. They will conduct the passport control, customs, and agricultural components of the international arrival process.

Please have the following items in-hand when you approach the customs enforcement officer:

- Your passport, which has at least 6 months remaining before expiration, and has the appropriate visa if applicable.
- Hard copy of your WPFC invitation.

Further Details on Customs Rules

Please note that the importation of commercial goods may be subject to duties. Customs officials carry out checks to determine whether travelers and businesses are required to pay taxes when importing goods. Details can be found at: <https://www.government.nl/topics/export-import-and-customs>

When arriving in the Netherlands from outside the EU, you cannot bring any dairy or meat products with you. This is to prevent serious animal diseases from being brought into the EU. You are, however, allowed to bring in powdered infant milk, baby food and foods required for medical reasons - subject to some restrictions. You are also allowed to bring in limited quantities - for personal consumption - of other animal products including fish products, snails, and honey. Other prohibited or restricted items may include other agricultural products or products made from animal or plant material. Restricted items are subject to confiscation and may result in monetary penalty.

If you are coming from outside the EU, you may bring into or take out of the Netherlands as much money as you wish. However, if it is more than €10,000, you will need to report it to the customs officials. "Money" means monetary instruments and includes European or foreign coins currently in circulation, currency, obligations, travelers' checks, money orders, and negotiable instruments or investments securities in bearer form. You do not have to pay taxes on money over €10,000, but you must report it.

Amsterdam Schiphol Airport

A large part of the participants is expected to arrive at Amsterdam Schiphol Airport, where most international flights arrive. Amsterdam Schiphol Airport is about 60 minutes away from the venue in The Hague. Amsterdam Schiphol Airport is not the only airport in the Netherlands; some low cost carriers moved their flights from Amsterdam Airport Schiphol to the nearby Rotterdam/The Hague Airport.

Information Booths

Information booths are located throughout the terminals. Computerized kiosks with information on ground transportation, airport facilities and services, airlines, and rental cars are available 24 hours a day. All staff at Schiphol speak English.

ATMs and Currency Exchange

Several currency exchange offices and automated currency exchange machines are located throughout the entire airport. Additionally, ATMs are readily available throughout all terminals.

Disability Assistance

If you need wheelchair assistance at the airport, you are strongly encouraged to advise your air carrier at least 24 hours before departure that assistance is requested. Wheelchair service is managed by the airlines.

Luggage Issues

Lost or damaged luggage should be reported to the airline as soon as possible after arrival. It also should be noted that air carriers into and out of Amsterdam Schiphol Airport are very strict about weight and size limits, on both carry-on articles as well as checked luggage. We strongly recommend you consult your air carrier's website for restrictions.

TRANSPORTATION

Public Transport

The OV-chip card is the payment system for public transport in the Netherlands. You load credit in Euro's onto the card or add a travel product such as a monthly pass for commuting or a season ticket. At the start of your journey, you check in and at the end, you check out again.

At the start of your journey, hold your card against the screen on a gate or card reader. If you have sufficient credit or a valid travel product on your card, the gate will open or the card reader will beep and a green light will show to signal that you can enter. At the end of your journey, hold your OV-chip card against a gate or card reader again to check out. The display will show the cost of your journey and how much credit is left on your card.

<https://www.ov-chipkaart.nl/everything-about-travelling.htm>

For more information, we refer to the following links concerning public transport in the Netherlands and The Hague in particular:

- <https://9292.nl/en>
- <https://www.ns.nl/en>
- <https://www.htm.nl>

If you feel more comfortable, you can travel by taxi from Amsterdam Schiphol Airport to the center of The Hague. This will cost around €115. From Rotterdam/The Hague Airport it will cost around €70. Make sure you only use registered cabs, recognizable by the blue license plates.

HOTELS

The organization of WPFC 2020 is not responsible for booking and payment of accommodation.

Preferred Hotel Reservations is the official agent to make hotel arrangements for this event. They have various hotels in The Hague and the surrounding area available for a discount price.

In the online registration-system, a URL-link is available which can be used to make the required reservations. It is not mandatory to use the hotel service but due to the busy tourist season, the number of available rooms in The Hague is limited. You are therefore advised to make a hotel reservation as soon as possible.

SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS

Security Policy

The government of the Netherlands will be responsible for the safety and security of all participants of WPFC 2020. In cooperation with the National Coordinator for Counterterrorism and Security (NCTV) and the National Police, security measures will be taken based on recent threat and risk analyses. Security measures will be enforced at the airport, at the conference venue, and at any other locations in the program. Full registration and cooperation at the security lanes is required. **Without a WPFC badge there is no access to the conference venue.**

Background Screening

In order to ensure the safety and security of the conference, a background screening may be part of the accreditation process. The background screening will be conducted by the National Police. Special attention will be paid, in general, to food safety during the conference. The Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority supervises all aspects of food preparation, transport and serving. All measures will be in line with European regulations.

MEDIA INFORMATION

Press at WPFC 2020

- Journalists, photographers, videographers, bloggers, vloggers, et cetera are most welcome to cover the conference. WPFC-accredited media, wearing press badges, can shoot pictures, conduct interviews or file stories throughout the conference zone. Reporting journalists will get the opportunity to register for the conference as from the first week of March.
- Almost all program sessions are open for media coverage unless otherwise noted. During the sessions, journalists may take notes or quotes from panelists and participants that may be freely published or broadcasted.
- Quotations or interviews do not require the advance approval by UNESCO or the government of the Netherlands.
- Through the registration process, individuals participating in the WPFC have authorized UNESCO and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including its program-implementing partners, to photograph, film, and/or otherwise record your image and voice. UNESCO, The Ministry and program-implementing partners may release, publish and/or quote such material in future content (e.g. speeches, brochures, online, etc.) and across different broadcast/distribution channels worldwide, unless explicitly requested otherwise. Any such requests should be sent at least seven days before the event to: **WPFC2020@minbuza.nl**.

In an effort to remain environmentally conscious and reduce paper use, WPFC 2020 will be mostly paperless. You should not bring additional material (e.g. signs, poster boards, printed press releases, etc.) to WPFC for press/promotional purposes. We encourage you to have such resources available in digital format, should a reporter or journalist be interested in additional information.

World Press Freedom Conference 2020 on YouTube

The WPFC2020 will have its own mini-broadcasting station, during and ahead of the conference. The highlights and most important sessions of the conference will be live streamed. In addition, the WPFC2020 be covered by host broadcaster reporters and presented in short and attractive video items. All material will be available on the UNESCO YouTube channel.

Media Center

A media center with dedicated workspace for journalists will be located at level -1 at the World Forum. There will be ample working spaces with internet cable and electricity (Schuko socket, plug: two round prongs) 230V, 50Hz.

**Host broadcaster and host photographers**

Our host broadcaster and photographers will shoot complimentary high-quality video and photos. The video signal will be available in PAL format at the media center. More details will be published in an update of this information guide by April. For technical broadcast questions please contact pim.koster@nepgroup.com.

Social media

The World Press Freedom Conference 2020 is not just an event in April. It's a global network! We invite everyone to spread social media content to draw attention to the WPFC.

Don't miss out on the latest information and follow WPFC 2020 on social media:

Twitter.com/UnescoNow

Instagram.com/UnescoNow

YouTube.com/Unesco

Please use:

#WorldPressFreedomDay

#JournalismUnfiltered

During the event we will provide a livestream on our YouTube account (UNESCO).

Internet

High-quality wireless internet will be available throughout the World Forum conference venue. Consistent with WPFC 2020 advocacy of access to a free and open internet, the connection is free to use and grants unrestricted internet access. The WPFC 2020 organization strongly recommends that you take the standard safety precautions (e.g. anti-virus, firewall, VPN) that you would in any public internet facility. Access (credentials) to the wireless network will be provided at the conference location.

IT Service Desk

An IT service desk will be located at the general information desk at the World Forum. All questions related to IT, the WPFC 2020 app, the WPFC Website or the internet in general can be addressed at the IT service desk.

IT Floorwalkers

The internet and communication facilities at the conference venue are designed for easy access. If you require any assistance, however, please ask one of the WPFC 2020 IT floorwalkers (identifiable by a shirt with IT-logo) you will see throughout the conference venue. They will be able to answer questions on the spot.

Printing

Because the conference aims to be paperless for environmental reasons, printing is not encouraged. However, for your convenience, a multi-functional printer is available near the general information desk. The desk employees can give you a short handout on how to print, scan or copy.

Telephone Coverage

The conference is taking place in a populated area near the city center of The Hague. High-density multi-carrier cellular (mobile) coverage is widely available throughout the area surrounding the conference venue.

Country and Area code

The country code for the Netherlands is +31, and the local area code in The Hague is 070. The Hague has strong cellular service, as it is a densely populated area.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

About The Hague

The Hague is the international city of peace and justice. It is the city of the cosmopolitan and the beach; new styles and old Dutch masters; shops and royal palaces; exotic cuisines and Dutch fishing harbors; and international jurisdiction and street savvy. The Hague will captivate you with its modern skyline combined with beautiful historical and royal buildings in the city center. For more information about what the city has to offer, please check the website www.denhaag.com/en.

Climate

During the conference, the average temperature in The Hague, the Netherlands is around 14 degrees Celsius/63 degrees Fahrenheit. However, weather can vary, and it may rain. The Hague has a mild sea climate with mild evening temperatures.

Local time

The time zone for The Hague, the Netherlands is Central European Time and is one hour later than Greenwich Mean Time (GMT +1:00).

Currency

The currency is the Euro (EUR), and most local establishments accept a variety of electronic credit/debit cards. There is no ATM at the Venue World Forum; however, one is available in close proximity.

Electricity

Standard electricity service in the Netherlands is 220 volts. Power sockets are Type C. Electrical converters are not provided, so please bring any items accordingly.

Smoking Restrictions

European and Dutch law prohibits smoking in all indoor public places including restaurants, bars, theaters, concert halls, educational facilities, hotels and airports. In addition, the conference venue is completely smoke-free. It is allowed to smoke outside the venue. Waste must be deposited in the designated bins.

Emergencies & Medical Care

In the event of a medical emergency while at your hotel, it is recommended that you ask the front desk of the hotel for assistance. Your hotel will provide a contact for medical care and, if necessary, an ambulance. In the event of an emergency during the conference, please follow instructions provided by WPFC staff. There are first-aid providers present at the conference venue. If you require immediate emergency assistance and cannot reach a member of the WPFC staff or law enforcement, please dial **112** from your mobile phone or contact the support desk.

We advise all participants of WPFC 2020 to purchase health insurance. Foreign attendees should verify that their health insurance specifically covers foreign travel.

Driving licenses

Visitors from outside the EU are entitled to drive in the Netherlands on their foreign license for a period up to 185 days per calendar year. EU licenses are accepted year-round. You will need to show a valid driving license when hiring a car in the Netherlands. An international driving permit (IDP) is not needed.

Personal Security and Safety of Participants

Personal security is an individual's responsibility.

Force Majeure / Unavoidable accident

WPFC 2020 organizers are not liable for any claims for damages and/or losses if the entire conference has to be cancelled due to a force majeure incident.

Disclaimer

WPFC 2020 organizers are not liable for damages and/or losses of any kind which may be incurred by the participants or by any other individual(s) accompanying them, both during the conference as well as going to/from the conference. Participants and delegates are responsible for their own safety and belongings.

KINGS DAY 2020

King's Day is the annual celebration on the 27th of April of the Dutch King Willem-Alexander his birthday. The whole country is full of activities with big (music) events and flea markets. Everyone dresses up in orange, the national color of the Netherlands. The Royal Family visits a different city every year to celebrate this day among the citizens, this year they will visit Maastricht.

King's Day is a national holiday in the Netherlands, during which everything possible is covered in orange, from flags, wigs and clothing to revelers' faces: this color honors the royal family, the House of Orange-Nassau. The celebrations begin on King's Day eve (King's Night). King's Day starts at 06:00 with a huge flea market invading the country's sidewalks.

Besides landing in the middle of a nation-wide block party, international visitors arriving in the Netherlands on Koningsdag (King's Day) may feel as if they have taken a wrong turn and ended up at a riotous bazaar: up to a million visitors descend upon Amsterdam on 27 April every year to celebrate the birthday of the reigning Dutch monarch, Willem-Alexander.



With street-corner musicians, DJ booths, and huge, popular parties organized in many cities and towns' concert venues, the party only stops when the king's birthday is over.

OTHER EVENTS IN THE NETHERLANDS

Museum week from Monday 20 April 2020 until Sunday 26 April 2020

The National Museum Weekend has transformed into the Museum Week. Every spring, many museums in Amsterdam participate to display the cultural heritage of the Netherlands.

During National Museum Week, hundreds of well-known and less famous museums can be visited. There are countless activities in museums throughout the country. You can attend a special guided tour or workshop, visit lectures, and explore the exhibitions created especially for the event.

From Groningen to Limburg, more than 300 Dutch museums open up their collections. Examples are the [Groninger Museum](#), [the Museum aan het Vrijhof in Maastricht](#), and the wonderfully located [Kröller-Müller Museum](#). Museum Week is an excellent opportunity to discover the art treasures of Holland.

Flower Parade 2020

In 2020, the Dutch Flower Parade will be held on Saturday April 25. It is the most famous flower parade in Holland and it is a perfect combination with a visit to Keukenhof Tulip Gardens.

The spring Flower Parade in Holland is unique in the world. It is the only flower parade that is made up with spring flowers like tulips and hyacinths. More than a million visitors from all over the world enjoy the parade during the route of the creations. This event is possible because of the many volunteers.

The Flower Parade will ride from the seaside resort of Noordwijk on Saturday 25 April 2020 via the flower fields near Lisse to the historic city of Haarlem. The route is in total more than 42 kilometers (26 miles) long. Along the route several viewing locations have been created where extra entertainment and explanation about the floats will be given.

One of the best spot to see the Flower Parade is the Keukenhof Boulevard. The road in front of Keukenhof Tulip Gardens is transformed for the Flower Parade. The parade will get some extra entertainment on the Keukenhof Boulevard.

- Passing time around 3.30 PM
- Address: Westelijke Randweg (in front of Keukenhof entrance)
- Distance from Keukenhof: 5 minutes' walk

If you want to combine Keukenhof with the Flower Parade, we advise you to buy Keukenhof tickets online. It can be a crowded day at the gardens and with your online ticket, you can skip the line at the ticket office.

Tickets for Keukenhof gardens 2020 you can buy online see the website below:
<https://keukenhof.nl/nl/tickets/>

CONTACTS

For practical information regarding participation of if you are a session organizer/official partner, please contact: WPFC2020@minbuza.nl

Websites: en.unesco.org/commemorations/worldpressfreedomday
www.rijksoverheid.nl/WPFC2020
www.government.nl/WPFC2020