

Dear Media Colleague,

If you are working in the Netherlands in what can broadly be termed the English-language media, why not seek the backing of a trade union and join the National Union of Journalists? We have an active branch in the Netherlands that meets once a month. Usually, this is in Amsterdam, although we also get together for social events in other cities. Check out our website and twitter feed: <u>https://nuj-netherlands.nl/</u>

Membership of the NUJ will give you many advantages including the chance to get a press card, guidance on freelance working, opportunities to take part in courses offered by the union, and legal advice where appropriate.

It will also be possible to get involved in media issues, such as equality and inclusion, press freedom, human rights and state surveillance, often joining forces with our Dutch colleagues at the Nederlandse Vereniging van Journalisten (NVJ) and internationally via the European and International Federations of Journalists (EFJ and IFJ).

You may not feel you qualify, but today journalists are often far more than just reporters, photographers, and subs. They are also presenters, website managers, content providers, and more. NUJ members nowadays include advertising copywriters, editors, bloggers, podcasters, social media officers, authors and press officers. The NUJ is the union that represents us all.

In the current economic climate, people often have several jobs, but you are still entitled to NUJ membership if at least half of your overall income is from any of the above.

There are also special reduced rates for different categories of members such as students, asylum seekers and associate members.

In addition, there's a temporary membership, lasting up to three years, for freelancers who are still getting established. And for those of us on low incomes, it's worth noting that no one need pay more than 1% of their gross taxable income, subject to a minimum of €138 a year.

Last but not least, NUJ membership will allow you the chance to meet regularly with professional colleagues to celebrate your successes, discover opportunities, discuss issues currently making the headlines, and be offered help with problems. Many of you may be self-employed, may feel isolated and potentially vulnerable to exploitation, but you need not be alone in today's media.

See more online at (<u>https://www.nuj.org.uk/join/</u>) or contact our branch chair Tony Sheldon tonysheldon5@cs.com