



The RAF Programme Welcomes New Young Journalists to the Fellowship

The General Assembly-mandated Reham Al-Farra Memorial (RAF) Journalism Fellowship Programme kicked off on 9 September and will be held for three weeks till 11 October 2024. Named in honor of Reham Al-Farra, a 29-year-old UN Public Information officer who died in the 2003 bombing of the UN Baghdad compound, the programme welcomes eight journalists this year. Selected from over 1,000 applicants, the cohort includes five women and three men from Ukraine, Cambodia, Jamaica, Lebanon, Honduras, Kenya, Brazil, and Sri Lanka. These fellows represent diverse media, including print, television, radio, multimedia, web, and podcast.

The RAF Programme offers a unique opportunity for young journalists aged 22-35 from developing countries and countries with economies in transition to cover the United Nations during the General Assembly. The fellows will travel to New York for an in-person experience of the Summit of the Future and the High-level Week of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly from 20 to 28 September, with other sessions held virtually. The schedule is packed with opportunities for the fellows to learn about the UN's work, from covering the General Assembly to interacting with UN expert speakers and senior officials to gain insights into the UN's priority issues.

Based on the fellows' interests, briefings will cover topics including climate change, food security, counterterrorism, and progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), among others. Throughout the programme, fellows will report to their media outlets on what they have learned about the UN's work, with the aim of regularly including UN stories in their future reporting.