Journalists are increasingly being silenced with legal action around the world, often in the form of SLAPPs.

**WHAT ARE SLAPPs?**

SLAPP stands for Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation.

**HOW CAN YOU IDENTIFY A SLAPP?**

* These suits are designed to wear you down and ultimately, silence your investigation.
* Clear imbalance of power between plaintiff & defendant
* Use of procedural movements to drive up costs
* Often pursue journalists, not media outlets
* A history of legal intimidation from plaintiff

**WHAT TO DO IF YOU RECEIVE A SLAPP**

1. **Triple-check** your facts. It’s much easier to defend yourself if your case is watertight.
2. When dealing with sensitive investigations, stories or issues, **consult a lawyer** pre-publication/broadcast.
3. If you receive a legal threat, **don’t be shy**. Make it as public as you can.
4. **Seek financial support** to help with legal costs.

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**Organisations offering legal funds:**

- **Free Speech Trust**
- **Rory Peck Trust**
- **FIRE**
- **Media Defence**

**Platforms to amplify your case when you’ve been targeted:**

- **Mapping Media Freedom**
- **Safety of Journalists**

**NOTE:** Registering your case will notify Council of Europe member states & the European Commission. Both platforms focus on the safety and intimidation of journalists.

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**FURTHER RESOURCES**

1. **NUJ Social media legal guide**
2. **Anti-SLAPP Legal Guide – USA**
3. **Reporters Without Borders & Thomson Reuters Foundation:** Defence Handbook for Journalists & Bloggers