



Meridian Global Journalism Initiative

Amid a global pandemic and a period of tumultuous geopolitics, journalists are on the front lines of accurately informing citizens around the world about what is happening and how the news might affect them. Under Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, everyone has the right to seek and receive news and express opinions. With Covid-19 highlighting and amplifying many crises that threaten everyone's right to freely reported, independent, diverse and reliable information, **the future of global journalism is more vital than ever.**

As an arbiter of democracy, transparency and press freedom, Meridian is committed to supporting journalists around the world in the fight against the threat of mis- and disinformation. Our mission to strengthen engagement between the United States and the world manifests through three pillars: diplomacy, global leadership and culture. We believe the U.S. is stronger when globally engaged – and ethical journalism plays an essential role in connecting the world through truthfulness, accuracy and transparency.

For nearly two decades, Meridian has been building the capacity of international journalists through reporting tours, training, headliner briefings and roundtable discussions with leaders in Washington and across the U.S. to equip these journalists with the global insights, cultural context and collaborative networks to address complex global challenges and opportunities. **Our commitment to continuing this work manifests in the new Meridian Global Journalism Initiative**, which provides a platform for international journalists and communicators to connect and share perspectives on the news of the day and issues in journalism, while strengthening global alliances required to advance democracy and security around the world.

As we look ahead to the next decade, global journalism will be essential to holding leaders accountable for decisions they are making now – and will have monumental impacts for generations to come. Meridian's long-term, multi-pronged approach to global journalism provides a foundation that will help sustain journalism as a profession and public service, while advancing shared values of transparency, democracy and freedom of speech.

Who does this initiative help? The Meridian Global Journalism Initiative brings together nonprofits, corporations, foundations, academia and philanthropists whose missions and values support global journalism, press freedom and combating disinformation; these organizations form a collective of partners that engage with journalists, editors and media outlets in the U.S. and around the world as well as embassy press counselors in Washington, DC. This initiative helps these journalism and communications stakeholders address their expressed needs, which Meridian gathered from interviews and focus groups, including increased access to credible information and sources as well as more collaboration with peers, global newsmakers and industry leaders.



What does this initiative look like? The Meridian Global Journalism Initiative's central themes of democracy, world press freedom and combating mis- and disinformation has three program pillars:

Global Newsmakers

- A speaker series that convenes headliners to discuss timely issues of global importance and break news for journalists and diplomats alike to communicate to their respective constituents around the world.
- In-person and virtual dialogues with a balanced mix of journalists, diplomats, corporate and public sector leaders to discuss timely issues in the news or related to press freedom, democracy or mis- and disinformation.
- Awards ceremonies honoring champions of global journalism and world press freedom.

Journalists Roundtable

- A dialogue series that connects international correspondents and foreign affairs journalists with peers in the U.S. media, journalism institutions and international embassies to discuss shared challenges ranging from world press freedom in today's era of disinformation to the scaling back of newsrooms around the globe.
- Informal opportunities for journalists around the world and within Washington, D.C. to build relationships and exchange ideas, perspectives and questions with one another as well as leaders in the diplomatic, business and public sectors.

Example: In this particular moment, a virtual roundtable series could provide a curated selection of journalists with an opportunity to connect in small groups with ambassadors, private and public sector leaders on the impacts of COVID-19 and the global outlook for cross-sector, regional cooperation and implications for the future of democracy and global alliances.

Reporting Tours and Training

- Privately funded exchange programs and reporting tours that leverage Meridian's 60 years of professional exchange and training expertise, expanded to journalists based in Washington, D.C. and key regions or countries for our partners.
- Joint reporting tours for journalists and embassy press counselors to locations beyond the beltway in order to help them expand their understanding and exposure to more perspectives within America's heartland.
- Collaborative and original content production with partners and amplification of independent, transparent and accurate media as a means to build journalists' capacity while advancing the freedom of the press and combating mis- and disinformation around the world.

Why partner with Meridian? As a leader on advancing global access to trustworthy information, you are perfectly positioned to stand with Meridian in our shared commitment to global journalism. Through the Meridian Global Journalism Initiative, you will become part of a collective of other leaders and allies committed to advancing global journalism. Benefits of the partnership include branding, content generation and speaking opportunities, among others to be determined as part of this unique partnership.