



MONGOLIAN MEDIA SITUATION DURING THE PANDEMIC

22nd Central Asia Media Conference

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BRIEF CONTENT

- Mongolian media situation overview
- Media regulatory framework (positive and negative impacts)
- Media Freedom in times of the COVID-19 crisis
- Effects of Media self-regulation, best practices, and challenges

Mongolians are guaranteed ...

- Freedom of expression
- Free and open media system
- Diversity and Privatization
- Media mandatory legislation

BUT!!!

MEDIA DIVERSITY



**Newspapers
84 /8 daily/**



Magazines 73



**Television
channels
140**



**News
website 140**



Radio 51



**Facebook
users 1.2
million**

MEDIA PRIVATIZATION

(72% by private owners)

MEDIA OWNERSHIP


**(74% belongs to politicians &
business groups close to
politics)**



Mongolia is one of the countries with a **NOTICEABLE PROBLEM** as for Press Freedom Index (Rank 73/180)

ist.org/en/mongolia


REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS


COUNTRIES & REGIONS **OUR ACTIONS AND SOLUTIONS** **GET INVOLVED** Helping journalists Who are we? 

Defamation suits and self-censorship

SEE THE #MOMPROJECT ABOUT MONGOLS MEDIA INDEPENDENCE

More than half of the defamation cases in Mongolia are brought against journalists and media outlets, pushing them to censor themselves. Mongolia's TV channels replaced their normal programming with blank screens on 26 April 2017 in protest against plans to increase the penalties for defamation ahead of the 2017 presidential election. The overall environment for the media has improved in recent years, especially as a result of the state media's transformation from government mouthpieces into public services. But media ownership is very concentrated and most media are affiliated to political parties, which curtails the emergence of independent media, whether state or privately.

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Share the information 

73


in the 2020 World Press Freedom Index

RANKING




-3
↓ 70 in 2019


GLOBAL SCORE

+0.10
↓ 29.51 in 2019

 Ranking since 2013

CONTACTS

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LEGAL ENVIRONMENT IN MONGOLIA

Positive outcomes;

- The constitutional guarantee of freedom of expression and information
- Media Freedom Law - 1998
- Public Service Broadcasting Law - 2005
- Freedom of Information Law - 2011
- Broadcast Law - 2019



LEGAL ENVIRONMENT IN MONGOLIA

Negative outcomes; expectations;

- No restrictions regarding media concentration and media ownership
- Dissemination of false information is a criminal offense
- No legal guarantee of editorial independence
- No regulations concerning the protection of confidential sources of journalists
- Excessive secrecy provisions



LEGAL REGULATIONS IN TIMES OF THE PANDEMIC

- ❑ Criminal Law: 13.14 Dissemination of False Information (Jan 13, 2020)
- ❑ Law on the Prevention and Fighting the COVID-19 Pandemic and Decreasing negative impact on society and economy (Apr 29, 2020)
- ❑ Law Amendments on the Extreme Situation and Law on Disaster Prevention (May 4, 2020)
- ❑ Law Amendment on Administrative Offence (May 2020)

A CHILLING EFFECT ON THE MEDIA FREEDOM

- **The COVID law** prohibits to disseminate “false information” and obliges “true and objective information” from a reliable source” (Art. 14.2)
- **Law on Disaster Prevention** prohibits the dissemination of obviously false information through both Journalistic Media and Social Networks (Art. 10.4.13)
- A breach of those laws shall be responsible under the **Criminal Law and Law on Administrative Offence** (Art. 5.13)
 - Punishment: fine (app. USD 175 -1750)
- **Criminal Code 13.14** “Dissemination of False Information”
 - Punishment: fine (app. USD 250 -460), community service works (240-720 hours) and restriction of right to travel (1-3 months)

“Does Covid-19 restrain freedom of media?”



Free information flow during the COVID-19

Case 1. Mongolian Government's Daily COVID-19 Press Briefing
Since January till today

Election Campaign amid of COVID-19



Lack of access to information

Case 3. The group of
journalists' struggle for
press freedom and the
right of access to
information during the
COVID-19 crisis.

August 26, 2020

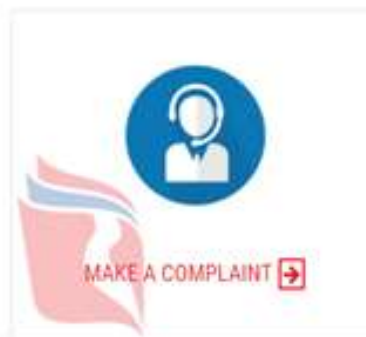


EFFECTS OF MEDIA SELF-REGULATION IN MONGOLIA

MEDIA COUNCIL OF MONGOLIA ESTABLISHED

Established in early 2015, as result of the successful collaboration of journalists, media houses, industry, journalist associations and professional media organizations, the Media Council of Mongolia (MCM) is the independent regulator for the printed press, broadcast media and journalistic online media in Mongolia. We uphold the highest standards of journalism by monitoring and maintaining the standards set out in the Mongolian Media Ethics Principles. Central to the core aims of the MCM is to support freedom of the media by assisting media houses and journalists follow professional and ethical journalistic standards in order to serve the public interest. We do this principally by providing a free and impartial complaints process for the citizens of Mongolia.

Continue



NEWS



**ХЭВЛЭЛ
МЭДЭЭЛЛИЙН
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ЁС ЗҮЙН ХОРОО ШИЙДВЭРЭЭ ГАРГАЛАА



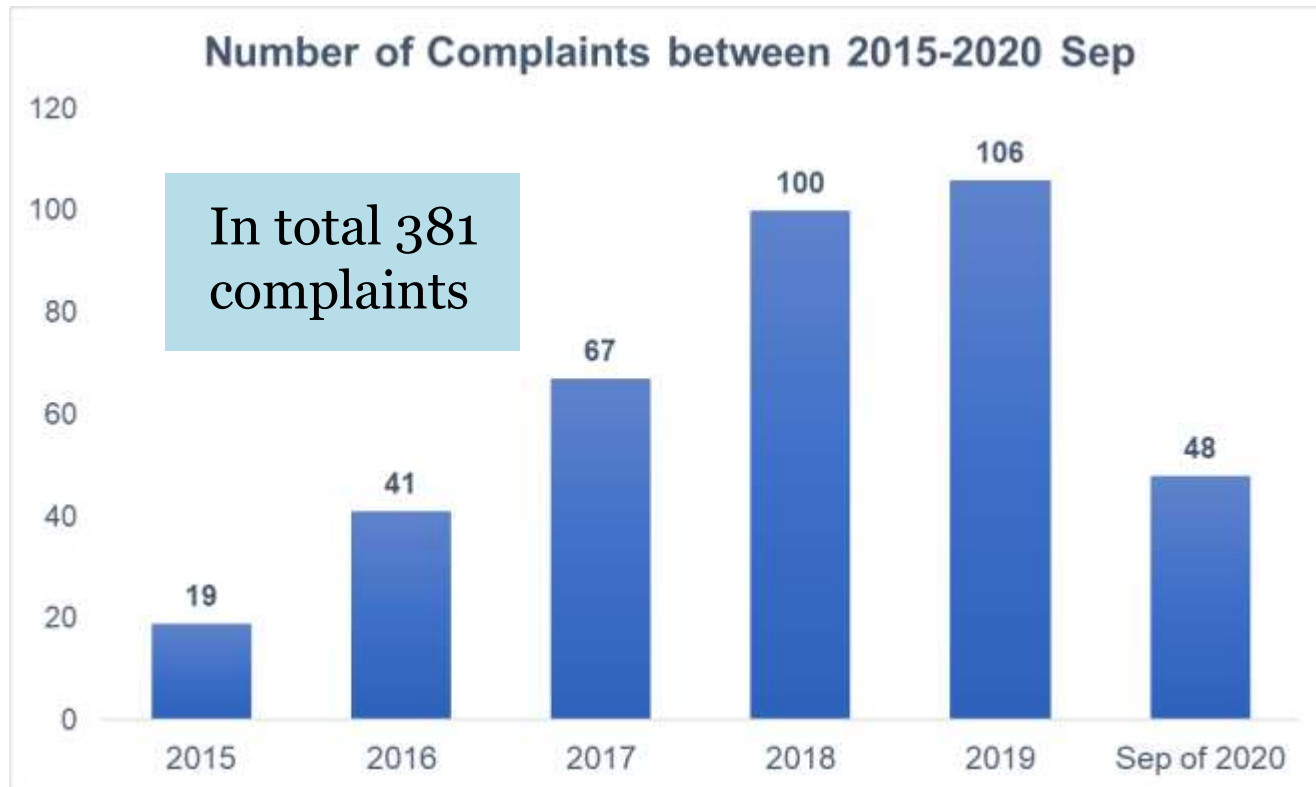
**ХЭВЛЭЛ
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BEST PRACTICE OF MEDIA SELF-REGULATION:

b) MCM's Complaint Resolution and Correction



BEST PRACTICE OF MEDIA SELF-REGULATION:

c) Editorial Guidelines for News Rooms



Editorial Policy Guideline on Online Platforms includes in;

- Hate Speech
- Social Media
- Dis/misinformation
- Fact-Checking



Editorial Policy Guideline on Ethical Election Reporting includes in;

- Ethical Reporting
- Right to Know
- Balanced Reporting
- Legal Framework

BEST PRACTICE OF MEDIA SELF-REGULATION: d) Alliance of Fact Check Mongolia

Can Mongolians fight with dis/misinformation through self-regulation?

The screenshot shows the Facebook profile for FactCheck.mn. The profile picture is a logo with five colored dots (green, blue, yellow, red, purple) and a checkmark. The name is "FactCheck.mn" with the handle "@factcheckmongolia" and the description "News & media website". There is a "Send Message" button. Below the profile information, there are tabs for "Home", "Reviews", "Videos", "Photos", and "More". The "About" section is visible, showing the page's description in Mongolian: "Хуурамч мэдээллийн эсрэг зөвхөн нягталсан мэдээллийг олон нийтэд түгээх талбар". It also shows that 8,493 people like the page and 8,574 people follow it. The website URL is "http://www.factcheck.mn/" and the phone number is "7709 1199". The page is categorized as "News and media website".

The screenshot shows the website for Fact Check Mongolia. The header has navigation links: "ЭХЛЭЛ", "ТУХАЙ", "НЯГТАЛСАН МЭДЭЭЛЭЛ", "МЭДЭЭ МЭДЭЭЛЭЛ", "ЗӨВЛӨМЖ", "ДАТА", "ДЭМЖЛЭ". Below the header is a red banner with the text: "Fact Check Mongolia хөтөлбөрийн гишүүн, манай сайтын хамтран ажиллагч түнш хэвлэл мэдээллийн байгууллагууд:". The main content area displays a grid of logos for partner media organizations, including ntv, ikon, ЗУУНЫ Мэдээ, gogo, LIVETV, ТНЭСНИЙ ШУУДАН, Zerkalo, eNews, ӨНӨӨДӨР, UB LIFE, АЛТАНГОЛ, АЕ, DeFacto, ХӨВСГӨЛ, and МОНГОЛTV. The date "2020-04-01 15:03" is visible in the bottom right corner. At the bottom, there are buttons for "Share on Facebook", "Share on Twitter", and "G+".

CHALLENGES FOR MEDIA SELF-REGULATION DEVELOPMENT

- Understanding the significance of media self-regulation for decision-makers and journalists
- Strengthening of public awareness
- Attempts of legalizing media self-regulation body
- Accepting of complaint decisions by media houses
- Ensuring financial sustainability



**Thank you for your
attention!**

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