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Transcript

I will touch on this in terms of the prevalent news of the day which has been with us for the past two years, and that's the Arab uprisings. And the examples that we've had from Egypt specifically, but in other places as well, is that women journalists have been at risk more than their male counterparts. They have had to take precautions, they have had, in some instances, to refuse to go out and report a story, simply because of who they are, of their gender. I think that safety is something that applies to all journalists, male and female, and the BBC have lost a number of journalists in the past few years, most of them have been male, but we have had also some women journalists who have very unfortunately died. In terms of specifically the safety of women journalists in today's world, I think that people like ourselves, editors, managers, etc., will have to bear that specificity in mind, although I do say and I keep repeating that safety than it comes to journalism is a blanket issue, it is to do with men as well as women.

Will the BBC ever say to a woman correspondent: "We do not think that you should go there because you are a woman, we are going to send a male colleague"? Absolutely not. What the BBC will do is to ensure that the safety of this women correspondent is absolutely borne in mind. And generally we send the security guards in difficult areas, in sensitive areas with male and female correspondents, but of course, if we think that the safety of our women correspondents are at stake, we do make a special effort to make sure that they are been protected. We will never say to our women journalists do not go there, it's not save for a woman, but we will make sure that she and the managers are fully aware and we've taken every measure to ensure her safety where she goes.

My message is, first and foremost, to editors and managers and people who make decisions. I do know that in our profession internationally the safety of women is taken very very seriously, and I do know that there are special meetings and groups of people who are concerned about this and who make sure that this issue is at the forefront of our minds as journalists. But of course it is a duty and responsibility of the manager, editor, radio station, broadcast network to ensure that the women journalists are totally safe, and this is by sending them to do their job, like anyone else would do their job, but ensuring that we are being protected.

I'm glad that UNESCO is doing World Radio Day. I think we now need Television Day and Internet Day. Global News, BBC, Liliane Landor. Thank you.