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Please use

@EJNetwork

and

#MediaAndMigration

Who we are & what we do

The Ethical Journalism Network strengthens the craft of journalism and promotes higher ethical standards in media through education, training & publication of useful research.

www.ethicaljournalismnetwork.org





The good

A Syrian Refugee Shared His Struggle To Reach Europe In Real-Time On WhatsApp

BuzzFeed News followed the struggle of a young man in Turkey via a conversation on the mobile messaging service.

Rossalyn Warren
BuzzFeed News Reporter







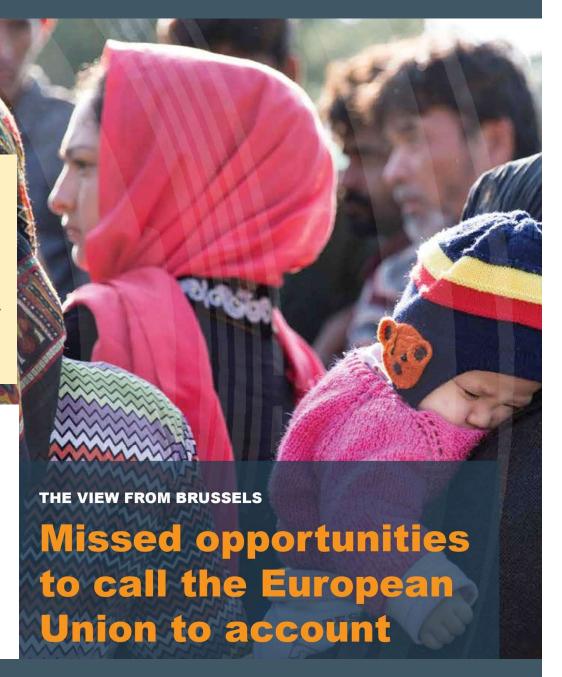
Despite attempts by some politicians to tag asylum seekers as "illegals" or "illegal migrants" this has not been adopted. The Australian Press Council has said use of these words could breach their principles and should be avoided.

The bad

Europe's need for functioning fourth estate

Media face a constant balancing act, to give voice to the refugee community and to reflect legitimate concerns over migration in the community at large, and this can be achieved through fact-based reporting that provides context, background and thoughtful commentary.

Although major international news organisations such as AP and the BBC banned the term "illegal migrant" from their internal ethical codes, it is still broadly used in Bulgaria.



The ugly





Much of the coverage has been informed, factual and laced with humanity, but in many countries similar problems arise:

- Political propaganda and hate speech
- Numbers v humanity
- Media weakness

Numbers or Humanity?

 Media tell the story either according to the numbers – using pejorative terms like "waves, swarms, or invasions" – often driven by careless or deliberate political language

Or they focus on human tragedy – as in the case of Aylan Kurdi

 Both angles are legitimate, but a focus only on one is inevitably unbalanced

Media Weakness

- Newsrooms lack capacity and informed specialists able to report a complex stories
- Media confusion over law and status of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers
- Tendency to stereotype, bias and myths
- Minority voices missing from the story
- Lack of attachment to core values of journalism

The Core Values of Ethical Journalism

ACCURACY and fact-based communication

INDEPENDENCE: no propaganda

IMPARTIALITY: tell all sides of the story

HUMANITY: do no harm

ACCOUNTABILITY and transparency



1 FACTS NOT BIAS

Are we **accurate** and have we been **impartial**, **inclusive** and **fact-based** in our reporting?

Are we **acting independently** from narratives that stem from politics and emotion rather than facts?

Are we **fairly** and **transparently** reporting the impact of migration on communities?"







2 KNOW THE LAW

Asylum seeker? Economic migrant? Refugee? Victim of trafficking? Do we understand the terms and communicate the **national** and **international legal rights of migrants** to our audience?





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3 SHOW HUMANITY

Humanity is at **the essence of ethical journalism**. But we must **keep our emotions in check**, avoid victimization, over simplification and the framing of coverage in a narrow humanitarian context that takes no account of the bigger picture.





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4 SPEAK FOR ALL

Do we have **migrant voices**? Are we **listening to the communities** they are passing through or joining? Question how representative self-appointed community and migrant spokespeople really are.





5 CHALLENGE HATE

Have we avoided extremism? Have we taken the time to judge whether inflammatory content about migrants or those who seek to limit migration can lead to hatred? Words like "swarms", "floods" and "waves" should be treated with caution, as should indiscriminate use of "racism" and "xenophobia."





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Inflammatory language in headlines

Words like "swarm", "swamp" and "cockroaches" should be treated with great caution especially when in headlines and sub heads. For instance there is a huge difference between:

John Smith says swarms of migrants will swamp Finland — implies reporting of statement of fact

John Smith claims swarms of migrants will swamp
Finland — doesn't necessarily imply fact but also doesn't
make clear inflammatory words are his

John Smith claims 'swarms' of migrants will 'swamp' Finland — doesn't imply fact and also makes clear inflammatory words are his

Psychological terms used in ecology that apply to journalism

Relatively value free terms

Psychological terms

Change, alteration

unstable, collapse, disturbance,

succession

Unchanging

stable, equilibrium, undisturbed,

pristine, natural, untouched

Decrease

deterioration, loss,

impoverishment, paucity

Increase

outbreak, overrun, out of control,

plague, infestation,

productive

augmentation,

invasion, alien

New, introduction



Please download the five point guide from our website, use it and share it



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Challenge Hate Speech

When it comes to hate speech against migrants, journalists and editors must pause and take the time to judge the **potential impact** of offensive, inflammatory content.

The following test, developed by the EJN and based on international standards, highlights questions in the **gathering**, **preparation** and **dissemination** of news and helps place what is said and who is saying it in an **ethical**

context.



How might their **position** influence their **motives**?

Should they even be **listened to** or just **ignored**?







How far is the speech traveling? Is there a **pattern** of behaviour?



GOALS OF THE SPEECH

How does it benefit the speaker and their interests?

Is it deliberately intended to cause harm to others?



5

SURROUNDING

CLIMATE

SOCIAL / ECONOMIC / POLITICAL

Who might be negatively affected?

Is there a history of conflict or discrimination?

Available in over a dozen languages



How you can support us

- Translate the migration guide and hate speech test into your language
- Share the hate speech and migration guide, use them in your newsroom
- Sign up to our newsletter on our website ethicaljournalismnetwork.org
- Follow us on twitter @EJNetwork
- Encourage your institution to become a supporter of the EJN

Email: tom.law@ethicaljournalismnetwork.org

Journalism Ethics

An inspiration for free expression and media literacy

The Trust Factor

An EJN Review of Journalism and Self-regulation

Untold Stories

How Corruption and Conflicts of Interest Stalk the Newsroom

