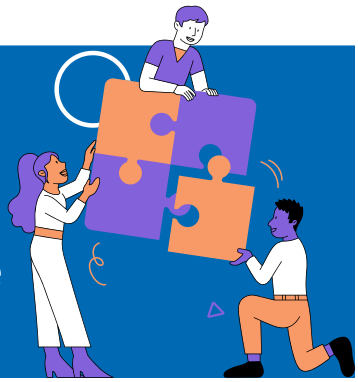
TEN PRINCIPLES

ETHICAL MEDIA REPORTING ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

1 Apply a child-rights perspective

Are children presented as rights holders who must be protected in all coverage ?



2 Frame sexual violence against children as a systemic problem

Does your reporting highlight that sexual violence against children is a structural issue and a human rights violation, not just an isolated incident?

3 Be familiar with the legal and ethical framework

Are you aware of the international and national legal and ethical frameworks that protect children's rights?

See the Lanzarote Convention

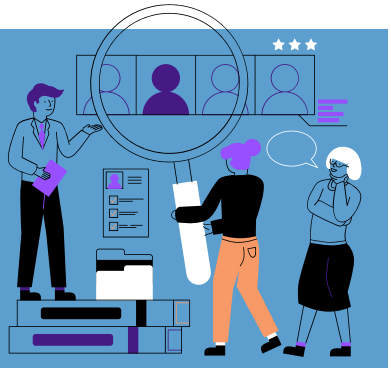
4 Do not imply a child's consent or reciprocity

Is language that suggests responsibility on the part of the child avoided?

Children below the legal age for sexual activities cannot leggally consent to sexual activities with adults. Even when a child above this age appears to consent, sexual activities may still be criminalised in some contexts

5 Protect the identity of the victim

Is the identity of any victim or survivor fully protected, with no identifying information, images, or descriptions published, irrespective of the inclusion of such details in official documents?



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TEN PRINCIPLES

ETHICAL MEDIA REPORTING ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

6 Avoid secondary victimisation, victim blaming and sensationalism

Are all aspects of the reporting designed to avoid triggering, shaming, discriminating or further harming victims or survivors?



7 Use inclusive and appropriate language

Is a gender and intersectional perspective included, making visible any inequalities or overlapping of situations of vulnerability?

See "Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse"

8 Use a trauma-informed approach

Are you approaching this coverage with an understanding of how trauma can shape a victim's or survivor's responses, disclosures and behaviour?

9 Share specialised resources for those seeking help

Have you included, if available, contact details for the national child helpine and other official support services, or information on where to seek help or report abuse?

10 Follow specialised training

Have you followed any specialised training on children's rights to fully understand child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse?

See Council of Europe HELP course



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