

The Journalist Code of Ethics

So You Want to Be a Journalist · By Simon Townsend · 1 min read

Code Of Ethics

Members of the union MEAA engaged in journalism commit themselves to:

- Honesty
- Fairness
- Independence

- Respect for the rights of others
- 1. Report and interpret honestly, striving for accuracy, fairness and disclosure of all essential facts. Do not suppress relevant available facts, or give distorting emphasis. Do your utmost to give a fair opportunity for reply.
- 1. Do not place unnecessary emphasis on personal characteristics, including race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, age, sexual orientation, family relationships, religious belief, or physical or intellectual disability.
- 1. Aim to attribute information to its source. Where a source seeks anonymity, do not agree without first considering the source's motives and any alternative attributable source. Where confidences are accepted, respect them in all circumstances.
- 1. Do not allow personal interest, or any belief, commitment, payment, gift or benefit, to undermine your accuracy, fairness or independence.
- 1. Disclose conflicts of interest that affect, or could be seen to affect, the accuracy, fairness or independence of your journalism. Do not improperly use a journalistic position for personal gain.
- 1. Do not allow advertising or other commercial considerations to undermine accuracy, fairness or independence.
- 1. Do your utmost to ensure disclosure of any direct or indirect payment made for interviews, pictures, information or stories.
- 1. Use fair, responsible and honest means to obtain material. Identify yourself and your employer before obtaining any interview for publication or broadcast. Never exploit a person's vulnerability or ignorance of media practice.
- 1. Present pictures and sound which are true and accurate. Any manipulation likely to mislead should be disclosed.
- 1. Do not plagiarise.
- 1. Respect private grief and personal privacy. Journalists have the right to resist compulsion to intrude.
- 1. Do your utmost to achieve fair correction of errors.

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