

Editorial Charter

This charter is to help ensure that the IJ Hub serves as a professional and ethical corps of member centres at an editorial level and whose conduct will contribute to and not undermine the collective.

The charter may be amended from time to time by a simple majority vote of the member centres in good standing.

Preface

The work of IJ Hub members should be guided at all times by what is in the public interest in an open and democratic society. This means striving for truth, avoiding unnecessary harm, showing a special concern for children and other vulnerable groups, being sensitive to the culture of customs of readers, and acting independently – free from commercial and political influences.

1. Gathering and reporting of news

Members shall:

- report news truthfully and fairly;
- obtain news legally, honestly and fairly, unless the public interest or any person's safety dictates otherwise;
- use personal information for journalistic purposes only;
- make amends for inaccurate information or comment by publishing, promptly and prominently, a correction and apology;
- ensure that subjects of critical coverage are given adequate opportunity to respond to all allegations against them before publication except where the public interest, any person's safety or the ability to publish may be compromised;
- not plagiarise;
- protect confidential sources;
- not pay for information, except when it is in the public interest and cannot be sourced by other means.

2. Independence and conflicts of interest

Members shall:

- not allow commercial, political, personal or other non-professional considerations to influence their reporting; avoid conflicts of interest to the extent reasonably possible, and declare those that are unavoidable.
- not accept any benefit intended to influence coverage;
- indicate clearly when outsiders have contributed to the cost of reporting and be transparent about funders;
- keep editorial material clearly distinct from advertising and sponsorships.

3. Discrimination, dignity, privacy and hate speech

Members shall:

- avoid discriminatory or offensive references to people's race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic or social origin, age, disability, religion, culture or language, and shall refer to these only where it is in the public interest and relevant to what is being reported.
- avoid publishing material that undermines people's right to dignity and privacy, except where it is clearly in the public interest;
- not publish propaganda for war, incitement to violence or hate speech.

4. Protected comment

Comment is justified as long as it is on a matter of public interest, is made honestly and without malice, is based on facts that are true or reasonably true and is clearly presented as comment.

5. Children

Members shall:

- not interview, photograph or identify a child without the consent of his/her legal guardian if there is any chance that this could harm the child, except where there is an overriding public interest.