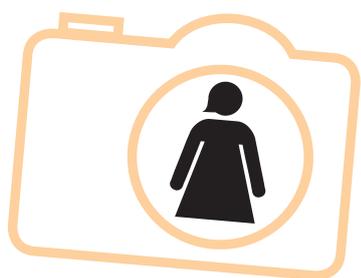


PROTECT & RESPECT

ETHICAL JOURNALISM FOR AND END TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



Journalists give voice to the voiceless by telling the stories of women and girls who have survived abuse and assault, including rape and sexual violence, by strangers, relatives, husbands or uniformed personnel. The media can help bring about change and justice.

At the same time, journalists have a responsibility to protect and respect survivors of gender-based violence.

Gender-based violence are acts that cause physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm to a woman, and that are directed against her because she is a woman.

PROTECT THE SAFETY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

The publication of a woman's story of assault, rape or abuse puts her at risk of retaliation and of having her standing in her community undermined. To protect the identity and the right to privacy of these women and girls is central to ethical journalism.

Even when names are changed and images are blurred, bits of information which seem harmless can be used to work out someone's identity. It is known as "jigsaw identification". For example, the age, village, family circumstances, the clothing or setting in a photograph can be pieced together to identify a survivor.

The concept of consent is also important. To be meaningful, consent must be informed. **Informed consent means that permission is granted in full knowledge of the possible consequences.** Even if a woman agrees to have her name and photo published, she may not fully realize the implications. This is especially true if she is traumatized. The responsibility lies with the reporter. Ethical journalists protect the safety of their sources by withholding their identity.

RESPECT THE DIGNITY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

Media stories about gender-based violence can pave the way for change and for justice. But they can also reinforce negative stereotypes and myths. Ethical journalism is factual and avoids judgemental language.

It can be difficult to describe shocking acts of violence without resorting to sensationalism. Ethical journalism strives to find a balance, portraying survivors of gender-based violence with respect for their dignity. Readers sympathize with the plight of survivors. But the stories that tell of strength, agency and resilience resonate even deeper.

STAND UP FOR ETHICAL JOURNALISM STAND UP TO PROTECT AND RESPECT WOMEN AND GIRLS

More information

[IFJ Guidelines for Reporting on Violence Against Women](#)

[Media guidelines for reporting on gender-based violence in humanitarian contexts](#)

[Reporting on Sexual Violence: A guide for journalists](#)