

JOURNALIST'S CODE OF ETHICS

The Stop Corruption Foundation adheres to and is governed by the following Code of Ethics:

PREAMBLE

Association for the Protection of Journalistic Ethics in the Slovak Republic

- paying tribute to the creators of the first Code of Ethics from 1990 to the Slovak Syndicate journalists and the Association of Periodical Publishers,
- following the Journalist's Code of Ethics effective since 2011,
- respecting changes in the media environment,
- Perceiving the threat to the moral and value standards of journalistic work,
- respecting the importance of the existence of ethical rules for journalistic work, including for Slovak media environment,

adopts the Journalist's Code of Ethics (hereinafter referred to as the "Code of Ethics") based on the agreement and consent

Association of Press Publishers (successor to the Association of Periodical Publishers), Slovak Syndicate of Journalists and Interactive Advertising Bureau Slovakia (IAB Slovakia) (representative of internet media) as an expression of binding ethical standards for journalistic work.

I. PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this Code of Ethics is:

- a) establish binding rules of conduct for natural persons and legal entities issuing periodical or non-periodical publication in print or digital version intended for distribution in the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "medium"), editorial offices of periodical and non-periodical print media in the print or digital version intended for or distributed in the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "editorial office") and physical persons who perform the profession/activity of a writing journalist in the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as "journalist"), press agencies operating in the Slovak Republic, information service providers services, internet portals, editorial offices, or individuals who decide to access it,
- b) serve as a guide for natural and legal persons (such as editors, commentators, editors, cameramen, photographers, graphic designers, bloggers) who participate in the creation of media content distributed to the public regardless of the technological platform used,
- c) ensure that all content published in print and online is in accordance with generally accepted binding regulations of the Slovak Republic and in accordance with good morals.
- d) inform the public about the ethical rules of journalistic work.

2. Adherence to the Code of Ethics does not prevent the media or editorial staff from applying, in addition to the Code of Ethics, own ethical rules that do not contradict the Code of Ethics.

II. BASIC PRINCIPLES OF JOURNALIST WORK

1. The values of personal freedom, justice and decency are paramount to the work of a journalist. In his strives to promote these values in society.
2. The main principles that a journalist is guided by in his work are impartiality, balance, objectivity, honesty, truthfulness, responsibility and thorough fact-checking.

3. A journalist shall ensure that all his public statements do not contradict the basic principles of journalism work provided for in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article.
4. A journalist publishing on the Internet is also bound by the IAB Internet Content Acquisition Code Slovakia, which was approved by the General Assembly of the Internet Advertising Association (IAB) Slovakia January 21, 2015.

III. JOURNALIST AND PUBLIC

1. A journalist is obliged to thoroughly verify any information he publishes. As a rule, he verified by at least two independent sources.
2. A journalist is always obliged to state the source of his information, unless this information is generally known.
known, or are not considered generally known in the industry the journalist is involved in. Source does not indicate in the case of using a classified or confidential source. Such a source may be used in accordance with
with the provisions of this Code of Ethics on the use of extraordinary resources.
3. A journalist or media outlet shall not publish any information that they know to be false. True information is based on facts and their objective interpretation, taking into account the real the context of the described event, without distorting objective reality and concealing (omitting) parts existing facts and contexts.
4. For the truthfulness and accuracy of text, audio, audiovisual and visual agency information
The agencies are responsible for the information and journalists are not obliged to verify it. In case of doubt regarding the accuracy of data from an agency service, the journalist is obliged to verify the information with another independent source.
5. A journalist never manipulates text, images, audio-visual or sound recordings or photographs. Only technical modifications aimed at improving their quality or clarity. Collages, montages, reconstructions or illustrative visualizations must be clearly marked.
6. Journalists and media outlets have the right and obligation to refuse to publish false, distorted or incomplete information.
7. Titles of articles or programs must not be false in relation to the content of the text. The same applies to trailers and advertisements that promote articles and programs.
8. Comments and opinions must be clearly marked and distinguished from news and facts. Opinions and the evaluation judgments stated in the commentary must be based on and logically follow from sufficient factual basis.
9. Advertising and paid announcements must be clearly marked. In the case of commercial text, an article cannot give the impression that it is an independent work of authorship of the journalist. The journalist and the media have the right and obligation to refuse to publish hidden advertising.
10. A journalist may not pass off his or her older work as new.
11. A journalist shall not accept gifts or other benefits in the performance of his/her work or in connection with it, which would could compromise his impartiality and objectivity, or which could be understood as an attempt to influence his work. The exception to this rule is the small promotional items that are commonly provided and refreshments at press conferences and other events intended for the public and representatives media.
12. If the journalist's travel expenses, other benefits or part thereof were paid by someone other than the journalist or the media/editorial staff will notify the reader, listener, or viewer of this in an appropriate manner.
13. A journalist has the right to personal integrity. If he finds himself in a conflict of interest, especially when working on a topic, which concerns or may concern the journalist himself, close persons (Section 116 of the Civil Code) journalist, the journalist's economic interests, informs his editorial office about this fact. With the approval of the editorial team, the journalist may continue to work on the topic despite a possible conflict of interest provided that the public is adequately informed about the potential conflict of interest.

14. If the editorial team finds itself in a conflict of interest, especially if it reports on the activities of a media outlet or person directly or indirectly controlling the media shall inform the public accordingly in an appropriate manner. A journalist may not use information obtained in the course of his/her work to his/her advantage unless it has been published.

15. A journalist shall not use the privileges arising from his profession for his private benefit, shall not demonstrate with a press card or indication of media affiliation in situations that are not related with the direct performance of his profession.

16. A journalist shall not engage in politics if his political activity could lead to a conflict of interest and question its impartiality or objectivity.

17. If a journalist discovers that he has published incorrect information, he is obliged to do everything possible to correct it immediately even without the request of any of the affected parties or the editorial staff.

IV. THE JOURNALIST AND THE OBJECT OF HIS INTEREST

1. Except in cases where it concerns a matter of public interest, a journalist may not, without the consent of the person concerned, natural person to publish information relating exclusively to the privacy of that natural person concerned person nor to publish records of the personal nature of this natural person concerned. Except in the case, if the natural person concerned himself/herself raises suspicion that he/she is acting unlawfully or by his/her own acts that cause outrage, a journalist may not, even when publishing information and records, concerning issues of public interest according to the previous sentence, to diminish the good name, honor and the dignity of the individual concerned.

2. The journalist respects the presumption of innocence, including in relation to persons suspected of a crime, accused of committing a crime or defendants of committing a crime. The whole publishes the names of people suspected of criminal activity only if the publication of their name represents an important public interest.

3. The journalist shall not directly or indirectly incite any hatred, intolerance or discrimination based primarily on race, worldview, religious belief, ethnic origin, age, social status, gender or sexual orientation. It informs about people's belonging to a minority only if this information is relevant in the context of the contribution.

4. The journalist respects the basic principles of a democratic and legal state, the constitutional order of the Slovak Republic as well as valid law and general moral principles.

5. The journalist respects other states, nations, their traditions, culture, religion or other beliefs.

6. The journalist does not directly or indirectly support human rights violations, violence or harm environmental protection.

7. A journalist always uses appropriate means of expression.

V. JOURNALIST AND SOURCE OF INFORMATION

1. The journalist obtains text, audio, audiovisual and visual records and materials for articles and other works in a way that makes it clear that he is a journalist and does not hide his full name and affiliation with specific medium. He will notify you in advance about recording a telephone conversation if it is not possible about the situation described in Article V. point 9.

2. The journalist keeps promises to protect the identity of the source until she herself releases him from this obligation the person who is the source of the information.

3. At public appearances and gatherings, a journalist is entitled to make text, audio, audio-visual and video recordings without the express consent of the persons performing, unless to the infringement of copyright or rights related to copyright. The journalist may also also proceed when making records and collecting information in public spaces.

4. The journalist approaches persons who lack experience with increased sensitivity and responsibility with communication with journalists, are unaware of the consequences of their actions, or have found themselves in a particularly difficult life situations, especially to victims or witnesses of crimes, accidents or other events that can cause significant emotional stress to an individual.

5. Children and adolescents are used by journalists as a source of information only in exceptional cases with special regard to their moral and emotional development.
6. Unless this is precluded with regard to the communication of matters of public interest, a journalist has a duty to protect the privacy and legitimate interests of the persons referred to in paragraphs 4 and 5 and not abuse their trust.
7. A journalist is not obliged to comply with a request for additional correction, non-publication or non-broadcasting. Information obtained in accordance with this Code of Ethics from a respondent who previously consented to the publication. In justified cases, he may accept before the interview begins agreement on its subsequent authorization. If the respondent requests authorization, the journalist is obliged to provide it and inform that it is only possible to clarify the respondent's direct quotes, not to change the meaning of the answers or crossing out the answers that were given in the original interview. Authorization of the recording or text shall be limited exclusively to the statements provided by the respondent himself. Journalist does not reach an agreement that would allow the respondent to consent to the use of his statement until in the context of the entire program or article.
8. In the circumstances listed below, a journalist may also use extraordinary means in his work. means. They are understood as:
 - a) use of covert methods of information collection, including hidden cameras or microphones,
 - b) use of classified and confidential sources,
 - c) publication of unverified information,
 - d) disclosure of private information of persons who are not publicly active and whose privacy is otherwise protected.
9. Extraordinary means of journalistic work may be used only if their use is directed towards to fulfil an important public interest and that this public interest could not be achieved in another way.
10. The use of extraordinary means of journalistic work must be approved at the highest level editorial staff.
11. The use of extraordinary means must be permitted when publishing a text or broadcasting a program, whose preparation it was used, adequately explained to the recipients of the information.
12. An important public interest is understood to mean an interest that brings significant benefit a substantial part of society, will contribute to the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms or the protection of the principles democratic and rule of law state.
13. An important public interest is in particular:
 - a) prevention of abuse of public power,
 - b) the proper functioning of the political system and public institutions,
 - c) protection of life, health, safety and property of citizens,
 - d) protection of morality and fundamental social values,
 - e) protection of the environment, cultural monuments or cultural heritage.

VI. JOURNALIST AND EDITORIAL OFFICE

A journalist in a management position actively supports compliance with this Code of Ethics.

Editorial staff and journalists in management positions protect the journalist's freedom of expression and, if necessary, they shall, within their means, ensure adequate legal protection.

A journalist cannot be forced to engage in such activities or participate in the formation of such opinions that would be fundamentally contrary to his conscience; for the exercise of this right, the journalist must not be subjected to prejudice to other rights.

A contribution intended for publication, the content of which has been editorially edited to change its original meaning, can only be published with the author's permission. Such consent is also required if the contribution is to be published under a brand, pseudonym or anonymously.

A journalist is obliged to provide cooperation in legal disputes and administrative proceedings conducted against his colleagues or the media, if such actions are related to the journalist's activities.

Editorial teams and journalists in management positions respect diversity of opinion and equal opportunities regardless of gender, age, race, nationality, ethnic origin, social status, sexual orientation, religion, political, social and cultural affiliation of journalists.

VII. JOURNALIST AND COLLEAGUES

A journalist may not publish another person's text, or part of a text, photograph or other work or recording for their own.

If a journalist wants to publish the same or similar article in multiple media outlets, he/she must alert the media. This also applies to cases where two journalists from two media outlets publish an interview with the same person who was born together, but they label it for their own medium just by your name. A journalist has a duty to expose and publicize unethical and illegal actions by his or her colleagues.

VIII. CENSORSHIP

Censorship means the restriction, intentional distortion, or non-disclosure of information, sound, of a visual or audiovisual recording, if it occurred due to political, economic or personal reasons.

Censorship is incompatible with the ethical rules of journalistic work and is prohibited.

The management of each editorial office has the right to decide on the topics that journalists and other contributors cover. The editorial team will pay attention to the work, determine the method of processing it, and decide whether to not publish the work. Editing and proofreading of texts, audio, video or audiovisual recordings is not considered censorship.

Editing means the modification of text, sound, image or audiovisual recording in terms of semantic structure, dramaturgical construction, substantive and factual accuracy, grammatical correctness and clarity.

Editing means managing the entire process of obtaining and processing information intended for publication or broadcast, deciding on their publication or inclusion in the broadcast, length, genre, the order in which they are published or broadcast and the context in which they are published.

IX. ACCESSION TO THE CODE

Any professional organization, media, press organization may adhere to this Code of Ethics, any agency, information service provider, internet portal, editorial office or individual, if they send AONE notice of its accession. In the same way, it can also join the Ethical of the code this person may revoke.

A list of organizations and individuals that have joined the Code of Ethics is published by AONE on its website. Website, where the current version of the Code of Ethics is also published.

X. TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

1. This Code of Ethics was approved by the Board of Representatives of the Association for the Protection of Journalistic Ethics (ZZ AONE), whose members are representatives of SSN, AVT and IAB Slovakia, at its meeting on 17 June 2017, and shall enter into force the day following approval.

2. Decision of the Board of Directors of the SSN on the approval of the amendment to the Code of Ethics of Journalists dated June 8, 2017 is considered accession to this Code of Ethics.

3. With this wording of the Code of Ethics, the previously valid text, approved by the SSN, shall cease to be valid by the 9th Assembly of the SSN on November 5, 2010, which was effective from January 1, 2011.

4. Organizations and individuals who have acceded to the current text of the Code in recent years, they remain entities subscribed to the current Journalist's Code of Ethics.