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SILENCING MIGRATION AND COUNTER HATE SPEECH AND REFUGEES

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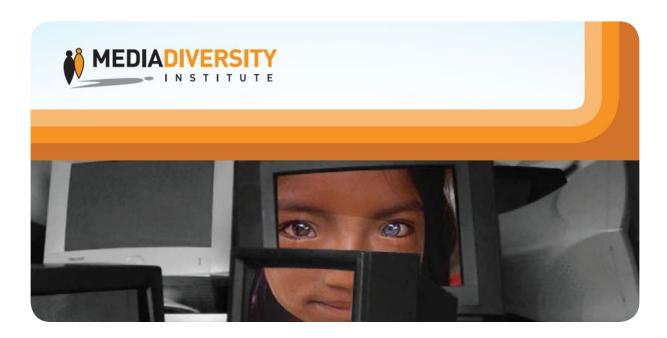
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# INTRODUCTION

We have gathered around Silence Hate project to combat and prevent online hate speech against migrants and refugees by developing new and creative counternarratives. Schools and media have a vital role to play in challenging hostility and prejudice, encouraging social solidarity and helping to promote understanding and empathy with others. Instead of focusing only on the possible negative consequences of the use of the internet, the idea is to explore the opportunities offered by modern technologies and innovative media productions for intercultural dialogue. This module can serve journalists, journalism students, civil society activists and those who want to combat hate speech against migrants and refugees.

## REPORTING DIVERSITY, REPORTING MIGRATION

Hate speech and unprofessional reporting on migration issues is perpetual and constant in many media outlets and online platforms. One of the most urgent tasks for professional journalists, ethical media and civil society today is to prevent the spread of hate and to fight back by reporting and campaigning in ethical, inclusive and professional way.



The Media Diversity Institute (MDI), one of the partners in the Silence Hate project, organised Media Camp in London in April 2018, with the aim of exercising more accurate and balanced reporting of migration and effective campaigning on the issue. For five days 30 journalists and civil society activists worked on how to give migrants a voice and how to counter discrimination against them. During the Media Camp and afterwards, the organisations gathered in the Silence Hate project, as well as journalists and campaigners around the project, developed tools and principals encouraging more inclusive and more responsible journalism, more balanced and accurate stories and articles about migrants and refugees, more professional publications and broadcasting pieces. Some of the work done during the Media Camp and during the implementation of 14 small media projects supported by the Silence Hate has been gathered here. The examples, tips, advices and

guidelines collected in this module have a purpose to encourage journalism students to discuss and answer some of the dilemmas they might have regarding reporting and campaigning about migrants and refugees.

"One of the most important tasks that journalists face is to write about people who are unlike themselves in fundamental ways. Whether a source is of another ethnicity, religious faith, sexual orientation, social class, or economic status, the role of the journalist is often to convey accurately that person's perspective, ideas or worldview, even when the differences are profound." - This was an introduction to the first Reporting Diversity Manual by the Media Diversity Institute, a nonfor-profit organisation that promotes inclusion, diversity in the media and professional reporting for more than 20 years.

# REPORTING DIVERSITY, REPORTING MIGRATION?

- What makes OTHERs different from YOU/ME: Qualities that make an individual or group of individuals distinct or unique.
- Race, ethnicity, gender, physical abilities, religious beliefs, migrants, refugees, educational and social background, sexual orientation...

The importance of including 'others' in the media coverage is more urgent than ever before. Technological development and digitalisation of the media led to better accessibility of publishing and broadcasting platforms for everyone. Today anyone, including racist and extremist groups, can have their media. Also, there is a rise of ultra-right groups and movements in Europe. Those far-right groups are especially unwelcoming towards 'others' such as refugees and migrants arriving from the conflict and war zones or from economically impoverished regions. That is why there is a need to include migrants in the media coverage, tell their stories in an accurate and balanced way and campaign for their rights.

Civil society activists, journalists and those who are getting educated and trained to become media professionals, should show better understanding of 'others', their perspective, their views and their lives. They should reach out to the minorities and marginalised groups, report about the communities that slip and get forgotten or misportrayed, give migrants a voice and tell their stories without influencing the narrative by prejudices and discriminatory approach. With that in mind the

Silence Hate project urges the professional and responsible media to practice inclusion and ethical reporting on one of the biggest topics of our time - migration. In order to help journalists and the media to have more responsible and professional migration coverage, we suggest some of the following principles:

- Check and double-check facts when reporting on migration. Fake news are omnipresent and the role of a responsible journalist is to provide facts:
- 2) Be accurate, precise and well informed. One of the biggest tasks for journalists reporting on migration is to know the law, regulation and procedures in place; Many international organisations have good database and statistics about migration. Use the existing data, check the facts and support your articles with numbers and statistics!
- 3) Contact small, local non-governmental organisations that work and help migrants and refugees. Sometimes, small charities and organisations that are in direct and constant communication with migrants have better overview of the situation and can be a very good source of information;
- 4) Provide context. While analysing the complex international issues such as migration, journalists must keep in mind the context. For instance, what is the cause of migration of a particular group is it economical, political, is it related to human rights violation, what historical relationship a country of origin and a country of migrating have to share (Algeria and France, Libya and Italy etc.)
- 5) Give migrants a voice, provide a platform for their stories talk to migrants, listen to them more;
- 6) Provide human angle, make migrants a centre of the story;
- 7) Counter hate speech and discrimination;

#### EXERCISES FOR STUDENTS I:



Make an assessment of how media outlets in your country have addressed the issue of migration? For instance check if they only appear in stories about crime, have they been subjects in the stories in which politicians or local residents complain about the problems associated with refugees and migrants without allowing them an opportunity to respond? Have migrants been interviewed for the story? What is the language used in the story? What are the visuals and whether they correspond to the story?



Many articles and reports on migrants will focus on their apparent negative impact on the economy. Many reports will focus on crime. The task for students is to address the context by checking some of the following:

- what is the unemployment rate among migrants and refugees?
- what are the conditions in the refugee camps?
- what kind of procedures, registration process they have to undergo when arriving to Europe?
- do migrants contribute to the economies of the host countries and if so, describe how?
- have they suffered any trauma? Describe the traumatic experiences of migrants and refugees while using the guidelines on reporting trauma.

## ETHICAL ISSUES OF REPORTING MIGRATION

In 2017, one in every 30 people was living outside of their country of birth. Today, according to a report published by the Legatum Institute Foundation in partnership with Oxford Analytica, there are 258 million people on the move. Every day.





While many move freely, taking jobs or pursuing other opportunities in foreign countries, others take dangerous journeys across seas or deserts, in search of a better life for themselves and their families. Journalists play a critical role in communicating the stories behind migration, its reasons and consequences. In some cases, the media have conducted an important job of informing and educating the audience, giving the necessary input about the significance of migration on the communities and the society as a whole. For instance, the German newspaper Des Spiegel had a series of front pages featuring migrants. The message is simple, but powerful. Migrants are humans before everything else.

But there are many media that sparked outraged because of the way they reported on migrants. Take as an example some of the British tabloids.



"Massive invasion"

The German tabloid Bild was pushed to change a deceptive and xenophobic headline, after social media outburst accused them of fearmongering. The Bild not only fuelled racism through sensationalistic headline saying "Four out of five refugees do not pass the German language test", but it also misled the readers. According to the German Governmental Agency for Migration and Refugees, about 76% of the refugees who took the language test passed it. As listed in the full text of the article, the 4 out of 5 figure mentioned by Build did not refer to all refugees who took the test, but rather only to those who were illiterate. After a backlash on social media, the headline was changed into "Refugees have problems with language tests."

Taking some tabloids' reporting into account, one of the sessions at the Media Camp within the project Silence Hate, was dedicated to the ethical issues of reporting migration. In order to help journalists facing dilemmas while reporting on migrants, the Ethical Journalism Network (EJN) from London developed a 5-point test on reporting migration, as well as 5-pont test against hate speech.

The EJN found that journalists are often poorly informed about the complex nature of migration as a phenomenon; newsrooms are also vulnerable to pressure and manipulation by voices of hate, whether from political elites or social networks. Other organisations such as the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ) urged its colleagues to interview migrants with respect and compassion without bringing up a shock and horror that they might experience on their way to Europe, and elsewhere.





### EXERCISES FOR STUDENTS II:



Make an assessment of several media headlines featuring migrants and refugees. Did they contain figures? Were the headlines explained further in the full article? Was there a clear connection between the headline and the main message of the article below? Were the headlines sensationalistic? Write a new headline based on a story in question.



Find a migrant in your community (it can be someone who recently came to the country; it can be a migrant who moved a few decades ago. Interview him/her, give them an opportunity to tell their story. Give a headline to the story. The aim of the exercise is to practice the tools and quidelines featured above.



Choose one photo of migrants and refugees from today's press and provide full analyses of any ethical dilemmas that it may cause. For instance, a photo of a dead child, according to the journalistic Codes of Ethics, should not be published or broadcast. Explain why many professional and well-respected media outlets in the world used the photograph of Alan Kurdi. Find other examples.



Share the Code of Ethics of the Journalists' Union from your countries and discuss the differences.

## COUNTERING HATE SPEECH ONLINE

Many reporters, as well as civil society activists, are expected to find their sources of information using digital tools, but also to embrace opportunities available online, from blogging, podcasts, and social networking sites to their own online news platforms. Journalists today have to pick up the story faster and from an enormous amount of sources. Reporters and editors have to be ready to publish or broadcast a story at any time. Today, anyone can produce media content. Anyone can broadcast a message, a story, or an event on YouTube, Periscope or Facebook Live. But not everyone is a journalist and not everyone is a professional and responsible journalist, or a social activist. The amount of fake news, disinformation and discrimination has been appalling in recent years. Many campaigns, actions and projects have been dedicated to fighting the phenomenon. During the Media Camp in London in April 2018, the participants had an opportunity to get familiar with practices and rules for countering hate speech online by Get the Trolls Out project. Get the Trolls Out is a successful MDI project gathering organisations and activists in several EU countries on the basis of fighting religious intolerance, including discrimination against migrants and refugees.



Get the Trolls Out project has developed guidelines for countering hate speech online. One of them, developed by MDI with Twitter's support, provides simple steps to take against hate speech online because if it is left unchallenged, the peddling of myths, lies, and the use of hateful rhetoric and abuse can lead to more harm being done - especially when individuals are targeted without knowing there is support out there, while 'haters', if unchallenged, gain more confidence in expressing their views both on and off-line. Therefore:

- 1) Judge the influence of 'trolls' or haters that spread hate speech and abusive rhetoric against migrants. How many followers they have? How often do they appear on social networks such as Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube? Giving attention to fringe individuals with few followers can be counterproductive. You might give them the attention and publicity that they crave for.
- 2) Block, mute and report the trolls. Almost every social media platform has a complaining mechanism in place. If you think that hateful online posts are fallen foul of the law, report to the police. You can also find a civil society organisation in your country involved in monitoring or countering hateful speech and report the online hate against migrants to them too.
- 3) Take care of your safety and exposure. Directly countering hate online can be hazardous. Arguing back may simply provoke hatred in your direction, can spark threats and abuse against you. If you were the original target of the hate, the sense of violation you feel will be magnified if speaking back provokes a reaction. Even if you weren't originally the target of the hate, you may become a target if you respond. At the very least, engaging in counter speech can lead to emotionally bruising encounters. You should ensure that you have access to support from others. Therefore, don't work alone. It's always best to engage in counter speech through a newsroom, community or civil society organisation.

- 4) Don't be abusive. Make sure your words and any content you share do not spread bigotry, prejudice, or hate, or contain otherwise unlawful content.
- 5) Choose your words, expression, language and the tone carefully. Actively reinforce social norms of civility, mutual respect and politeness. It puts pressure on others to do likewise. And if they don't, their incivility is emphasised.
- **6)** Use facts, data, statistics, quotations of prominent organisations, institutions, researchers and individuals. Appeal to common interests, identity and values.
- 7) While countering hate speech against migrants it is important to express kindness, empathy and positivity.
- 8) Sustain from using sarcasm, humour, parody and satire, as they run the danger of being antagonistic.
- 9) Build a narrative. Countering hate speech against migrants is a long-term process and it should have as an aim better reporting on this crucial issue. Therefore, every journalist interested in contributing to fighting prejudices and stereotypes about migrants, every media that want to build a reputation of fair and professional reporting, should develop a resource bank of counter-arguments, statistics, information, sources and links to studies, data, researches in order to support the counter narrative.



Find one or more refugees who have experienced hateful messages against them, whether online or elsewhere in the press. Give them an opportunity to tell the counter story. Help them find counter arguments and to post them online.



Choose several examples of hate speech against migrants on social media. Decide whether to report the trolls/haters, or to engage in conversation.



Find articles, radio and TV pieces that could be used in countering the negative argument against migrants. Analyse them, data and figures used, how many migrants' and refugees' voices have been featured in those pieces and if you would add anything else.

## MOBILE JOURNALISM

The development of technology gives an opportunity for more accessible, cheaper tools to be used while producing stories on migration or campaigning against hate speech. Anyone who owns a smartphone can produce high quality material. It is only necessary to pay attention on several rules of "MoJo" or mobile journalism.

"Mobile Journalism is a new workflow for media storytelling where reporters are trained and equipped for being fully mobile and fully autonomous"

## WHY IS MOJO POPULAR?



It's easy - as a journalist, you already know how to tell a compelling story. Smartphones have broken the technological barriers and made video production something that anyone can do, with just a few hours of simple training;



It's fast - where other media will have to arrange a full broadcast with a lot of heavy equipment, a Mojo only needs a backpack and can set up immediately to start broadcasting;



Go unnoticed and get closer - smartphones are not considered as press cameras so with a smartphone, you can get closer to your subject and shoot in places less easily accessible to journalists with a lot of gear;



People are less intimidated by smartphones than they are of large cameras;



It's cheaper!

# BASIC STEPS TO ALL KIND OF VIDEO MAKING:

#### ■ IDEA/CONCEPT

- What is it about?
- Who is the audience?
- What platform will you distribute it on?
- Is it feasible?

### RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Research the topic (online, speaking to people, visiting locations)
- Brainstorm on how best to tell the story
- What do you need to tell the story? (visuals, audio, music, interviews, other elements?)

### PREPRODUCTION

- Script
- Storyboard
- Shot list
- Logistics (locations, interviewees, permissions and release forms, filming schedule)
- Collecting any other material
- What equipment do you need?

### PRODUCTION

 Filming - make sure you have all your gear charged and ready!

### 5 POST PRODUCTION

 Editing - this includes the visuals, audio, interviews, photos, graphics, animations, credits

## VISUAL STORYTELLING

#### SHOT TYPES AND ANGLES

- Extreme Wide: Also known as the 'establishing shot' it shows the viewer where the story is taking place.
- Wide: Another popular 'establishing shot', and
   when filming a person refers to shots that show the full body from head to toe.
- Medium: Human subject shown from their head to where the legs meet the body or waistline. A common interview shot.
- **Medium Close-up:** Human subject shown from their head to top of their chest. One of the most popular interview shots.
- Close-up: Human subject shown from forehead to chin. Shot must not conceal the mouth. Also used to focus on objects of interest to the story.
- Extreme Close-up: Used to focus on a particular part of the face such as the eyes and to focus on objects of interest to the story.

#### INTERVIEW SHOTS:

- **Two-shot:** A shot where two interviewees of equal importance, or the interviewer and interviewee, are both shown in the shot.
- Over the Shoulder: A shot from behind a human subject to show an activity they are carrying out. The shot may also show the interviewer, and can be used to hide cuts in an interview.
- Reverse over the shoulder: A shot of the interviewee from over the shoulder of the interviewer. Can be used for variety, and also to hide cuts in the interviewer's questions.

## FILMING TIPS

- Stabilise the camera with a tripod or a gimbal
- If you're not using a tripod or a gimbal, make sure to hold the camera steady - support your body
- Record a minimum of 10 seconds per clip
- Always pay attention to your framing/composition and your lighting situation
- Use a variety of shots
- Make sure your batteries are charged

## WHAT GEAR IS NEEDED?

- Smartphone iOS or Android both work fine as long as your model has a decent camera
- Tripod/gimbal make sure it's compact and lights
- Microphones a lavalier mic for interviews and a shotgun mic for ambient sounds
- Headphones
- Video light not absolutely necessary but will help you under some special conditions like night shots
- Power bank shooting video will drain your phone's battery so make sure to have a good power bank
- Cables and connectors

### EYELINE

Where you place the camera, and where your interviewee is looking, can change the look and feel of your interview. Make sure your smartphone/camera is positioned on the same eyeline as your interviewee. If they have to look up or down to see the camera lens, this will make the interview look odd.

## UNIQUE MOJO SHOTS

The small size of the smartphone makes it possible to capture new perspectives and creative angles that would be impossible with a bigger camera. For example, you can put your phone inside things e.g. a glass - **be creative!** 

## VIDEO APPLICATIONS

- Filmic Pro (iOS/Android): The most advanced app for filming video on a smartphone, with full control over focus, exposure, white balance and audio levels. You can also film in LOG mode, and choose which microphone on your phone is being used to record sound.
- Lapse it (iOS/Android): One of the best time lapse video capture apps, with the ability to film up to 1080p on the Pro version.
- Cinema 4K (Android only): A powerful Androidonly app with manual control of focus, exposure, white balance and other important features. An online tutorial is available here.
- Open Camera (Android only): Open Camera is a free, open source app for Android phones.
- Cinema FV-5 (Android only): This app gives you control over focus, exposure, ISO, white balance and other core filming functions.

### EDITING APPLICATIONS

- iMovie (iOS only)
- Lumafusion
- DaVinci Resolve (for computers)
- Final Cut Pro (for Macs only)

# SOCIAL MEDIA AND SHARING YOUR VIDEOS

#### YOUTUBE

YouTube is a video-only platform, and can be for videos of any duration. For sharing journalism related videos however, other social media platforms are recommended. These include Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Before disseminating your video, decide which platform works best for you.

Remember that with Instagram, you have a limit of uploading videos of up to 1 minute, so you may decide this is not the best platform to disseminate journalistic videos that are telling a story.

#### **FACEBOOK**

- Facebook's video views reach billions of views per day
- Up to 85% of videos are watched without sound
- Facebook viewers decide within the first three seconds whether or not to continue watching
- Facebook viewers may only watch 25% of the story before deciding to share it

# REMINDERS FOR SHARING YOUR VIDEOS ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

- Visuals become the main focus, so make sure the first three seconds of visuals are capturing
- Text becomes the voice but you don't need to use complete sentences
- Can have music to have an emotional impact

### EXERCISE FOR STUDENTS IV:



Find a story about migrants that interests you and that you think would make a capturing short video. Learn about the topic by doing your research and talking to the appropriate people to get the right information.



Make a list of the different elements you will need for your video (interviews, images, locations etc).



Write a short script and sketch a storyboard of how your video will look, taking each shot into consideration. This will help you in post-production.



Go out and shoot your video with your smartphone and any other equipment that you will need, based on the tips mentioned above.



Once you are certain you have all the material you need, edit your video based on your script and storyboard, along with your interviews, audio, text and any other elements you think will help create an engaging video.

# CAMPAIGNING AGAINST DISCRIMINATION:

"A thriving civil society has always been dependent on free, strong and critical media. They enable us to know, to imagine and to organise to make the world better", argued the Commission of Inquiry into the Future of Civil Society in the UK and Ireland in a 2010 report. The relationship between civil society organisations (CSOs) and the media is complex. Their cooperation is often challenging and both sides may be reluctant to rely on each other. But the truth is that professional and responsible media outlets collaborate with civil society organisations. When it comes to the issue of migration, the symbiosis between the media and CSOs is very important. The media need and depend on civil society as a source of information. As a valuable part of any society, CSOs and their activists very often provide journalists with information from the public domain and of public interest. Some CSOs are now even taking on a larger role in the process of media content production such as providing logistics, sources, analysis. While many CSOs can be a source of information due to their contact and work with migrants, the media hold a powerful tool of educating and informing the audience about migrants and refugees. Therefore CSOs need the media as their channel of communication and as their ally. There is a need for CSOs to develop and maintain fruitful and successful media relations with journalists and different media outlets. By cooperating with the media, CSOs can more successfully counter hate speech against refugees and migrants, they can have more visible campaigns, gain more members, they can make their stories, ideals, and goals known to a wider audience. In other words, working with the media and providing media with the right information about migrants and refugees can be beneficial for CSOs on many levels. But sometimes CSOs and their role in public life are ignored and forgotten by some media. Therefore, CSOs and their representatives need to 'remind' the media of their existence and importance. Here are some steps that members of CSOs can take in order to build and maintain relations with the media:

## IDENTIFY THE MEDIA YOU WANT TO START COMMUNICATING WITH.

Is there a local newspaper or a regional radio station? What media and what journalists you decide to contact first depends on what you want to achieve and to what audience or public you want to communicate your message. For instance, if your CSO works on the issue of migration, there will be no point in starting with contacting a right-wing newspaper whose main narrative is antimigrant. As a start, choose more approachable and smaller media outlets.

### CONTACT JOURNALISTS DIRECT.

Most journalists can be contacted by email or phone. In many print and online editions of newspapers, you can find journalists' email addresses or even their social media profiles and accounts. If that is not the case, try to get introduced to journalists, to meet them, and to get them interested in your CSO and its work. If there is a particular journalist whose reporting you like or who usually writes and/or reports on migration, there is a good chance you will attract their attention. Be persistent. Also, be inclusive. Try to have both male and female journalists' contact details. Have journalists from ethnic and religious minorities in your notebook. Make sure you know journalists with disabilities. By including people from various ethnic, age and gender groups or from other diverse backgrounds in your contact list, you are widening your field of operation, but also your field of influence and impact. Diversity gives you more - more contacts, more impact, more members, more visibility, more funds.

## FOLLOW THE NEWS EVERY DAY. FOLLOW THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS. STAY INFORMED.

By following the news and latest developments in your local community, your country and in the world, you will show that you are

dedicated to the issues of migration and countering hate speech. Also, you will be ready to give an interview or to comment on news events that may emerge at any time.

## BE READY FOR MEDIA INQUIRIES ANYTIME AND ANYWHERE YOU ARE.

Journalists do not sleep. Or rather, the planet of news does not stop rotating. There will always be someone working on the latest news bulletin, preparing a report for the early morning show. Being ready and prepared to give a statement or an interview even in the late hours can only be a strength of any press officer or civil society representative. That would also show your flexibility and journalists will be grateful for your contribution outside of normal circumstances. You will be remembered and, most probably, contacted again on another occasion.

## MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A DIGITAL MEDIA PROFILE AND KEEP IT UPDATED.

If you work for a non-governmental organisation that can afford having its own website, make sure that the telephone number, email

address and name of the person(s) to be contacted for media inquiry are clearly visible on your website's homepage. If your organisation only has a Facebook page or a Twitter or Instagram account, make sure that the contact details are visible. A short description of your organisation's goals and field of expertise is also desirable. The most important thing is to be available and approachable for requests that may come from the media.

- 1) Identify the media outlet(s) you want to start communicating with. Small, local media are probably best to start with.
- 2) Get in direct contact with (a) journalist(s) that cover(s) the issues your CSO is working on.
- 3) Follow the news every day and stay informed.
- **4)** Be available and ready to give an interview or a statement anytime, day or night.
- 5) Make sure you have a digital media profile and keep it updated. Your website and/or social media profile should clearly display the phone number and/or email address of the person in charge of media inquiries.

UNIT 7

## RESOURCES:

- 1) Reporting Diversity Manual, MDI 2002
- 2) Get the Trolls Out Fantastic Trolls and How to Fight Them
- 3) Guidelines on Reporting Migration, Ethical Journalism Network
- 4) Open Migration, UNHCR
- 5) Missing Migrants, the International Organization for Migration
- 6) Free Movement website as a means to spread accurate, legally-based information about changes to immigration law.
- 7) Give Me Your Tired
- 8) Migratory Notes

