
The Charter of Munich

DECLARATIONS OF THE RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF JOURNALISTS

24 NOVEMBER 1971, MUNICH

THE TEN RESPONSIBILITIES OF JOURNALISTS

1. Respect **the truth**, whatever the consequences, because of the public's right to know the truth.
2. Defend **freedom** of information, of commentary, and of criticism.
3. Publish only facts whose **origin is known**, or attach clear explanations, caveats and restrictions; do not suppress essential information or alter original sources and documents.
4. Don't use **unfair or illegal** methods to obtain news, photographs, or documents.
5. Be obliged to **respect the privacy** of individuals.
6. **Correct** any published information that is **inaccurate**.
7. Keep **professional secrecy** and do not divulge the source of information obtained in confidence.
8. **Plagiarism, calumny, slander, libel**, and unfounded accusations are grave professional offenses, as is accepting any form of bribe.
9. Never confuse the work of a journalist with that of a **publicist** or a **propagandist**; refuse any orders, direct or indirect, from advertisers.
10. Resist every pressure, and accept editorial directives only from **responsible editors**.

THE FIVE RIGHTS OF JOURNALISTS

1. Journalists claim **free access** to all sources of information and the right to freely inquire on all facts that are part of the public sphere. The **secret of public or private affairs** can be withheld from journalists only in exceptional cases and for clearly expressed motives.
 2. The journalist has the right to **refuse subordination** to anything contrary to the general policy of their company, as expressed in their employment contract, as well as any subordination which is not clearly implied by this general strategy.
 3. Journalists cannot be forced to perform a professional act or to express an opinion which is **contrary to their convictions** or conscience.
 4. The editorial team must be **informed** of all important decisions which could, by nature, affect the life of the company. The team must be **consulted** before any definite decision related to the composition of the office: recruitment, redundancy, transfer, or promotion of a journalist.
 5. In view of their function and responsibilities, journalists are entitled not only to the benefit of collective agreements, but also to a personal contract providing material and moral security and remuneration corresponding to their social role, while sufficient to guarantee **economic independence**.
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