

# Global Press

CODE OF ETHICS



Global Press Journal reporters in Indian-administered Kashmir

# GLOBAL PRESS CODE OF ETHICS

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Report and write with  
responsible empathy

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Avoid all conflicts of interest,  
real and perceived

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Serve and protect all sources with  
professionalism

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Respect readers by maximizing truth and  
minimizing harm

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Practice excellent journalism by practicing  
responsible citizenship

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Commit to rigorous verification, precise  
writing and dignified reporting



Global Press Journal reporters are tasked with providing exceptional journalism to local and global readers across the world. All GPJ reporters pledge to to act in good faith and with the best interest of Global Press Journal, their readers, their sources and, ultimately, the truth at the center of their reporting and writing processes.

Every member of the Global Press Journal team is expected to read this document carefully and to think about how it might apply to his or her duties. A lack of familiarity with its provisions cannot excuse a violation; to the contrary, it makes the violation worse.

The provisions presented here are intended to offer broad principles and some examples. Our world changes constantly, sometimes dramatically. No written document could anticipate every possibility. Thus, we expect staff members to consult their supervisors and colleagues if they have any doubts about any particular situation or opportunity.

# REPORT AND WRITE WITH RESPONSIBLE EMPATHY

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Empathy is the ability to understand and share the feelings of another. Empathy is perhaps the journalist's greatest task. Global Press Journal reporters are tasked with telling the most obscure, unique and challenging stories, which requires a dual focus on empathy.

Global Press Journal reporters approach every source with the intention of conveying his/her story with clarity, accuracy and dignity. Practicing empathy in the reporting process requires the reporter to be humble and kind, while maximizing truth-telling opportunities in the name of the greater good. Reporters must not confuse empathy and sympathy – we do not pity our sources, as that can cause deep bias. The practice of empathy requires us to fully capture the words, appearances, past actions, hopes, dreams and stories of each source. Sources have the right to recognize themselves in stories.

Global Press Journal reporters understand that they are reporting for a diverse, global audience. Many readers are therefore unfamiliar with the cultures and communities from which we report. The responsible practice of empathy during the reporting process should evoke empathy in the reader. The long-term impact of an empathetic readership will be a world in which people better understand one another and approach subjects from a place of knowledge and understanding rather than fear.

## AVOID ALL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST, REAL AND PERCEIVED

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Global Press Journal reporters actively avoid and openly declare conflicts of interest when they do occur. Conflicts of interest, real or perceived, may come up in many areas.

Global Press Journal reporters never accept favors or money from sources or influencers, such as accepting payment from a source, free or discounted transportation, lodging, tickets or meals. And they never pay sources for interviews or unpublished documents. Global Press values the financial independence of its journalists and will never require them to participate in fundraising.

Global Press Journal reporters never accept employment or compensation of any sort from individuals or organizations who figure or are likely to figure in coverage they provide, edit, package or supervise.

Global Press Journal reporters actively guard against real and perceived bias by avoiding situations that could raise doubts about their ability to function as neutral observers. As such, Global Press Journal reporters **NEVER** march or rally in support of public causes or movements on issues that they cover, take public positions on political issues that they cover, or lend their name to campaigns, benefit dinners or similar events if doing so might reasonably raise doubts about their ability to function as neutral observers in covering the news.

If Global Press Journal reporters and editors appear on radio and television programs devoted to public affairs to discuss their work they always avoid expressing views that go beyond what they would be allowed to say in a news article. Global Press Journal reporters carefully consider the forums in which they appear and how they represent themselves on social media, always being careful to avoid public statements that would call into question the balance, integrity or independence of their reporting specifically or Global Press as a whole.

## SERVE AND PROTECT SOURCES WITH PROFESSIONALISM

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Global Press Journal reporters make every effort to protect sources from harm, stigma and emotional distress.

Global Press Journal reporters strive to name all sources, in order to heighten credibility. GPJ only provides anonymity to sources in cases in which naming the sources would jeopardize their physical safety, would create undo stigma or retribution. Global Press Journal reporters **NEVER** make up fake names for sources and always verify information given by an anonymous source. Global Press Journal reporters treat their sources with respect. They do not inquire pointlessly into someone's personal life or publish harmful information without considering the greater good. Global Press Journal reporters ask challenging and penetrating questions only to get to the heart of a story. Global Press Journal reporters never threaten uncooperative sources or promise favorable coverage in return for cooperation.

Global Press Journal reporters maintain neutrality and professional distance from their sources. Relationships with sources require the utmost sound judgment and self-discipline to prevent the reality or appearance of partiality. As such, reporters do not interview those with whom they are personally connected.

Global Press Journal reporters always disclose their identity as journalists immediately to people they cover, in order to allow sources to engage in responsible discourse.

At no time will Global Press Journal reporters give their notes, interviews, documents, drafts or other working materials to any third party, including sources, outside production agencies or individuals outside of their direct editorial process. Global Press Journal reporters and editors may not record conversations without the prior consent of all parties to the conversations. Even where the law allows recording with only one party aware of it, the practice is a deception.

# RESPECT READERS BY MAXIMIZING TRUTH AND MINIMIZING HARM

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Global Press Journal reporters aim to create respectful relationships with our readers in which they receive the complete, unvarnished truth as best we can learn it.

Global Press Journal reporters and editors publicly and openly correct all errors, large and small, as soon as we become aware of them.

Global Press Journal reporters **NEVER** plagiarize or otherwise knowingly or recklessly provide false information for publication that would betray our fundamental pact with readers. Global Press Journal has a zero-tolerance policy on this matter.

Global Press Journal reporters **NEVER** fabricate information or sources in articles or in any communications with editors. Global Press Journal has a zero-tolerance policy on this matter.

# PRACTICING EXCELLENT JOURNALISM MEANS PRACTICING RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP

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Global Press Journal reporters must obey the law in the pursuit of news.

Global Press Journal reporters **NEVER** break into buildings, homes, apartments or offices in pursuit of information. They **NEVER** improperly use or access data, documents or other property, including electronic databases, email or voicemail messages. They do not invade computer files or otherwise eavesdrop electronically on news sources. They do not commit illegal acts of any sort in the news-gathering process.

Global Press Journal reporters only provide original stories for publication on the Global Press Journal. All Global Press Journal reporters and editors must openly communicate about their relationships with other news outlets. Global Press Journal reporters must not write for other publications with significantly different ethical and reporting standards and through which her byline on Global Press Journal, and therefore the whole organization, would be tarnished by the affiliation.



## COMMIT TO RIGOROUS VERIFICATION, PRECISE WRITING AND DIGNIFIED REPORTING

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Global Press Journal stories require significant pre-reporting, conversations with editors, sources, research, reading, verification. Articles require a commitment to verification, fact checking, rounds of editing and a positive attitudes when responding to questions from editors. Reporters must commit to representing sources with dignity during the reporting process and with their words and images. Reporters must adhere to the Global Press Style Guide to ensure their work is infused with both dignity and precision. Overall, working for Global Press Journal requires a significant commitment to excellence, above and beyond what most media requires. Global Press Journal reporters are expected to embrace the challenge and serve the greatest good with their journalism daily.

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proudly abide by the Global Press Code of Ethics.