



**Global  
Press**

**INSTITUTE  
JOURNAL  
NEWS SERVICE**

## **Global Press Code of Ethics**

### **Preamble**

Global Press Journal reporters are tasked with providing a public service to readers across the globe. As such, it is essential that they practice the craft of journalism with the highest standards of ethics.

Global Press Journal reporters and editors **pledge 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 process.

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.

### **1.0 Report and Write with Responsible Empathy**

**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.

#### **1.1 Practicing empathy in the reporting process**

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**.

### 1.2 Evoking empathy in the reader

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 evokes 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.

## 2.0 Avoid all Conflicts of Interest, Real and Perceived

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.

### 2.1 Exchange of Cash and Favors

Global Press Journal reporters **NEVER** accept favors or money from sources or influences, 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.

### 2.2 Conflicted Employment

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.

### 2.3 Bias

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.

### 2.4 Public and Political Demonstrations

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



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events if doing so might reasonably raise doubts about their ability to function as neutral observers in covering the news.

### **2.5 Public Persona**

Global Press Journal reporters and editors may appear on radio and television programs devoted to public affairs to discuss their work. In doing so, Global Press Journal reporters 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 in order to protect the standards and impartiality of the newspaper as a whole. Global Press HQ must be informed of all public appearances. Reporters must go through Global Press's media training before appearing publicly on behalf of Global Press Journal.

### **2.6 Fundraising**

Global Press Journal reporters NEVER participate in fundraising for Global Press Institute, a not-for-profit organization that does NOT accept funding from governments or any source that seeks to influence the tone or nature of our news coverage.

## **3.0 Serve and Protect Sources with Professionalism**

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

### **3.1 Anonymity**

Global Press Journal reporters strive to name all sources in order to heighten credibility. GPJ only provide anonymity to sources in cases in which naming the sources would jeopardize:

- 1. Physical safety**
- 2. Retribution**, such as the loss of a job; or would force them to face unbearable cultural stigma or isolation.
- 3. Global Press Journal reporters NEVER make up fake names for sources and always verify information given by an anonymous source.**



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### **3.2 Relationships**

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.

### **3.3 Self-Disclosure**

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.

### **3.4 Materials Protection**

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.

### **3.5 Recordings**

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.

### **3.6 Source Treatment**

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.

## **4.0 Respect Readers by Maximizing Truth and Minimizing Harm**

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

#### 4.1 Corrections

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

#### 4.2 Plagiarism

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.

#### 4.3 Manufactured Information

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.

### 5.0 Practicing Excellent Journalism Means Practicing Responsible Citizenship

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

#### 5.1 Reporting within the Law

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 voice mail 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.

### 6.0 Shared Commitment to the Integrity of Global Press Journal

Global Press Journal reporters only provide original stories for publication on the Global Press Journal.

#### 6.1 Freelance Work

Only Global Press Journal reporters on contributor status are entitled to accept freelance assignments from other news outlets. However, there is an express understanding that they may not work for outlets considered to be direct competitors. All material created for Global Press Journal – including interviews,

notes and drafts – must not be shared or submitted for publication at another outlet. This creates copyright violation and promotes misuse of Global Press Journal content. All Global Press Journal reporters and editors must openly communicate about their relationships with other news outlets.

### **6.2 Maintaining High Standards**

Global Press Journal reporters must not write for other publications with significantly different ethical and reporting standards, wherein her byline on Global Press Journal, and therefore the whole organization, would be tarnished by the affiliation.