

Ethiopian Media Council

Code of Ethics

Introduction

Article 29 of the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, guaranteeing the right to freedom of expression and expression;

Recognizing the role of the media and information freedom proclamation number 590/2009 of the high moral and professional standards of free, independent and public media, to strengthen the democratic process;

Recognizing that there is no uniform standard system that operates at the national level, although different media organizations and journalists may have their own ethics;

This regulation has been set up to guide the activities of the signatories of media house and journalist's association.

1. Fairness

Journalists and editors work when delivering news, presenting, interviewing, and reporting, just fairly. And the media is responsible for printing and distributing only those. Journalists should make every effort to report the content of complete and relevant stakeholders.

2. Receiving benefits and payments

If journalists and their employers can and should do their job in a position to protect themselves from any potential conflicts of interest. These conflicts of interest can stem from bribery and corruption.

3. Hate speech

The media respects restrictions imposed by the FDRE Constitution on public statements that incite war, hate, and humiliate human dignity. Therefore, they should refrain from using language that promotes hatred or stigma or discrimination based on differences in race, nationality, gender, religion or political opinion and any physical or mental illness or ability.

4. Honesty

The public have the right to receive accurate, balanced and complete information.

Thus, the media and journalists: -

1. Must be careful not to publish / distribute inaccurate, misleading or distorted information, including images and sound.
2. If they discover that you have made or distributed significant errors, misleading statements or distorted information, they should correct and publish or make appropriate written apologies.
3. While in the editorial and in the commentary article, they are free to criticize one party, the publishers are obliged to identify opinions, hypotheses, and facts.
4. Where necessary, the source must be clearly stated.
5. This should be confirmed when there is doubt as to the accuracy of a report and there is no reason to prove its accuracy. It is impossible to prove the accuracy of the record and should be clearly stated.

5. Confidential sources

The media believe in principle that confidential sources are the last resort.

However, when forced to obtain information from confidential sources, they can promise not to reveal the identity of their sources. Thus:

1. The media and journalists must follow the professional secrecy rules regarding the source of information they receive.
2. The media and journalists have a moral obligation to protect confidential sources.

6. Social responsibility

1. When collecting and disseminating information, the media and journalists should consider the responsibilities of the community as a whole and the various benefits / needs of the community.
2. The media has a very special responsibility to promote common peace and friendship.
3. News, opinions, or facts relating to disputes over peoples, nationalities or religions, should be provided, if properly verified, to focus on the solution of the relations, friendship and peace of the people.

4. Generally, in the case of disputes or conflicts between peoples,

- A. They should avoid using provocative and sensitive topics.
 - B. Topics should reflect the ideas of the published or listed works.
 - C. Articles containing statements that refer to accusations / allegations must be placed in the quotation of who they are or the source of the accusations.
5. When reporting news of terrorist attacks or civilian casualties or natural disasters, they must refrain from publishing or posting pictures and images that portray the bodies of mass media or other terror or provocative people.

6. Public interest is governed by the principles set out in this Act, in particular:

- A. Investigate and expose a crime or serious offense;
- B. Protect public health and safety;

C. They are responsible for preventing the public from being led astray by an act or an individual or organization.

7. Preserving human dignity

The media and journalists must respect and protect the fundamental freedoms and rights of humankind, subject to international and regional laws, recognizing the fragility of social standards and cultural issues. In particular, the media must pay proper attention to the following rights:

1. Personal rights

A. The media must intervene in the private life of an individual and refrain from activities that violate this right, except for the public interest.

B. If the above is a matter of public opinion, it can be a matter of public opinion.

C. Personal rights include a person's home, family, religion, health, sexuality, personal life and issues as long as they do not conflict with the public interest.

D. When reporting the news of the rape, abduction, kidnapping, or suspicion of a child or a woman's or a child's body, the names and pictures or other identities of the victim should not be published.

2. Not to be found guilty

A. The media and journalists should respect the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty by a court.

B. The media and journalists should refrain from using and labeling the family or relatives of the offender as long as they are innocent, and not to mention the family or relatives of the offender, as long as they are innocent.

3. Right to Answer

A. It should respond promptly and promptly, as long as it is properly requested for an error report.

B. Where necessary, immediate and obvious apologies should be made to the appropriate authority for any error or omission in the report.

C. When a party who is complaining about a publication or report is expressly sent the complaint, the media must prioritize and promptly publish the full draft or make a corrective editing to publication without any delay.

D. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the editor has the right to express his or her suspicions about the honesty of the co-operation at the end of the adaptation when the corrective ness or explanation is doubtful. He can only do so long as there is written material or other evidence to dispel his doubts.

E. In order to publish the waiver, the relevance of the respondent will be taken into account, the proximity of the response, the relevance of the printed or distributed material, whether or not the third party's touch is inaccurate, and whether the amendment does not cover the truth.

F. In the case of individual issues, the editorial decisions of the Media Council shall be published or distributed free of charge.

8. Plagiarism

It is the duty of the journalist to recognize that it is unethical to present one's work as self-employment, and to quote the source of the work when a reprint is reprinted.

9. Use of Secret / Hidden / Devices

The media do their job based on transparency. Therefore, they do not collect information for printing or broadcasting using hidden cameras or hidden devices.

They also do not collect information by hacking personal or mobile phones,

viewing messages or e-mails, or taking unauthorized copies of documents or photos or taking digital information without consent. However, they may use confidential recording tools to protect the public interest and security, or when there are investigative reports. However, this action must be agreed with the relevant media officer.

10. Intimidation

1. Journalists should not engage in intimidation, abuse and unacceptable termination in order to obtain information.
 2. Journalists should not ask, call, monitor, or photograph a person, as long as he has indicated he is not willing. They must stop the surveillance until they have been given clear warning that they are not in possession of the person.
 3. Editors must ensure that people who practice these principles respect those who are working and are careful not to use information obtained outside of the guidelines.
- A. Regarding paying for information, Payment must not be made to obtain media information. If the works of the editorial content are paid, the audience must be informed.

12. Freedom

1. Journalists should provide their professional services free of influence from any party for the benefit of the public.
2. Journalists must protect the freedom of the media in any of their activities.
3. Journalists must maintain the dignity of the profession.

13. Infants and People with Disabilities

1. The media must respect and promote the rights of children and people with disabilities.
2. Children under the age of 18 should not be interviewed or photographed on their own or another child's safety unless the guardian or responsible adult has consented. If the parent or guardian is to be held accountable in this case, the child's safety can be done safely.
3. Students should not be seen or photographed in school unless authorized by school authorities. If the school or school authorities are responsible for student affairs, it can be done in a safe and orderly manner.
4. There is no charge for information on the safety of the minor or the minor;
5. Publishers should not use parental or guardian's reputation for evil, bad or rank to publish the child's personal details.
6. The media should not publish evidence of sexual assault or witness of sexual assault under the age of 18, even if permitted by law.
7. The media must exercise extreme care when it comes to reporting crime or victims of crime.
8. When there are radio or television programs that are inappropriate for children, the programs should be broadcast at late hours and should be age-appropriate.

14. With regard to environmental issues

1. The media should promote environmental care.
2. The media should focus on the environmental impacts of the media, especially on commercial activities.

3. The media are responsible for exposing and preventing environmental damage.

15. The ethics that media owners should follow

- A. Hiring employees, especially the editor with professional qualifications.
- B. Refrain from interfering with the editor's professional freedom.
- C. Clearly state the purpose of the media.
- D. Establish a system for monitoring and responding to public opinion and inquiries regarding the service and results of the media.
- E. Be careful with gifts and intercessions that may affect the organization's policy, purpose and credibility.
- F. Provide opportunities for all employees to improve their professional skills through additional training.
- G. Ensure that there is a code of conduct for employees to be given when they are hired by the company.

16. The ethics that media editors should follow

- A. Ensure that information from the media is free from discrimination, immorality, racism and violence.
- B. Ensure that issues from the media are distinguished from opinion; only verified by facts and facts;
- C. Ensure there is no defamation activity.
- D. Ensure that the organization is responding appropriately and responsibly to the alleged defamation.
- E. Ensure that the principles outlined in this Code of Practice apply and expand within the organization.
- F. Ensure that the media works in accordance with the laws and regulations of the country.

17. Failure to disclose information available through employment.

The media and editors should not disclose information obtained through job opportunities, especially to business, personal and institutional, to third parties or institutions.

18. Implementation and interpretation of the Code of Conduct

1. This code of conduct shall be in force from the date of its existence and ratified by the Council of the Ethiopian Media Council.

2. The moral concepts outlined in this Code shall be interpreted in accordance with the international human rights laws, treaties and principles adopted by the Ethiopian Constitution and international standards established in accordance with these principles.

3. By the Office of the Council, a proposal and amendment shall be issued on a one-year study to ensure that the main contents of this code of conduct are to be more refined and purified, resolved and periodically enforced.

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