WORDS AGAINST RACISM
Vademecum for journalists and media
on information for foreigners and migrants

by Stefano Roni

This short document offers some guidelines and collects a series of recommendations for journalists and professional communication operators. The theme is language and the correct information approach towards migrants, refugees and foreigners in general. The aim: to combat stereotypes and prejudices, to protect the image and dignity of foreign people, to avoid the dissemination of distorted information on phenomena - such as migratory flows - increasingly at the centre of national and international news.

We begin with the principles of equality, freedom and respect enshrined by the international human rights charters, European conventions, national constitutions and the obvious consideration that journalists must be the first to respect and promote such principles, preventing information from favouring discriminatory or political attitudes to the detriment of the weakest. By playing a fundamental role in defending democratic systems, journalists have a duty not so much - or rather, not only - to use the right words in all circumstances, but also to do so in the right way, that is, without deforming the facts or framing them in an artificially negative light.

The first beacon, the brightest, of every journalist is represented by the ethical foundations and ethics of the profession. In particular, the principles regarding the observance of the rules dictated by the law to safeguard the personality of others, the mandatory obligation to respect the substantive truth of the facts by observing the duties imposed by loyalty and good faith. Other valid principles in all fields of activity of the press are the prior verification of information, the consultation of experts on issues that involve particular or specific knowledge, the use of correct and legally appropriate terms.

In order to deal with the specific duties of journalists towards foreigners, we refer to the ethical rules applied today in Italy by the National Council of the Journalists' Association, which are binding under a disciplinary point of view for all members. Article 7 of the "Testo unico dei doveri del giornalista" (Journalist's Charter of Duties) reads as follows:

The journalist:

 a) with regard to foreigners, adopts legally appropriate terminology following the indications of the "Glossary" attached to this document, avoiding the spreading of inaccurate, simplified or distorted information as regard to asylum seekers, refugees, victims of trafficking and migrants;
b) safeguard the identity and image by not allowing identification of the individual,
asylum seekers, refugees, victims of trafficking and migrants who agree to communicate with to the media.

There is an obligation to use appropriate terminology to ensure correct information and awareness of the rights of all persons (see section 1 below - GLOSSARY).

Also, the journalist has a duty to safeguard the identity and image of foreigners who agree to appear in front of the cameras or who make statements to the media. Photos and videos in which migrants are identifiable should always be disseminated with extreme caution, as they could create, for example, risk situations for political refugees and their families. Very often, through the various images spread by the media, the intelligence services are able to identify opponents of their regimes and therefore organize revenge and persecution in the countries of origin. An alleged scoop can jeopardize the lives of innocent people who are already in difficult situations... The journalist must take into account the different cultural levels that may exist and the lack of awareness of the functioning of the media system. Therefore, he/she must assume the responsibility to inform the foreigner about the consequences of an interview, not only from the risks point of view for his safety, but also about the use of improper or offensive terminology and statements, perhaps expressed in an imperfect way in a language other than his own, "can be misunderstood"(1) (On these subjects, see section 2 below - PROTECTION OF IDENTITY).

The following indications are extracted, and partly adapted, from the "Guidelines for the application of the Charter of Rome"(2), the deontological protocol adopted in 2008 by Italian journalists.

1 - GLOSSARY

The Glossary refers to the legally appropriate **terminologies** for a journalistic **story** that adheres to the reality of the facts on the subject of immigration and asylum. It is divided into several sections: people; status and reception; search and rescue operations at sea (SAR); minority groups.

People

- ASYLUM SEEKER: is a person who is outside the country of his/her own nationality and submits an application to be granted refugee status on the basis of the 1951 Geneva Convention on Refugees, or to obtain other forms of international protection. Until a final decision has been reached by the competent authorities, he/she is an asylum seeker and has the legal right to reside in the country of destination. Therefore the asylum seeker is not comparable to an irregular migrant, though he/she may enter the host country without identity documents or in an irregular manner, through the so-called mixed migration flows, that is, made up of both irregular migrants and potential refugees.

- REFUGEE: is a person who has been granted refugee status on the basis of the 1951 Geneva Convention on Refugees. In Article 1 of the Convention, a refugee is defined

as a person who having a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, member of a particular social group or political opinion, who is outside the country of his nationality and is unable, or owing to such fear, or unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country. Refugee status is granted to anyone who can demonstrate individual persecution.

- BENEFICIARY OF SUBSIDIARY PROTECTION: is a person who, although not falling within the term definition "refugee" under the 1951 Convention as there is no individual persecution but still needs a form of protection because, in the event of being repatriated to the country of origin, would suffer "serious harm" due to armed conflict, generalised violence and/or massive violations of human rights.

- BENEFICARY OF HUMANITARIAN PROTECTION: is a person belonging to the third category of international protection granted to the beneficiary of humanitarian protection. Until 2008, in several EU countries humanitarian protection was granted instead of subsidiary protection.

- VICTIM OF TRAFFICKING: is a person who, unlike irregular migrants (forced or not) voluntarily rely on traffickers, has never consented to be transferred to another country or, if he has given his consent, the latter has been rendered null and void by the coercive and/or deceitful actions of the traffickers or by the mistreatment practiced or threatened against the victim. The purpose of trafficking is to gain control over another person for the purpose of exploitation. "Exploitation" includes the exploitation of the prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or removal of organs.

- MIGRANT/IMMIGRANT: is a person who chooses, of his own accord, to leave his home country in search of work and of better economic conditions elsewhere. Unlike refugees, migrants can return home to safe conditions. UNHCR prefers to refer to groups of people who travel using the terms "refugees" and "migrants". This is the best way to recognise that all people in transit enjoy human rights, which should be respected, protected and met, and at the same time that refugees and asylum seekers have specific needs and rights protected by a specific legal framework.

- STATELESS: is a person not being considered as a national of any State or whose citizenship is not or cannot be ascertain. The condition of stateless was first recognised in 1954 under the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, drawn up in New York. Statelessness can be primary consequential or unexpected (for example, it can be lost due to political situations in the state someone was a citizen of). The status of stateless person can be decided by a judge or by a government and gives the right to a residence permit (de jure statelessness).

- UNACCOMPANIED FOREIGN MINOR: a minor who is not a citizen of a Member State of the European Union and reaches the territory of an EU Member State without being accompanied by an adult responsible legally or customary for him/her until an adult takes custody of him/her. The same status applies for a minor who is a citizen

of a non-EU State and is no longer accompanied after entering the territory of an EU State.

- THE CHILDREN OF IMMIGRANTS: they constitute the so-called second generations of immigration. Some scholars identify intermediate classifications between the first and second generations to indicate children and young people who have moved to a foreign country at a young age.

- CITIZENSHIP: is the legal bond, acquired through birth, a process of naturalization or descent, that binds an individual to his or her Country of origin. Citizenship guarantees to the physical person full civil and political rights, in accordance with the laws in force in the State in question. The status of citizenship may be lost as a result of renunciation, acquisition of citizenship of another State (accordingly by the laws of other States) or deprivation by act of public authority as a result of very serious violations.

- MIGRATION FLOW: all migrants who move their residence to a State within the course of a specific time period. A mixed migratory flow is composed of economic migrants, asylum seekers and refugees who move irregularly, often using the routes and means of transport operated by criminal gangs from which great profits are made.

Status and reception

- PUSH FACTOR: is the condition or circumstance that causes a person or group of people to leave a country. Among the most widespread push factors are: economic deprivation, even serious ones (hunger, misery); political or religious persecution; economic difficulties and personal fulfillment. The combination of pull factors and push factors determines the migration phenomenon.

- IUS SANGUINIS: is the acquisition of citizenship of a state by right "of blood", based on the citizenship of parents and regardless of the state in which you are at birth or later. It contrasts with Ius Soli, which consists in acquiring the citizenship of a state by right "of the soil", based on the fact of having been born on its territory and regardless of the citizenship of the parents.

- WELCOMING: consists of all the measures recognized by a sovereign state in favour of asylum seekers. These may include accommodation, food and clothing and may be provided in the form of financial or vouchers allowances.

- RESETTLEMENT: is a process through which a refugee, who has fled his country of origin and found temporarily shelter in another country, is further transferred to a third country, where he will receive permanent protection. Resettlement becomes vital for those refugees who cannot find adequate protection in the country to which they have fled and who cannot return to their country of origin because to avoid risk of persecution.

- REFOULEMENT: is the return of an individual in a State where he/her can be persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, members of a particular social group or political opinion, or where he/her would be exposed to risk of being tortured. The opposite (non-refoulement) is the fundamental principle of international law applied to refugees, which prohibits the states to let refugees from returning to countries or territories where their life or freedom may be endangered.

- REGULARISATION (OR INDEMNITY OR EMERGENCY): is an exceptional procedure carried out by a State with which, to foreign citizens illegally present in the territory, a residence permit is issued for reasons of work (or waiting for employment), if certain requirements laid down in the legislation are met.

- REFUSAL: means a refusal of entry made directly at the outer border to a non-EU citizen because he/her does not meet all the entry requirements provided for by the legislation on immigration. The measure does not apply to a non-EU citizen who has entered in order to apply for asylum. It also does not apply to situations of so-called un-expellibility (pregnant women, minors, victims of persecution).

- RETURN: means abandoning the country in which someone has spent a significant period of time, toward his/her own country of origin or arrival. Repatriation can be voluntary or forced (the latter case is referred to as removal).

- REMOVAL (OR FORCED REMOVAL): is both an administrative regulation and causes the physical departure of an individual outside the national borders of the State in which such he/her was staying illegally having the country of origin or country of arrival as the final destination. Expulsion refers to non-EU citizens. For EU citizens, the term is removal.

Search and rescue operations at sea (SAR)

- SAR: An acronym for Search and Rescue. This acronym indicates all operations aimed to rescue people in various distressed environments (mountains, sea, after an earthquake, etc..) carrying them out by sea or air or other means. SAR event is the search and rescue intervention made necessary by the presence of a unit in distress; a ship in danger. The maritime SAR service is the organization of all activities related to the protection of life at sea.

- SAR AREA: maritime area where the State is responsible for search and rescue activities. The delimitation of these areas is not linked to that of existing maritime borders and, as provided for by the Hamburg Convention of 1979, can be done through the sign of an agreements between States. In the absence of such agreement, the delimitation takes place within the IMO (see below), as in the case of the Mediterranean Sea, whose SAR areas of competence are identified by the General Agreement on a Provisional SAR Plan (1997).

- MRCC: acronym for "Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre". It is a centre in charge of assuming the efficient organization of search and rescue services within the entire

maritime area of interest, coordinating SAR interventions. The first MRCC that has any news of a real or potential emergency, becomes responsible for the case and must take all necessary actions to coordinate the intervention, until the competent SAR authority has taken responsibility for the case.

- PLACE of SAFETY**:** The concept of a safe place is outlined in chapter 1.3.2 of the Hamburg Convention of 1979. It must be identified where: 1. the safety and life of shipwrecked persons is no longer in danger (for this reason, ports in countries where the death penalty is applied or where even a single migrant saved at sea can be persecuted for political, ethnic or religious reasons are not considered "safe") 2. the basic needs (food, accommodation and medical care) are insured 3) the transport of shipwrecked persons to a final destination can be organised.

- INTERNATIONAL WATERS (OR INTERNATIONAL SEA OR "HIGH SEA"): maritime areas subtracted partially or totally from any State's control (which do not belong to any State's jurisdiction)

- TERRITORIAL WATERS (OR TERRITORIAL SEA): this definition indicates any area of water over which a state has jurisdiction and exercises its full sovereignty; it extends up to 12 nautical miles. These do not coincide with the delimitation of the SAR zones.

- EU NAVFOR Med - OPERATION Sophia: (formally **European Union Naval Force Mediterranean)** originally only EU NAVFOR MED, from 22 August 2015 the name was updated following the birth, on board of a vehicle used in the operation, of a child called Sophia, whose mother had been rescued. It was launched officially by the Foreign Affairs Council of the European Union on 22 June 2015. The primary focus is to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings. The operation was renewed until October 31, 2018. On May 14, 2018, the Council of the European Union authorized the launch of a project aimed to test, for a period of six months, the Crime Information Cell (CIC) on board the flagship of Operation Sophia.

- FRONTEX: it is a European Agency established in 2004 by the European Council, originally named "European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation in the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union". By Regulation (EU) 2016/1624 the European Parliament and the Council introduced changes and redefined Frontex as the "European Border and Coast Guard Agency".

- IMO: acronym for the International Maritime Organisation, a specialised agency of the United Nations set up following the adoption of the 1948 Geneva International Maritime Convention, which aims to promote maritime cooperation between member countries (currently 170) and to ensure the safety of shipping and the protection of the marine environment.

- MEDEVAC (MEDICAL EVACUATION): definition used to indicate the operation of medical evacuation for persons in imminent danger of life. It is a term that is frequently encountered in press releases of persons involved in search and rescue operations in the Mediterranean.

- NON-REFOULEMENT: it is the fundamental principle that prohibits States from returning refugees in any way to countries or territories where their life or freedom may be endangered.

- NGO: acronym that stands for "Non-Governmental Organization" used to indicate one or more non-governmental organizations, that are independent from national and international governance structures. They are non-profit organizations.

- SEA GUARDIAN: a NATO operation aiming at maritime security and counter-terrorism in the Mediterranean, developed during Warsaw Summit in July 2016. The headquarters of the Allied Maritime Command (MARCOM), based in Northwood, United Kingdom, is in charge of Sea Guardian command.

- SCAFISTA: definition used in journalism to indicate the person who transports undocumented migrants and refugees by sea. This figure may coincide with the "passeur" (smuggler), that is the person who favours irregular entry into a country or irregular crossing of a border for a fee. It is also necessary to distinguish both definitions from that of trafficker: trafficking in human beings (which can also occur within a single country, without crossing borders) implies coercion on the part of the trafficker himself.

- THEMIS: From February 1, 2018, the European Agency Frontex launches the European mission "Themis", which replaces "Triton" and extends the range of action beyond the normal operations of search and rescue at sea, with a stronger emphasis on the protection of the EU's maritime borders.

- TRANSBORDING: concerning search and rescue of migrants and refugees, the term "transbording" is used to refer to shipwrecked persons displacement from one vessel to another.

- CONTIGUAL AREA: area adjacent to the territorial waters, conventionally identified within the limit of a further 12 miles from the territorial waters. Within it, the State may exercise the necessary controls in order to prevent the violation of its laws, including those relating to immigration.

Migrants' search and rescue (SAR) operations are now one of the main topics in the political, media and public debate. This topic is directly linked to national and European migration policies and, more or less indirectly, to security policies. For this reason, the journalistic storytelling produced around it, requires the utmost caution. Considering the complexity of the issue, it is essential to contribute to the dissemination of information that provides an appropriate framework and respects reality, through certain recommendations:

- From the lexical point of view, considering the case in which one wants to express the legal and administrative condition of the rescued persons, in presence of heterogeneous

groups, it is appropriate to use, where it is possible, the words "migrants" and "refugees". It is better to use the word "arrival" or "landing" instead of "disembarkation" which is a military term.

- Considering the use of images, it is recommended not to privilege exclusively shots of groups of migrants/refugees, in order not to restore a stereotyped vision of "shapeless masses" of individuals.

- Interview the persons involved in SAR operations and in particular refer to the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre if there are unclear passages or if further explanations are necessary.

- Contextualize the search and rescue operations at sea in the broader panorama of the departure and transit contexts (e.g. conditions of migrants/refugees in Libya, chronicle of the trip, reasons for departure)

- Due to the presence of political and institutional representatives in dealing with the events related to search and rescue operations at sea, as far as the audio-visual sector is concerned, the role of journalistic mediation is central. The journalist, visible and recognizable, intervenes, comments, explains and, in some cases, stigmatizes the possible controversiality of the statements.

Minority groups: Islam and Muslims

- ISLAM: is a monotheistic religion, one of the three revealed religions also called "Religions of the Book" (along with Christianity and Judaism). It was founded in the 7th century A.D. in the Arabian Peninsula by Mohammed, a humble cameleer to whom God would have revealed the Koran and whom Muslims consider the last prophet (they also consider Jesus a prophet).

- ISLAMISM: is the expression used to indicate that Islam is understood as a political ideology. Islamist is an adjective different from Islamic, even though it is often used as a synonym. While the word Islamic, as well as Muslim, indicates the faithful (Muslim or Islamic), the place of worship, a rite, a practice or any ambit relating to the religious sphere, saying "Islamist" means referring to the political dimension of Islam.

- MUSULMAN (OR ISLAMIC): is the follower of Islam, the word "Musulman" (in Arabic muslim), means submitter. There are about 1.5 billion Muslims in the world, of whom the Arabs are little more than 300 million. Among the main non-Arab Muslim countries are Turkey, Pakistan, Iran and Indonesia (where 13% of faithful muslims live).

- JIHAD: Jihad in Arabic is masculine and it is called "the jihad", which means "maximum effort". In Islam there are two forms of jihad: the great jihad, which indicates the maximum individual effort for spiritual growth, and the small jihad, holy war, which can be defensive or offensive. Jihad is also a proper name.

- **JIHADIST:** it is perhaps the most correct expression to indicate who is fighting, for example, with the Caliphate in Syria. In fact the term "Islamist", although used to refer to the fundamentalist movements (and for that purpose is still more appropriate than "Islamic") refers to political Islam which is not necessarily jihadist.

- **MUJAHEDDIN:** it is the Arabic word to indicate who fights the jihad, and therefore means "fighter".

- **UMMA:** it is the word in Arabic that indicates the great family of the Prophet, namely the global Muslim community. The strong sense of belonging to the Umma is what is often blamed on Muslims, because it is feared they are more faithful to their own religion (a transnational community) than to the country of which they are citizens

- **KORAN:** it is the reference text of Islam, the most sacred because it was dictated by God to Mohammed and is considered uninterpretable, that is to say that it should be taken as it was transcribed in the seventh century (hence the infinite problems about the possibility of interpreting the text and update it to the present, a reformist instance that has always clashed with the more Orthodox schools). It is divided into 114 chapters called Sure and composed of 6236 verses.

- **SUNNIS AND SHIITES:** these are the two great branches in which Islam has been divided since the early days of the succession to the Prophet. On Muhammed's death the Umma was divided between Sunnis – the Orthodox, the followers of the Sunna (tradition), convinced that the succession belonged to the governors called Caliphs – and the Shiites – the faction of Ali, the son-in-law of Muhammad who having married the daughter's Prophet belonged to the same family and was therefore considered a descendant by successive blood. Sunnis are the majority of the Muslim world (about 85%). Shiites are mainly found in Iran, Lebanon, Bahrain.

- **WAHABISM:** is a religious movement within Sunni Islam founded in the 18th century in Saudi Arabia and based on the Hanbalite doctrine. The Hanbalite is one of the four religious schools of Islam, the most strict and fundamental. Terrorist groups such as al Qaeda and the Islamic State are Wahhabi-inspired.

- **SHARIA:** Islamic law that can be interpreted in a metaphysical or literal way. When interpreted literally it becomes (in power or in practice) the behavioral code of a state. The sources of sharia are mainly the Koran and the Sunnah (the hadith, the sayings of the Prophet). Sharia law, founded in the 7th to 8th century, includes, among other things, for thieves the amputation of hands, stoning for adulterers, the law of the cutter (eye for an eye) and several other forms of summary justice, but in reality they are applied in very few cases such as in the Islamic State in Syria, the Taliban's Afghanistan, and to some extent in Saudi Arabia.

- **ISIS:** is the acronym for the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, the definition by which the Caliphate initially presented itself to the world (also called Isil, Islamic State of Iraq and the Levan or IS, Islamic State). The origins of the terrorist group are to be found in the Qatari militias put together in 2004 in Iraq by Abu Mus'ab al Zarqawi to fight

the American occupation following the 2003 war (but also to counter the resurgence of the Shiite majority in post-Saddam Iraq, since Isis is a Sunni group). Since 2012, Isis/Isil/Is has been in the Syrian conflict against the regime of Bashar al Assad (but also against the opponents of the first hour, against what remains of the Free Syrian Army, against religious minorities and in conflict with the Syrian al Nusra Front al-Qaida fighters). In the course of time, Isis has gathered real or alleged affiliations from terrorist groups active in Libya, Sinai, Nigeria (Boko Haram) and some Pakistani Taliban fringes.

- DAESH: is the Arabic equivalent of Isis, the acronym for al-Dawla al-Islamiyya fi al-Iraq wa al-Sham (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria). Daesh is therefore the original name of the group led by the caliph Al Baghdadi and many Western governments, including the French and the British, have chosen to use it instead of Isis/Isil/it/Is because it avoids the reference to the word "Islamic" and thus reduces the possible discriminatory short circuit against any reference to Islam. Daesh also avoids the reference to the word "State" and for those who prefer it to Isis/Isil/it is more appropriate to indicate a group that is neither a recognized state nor an Islamic State, in the sense of respecting the rules of Islam.

2 - IDENTITY PROTECTION

Safeguard asylum seekers, refugees, victims of trafficking and migrants who choose to speak to journalists by taking care of their identity and image so as to ensure that they are not identifiable.

The term "refugee" is the most widely used in recent years to indicate people fleeing from wars and persecution. The appropriate legal term is "asylum seeker", meaning those who leave their own country and apply for asylum in another state for refugee status, or to receive other forms of international protection. Asylum seekers and of course also those who have already been granted the status of refugee deserve special attention from journalists and press. The reasons why they fled their own country may potentially expose those refugees or their families members to retaliations, both from the authorities of the country of origin or non-state entities or criminal organizations, in the event of unscrupulous media coverage.

Even people from other countries also face personal risks or reprisals against their family members who have remained at home. If you do not have detailed information about the country of origin of the interviewed person, therefore, it is advised to consult international organizations such as (UNHCR) to avoid revealing his/her identity.

In case of interviews it is useful to keep in mind that:

1. People coming from different socio-cultural environments, where the role of the media is limited and circumscribed, may not know the dynamics of the media and therefore they may be not be able to properly assess the consequences of media exposure.

2. The person who agrees to be interviewed while staying at Removal Centres, should be duly warned about the possible consequences, so that preventative measures can be taken and the actual risks of repression following the interviewed can be evaluated. Special attention should be given to the medical status and the possible physical or psychological trauma the person have suffered having being rescued at sea, especially pregnant women or new mothers.

3. For the success of the interview it is important to have the service of a cultural mediator and/or community interpreter in the social field, to convey correctly the information and respect the opinion and cultural background of the interviewed person.

4. In the case of asylum seekers, refugees and victims of trafficking, where appropriate, publication of any information that may lead to their identification should be withheld as required. In such cases, the name, face and voice, should be masked/altered and attention should be paid to all details that could reveal the identity of the interviewed person, such as description of individual physical details or particular anecdotes.

5. Irrespective of the free and informed consent of the interviewed person, full name should never be published: do not reveal the family name of the interviewed person. Instead, use an invented name.

The following practices are recommended when using images:

1. Remember that it is always necessary to obtain the free and informed consent of the interviewed person before any picture or video is published (photographic or video) in which they are identifiable. Should it be impossible to obtain the consent of the interviewed person due to lack of time or other reasons, see point 3 below.

2. Identify, before publishing images or broadcasting videos of people that may lead to their identification, the possible downsides resulting from the political and social conditions in the country of origin should be assessed and possibly intervening during the post-production phase to remove all elements leading to identification, even if consent has been given.

3. On arrivals it often happens that: there may not be possible due to lack of time to verify the country of origin of all migrants aboard; or because early information is unclear or partial; or if consent for an interview cannot be asked. In these and similar cases (or whenever similar conditions occur) it is advisable to use or select wide or out-of-focus shots, shots of shoulders or non-easily recognizable body parts. The close-ups can be, for example, out of focus or against the light, so that only the silhouette is visible.

4. In case of audio or video interviews, the voice of the interviewed person can be altered to protect his/her identity. Depending on the publishing policy and the desired perspective, altering or dubbing the voice are among the options.

5. In order to avoid "reducing" to numbers, faces and stories of refugees and asylum seekers, in cases of audio interviews stories can be told by altering the voice; voice and face for audiovisual interviews should be masked.

3 CORRECT AND COMPLETE INFORMATION

Avoid the spreading of inaccurate, simplified information and reflect on the damage that can be caused by superficial and incorrect behaviour to news consumers.

Nationality, ethnicity, place of origin, religion or legal status of the person involved in an event covered by media should be reported with stronger sense of responsibility and care. This information should not qualify the person(s) involved if they are not help instrumental in understanding the event itself.

In the course of analyses and surveys carried out in print and TV, some improper associations were identified in the reporting of the migration phenomenon and its people: migrants/refugees portrayed as a threat to security and public order; migrants/refugees as a threat to health; migrants/refugees as a threat to work, culture and identity. These associations, if inaccurate and simplified, not only violate the ethical and regulatory principles of journalism, but also convey and reinforce stereotypes towards "foreigners" as they are different and, therefore, dangerous.

It is advisable to contextualize the news, to story telling the realities of origin, the reasons for leaving the country of origin, the travel chronicle, so as to provide readers and listeners with the greatest number of tools to read the stories of the people with whom they come into contact.

The treatment of crime

Avoiding "ethnicizing" news does not mean censoring certain information. One is not asked to censor, but to select, among the various characteristics of a person, only those really relevant to understand what happened. Specifying the ethnicity of a person involved in a news item must be helpful in understanding the story. On the contrary, it should not lead the reader to consider the person's provenance relevant to explain his actions or to suggest an automatic association between nationality and criminal fact. In some cases, for example international crimes at financial level, is relevant to specify the nationality precisely to highlight the transnational dimension of the crime.

The treatment of health alarmism against immigrants and refugees

"Immigrant prostitutes, bacteriological bombs"; "AIDS alarm, one in ten immigrants is ill"; "After poverty they bring diseases": these titles are examples of the alarming use of the combination of health and immigration. We can rightly define it as alarming, because we have not witnessed epidemics in which immigrants have been identified, by scientific

experts and by scientific methods, as having caused or fed epidemics. It is no coincidence that the journalistic cues cited are almost exclusively focused on transmissible diseases, that is infectious diseases. And not just any contagious disease, but exactly those that, for historical, anthropological and religious reasons since the Middle Ages are surrounded by a greater halo of social stigma. With an immediate mental short circuit, the user of these news will be led to identify as seriously dangerous (and therefore to be feared and kept away from themselves) the people to whom these news attribute the responsibility for the risk of infection. In short, a bad information scientifically unfounded or superficially constructed and interpreted, transmitted in an emphatic and alarmistic way, can provoke, in an audience without the basic knowledge that allows to interpret critically these risks, a feeling of fear of the different that can in turn generate phenomena of social panic or however a decomposed reaction of aversion and rejection.

Treatment of work, reception, identity

Particular attention should be given by the television representation of the dimension of cultural differences and situations of hardship. Critical elements in this case are the title of the services and the editing of the images. The previous recommendations apply to the titling, while for the editing it is advisable to provide some further indications. First of all, the recommendation to avoid misleading reconstructions and manipulations of the footage during the editing process, for example by using musical comments whose sole purpose is to inspire the listener or to stigmatise different habits. For example, to frame large groups of people in the street after the celebration of the prayer (which often takes place on the street because of the absence of specific places of worship), to show only details of clothing that emphasize a situation of degradation, the "slippers" or bare feet.

Information about welcome and work can be misleading. The news in which migrants/refugees are told and presented as cultural colonizers ("we are no longer masters at home", "they arrive and occupy the streets with their prayers"), as hostile to forms of integration, as bearers of religious dictates incompatible with our own, as bearers of habits and lifestyles (food for example) different and irreconcilable with ours, are generalizations that do not meet the criteria of correctness and accuracy of information.

In dealing with these issues it is recommended to use data and info-graphics, to collect testimonies of people in our territory and included in the work paths or reception. In case of news concerning the working conditions of migrants, it is advisable to highlight, if present, the framework of labour exploitation, working conditions, specifying the names and surnames of the people concerned.

Hate Speech
Faced with hate speech, with politicians and public figures increasingly making statements or writing hate speech posts, journalists are faced with an important question: how to deal with such statements? How should they be reported? The Ethical Journalism Network (www.ethicaljournalismnetwork.org) has carried out a 5-point test

that every journalist should undergo before reporting content that may constitute cases of hate speech.
Here is a summary:

1. The position, or status, of the speaker. In most cases journalists are only guilty of reporting offensive statements by others: the media regularly fall into the trap of communication experts, unscrupulous politicians and other leaders who cause discord to support their theses and rely on the media to cover their sensationalist statements, no matter how incendiary they are. Journalists and editors must understand that the mere fact that someone claims something outrageous is not news; they must examine the context in which it was said, as well as the position and reputation of those who said it. An agitated politician, skilled at manipulating the public, should not get media coverage because this would generate a negative climate and controversial considerations. The media must ensure that they do not over-emphasise politicians and other influential people whose sole objective is to create a negative climate for certain groups of people, especially when they represent the most vulnerable groups. It is not the journalist's job to take a stand against the speaker's position, but statements and facts must be verified, regardless of who the speaker is. Freedom of expression is a right for everyone: it is up to the journalist to make sure that everyone can express their opinion, but that does not mean giving permission to lie, to spread malicious voices and to encourage hostility and violence against someone.

2. The scope of the speech. Journalists must take into account the frequency and extent with which the message is spread. Is this an isolated incident? Or is it something that is repeated over a period of time, that happens continuously and deliberately? Questioning the relevance and intention can also help to understand whether the speech is part of a precise behavioural pattern or whether it is the incident of the past. A useful indicator for identifying a strategy of incitement to hatred, whether based on ethnicity, race, religion or other factors of discrimination, is repetition.

3. The objectives of the speech. Normally trained journalists and editors are able to quickly identify whether the speech is intended to attack the human rights of individuals or groups. They have a special responsibility to place the speech in the right context, revealing and explaining what the speaker's goals are. It is not our intention to belittle those with whom we disagree, but the article should help those who read - or listen to - better understand the context in which the speech is delivered. The key questions are: what are the benefits for the speaker and what are the interests he represents? Who are the victims of hate speech and what is the impact on them, both as individuals and as a community?

4. The content and form. Journalists must be able to assess whether the speech is provocative and judge its form and style. There is an abyssal difference between a story told by someone in a bar or pub, with a small group of people, and a speech given in a public place, in front of an exciting audience. Journalists have to ask themselves: is it a "dangerous" speech? Could its author be prosecuted by law for this? Does it incite violence or hatred against someone?

5. The economic, social and political climate. Journalists have to take into account what the atmosphere is when the speech is delivered. An election campaign in which political groups challenge each other and wriggle to get public attention, for example, is a breeding ground for hate speech considerations. Journalists must judge whether statements are based on facts and whether they are reasonable in the circumstances in which they are made. When we have doubts about directly quoting a hate speech, it may help to paraphrase offensive statements without repeating insulting terms.

Journalists need to do their job carefully: they should be able to recognise the context, including where there is a real strategy of discrimination against certain groups. There are groups that are targeted by targeted campaigns. The questions that journalists should ask themselves are: What is the impact of the speech on the people concerned? What are their security conditions? Does the speech aim to solve or amplify problems?

- The Council of Europe includes in the definition of the term 'hate speech' incitements to forms of hatred based on intolerance, in the form of aggressive nationalism and ethnocentrism, as well as discrimination and hostility towards migrants.

- The boundary between freedom of expression and hate speech is a matter for reflection and debate: Compatible restrictions on freedom of expression under international law, and considered by jurisprudence, include those relating to the propaganda of ideas based on racial superiority and hatred, incitement to discrimination and violence on racial, ethnic, national or religious grounds (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights - ICCPR, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), to incite, promote or encourage denigration, hatred or defamation of a person or group on the basis of "race", skin colour, national or ethnic origin, religion, etc. (European Commission Recommendation 15(2015) against Racism and Intolerance - ECRI).
One element that helps to distinguish hate speech from mere defamation is the component of stereotyped generalisation about a group of people defined by national, ethnic or religious affiliation, or the insult to the individual because of his or her membership of a particular group.

- The context in which they are expressed, however, remains crucial to weigh the danger of expressions in a given historical and geographical moment.

4 - SOURCES

Whenever possible, ask the experts and organisations specialising in this field to provide the public with information in a clear and comprehensive context that also looks at the causes of the phenomena.

The following is a list of sources broken down by areas from which journalists and information workers can draw to find up-to-date data and information on migrants, asylum seekers, refugees and minorities. The list includes only bodies operating on a

European and international scale. Organizations operating on a local scale can be searched for in individual countries.

European institutions

- **www.ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en** European website on integration. It provides an overview of integration, good practices also with reference to individual Member States, sites and bibliography, project partners.

- **www.ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs** General Direction-for Home Affairs of the European Commission, which has an "immigration" and an "asylum" section in the "policies" menu.

- **www.ec.europa.eu/social** General Direction-for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion of the European Commission, which deals with social security and social protection.

- **www.frontex.europa.eu** Frontex, European Border Control Agency.

- **www.fra.europa.eu** Fundamental Rights Agency (Fra), an advisory body of the European Union.

- **www.mipex.eu** Migration Integration Index (Mipex), a comparison of the state of integration in different countries based on a series of indicators.

- **www.emn.europe.eu** European Migration Network, part of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Home Affairs. It publishes the national reports of the 28 Member States.

International organisations

- **www.oim.com** International Organization for Migration

- **www.unhcr.org** United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

- **www.amnesty.org** Independent non-governmental organisation.

- **www.msf.org** Independent non-governmental organisation.

Statistics and data

- **http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Asylum_statistics** Quarterly updated database with figures provided to Eurostat by the relevant ministries and immigration departments of the European States. The data relating to asylum applications can be freely consulted;

the criteria for searching for data can be, in addition to the type of asylum application (first instance or not), the nationality of the asylum seeker, the country in which the asylum application is made, the reference period, etc.. Eurostat also publishes a quarterly and an annual analysis.

- **http://data.unhcr.org/mediterranean** UNHCR portal that systematically updates data on arrivals in Southern Europe by sea (numbers, nationality, gender, etc..) both overall and for individual countries (Greece, Italy, Malta, Spain).

- **www.themigrantsfiles.com** Data journalism portal on human and financial costs of the so-called Fortress Europe (updated to 2016).

- **www.savethechildren.org** The organization provides data on foreign minors and unaccompanied foreign minors.

Fighting discrimination

- **https://www.coe.int/en/web/european-commission-against-racism-and-intolerance** Report monitoring racism and intolerance at European level and in individual countries.

NOTES

(1) Taken from "La deontologia del giornalista. Dalle Carte al Testo unico", edited by Michele Partipilo; Centro di Documentazione giornalistica, Rome; edition January 2017

(2) The "Guidelines for the application of the Rome Charter" are developed by the Rome Charter Association, created to promote the knowledge and full application of the Code of Ethics for Italian journalists on migrants, asylum seekers and refugees. Info: www.cartadiroma.org