

# Charter of Idomeni

**Article 1.** Journalists have an obligation to **behave towards all citizens, nationals and foreigners, in accordance with the principles of equity and fairness, without discriminating** on the basis of ethnicity, country of origin, religion, gender, race, language, political belief, economic situation or social status.

**Article 2.** When photographing, shooting and/or interviewing refugees, migrants, victims of trafficking and generally defenseless social groups, the journalist should **always request in advance the consent of the subject** may s/he be a refugee, migrant or trafficking victim so as to avoid violation of privacy and offending the self-esteem and personality of the person being photographed or depicted on camera.

**Article 3.** In all cases journalists are obliged to **maintain the anonymity and conceal the identity of those defenseless social groups who choose to be interviewed and show their image in the media.** Disclosing the identity of refugees, asylum-seekers, migrants and victims of trafficking may result in acts of retaliation against the subjects and their relatives in their country of origin, which acts may be committed by state or non-state officials, or even by criminal organizations. Moreover, subjects coming from different social and cultural environments may not be aware of the dynamics of world events and may not comprehend the impact of their appearance in the media.

**Article 4.** The image depiction of children and/or minor refugees may indeed sensitize public opinion on their plight, but it also entails the risk of subjecting them to targeting and exploitation by individuals and criminal organizations. In every case, **actions that may compromise and/or disrupt the emotional well-being of minors should be avoided.** Journalists are encouraged to consult with experts and NGO officials working with refugee children and, concurrently, should strive to highlight the problem through analyses and specific facts that illustrate the essence of the problem.

**Article 5.** When describing events involving socially vulnerable groups, journalists should **refrain from the use of stereotypes, generalizations, oversimplifications, biases and derogatory characterizations**, even if they reflect the popular sentiment.

In the articles, as well as in titles, journalists are **obliged to use the appropriate terminology as designated by national and international law** (refugees, asylum-seekers, victims of trafficking, displaced, beneficiaries of humanitarian protection, immigrants, etc.).

**Article 6.** When presenting the facts, **no individual or group should be portrayed in such a way as to contribute to stigmatization, social exclusion or discrimination** against his / her descent, religion, language, or different political views. Moreover, no individual or group should be portrayed in a manner that can cause, without thorough research and documentation, undue public concern.

The style, content, language and tone of the news story or broadcast when conveying and recording news should aspire to attenuate differences and not aggravate them. Given that cultural diversity enriches society, the right to be different must be respected.

**Article 7.** In the journalistic word, written and verbal, **the subject's country of origin, ethnicity, religion, culture, are mentioned only when absolutely necessary**, i.e. only when it is clear that the use of one or any of the above data is crucial for the story's documentation.

**Article 8.** Given that the Greek state only recognizes the existence of the Muslim minority, while Greek and international NGOs argue that there are ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities in Greece who are subjected to discrimination, **the media should approach all vulnerable social groups with sensitivity and due respect to their rights.**

**Article 9.** **Particular attention should be given when indicating figures, statistics and events** relating to the presence of refugees and migrants in Greece.

**Article 10.** In news stories concerning refugees and migrants, **the points of view of the individuals involved should be sought and reported**, even if they do not know the Greek language.

**Article 11.** As the vast majority of journalists hold a critical stance against xenophobia and racism, it behooves them **to make clear what constitutes xenophobia and racism, who expresses such views, as well as how and why.**