

Motion: Journalist Guidelines

The Union believes:

- That with the creation of *Pugwash News* and the continued success of *Pugwash magazine* it is imperative that the UPSU (University of Portsmouth Students' Union) integrates clear Journalistic guidelines for the defence, welfare and continuing high standard of student Journalism.
- That the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) currently publishes clear guidelines which are used to protect the welfare and integrity of Journalists in the industry. These guidelines have been amended and introduced to various students' unions including Edinburgh.
- That whilst UPSU wish to secure freedom of the press, it is imperative that student journalists work within the guidelines of the UPSU constitution. To step outside of the constitution is deemed *ultra vires* or "beyond the powers" and goes against the charitable objectives upon which the UPSU is founded.

An example of this may be the "No platform" policy which, if ratified at AGM, will be part of the UPSU's constitution and will therefore be adhered to.

The Union resolves:

To integrate the following principles, as outlined by the National Union of Journalists, into the UPSU constitution.

Members of the University of Portsmouth Media team are expected to abide by the following professional principles:

A journalist,

1. At all times upholds and defends the principle of media freedom, the right of freedom of expression and the right of the public to be informed
2. Strives to ensure that information disseminated is honestly conveyed, accurate and fair
3. Does her/his utmost to correct harmful inaccuracies
4. Differentiates between fact and opinion
5. Obtains material by honest, straightforward and open means, with the exception of investigations that are both overwhelmingly in the public interest and which involve

evidence that cannot be obtained by straightforward means. Such investigations must be sanctioned by the editor-in-chief and deemed appropriate and proportionate.

6. Does nothing to intrude into anybody's private life, grief or distress.

7. Protects the identity of sources who supply information in confidence and material gathered in the course of her/his work, when agreed by the editor-in-chief to be appropriate.

8. Resists, threats or any other inducements to influence, distort or suppress information

9. Takes no unfair personal advantage of information gained in the course of her/his duties before the information is public knowledge

10. Produces no material likely to lead to hatred or discrimination on the grounds of a person's age, gender, race, colour, creed, legal status, disability, marital status, or sexual orientation

11. Does not by way of statement, voice or appearance endorse by advertisement any commercial product or service save for the promotion of her/his own work or of the medium by which she/he is employed

12. Avoids plagiarism

13. Provides the right to reply for both individuals and organisations which are reported upon.

14. Upholds all of the above principles, whilst abiding by the principles and objects defined in the UPSU constitution. At no point may a member work outside of these principles.

15. The Editor-in-chief, namely the Media and Publications Officer, reserves the right, acting on behalf of the sabbatical team and the UPSU, to edit or remove any article when deemed appropriate or necessary to do so.

The UPSU believes a journalist has the right to refuse an assignment or be identified as the author of editorial if required for the journalist's welfare and deemed appropriate by the Editor-in-chief. The UPSU will fully support any journalist disciplined for asserting her/his right to act according to the code.

Proposer: Ben Norman (Student Activities and Development Officer)