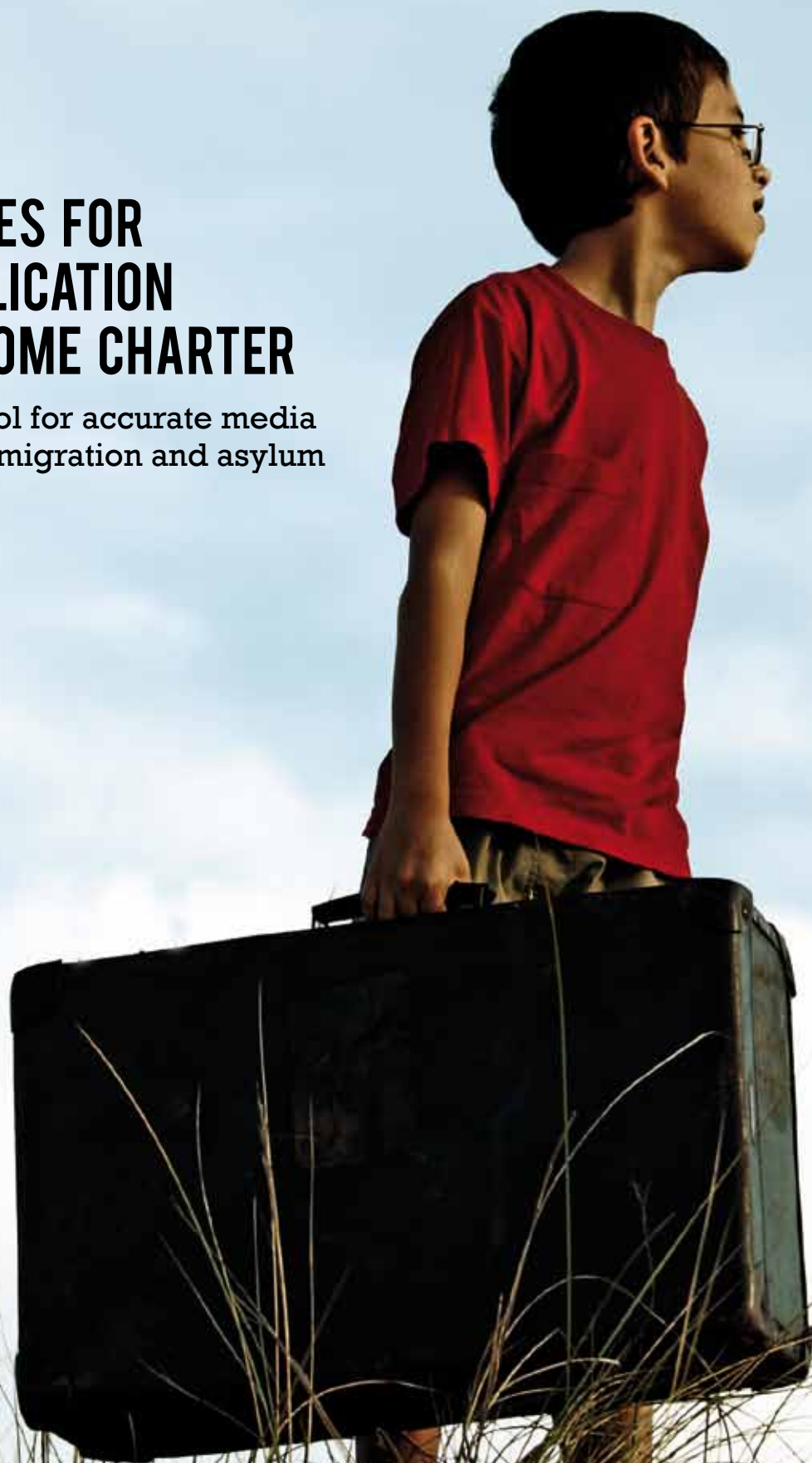


GUIDELINES FOR THE APPLICATION OF THE ROME CHARTER

**A working tool for accurate media
coverage on migration and asylum**



This publication has been drafted in the framework of the UNAR project Realizzazione iniziative di sensibilizzazione per operatori dell'informazione ('Implementation of awareness-raising activities for media professionals')

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INTRODUCTION

WHY IS THIS PUBLICATION NEEDED?

Journalists' professional associations at the international¹ and national level have repeatedly called for coverage of migration-related issues to be more thorough, nuanced and based on solid facts. European public service broadcasters have done the same².

The Rome Charter³, a code of conduct on migrants, asylum-seekers, refugees and victims of trafficking adopted by the National Council of the Journalists' Professional Association (Consiglio Nazionale dell'Ordine dei Giornalisti, CNOG) and the Italian National Press Federation (Federazione Nazionale della Stampa Italiana, FNSI), and produced in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), has been in force since June 2008.

Between March and April 2011, the Tuscan Press Association and Journalists' Professional Association, in collaboration with COSPE⁴, the Istituto degli Innocenti and the Tuscan regional government⁵, launched an initiative to produce a working tool to translate the principles affirmed in the code of conduct into practical guidance for journalists. Several Tuscan journalists who took part in the discussions contributed to the document, 'Tuscan journalism and the Rome Charter'. This key text forms the basis of the Guidelines for the application of the Rome Charter, which were presented to and discussed with editors, managing editors and the many individual journalists who took part in the seminars organised by

FNSI and the Redattore Sociale news agency in the framework of UNAR (National Office against Racial Discrimination) projects on the issue⁶.

The Guidelines are intended as a working tool and are therefore open to integration and improvement on the part of all media professionals who agree on the need for greater care and attention to be exercised when covering migration and asylum.

The aim of this document is therefore to provide a nimble and practical tool for media professionals, whose work is often fraught with difficulties and beset by deadlines.

The aim of this document is therefore to provide a nimble and practical tool for media professionals.

In this context, readers should be aware that many media professionals' working conditions, which often include a lack of job security, have a significant impact on the quality of media products. This cannot, however, be used as an excuse to avoid reflecting on the consequences of journalists' work and on

the social responsibility they bear.

Stimuli from civil society can also contribute to shifting attention back to the public service role which local and national journalism should play for readers and, more broadly, for all media content users.

1. ethicaljournalisminitiative.org/en

2. www.fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/media-toolkit_diversity_en.pdf

3. www.fnsi.it/Pdf/Carte_deonto/Carta_di_Roma.pdf, www.cartadiroma.com

4. www.mmc2000.net

5. The "Media Diversità Pluralismo" project, which ended in May 2011.

6. FNSI/UNAR events were held in Bari (13th January 2012), Crotone (6th March 2012), Caserta (16th April 2012) and Sicily (May 2012). Training seminars were organised by Redattore Sociale in Milan (17th April 2012), Rome (18th April) and Naples (19th April).

LOCAL MEDIA AND EUROPEAN DIMENSION

THE FOCUS ON LOCAL MEDIA

Local media play a vital role in shaping public perceptions of migrants as well as in ensuring that migrants have equal access to information.

The way the media describe migrants has a significant impact on the images, attitudes and opinions about them formed by the host population, as well as on migrants' own processes of self-representation.

In particular, local media – precisely because they are closer to residents and local concerns - are able to draw on a more thorough and in-depth knowledge of the issue, and of the cultural and social expressions displayed by individual foreigners who live in the area.

Journalists who work for local media tend to specialise less, given the widespread job insecurity and the tendency to under-staff newsrooms in this sector.

At the same time, local media everywhere have always played a public service role by providing information on local resources and services, both of which are key to promoting opportunities for migrants' social integration.

Local media therefore constitute an excellent sector for efforts to spearhead the improvement of local information and to restore the media's service role in contexts and for users who are increasingly diverse.

Journalists working for local radio, television, print or online media outlets should therefore take cultural diversity into account so as to:

- serve the entire local population, including foreign residents (spurring their number of readers/viewers in the process);
- increase the potential for original stories and news to cover;

- help to promote mutual understanding between national, social, cultural and religious groups in the local area, therefore enhancing social cohesion.

THE EUROPEAN DIMENSION

At the national level, discussions on this subject are necessarily part of and draw on comparisons with the European dimension. In March 2012, the International Federation of Journalists⁷, in collaboration with the Media Diversity Institute⁸ and Article 19⁹, published a study carried out in 9 European countries on media coverage of ethnicity and religion¹⁰.

Despite different social contexts and approaches to journalism, the study highlights a number of common obstacles to accurate media portrayal of migration and in the way journalists approach these issues. Limited financial resources, excessive workloads for journalists and a lack of time, knowledge and in-house training are the common traits of European journalism, which recognises how important it is to interpret and thoroughly understand an evolving European social reality, but is still not fully aware of the social responsibility it bears and of the role it plays within modern democracies¹¹.

The study ends with a series of recommendations which are annexed to the Guidelines and which are addressed to the different actors who can contribute to improving media coverage of migration.

The fact that the study cites the Rome Charter as a good practice also highlights the significance of the debate underway within Italian journalism on this issue at a European level and its leading role.

7. www.ifj.org/en

8. www.media-diversity.org

9. www.article19.org

10. "Getting the facts right – Reporting Ethnicity & Religion" a Study of media coverage of ethnicity and religion in Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Slovakia and the United Kingdom, author Verica Rupar, Media Diversity Institute in partnership with Article 19 and the International Federation of Journalists, Belgium, 2012

11. ethicaljournalisminitiative.org/en/contents/eji-study-2012

Please send any comments, suggestions and
contributions to these Guidelines to:

Associazione Carta di Roma
Corso Vittorio Emanuele II, 349, Rome

www.cartadiroma.org



SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF JOURNALISM ON THE TOPIC

1

COVERING MIGRATION FOR CURRENT AFFAIRS NEWS

CONTEXT

Local media have always consecrated a significant amount of space to current affairs news. Over the last few years, and especially in Italy¹², coverage of crime has increased progressively, as has the prominence given to news about offences committed by migrants.¹³

Research on migrants' image in the media also shows that migration is over-represented in news about crime.¹⁴

Particular care should be taken to safeguard the identity of victims of trafficking, whose anonymity is fundamental to the success of the process they have undertaken to escape from exploitation and to not hindering efforts undertaken by civil society and the justice system in this regard.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 Without prejudice to journalists' independence, the same amount of space and the same prominence should be granted to current affairs news involving foreign perpetrators and victims of crime as to news involving indigenous perpetrators and victims of crime.

1.2 Journalists are encouraged to ensure the anonymity of asylum-seekers, refugees, victims of trafficking and migrants involved in news events - including those involving crime - where reference to their identity could cause them harm. Knowledge of and respect for criminal, civil and administrative norms, as well as the various national and international legal instruments on human rights pertaining to protection, can contribute to the duty to report and to designating the various categories by the appropriate legal terms.

1.3 Greater responsibility and awareness than is currently the case should be exercised when providing the nationality of the main character in a current affairs news item.

Information such as a person's origin, religion, legal status - whether as a regular/irregular migrant, asylum-seeker, refugee, etc. - should not be provided unless they are relevant and pertinent to understanding the event.

Choosing a title such as "Clandestino [irregular migrant] arrested for stealing a scooter", for instance, means attributing key significance to the person's irregular status in explaining the events.

Desk, managing and domestic affairs editors:

Should bear in mind that mentioning and emphasising a person's nationality, as well as any of the other identifying elements mentioned above, may have extremely negative consequences on social cohesion and may provide dangerous fodder for racist and xenophobic undercurrents in our society.

12. "Fuori Luogo. L'immigrazione e i media italiani" Marco Binotto and Valentina Martino (eds.), 2004, Edizioni Rai-Eri, Roma

13. Jessika Ter Wal - European Day of Media Monitoring - www.multicultural.net/edmm/index.htm

14. "Inmigración e Información. Recomendaciones para Periodistas" Asoc. De la Prensa del Campo de Gibraltar 2004 - Osservatorio Carta di Roma www.cartadiroma.org

CONTEXT

Journalists also share the concern that information is increasingly defined by the use of sensationalist tones and language, and invite colleagues to assess the implications this trend has for news on migration in a careful and responsible manner.

RECOMMENDATIONS

As also suggested by the Council of Europe¹⁵ journalists should abstain from sensationalism and the “feeling of terror, fear or chaos amongst the public” it engenders.

News linking terrorism, religious fundamentalism, crimes and deviant behaviour with migration require special attention. Greater attention should also be paid to the implications this type of news may have on peaceful and democratic social cohesion.

Recalling art. 2 of the Italian law regulating the journalistic profession and, in particular, the rights and duties set forth therein, journalists are conscious and aware of the fact that they often lack bargaining power and the necessary autonomy to exercise such supervision. They therefore call upon the competent bodies – the Journalists’ Professional Association, editorial boards, supervisory bodies overseeing the implementation of the relevant codes of conduct and civil society organisations – to support initiatives taken by individual journalists vis-à-vis their editors and publishers.

FURTHER CLARIFICATION

Does this mean I should censor certain informa-

tion just because it is unpleasant?

The Guidelines do not suggest censoring unpleasant information. Reporters should, however, select those personal characteristics which are truly relevant to understanding the events. Writing “Albanian citizen, wanted by Tirana police, detained at train station” may help to understand a particular event, whilst specifying the individual’s nationality would serve no purpose in a generic crime case (“Albanian detained for failing to stop at roadblock”). The latter option would imply that being Albanian was somehow relevant to explaining a person’s actions and would encourage the reader to automatically link the criminal episode to a nationality.

Don’t media practice and theory require journalists to provide all the personal details regarding individuals involved in a story?

“Yes”, would appear to be the inevitable reply. However, there are exceptions to this principle, which are generally considered to be reasonable and are normally applied in practice, for instance when minors are involved. The rule is applied differently, however, depending on the category involved, with the result that stigmatised groups’ marginalisation is often underscored. In the past, it was normal for Italian journalists to write “Robbery in town centre – two southerners arrested”. Now foreign nationalities (“two Romanians”, “two non-EU migrants [extracomunitari]”, etc.) are used instead. Reporters should ask themselves “Would I refer to two Italians? Or to two northerners?”

Won’t I limit the number of terms I can use to define individuals if I enact these recommendations?

Using words whose connotation is often negative implies a judgement or, at best, guides the reader’s judgement. There are many ways of referring to a person – as a ‘man/woman’, ‘young/elderly person’, by his/her profession, age and so on – without using words with negative connotations and without choosing to highlight specific characteristics which may prompt readers to associate the latter with certain events.

15. Recommendation no. 1277, ‘On migrants, ethnic minorities and media’ (2005) and Recommendation no. 1768, ‘The image of asylum seekers, migrants and refugees in the media’ (2006), issued by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; Recommendation no. 1706, ‘On media and terrorism’ (2005) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

2 INTERVIEWING ASYLUM-SEEKERS, REFUGEES, VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING AND MIGRANTS¹⁶

The generalisations which have characterised most media coverage of migration [in Italy] have often overlooked the issue of foreign citizens' status in the country. Instead, journalists who have to or want to report on these issues should be familiar, at a minimum, with the range of legal conditions available to foreigners who reside in Italy.

'Irregular migrant', 'asylum-seeker' or 'refugee' refer to different legal and administrative conditions and cannot be used inter-changeably. Nor can people who arrive irregularly in Italy be collectively defined as "clandestini" ('illegals'), a term with extremely negative connotations which also has no basis in law. Please refer to the glossary annexed to the Rome Charter for basic terminology and definitions.

The following should be born in mind when carrying out interviews:

2.1 Individuals who belong to a different socio-cultural context, where the press plays a limited role, may not be aware of global media dynamics and may thus not be able to foresee all the consequences of their decision to appear in the media.

2.2 Individuals who agree to be interviewed should be informed of the potential consequences and particular care should be exercised (e.g. by assessing whether there is a real risk that speaking to the press could lead to retaliation) when interviewing detainees in holding centres (CIEs)¹⁷ or asylum-seekers hosted in reception facilities (CARAs)¹⁸. Interviewees' health and the possible existence of physical or psychological trauma should be carefully assessed, especially as regards (pregnant or recently pregnant) women and those who have just been rescued at sea.

2.3 For the interview to be successful, the services of a cultural 'mediator'¹⁹ and/or interpreter with experience of social work should be requested. This will ensure an accurate translation and respect for the interviewee's opinions and culture.

2.4 When asylum-seekers or refugees are interviewed, care should be taken to avoid publishing all the details which could lead to their identification, as this may expose the interviewees and their families to retaliation on the part of the authorities in their country of origin as well as by non-state entities or criminal organisations. Merely publishing the personal details of refugees or asylum-seekers outside their country of origin may expose their families to the risk of persecution.

2.5 Cameramen working for television news programmes and photographers should not film close-ups of refugees, asylum-seekers and victims of trafficking. When this does occur, the images should be broadcast or published out of focus.

Case study: the fathers of two Eritrean asylum-seekers – both of them draft dodgers in a country where military service is mandatory and unlimited – who agreed to be interviewed by a famous Italian daily were detained by the Eritrean authorities. A very high bail was set for their release. Source: UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

► FURTHER CLARIFICATION

Once an asylum-seeker or refugee has explicitly consented to being interviewed, can't I go on to tell his/her personal story?

Where the interviewee has given his/her informed and free consent, his/her personal story may be published, though all elements which could lead to his/her identification should be removed.

Isn't there a risk that refugees' anonymity may foster public indifference and therefore be of great help to those who plan to deport them?

Highlighting asylum-seekers' conditions does not necessarily entail revealing their personal identity or providing the public with details of their individual stories. Journalism has a long tradition of hiding the identity of certain interviewees.

16. This section has been drafted based on guidance provided by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

17. Centri di Identificazione ed Espulsione (Identification and Expulsion Centres)

18. Centri di Accoglienza per Richiedenti Asilo (Reception centres for asylum-seekers)

19. Centri di Accoglienza per Richiedenti Asilo (Reception centres for asylum-seekers)

REPORTING ON THE POLITICAL AND PUBLIC DEBATE

Local media devote a large amount of space to the local public debate. As a number of studies on the issue of how migrants are represented in the media have shown, a vicious circle links the political and media debates.

*"the media depend on official sources (e.g. the police, decision-makers and political actors) and are more than willing to publish or adopt the latter's point of view or that of "experts". What is published in the papers or broadcast on television reflects the institutions' view whilst simultaneously providing guidance on how to communicate by translating their point of view into everyday language"*²⁰.

In this context, it may be useful to:

- 3.1** Refer to the provisions in Italian law sanctioning those who incite others to or commit violence or acts to provoke violence for racial, ethnic, national or religious reasons;²¹
- 3.2** Highlight that "incitement to racism or xenophobia by public figures deserves especially serious condemnation".²²
- 3.3** Recommend that journalists be aware of the definition of 'hate speech', which includes all those forms of expression which spread, incite, promote or justify racial hatred, xenophobia, anti-Semitism or other forms of hatred based on intolerance, including intolerance expressed by aggressive nationalism or of ethnocentrism, discrimination and hostility against minorities, migrants and persons of migrant origin²³.
- 3.4** Recommend that, where the editorial line and a lack of autonomy within the editorial team enforce publication of inflammatory statements, statements or excerpts of statements by public figures be placed within quotation marks, and that particular care be ex-

ercised when producing titles and posters (please also refer to point 1.3). Sources and data which provide context as well as reliable and verifiable information on the issues and subjects broached in the statements should also be published.

- 3.5** Encourage professionals from the local media to reflect on the implications that the use of specific images – veiled women, men engaged in prayer, hawkers, etc. – may have. These standard archive photographs are often printed alongside content on the public debate on migration, whether or not the text contains any reference to these people, and may spread and/or reinforce stereotypes and generalisations on foreigners or migrant.

The 'debate' on migration deserves special attention and should be placed back in context in a clear and exhaustive manner, including by focusing on the root causes of these phenomena and, in particular, on the socio-economic and political causes of emigration in countries of origin, i.e. famine, environmental disasters, conflict, civil war, violence and persecution, as well as a legitimate desire to improve living conditions. By probing the causes of migratory routes, journalists should therefore aim to enhance understanding of the fact that people flee their countries because conflict and human rights violations make it impossible to stay, or because they seek to improve their lives, while, through the use of data and statistics, they should counter the unsubstantiated notion of an "invasion".

To this effect, the following recommendations may be of use:

- Compile a list of reliable information sources in the area – experts on issues relating to migration, refugees and asylum-seekers, in addition to quali-

20. Marcello Maneri "I media creano il panico" in Lunaria (a cura di) Rapporto sul razzismo in Italia, manifestolibri, 2009

21. Law no. 654 of 13 October 1975 (Reale law) on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and Law no. 205/93 (Mancino law) on "Urgent measures concerning racial, ethnic or religious discrimination". These norms stipulate that sanctions may be applied against those who "in the course of public gatherings, carry out public demonstrations or flaunt emblems or symbols belonging to or generally used by organisations, associations, movements or groups having among their aims the incitement to commit discrimination or violence for racial, ethnic, national or religious reasons, [which spread] ideas based on superiority or on racial or ethnic hatred or which incite to commit or commit discriminatory acts for racial, ethnic, national or religious reasons".

22. Madrid Declaration – Journalists against racism and xenophobia – 25 March 1998

23. Recommendation no. 20, 'On hate speech' (1997) of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

fied representatives of migrant communities and of local NGOs – as well as a list of useful websites on migration, to consult at short notice to balance a piece/news report;

- Create an appropriate archive of images and photographs, avoiding those which may fuel the preju-

dice and stereotypes reflected in statements, thereby reinforcing discriminatory or racist discourse;

- Consult more experienced colleagues and foreign reporters within the editorial team or who work for other outlets.

4

REPORTING ON DATA/STATISTICS AND ON OPINION POLLS

A number of studies warn against publishing raw data without providing an explanation of the subject at stake by adequately analysing the complex – external or internal – factors affecting the issue²⁴. This can take place, for instance, when crime statistics are published alongside editorials and interviews highlighting a rise in offences committed by foreigners.

Contextualising data can be dangerous and damaging when it prompts the public to interpret issues simplistically and ideologically²⁵.

“Opinion polls on Italians’ feelings of insecurity, which appear in the media – who often commission the polls themselves – on an almost monthly basis, tend to influence responses by raising the issue of crime or of crime committed by foreigners in the questions they ask. The polls, regardless of what they actually demonstrate, are used to uphold the so-called “security emergency” (by the media, politicians and the pollsters themselves).”²⁶

- 4.1** Special care should therefore be exercised when publishing data and opinion polls. Efforts should also be made to identify experts who can offer different interpretations of or alternative points of view on data which is published or broadcast.

Interpreting statistics may often not be as simple as it appears to be and data which is used in the media may be controversial within the scientific community. The media often make use of data on foreign crime which allegedly demonstrate that foreigners have a greater tendency to commit crime.

Comparing data on crime committed by foreigners and Italians, respectively, is not easy, given the two groups’ different demography and social traits, the fact that some crimes (e.g. failing to leave the count-

ry when served with an expulsion order) can only be committed by foreigners and that the way the two groups are involved in legal and criminal proceedings is often different.

The figure which the media quote most often is probably the number of foreigners in jail. It is, however, the most misleading as foreigners find it much harder to benefit from alternatives to custody.

- 4.2** When carrying out opinion polls or vox pop interviews to assess the “public’s mood” concerning measures taken by the authorities, news or facts, **foreign residents should be considered as an integral part of the public whose opinion is being assessed.**

Asking foreign residents for their opinion on all matters affecting society and social cohesion may avoid engendering feelings of, or reinforcing, migrants’ social exclusion and may contribute to defeating stereotypes among the native population. Choosing to highlight the notion of shared residency and citizenship in a given area helps to lessen readers’ tendency to categorise groups exclusively on the basis of their nationality.

Case study: Mr. Ahmed may be interviewed as a worker from a local factory affected by the downturn, as the father of children who are enrolled in the local school, as a resident in an area where the authorities plan to chop down ancient trees and where he is a member of the local committee fighting the plans, or as a Moroccan resident who is celebrating the end of Ramadan.

24. Marion Fitzgerald in “Studi sulla questione criminale” - n. 3 del 2008

25. Giuseppe Faso “I numeri discriminano” Altreconomia – giugno 2009

26. Marcello Maneri “I media creano il panico” in Lunaria (a cura di) Rapporto sul razzismo in Italia, manifestolibri, 2009

LOCAL INFORMATION SOURCES AND THE ROLE OF FOREIGN JOURNALISTS

Information sources are vital tools for journalists. Given the limited number of sources to draw upon on migration-related issues, institutional ones such as the police and local or national authorities tend to prevail. This limits the number of potential stories or news items – including the rather more colourful ones – which readers and the public may be interested in hearing about, and also silences the migrants' voices and the voices of those who know them best – NGOs, civil society groups and experts.

Balanced reporting on the issue requires sources' relevance and usefulness to be assessed.

5.1 Reporters' address books should therefore include contacts for key representatives of migrant communities in the area, migrant experts, embassies and consulates. This will increase the potential number of interesting news items as well as the range of voices and comments in the current affairs sections, thereby ensuring balanced reporting on the issue.

5.2 Hiring journalists of migrant origin or, at a minimum, boosting intercultural competencies in newsrooms is also key to broadening horizons and enhancing the potential number of stories in the area.

Examples of initiatives which may be taken up in newsrooms and/or by industry bodies include:

- Invite migrant residents and NGOs to visit newsrooms so they can become familiar with local media in the area they live in;
- Ask local authorities and relevant NGOs for the contact details of migrants' groups and other useful individual contacts.

munity would unduly simplify the search for reliable sources. The concept of 'community' itself is highly questionable, given that people from the same country often have very different social and cultural backgrounds, migratory routes and stories.

Where local authorities or NGOs lack contacts of this kind, reporters should therefore establish a database of contacts by thematic area (health, culture, nationality, etc.). The National Intercultural Press Association (www.associazioneansi.org), a specialised branch of FNSI whose membership mostly includes journalists from different countries, may be able to provide useful contacts.

How can the distrust towards journalists shown by some migrants and some migrant communities in particular be overcome?

Migrants may not trust reporters to publish their statements accurately. A possible solution may be to contribute to boosting potential interlocutors' trust by reporting their statements accurately when and if they agree to talk to the press.

Aren't statements and data issued by NGOs likely to be unreliable and to present migrants in a positive light?

Information provided by NGOs and the authorities alike should be verified, but the fact that NGOs are closer to and have greater experience of migrant communities cannot be ignored. Accusing NGOs of being overly positive about migrants is misleading – reporters should simply be interested in facts and data, and on presenting a range of different interpretations of the issues they cover. Journalists should therefore identify qualified representatives – of both the authorities and NGOs – with direct experience of the issue.

► FURTHER CLARIFICATION

How can migrant representatives who accurately reflect their community's point of view be identified?

Identifying a single person, albeit a representative of a Tunisian, Moroccan or Albanian NGO, as the sole interlocutor for everything concerning a given com-

PUBLIC SERVICE INFORMATION IN THE LOCAL MEDIA

As demonstrated by the growth of multicultural media – papers, radio and TV programmes, and websites set up by and directed at foreign residents – in Italy²⁷ and elsewhere in Europe²⁸, migrants who live and access the media in a given area need specific information. Whilst traditional readership is declining, this section of local media users is constantly expanding and local media outlets should take steps to attract these potential readers/viewers.

Public service information – from simply providing chemists' opening hours and information on public transport to special supplements on services available in the area – is often published in the local media.

- 6.1 Public service information specifically geared at migrant residents living in the area

This section of local media users is constantly expanding and local media outlets should take steps to attract these potential readers.

should therefore be published alongside the information of this kind which is already provided.

Case study: the times of Catholic religious services published in the local media could be complemented by those of services held by other faiths or denominations. The list of local public services could also include those where interpretation is available (and in which languages).

- 6.2 Media outlets could try publishing sections of their websites in different languages or rolling out specific **media products to reach out to and involve all the communities/groups** living in the area.

► FURTHER CLARIFICATION

Isn't there a risk that ad hoc sections in papers/websites will 'ghettoise' these issues?

Website sections cannot, by their very nature, ever form a segregated space or 'ghetto'. Instead, they allow people who speak the language used in the section to read it wherever they are in the world. Publishers who seek to produce inclusive media catering to different groups may also boost their potential readership and viewers, especially of local media.

ONLINE INFORMATION²⁹

According to data published in a 2012 study carried out by the LaRiCa research centre³⁰ ('Carlo Bo' University, Urbino) on changing patterns of media con-

sumption, almost half of the Italian population (49%) uses a combination of five to seven media outlets, ranging from local and national television to national

27. Cospe- "Un diverso parlare – il fenomeno dei media multiculturali in Italia" Marcello Maneri, Anna Meli (a cura di) ed. Carocci – dicembre 2007

28. Institut Panos " Médias et diversité. De la visibilité aux contenus. Un état des lieux en France, en Allemagne, au Royaume-Uni et aux Etats-Unis." ed Khartala, 2008

29. This section was drafted by FNSI's LSDI group – Libertà di Stampa e Diritto all'informazione – gruppo di riflessione, analisi e dibattito sui "giornali-smi" (Press freedom and the right to information – reflection, analysis and debate on the different types of journalism), www.lsd.it

30. <http://www.lsd.it/2012/un-italiano-su-due-usa-fra-5-e-7-mezzi-di-comunicazione-diversi-per-informarsi>

Journalists who publish online therefore face new opportunities along with new challenges.

(58%) go online to access and use information, a 7% increase on 2011.

Untrammelled freedom of expression online often leads to racist and discriminatory outbursts which can turn quite violent. At the same time, though, the web allows for so many opportunities for individual expression that its capacity to host them is virtually unlimited, thereby providing a platform for minorities and those involved in integration (in the broadest meaning of the term), who struggle to make their voices heard in the traditional media.

Journalists who publish online therefore face new opportunities along with new challenges, including when they cover the topics the Rome Charter focuses on. The issue of where freedom of the press and of expression give way to discrimination and racism in the case of online content is particularly controversial and requires further analysis and discussion.

These Guidelines therefore only provide limited guidance in this section, choosing to focus on two aspects which journalists should bear in mind in their daily work, i.e. sources and managing interaction with online readers.

Journalists who publish online therefore face new opportunities along with new challenges.

7.1 To ensure exhaustive and accurate information, as well as to demonstrate respect for the reader, good practice for online media suggests that links to documents, news, court decisions and original statements, as well as to the sources of the information concerning the foreign residents involved in a given story, be always provided. More broadly, cross-linking contributes to educating readers and to increasing the public's awareness.

and local print media, radio stations, 24-hour satellite news channels and the internet. Of the 60% of Italians who use the internet, over half

7.2 In addition to deleting racist comments, managers of online content should state that this type of contribution will not be allowed. An ad hoc moderator could be foreseen when the topic under discussion is particularly sensitive.

Online media outlets could ask users to sign a 'readers' statute' to access discussion fora. The rationale behind this proposal is that – just like media outlets and journalists should agree on an internal statute laying out their editorial line, as well as their ethical principles and so on - readers should respect basic ethical principles to a greater extent and be more responsible when they participate in online discussions, which should be seen as an opportunity to foster exchange and mutual enrichment, rather than as a way of letting off steam without restrictions.

► FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:

www.lsd.it/2012/un-italiano-su-due-usa-fra-5-e-7-mezzi-di-comunicazione-diversi-per-informarsi

www.lsd.it/2011/per-un-giornalismo-interculturale

www.lsd.it/2012/media-e-immigrazione-tra-luoghi-comuni-xenofobia-e-diritti-negati-ai-cittadini-e-ai-giornalisti

www.lsd.it/2012/i-dati-sul-sociale-sono-on-line-ma-non-sono-open



Several recent studies, as well as a series of relevant codes of conduct, have highlighted anew how important the kind of terminology used to report on migration is.

Migration-related terminology also changes constantly, both as a consequence of the introduction of new legislation and as a function of the social value attached to certain words over time.

8.1 Journalists are encouraged to “adopt legally appropriate terminology in order to provide readers and viewers with the greatest adherence to the facts, and to avoid the use of inappropriate terms”.³¹

8.2 Ethnic slurs – ‘illegal’ instead of ‘irregular migrant’, ‘gyp’ or ‘gyppo’ for ‘gypsy’, ‘Pikey’ for ‘traveller’, etc.³² – should be avoided.

8.3 Inaccurate, superficial or distorted information should be avoided. The ‘news in brief’ section, or more broadly, articles that draw on news wire content or on statements issued by the police and other public bodies, tend to publish news verbatim without verifying its accuracy.

The use of words such as ‘presumably’ or ‘maybe’ linked to nationality or religion should always be avoided (e.g. ‘The authors of the shooting may be Albanian’... ‘Albanian killed, presumably in a showdown’).

Finally, taking part in training and refresher courses organised by industry bodies - professional associations and unions - and NGOs, is particularly useful and advisable, in order to keep up to date on the appropriate terminology and on the social dynamics relating to migration and asylum in Italy. Please refer to the glossary on page 20 for a list of appropriate terms.

Journalists should not be forced to apply abstract rules, but they should reclaim the right to report the facts.

► FURTHER CLARIFICATION

Aren’t we being asked to be politically correct with no regard for the actual facts?

Recommendations and rules pertaining to terminology may indeed distance readers from the facts in the name of ‘political correctness’. However, the opposite appears to have taken place in Italy over the last few years, with the advent of politically motivated jargon which has been widely adopted by the media – as demonstrated by the need for a document like the Rome Charter. Journalists should not be forced to apply abstract rules and use abstract words, but they should reclaim the right and duty to report the facts without causing offence and abandoning unwritten prescriptions (including on the use of terminology) which have entered common usage and which are indeed curtailing.

Isn’t there a risk that certain terms may be taken to have a fixed and unchanging character, whilst their semantic meaning actually changes over time, depending on the way they are used and for what purposes?

The choice of a given term obviously depends on context and historical moment. These Guidelines do encourage journalists to adapt terminology depending on current usage, rather than considering these terms as carved in stone. The on-going monitoring and updating of terminology should be premised on a willingness to engage in dialogue, both among journalists and with civil society.

31. Rome Charter - http://www.fnsi.it/FNSI_international/Documenti/roma.pdf

32. The word ‘vu cumprà’ (literally, ‘do you want to buy?’ the way an African would allegedly pronounce the phrase), is used in Italy, including by the media, to designate a migrant hawker [translator’s note].

THE NEED TO FOCUS ON SPECIFIC MINORITY GROUPS

In its latest report on Italy³³, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) noted with regret that certain specific minority groups, such as the Roma and Sinti, who are often portrayed in strongly negative terms by the media, were not mentioned in the Rome Charter.

These Guidelines provide general guidance which also applies to covering stories involving Roma and Sinti minorities, as well as foreign minors. This section, however, highlights specific aspects relating to these groups which journalists should be aware of in their daily work.

ROM AND SINTI³⁴

Roma and Sinti are the largest minority group in Europe today. A Resolution adopted by the European Parliament in March 2011³⁵ highlights the fact that “a large proportion of Europe’s 10-12 million Roma – most of whom are EU citizens – have suffered systematic discrimination and are therefore struggling against an intolerable degree of social, cultural and economic exclusion as well as of human rights violations, and experience severe stigmatisation and discrimination in public and private life”. The Italian context appears to be markedly characterised by widespread and growing feelings of anti-Gypsyism. Several international bodies have expressed concern about these attitudes, which are deeply rooted and often legitimised by politicians and the media, and which often lead to openly discriminatory and racist practices.

In 2011, the Council of Europe’s Human Rights Commissioner, Thomas Hammarberg, reiterated concerns expressed in 2008 and 2009 about the discrimi-

Distorted information published by some media outlets, characterising an entire ethnic group as being linked to certain crimes.

nation experienced by Roma and Sinti in Italy.

Prior to this, in 2008, the UN’s Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) had expressed concern about the many instances of hate speech targeting

Roma on the part of certain politicians and about the media’s role in spreading these messages in Italy. On that occasion, CERD recommended that ‘the State party take resolute action to counter any tendency especially from politicians to target, stigmatize, stereotype or profile people on the basis of race, colour, descent, and national or ethnic origin or to use racist propaganda for political purposes’ and that the media be encouraged to ‘play an active role in combating prejudices and negative stereotypes which lead to racial discrimination and that it adopt all necessary measures to combat racism in the media’.³⁶

These recommendations have recently been taken up by ECRI in Recommendation no. 13 on combating anti-Gypsyism and discrimination against Roma³⁷, and, in particular, in point no. 10 on ‘combating anti-Gypsyism expressed in the media’.

External assessments conducted by international bodies therefore uphold the view that the Italian media tend to portray Roma and Sinti people in a hostile way.

Distorted information published by some media outlets, characterising an entire ethnic group – all Roma and Sinti, with no exceptions – as being linked to certain crimes, often contrives to engender totally unfounded feelings of alarm among the public, despite the lack of any grounding in reality.

An incident which took place in Pescara in 2012 illustrates this point. Massimo Ciarelli (whose

31. ECRI – quarto rapporto sull’Italia – febbraio 2012 <http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/country-by-country/italy/ITA-CbC-IV-2012-002-ITA.pdf>

32. Paragrafo a cura di Articolo 3- Osservatorio sulle discriminazioni di Mantova – www.articolo3.org

33. Risoluzione del Parlamento europeo del 9 marzo 2011 sulla strategia dell’UE per l’inclusione dei rom (2010/2276(INI)) <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P7-TA-2011-0092+0+DOC+XML+V0//IT>

34. Report by Thomas Hammarberg, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, following his visit to Italy from 26 to 27 May 2011

35. http://www.programmaintegra.it/modules/dms/file_retrieve.php?function=view&obj_id=1840

36. http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/activities/GPR/EN/Recommendation_N13/e-RPG%2013%20-%20A4.pdf

name and surname are as Italian as can be!), an individual charged with murder, was identified by the press as a local Roma, sparking attempts by supporters of the local football team and right-wing extremists to attack the city's Roma neighbourhood.

The number of public figures from the Roma and Sinti community is limited compared to other minorities in Italy. The media should take this into account, enabling this minority's voice to be heard and bearing in mind that, in some cases, Roma and Sinti are unable to defend their rights.

The rules of professional conduct which journalists have adopted for their work, as well as the norms governing journalism, are often blatantly disregarded when Roma and Sinti are involved. Criminals' ethnicity is emphasised to the extent that the offence takes on ethnic overtones³⁸ and is attributed to the entire community by virtue of what can be defined as 'collective criminal responsibility'³⁹.

ROM AND SINTI: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

HOW SHOULD WE DEFINE THEM?

A person's origin or ethnicity should only be specified when strictly necessary for the news to be understood or, obviously, when the minority itself - with its history and traditions - is the subject of media coverage.

In these cases, using these terms is appropriate, though in doing so journalists should exercise the same care and show the same respect as they would for all other categories.

GYPSIES?

Roma and Sinti people are generally referred to by this heteronymous term, which the Roma and Sinti themselves mostly judge to be offensive. The use of 'gypsies', however, is still widespread at every level, from common parlance to public and political discourse. Even though the appropriate terms – such as 'Roma' and 'Sinti' – appear in the media more often than they used to, 'Gypsies' is still widespread in

most of the media, who appear to be unaware of the term's negative connotations.

TRAVELLERS?

In Italy, the most widely held stereotype about the Roma - which has, moreover, led the authorities to roll out misguided policies, including the confinement of Roma to so-called 'travellers' camps' ('campi nomadi') - concerns their alleged nomadism. The theory according to which the Roma are a nomadic people is still often used to provide cultural legitimacy to Roma and Sinti's marginalisation in camps. "One of the perverse effects of the misleading use of the concept of nomadism is the derived term 'campo nomade', which brings to mind sites targeted at groups of humans who are constantly on the move, where these people typically live and which they somehow 'require'. This is not the case. Italy is described as the 'country of camps' in Europe because of its policies of territorial segregation, despite the fact that only a tiny minority of the Roma and Sinti who live in the country are not sedentary. Using the terms 'travellers' and 'travellers' camps' in the Italian context is therefore inaccurate and misleading, leads to discriminatory attitudes among the general public and 'upholds' a series of prejudices which are particularly widespread in Italian society."⁴⁰

ROM AND SINTI?

Instead of 'Gypsies' and 'travellers', journalists are invited to adopt the terms used by members of these historical, linguistic and cultural minorities to describe themselves: Roma, Sinti, Kalé, Ròmanichals, Manouche, etc. 'Roma' and 'Sinti' are therefore the most appropriate terms, depending on which of the two ethnic groups one is referring to, and may be complemented by a given nationality, given that there are different Roma groups (Italian/Romanian/Bosnian/Hungarian/Bulgarian Roma and so on) in Italy, whereas the overwhelming majority of the Sinti living in Italy are Italian citizens. At the international level, the most widely used terms for all these groups are

37. E. Rizzin e A. Bertellini, "Istigazione all'odio razziale e discriminazioni nel discorso pubblico italiano dai rapporti di ricerca alle cause strategiche", in P. Bonetti, A. Simoni e T. Vitale (a cura di). La condizione giuridica di rom e sinti in Italia, Giuffrè, 2011.

38. A regola d'Art3, Menzogne e pregiudizio di Eva Rizzin, newsletter n°4/2011. www.articolo3.org.

39. L. Guadagnucci, Parole Sporche.Clandestini, nomadi, vu cumprà: il razzismo nei media e dentro di noi, p. 183.

40. L. Guadagnucci, Parole Sporche.Clandestini, nomadi, vu cumprà: il razzismo nei media e dentro di noi, p. 183.

‘Roma’/‘Rom’ and ‘Sinti’, as indicated by the OSCE in its Decision no. 03/03, ‘Action Plan on improving the situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE area’, adopted by the Council of Ministers in Maastricht on 2nd December 2003.⁴¹ ‘Travellers’ camp’ should be replaced by the more appropriate administrative term for these sites, i.e. ‘temporary camping area’.

A multi-faceted minority

There are no official data on Roma and Sinti population numbers in Italy. Estimates place the total number of Roma and Sinti in the country at approximately 120,000 – 150,000, or 0.25% of the Italian population, half of whom are Italian citizens.

When the Roma are mentioned, they often tend to be considered as an undifferentiated and homogeneous group who share a common identity and the same characteristics, and who are alternately depicted in overly romantic terms - the Roma as musicians, dancers, freedom lovers, ‘sons of the wind’ – or extremely negative ones – the Roma as thieves, criminals, parasites and tricksters. In reality, the Roma and Sinti who live in Italy are a heterogeneous population which includes Italian, European, non-European and migrant citizens with different cultures, customs, traditions and religious creeds – a multiplicity of groups and sub-groups who each have their own specific characteristics. Roma and Sinti are not always marginalised and thousands of them are actively involved in society, though growing racism and prejudice often stop them from making their identity public.

FOREIGN MINORS⁴²

The Treviso Charter⁴³, signed by the Italian Journalists’ Professional Association and the National Press Federation on 5th October 1990, commits Italian journalists to comply with the provisions of Article 3.1 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child⁴⁴: ‘in all actions concerning children [...], the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration’. Journalists’ standards of professional conduct therefore legitimately include the obligation to protect minors – regardless of their nationality, gender or religion – from any intrusion into their private lives

on the part of the media and from any form of exploitation by or involvement in the media which would prejudice their dignity and best interest.⁴⁵

Particular care to avoid negative terminology should be exercised when reporting on Roma minors, as this could exacerbate the largely hostile climate they face and expand the ‘social vacuum’ surrounding them, endangering efforts to offer protection to these minors and foster their integration (cf. the ‘Guidelines for the Media on Foreign Minors and Juvenile Justice’, underwritten and signed by the Italian National Press Federation and the Journalists’ Professional Association in 2009).

The press should also exercise particular care when covering stories – especially harsh ones – about unaccompanied foreign minors, whose vulnerability is enhanced by the lack of adequate protection and support on the part of any adults.

Reporters should therefore:

- 9.1 Be aware of and respect criminal, civil and administrative norms governing press work and, more specifically, judicial reporting when minors are involved;
- 9.2 Ensure the anonymity of foreign minors involved in crime stories – including those involving minor offences – where reference to their identity could damage them;
- 9.3 Avoid publishing any of the details which may serve to identify a given child (e.g. his/her parents’ personal details, address and school, or the shops he/she goes to, etc.);
- 9.4 Exercise particular care and sensitivity when broadcasting images of foreign minors who are sick, injured or unwell as good intentions inspired by pity can easily lead to sensationalist exploitation;⁴⁷
- 9.5 Verify sources carefully, assess the quality of opinion polls and check the accuracy of quantitative and statistical data on foreign minors.⁴⁸

41. <http://www.osce.org/odihr/17554>

42. This section was drafted by the Istituto degli Innocenti – Florence <http://rassegna.minori.it/>

43. <http://www.odg.it/print/content/minori>. The Treviso Charter was subsequently revised in 2006, when the observations made by the Ombudsman for personal data protection (Decision no. 49/06) were included alongside the 1995 Vademecum published by CNOG and FNSI on 25 November 1995 and the self-regulatory code on minors and TV (Communications Ministry Decree of 29 November 2002).

DIVERSITY CHECKLIST⁴⁹

- 1 Am I aware of my personal assumptions about the issues, the stories and the people I choose to report on?**
- 2 Am I aware of the power of images, words, sounds and music?**
- 3 Do I mention ethnicity if it is not relevant to the story?**
- 4 Do I spend enough time checking the facts? Am I sure that I am using the correct terms?**
- 5 Do I consult more experienced colleagues – and those from different backgrounds – when necessary?**
- 6 Do I choose my interviewees because of their relevance to the story or because I expect them to attract the attention of the viewer?**
- 7 Do I try to find a variety of opinions among the minority spokespeople and witnesses I interview?**
- 8 Are the minority subjects in my story for authentic reasons?**
- 9 Do I find new angles and develop my stories a bit further?**
- 10 Do I challenge myself to find new sources and to question the dominant discourse?**
- 11 Do I reflect on whether my stories maintain stereotypes?**
- 12 Do I consider the impact of my report not only on viewer opinion but also on the lives of the subjects portrayed?**
- 13 Do I actively try to recruit colleagues who will bring a diversity of perspective into the newsroom?**
- 14 Am I interested in cultures other than my own and open to accepting proposals of stories from different cultural viewpoints?**

44. <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/crc.htm>

45. This obligation is also laid out in the standards of professional conduct included in Art. 2 of the Law establishing the Italian Journalists' Professional Association, as well as in the code of conduct annexed to the Code on the protection of personal data (legislative decree no. 196/2003), <http://www.privacy.it/codiceprivacy.html> 46. "Linee guida per i media su Minori Stranieri e Giustizia Minorile" (October 2009), <http://www.reteold.it/Fasell/C/05/Linee%20Guida%20per%20i%20Media%20Giustizia%20Minorile%20%20OLD.pdf>. The Guidelines were drafted in the framework of the 'Beyond discrimination' ('Oltre la discriminazione') media campaign launched by the Juvenile Justice Department and produced by the Italian Association for the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, in collaboration with the Istituto Don Calabria and the Istituto psicoanalitico per le ricerche sociali.

47. Cf. I cattivi di giorno. La rappresentazione del gesto efferato come emblematico della condizione giovanile, Silvia Pezzoli, in *Il Giornalismo in Italia*, a cura di Carlo Sorrentino, Roma, Carocci, 2003). 48. Information and data on minors in Italy published by official sources are published on the website www.minori.it alongside regular updates from the National Centre for documentation and analysis on children and adolescents (Centro nazionale di documentazione e analisi per l'infanzia e l'adolescenza).

49. Extract from "A Diversity Toolkit for factual programmes in public service television" drafted by the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) - http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/media-toolkit-documentation_en.pdf

GLOSSARY

DEFINITIONS INCLUDED IN THE ROME CHARTER

An **asylum seeker** is a person who is outside the country of his/her nationality and submits an application to be granted refugee status, or other forms of international protection, in a different country on the basis of the 1951 Geneva Convention on refugees. He/she is an asylum seeker and has the right to reside in the host country as a legal alien until a final decision has been reached by the competent authorities. Asylum seekers are thus not irregular migrants, though they may enter the host country without identity papers or in an irregular manner, e.g. through so-called 'mixed migration flows', which are made up of both irregular migrants and potential refugees.

A **refugee** is a person who has been granted refugee status on the basis of the 1951 Geneva Convention on refugees, which Italy is a member to along with 143 other countries. Article 1 of the Convention defines a refugee as a person having a 'well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, [who] is outside the country of his nationality and is unable, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country'. A person is granted refugee status if he/she can demonstrate that he/she is the victim of an individual persecution.

A **beneficiary of humanitarian protection** is a person who cannot be strictly defined as a 'refugee' under the 1951 Convention because he/she is not persecuted as an individual, but who is nevertheless in need of protection as, were he/she to be repatriated to his/her home country, he/she would be in grave danger due to armed conflict, generalised violence and/or widespread violations of human rights. European directives define this form of protection as 'subsidiary' protection. Most of the people who are recognised as being in need of protection in Italy are granted a residence permit for humanitarian reasons rather than refugee status.


A **victim of trafficking** is a person who - unlike irregular migrants, who decide to entrust their fate to people smugglers - has not given his/her consent to be transferred to another country or, if he/she has given his/her consent, the latter has been rendered void by the coercive and/or deceitful actions of the traffickers or by the abuse which he/she has been the victim of or has been threatened with. Traffickers aim to achieve control over another person for the purpose of exploitation. 'Exploitation' includes the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

A **migrant/immigrant** is a person who chooses of his/her own accord to leave his/her home country in search of work and of better economic conditions elsewhere. Unlike refugees, migrants may return home without prejudice to their safety.

An **irregular migrant**, often defined as a 'clandestine' migrant in Italy, is a person who: a) has entered a country avoiding detection at the border; b) has entered the country in a regular manner, e.g. on a tourist visa, and has not left after his/her entry visa has expired (thus becoming a so-called 'overstayer'); or c) has not left the territory of the destination country subsequent to receipt of an expulsion order.

THEMATIC GUIDANCE ON TERMINOLOGY PROVIDED BY THE ISTITUTO DEGLI INNOCENTI (FLORENCE)

An unaccompanied foreign minor is a minor who does not possess Italian citizenship or the citizenship of another European Union member state, who has not applied for asylum and, whatever the reason for his/her arrival in Italy, finds him/herself devoid of assistance and representation on the part of parents or other adults who are legally respon-



**Children born to
migrant parents in Italy
cannot be defined as
migrants.**

sible for him/her according to the laws in force in the Italian legal system.

A minor whose parents are migrants and who has not yet acquired Italian citizenship may also officially be a foreigner in Italy, despite the fact that he/she was born in Italy or moved there as a young child. Children born to migrant parents in Italy cannot be defined as migrants, nor should they be labelled as foreigners. Should it really be necessary to indicate the sociological category these minors belong to in order for a given news item to be comprehensible, they may be defined as 'second-generation migrants'.

GUIDANCE PROVIDED BY "GIORNALISTI CONTRO IL RAZZISMO" (JOURNALISTS AGAINST RACISM)

web.giornalismi.info/mediarom/indici/ind_232.html

CLANDESTINE (ILLEGAL) MIGRANT

The term, which is widely used in the Italian media, has an extremely negative meaning and conjures up images of secrecy, lives conducted in the dark and ties with organised crime. The word is generally used to refer to foreigners whose papers fail to comply – in part or totally – with national legislation on residence permits for a variety of reasons, despite the fact that their lives are conducted in the open, that they work and that they lead 'normal' lives. A variety of conditions are defined as 'illegal', ranging from individuals who have failed to secure a residence permit (perhaps because they were excluded from limited entry quotas) or to renew theirs when it expired, to those who entered Italy with a tourist visa, which then expired, or those – a minority – who never sought a tourist visa or applied for an entry visa in their home countries through the established procedure, widely acknowledged as cumbersome and impractical. Those who intend to seek asylum and asylum-seekers awaiting a response on their claims are also often viewed as 'illegals', as are those displaced by conflict or natural disasters. Each and every situation may be defined using the appropriate word, thereby avoiding any use of this highly stigmatising term.

► ALTERNATIVE TERMS

Other countries use terms such as 'sans papiers' (France), 'undocumented migrant workers' (UN definition) and so on. Depending on the case, and having made sure that the terms are being used appropriately, 'irregular migrant', 'refugee' or 'asylum-seeker' may be used. Simpler and more neutral words such as 'person', 'migrant' or 'worker' are always available and often preferable. 'Lacking legal documentation/papers' refers to individuals who have simply committed an administrative offence and therefore avoids conjuring up negative or stigmatising images.

THIRD COUNTRY NATIONAL (EXTRACOMUNITARIO)

Literally, the term should indicate nationals of non-EU states, but it is rarely applied to US, Swiss or Australian nationals or to other citizens of 'rich' states. It has therefore come to refer to – and stigmatise – people from poor countries, underscoring their exclusion from Italy and Europe over and above any other element. The – largely inaccurate – term has therefore taken on a demeaning character.

► ALTERNATIVE TERMS

'Non-EU national' may be used for people from countries which are not member states of the EU. Alternatively, reference may be made, if necessary (nationality is often specified even when totally unnecessary, especially in news titles), to a given individual's country of origin.

MIGRANT HAWKER (VUCUMPRO)⁵⁰

The word is a mispronunciation of the Italian "Vuoi comprare?" ("Do you want to buy?") and has been used for years to define migrants, and especially those from Africa, who work as hawkers. This inaccurate term is disrespectful and stigmatising.

► ALTERNATIVE TERMS

'Pedlar', 'vender'.

TRAVELLER (AND TRAVELLERS CAMPS)

Only a minority of Roma and Sinti are nomadic, yet the term 'traveller' is widely used to refer to them. One of the perverse effects of the misleading use of the concept of nomadism is the derived term 'campo nomade', which brings to mind sites targeted at groups of humans who are constantly on the move, where these people typically live and which they somehow 'require'. This is not the case. Italy is described as the 'country of camps' in Europe because

50. Please see footnote no. 32.

of its policies of territorial segregation, despite the fact that only a tiny minority of the Roma and Sinti who live in the country are not sedentary. Using the terms 'travellers' and 'travellers' camps' in the Italian context is therefore inaccurate and misleading, leads to discriminatory attitudes among the general public and 'upholds' a series of prejudices which are particularly widespread in Italian society.

► **ALTERNATIVE TERMS**

Roma' and 'Sinti' are therefore the most appropriate terms, depending on which of the two different ethnic groups one is referring to, and may be complemented by a given nationality. 'Travellers' camp' should

be replaced by the more appropriate administrative term for these sites, i.e. 'temporary camping area'.

GYPSIES

This ancient word and its derivatives are widespread across Europe. However, it has taken on an increasingly negative meaning and is now rejected by the Roma and Sinti themselves. It is often considered to be a synonym of 'traveller' and therefore shares the latter's distorting and discriminatory undertones.

► **ALTERNATIVE TERMS**

Roma, sinti.



APPENDIX

Extract from Chapter 7 - Recommendations of “Getting the facts rights – Reporting Ethnicity & Religion” a Study of media coverage of ethnicity and religion in Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Slovakia and the United Kingdom”, edited by Verica Rupar, produced by the Media Diversity Institute in partnership with Article 19 and the International Federation of Journalists (Belgium, 2012).

• What can journalists do?

- Get to know anti-discrimination legislation.
- Use a dialogue-oriented approach.
- Use a broader network of expert sources.
- Provide background information.
- Put facts in context.
- Investigate documents in the public domain (archives, libraries, local offices).
- Interview people with knowledge.
- Portray people as human beings instead of representatives of religious or ethnic groups.
- Avoid negative labels.
- Separate facts from opinion but treat opinion as relevant.

• What can editors do?

- Organize in-house training for journalists.
- Invite members of religious and ethnic groups to come to the newsroom.
- Encourage more senior journalists to support younger colleagues in these matters.
- Support best journalism practice.
- Create a culture of tolerance within the newsroom.
- Work with human resource departments to take into consideration newsroom diversity.
- News outlets who do not have internal editorial guidelines should be encouraged to adopt them.

• What can newsmakers expect from Civil Society Organisations?

- Regular updates on activities in the field.
- Professional advice in matters of disputes.
- Support in gaining background information.
- Support in finding sources for information.
- Functioning as an advisory panel for the most contested issues.
- Providing ideas for stories that highlight the issues of religious and ethnic groups.

• What can newsmakers expect from universities?

- The development of inclusive journalism curricula.
- Organising more post graduate training for mid-career journalists.
- Introducing courses on journalism ethics if they don't exist already.

• What can journalists' unions and associations do?

- Adopt and promote an ethical code for journalists.
- Organise training and workshops for journalists on issues related to tolerance, religion, security policy, rights of minorities, and reporting on vulnerable groups.
- Establish an equality council or a working group within the union to deal with the issue. The National Union of Journalists of the United Kingdom and Ireland established a Black Members' Council to campaign for race equality in the union and in the workplace
- and to tackle racism in the media.
- Develop guidelines on reporting on race, migration and religion.
- Develop a specific charter or code of conduct for reporting on race, migration and religion. In 2008, the Federazione Nazionale della Stampa Italiana developed the Rome Charter, a code of conduct for reporting on asylum seekers, refugees, victims of trafficking and migrants in the media.
- Initiate campaigns and debates among journalists, unions, publishers and civil societies.
- Adopt and enforce a conscience clause in the collective bargaining agreements for journalists.
- Develop social dialogues with media organisations/ owners to defend ethical and quality journalism.
- Examine the case for establishing a press council, or question the value of the existing one.
- Support public discussion on the work of journalists and, for instance, media coverage of issues related to tolerance, religion, security policy, rights of minorities and vulnerable groups.
- Establish an Ethics Commission to discuss cases and review the code of ethics. The Lithuanian Journalists' Union established an Ethics Commission to discuss cases where there is a breach of the code of ethics; and to review the code of ethics on a regular basis.



Please send any comments, suggestions and contributions to these Guidelines
to: Associazione Carta di Roma Corso Vittorio Emanuele II, 349, Rome

www.cartadiroma.org

