



TOOLKIT FOR ETHICAL CLIMATE AND GENDER REPORTING

Prepared By

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I. INTRODUCTION

Climate, Gender, and the Power of Ethical Storytelling

*“Climate change is not gender-neutral. Neither should the stories we tell about it be”,
Caroline Banura, Board Chairperson, Centre for Environment and Migration Assistance
(CEMA).*

A Crisis That Deepens Inequality

The climate crisis is among the most urgent and far-reaching global challenges of our time. Its impacts—rising temperatures, shifting rainfall, droughts, floods, and resource scarcity—are transforming how we live, work, and survive. But climate change does not affect everyone equally. It intensifies existing inequalities, especially along gender and social lines.

Women, girls, and gender-diverse people are often among the first to feel the effects of climate disruption. In many communities, they are primary caregivers, food producers, water gatherers, and informal caretakers of the environment. Yet they have less access to resources, technology, decision-making platforms, and climate finance, making them more vulnerable to displacement, poverty, and exploitation.



Media's Role in the Climate-Gender Nexus

Despite this reality, climate stories in mainstream media often overlook the intersections of gender, geography, and vulnerability. Instead, they focus on abstract science, high-level policy, or Western perspectives. Meanwhile, the voices of women farmers, refugee youth, indigenous elders, or disabled activists—those living climate impacts daily—are underreported or misrepresented.

“When women speak, we hear solutions. When they are silenced, we miss half the story.” Claire Nansubuga, Program Officer, CEMA

Journalists and editors have a unique role to play in shaping more inclusive narratives—ones that not only inform but also empower. Ethical climate journalism is about more than avoiding harm; it is about helping communities be seen, heard, and understood.

Purpose of This Toolkit

This Toolkit for Ethical Climate and Gender Reporting is designed to equip media practitioners with the tools, frameworks, and examples they need to:

- Apply ethical journalism principles when covering climate issues
- Recognize and address gender biases in storytelling
- Conduct safe, inclusive, and community-informed interviews
- Center the leadership and experiences of underrepresented groups
- Report from undercovered regions—like refugee settlements, rural districts, or indigenous lands—with respect and accuracy

Whether you're covering flooding in Kasese, desertification in Karamoja, or youth-led solar initiatives in Kyaka II Refugee Settlement, your storytelling matters. This toolkit supports you in crafting stories that are factually accurate, socially conscious, and journalistically sound.

Sidebar Box (Visual suggestion):

Who is this toolkit for?

- ✓ Journalists
- ✓ Editors
- ✓ Journalism trainers
- ✓ Communications officers
- ✓ Media students
- ✓ Climate advocates



A refugee woman using clean energy technologies or collecting water

“Ethical journalism is not just about reporting facts—it’s about building trust, giving voice, and promoting justice.”

2. PRINCIPLES OF ETHICAL JOURNALISM IN CLIMATE AND GENDER REPORTING

Building Trust through Inclusive and Responsible Storytelling

“Ethical journalism is the cornerstone of public trust—especially when lives and futures are at stake.”

Ethical reporting on climate and gender is not only about accuracy—it is about responsibility, representation, and respect. It shapes how societies understand risk, vulnerability, and agency. It influences who gets heard, who is blamed, and who is seen as a changemaker.

For journalists covering climate change in gendered and underreported contexts, these principles serve as a foundation to ensure truth-telling without harm, and visibility without distortion.

Accuracy & Evidence-Based Reporting

“If facts are sacred, accuracy is journalism’s most basic moral obligation.”

- Always cross-check information with reliable, peer-reviewed, or official sources, such as:
 - Climate scientists and researchers
 - National Meteorological Authorities or Disaster Preparedness Offices
 - UN agencies like IPCC, UNFCCC, or UN Women
 - Local knowledge holders and lived experiences
- Avoid spreading speculative or alarmist narratives (e.g., “The world will end in 5 years”) that may discredit your story and cause undue panic.
- Clarify uncertainties where they exist: e.g., “Experts estimate X may happen if emissions continue on current trajectories.”

Example:

Instead of saying: *“Floods are increasing due to climate change,”*

say: *“According to Uganda’s Meteorological Authority, flood intensity in western districts has increased over the past decade, partly linked to erratic rainfall patterns attributed to climate change.”*

Independence & Integrity

“The integrity of journalism lies in its freedom from influence.”

- Maintain editorial independence from political parties, funders, or corporate sponsors, especially in climate coverage where narratives can be politicized.
- Always disclose affiliations, partnerships, or funding sources that might impact the story’s perception.

- Avoid becoming a mouthpiece for advocacy without evidence—balance passion with rigor.

Example:

If your media outlet receives funding for climate reporting from an environmental NGO, be transparent:

“This report was produced with support from X organization. The views expressed are the journalist’s own.”

Fairness & Balance

“Equity in reporting means lifting the mic to those who are rarely heard.”

- Include a diversity of voices:
 - ✓ Women farmers
 - ✓ Indigenous climate activists
 - ✓ Refugee youth
 - ✓ Persons with disabilities
 - ✓ Rural and urban perspectives
- Don’t fall into the trap of “false balance.” Climate science is overwhelmingly conclusive; giving equal time to climate denialists undermines truth and misleads the public.
- Ensure quotes and portrayals are contextualized, not exoticized or reduced to stereotypes.



Montage photo of women and girls in climate-affected communities planting trees, leading workshops, or managing local water sources.

Accountability

“Journalism without accountability is public relations.”

- Correct errors promptly and visibly, especially if they could harm communities or misrepresent findings.
- Invite feedback and engagement from those you report on. Communities should feel seen, not exploited.
- Uphold informed consent and dignity—especially when interviewing trauma survivors, displaced persons, or vulnerable groups.

Sidebar Tip Box:

Tips for Ethical Corrections:

- ✓ Publish a correction note
- ✓ Update online stories
- ✓ Communicate directly with the affected community
- ✓ Reflect on how the error occurred and prevent recurrence

“When we report with fairness, truth, and empathy, we don’t just inform—we transform.”

3. GENDER-RESPONSIVE CLIMATE REPORTING GUIDELINES

Centering Gender Justice in Climate Storytelling

“Climate justice is not possible without gender justice.” – Mary Robinson

Gender is not a side issue in climate reporting—it is central. Climate change affects people differently based on their gender roles, access to resources, and social status. Yet, media coverage often fails to reflect these differences, missing key insights and reinforcing stereotypes.

This section offers practical guidance for ensuring that your reporting doesn’t just mention women—it amplifies their leadership, challenges structural inequalities, and tells the full story.

Use Gender-Disaggregated Data

“What gets measured gets seen. What gets disaggregated gets addressed.”

- **Seek data broken down by gender** to understand differentiated impacts (e.g., women’s access to clean energy, men’s roles in deforestation, or climate migration patterns by gender identity).
- Include **statistics from local sources**, such as:
 - District Disaster Preparedness Committees
 - Women’s CSOs or grassroots collectives
 - UN Women, UNHCR, and national gender ministries

- Highlight **data gaps** where they exist—this signals the need for better research and investment.

Example:

“While 80% of households in the region rely on firewood, women and girls are responsible for 90% of its collection, increasing their exposure to violence and health risks.”

Elevate Women’s Voices

“Women are not just impacted—they are leading climate solutions.”

- Intentionally **prioritize interviews with women and girls**, especially from:
 - Rural farming communities
 - Refugee and internally displaced settings
 - Indigenous territories
 - Youth climate movements
- Diversify beyond “victim” narratives. Profile **women as scientists, climate negotiators, innovators, traditional knowledge holders, and peacebuilders**.
- Quote women directly—don’t only paraphrase.

Example:

Instead of: “Women in the village said they were struggling,”

write: “We now plant drought-resistant cassava,” says Maria Nakato, a farmer and single mother from Nakivale settlement.

Sidebar Tip Box:

Tip: Create a source list of diverse women experts and activists in your region.

Challenge Stereotypes

“Representation shapes reality.”

- Avoid portraying women solely as passive victims or caregivers. Instead:
 - Show their agency, leadership, and resistance
 - Include LGBTQI+ voices and those who defy traditional gender norms
 - Avoid images of women in distress without context or consent
- Avoid tokenism. Let women’s stories drive the narrative, not just “color” it.

Don’t write: “Women, as the weaker sex, suffer more...”

Do write: “Due to pre-existing inequalities in land ownership and mobility, women face greater risks—but are also at the forefront of adaptation efforts.”

Understand Intersectionality

“No one experiences climate change through a single lens.”

- Gender interacts with other factors like age, ability, ethnicity, migration status, or socioeconomic background.

- This means some women (e.g., elderly refugee widows, disabled girls in drought-affected areas) may face compound vulnerabilities.
- Include intersectional voices in your reporting. Don't assume all women have the same needs or experiences.

Example:

A story on women's access to water in Karamoja should explore how disabled women, pregnant teens, **and** female-headed households are affected differently.



Portrait mini case studies of three women with different backgrounds responding to the same climate challenge.

Language Matters

- Use **inclusive, respectful, and non-binary-aware language** (e.g., “people of all genders,” “gender-diverse groups”).
- Avoid gendered terms that reinforce bias (e.g., “mankind,” “housewife”).
- Where appropriate, ask sources **how they prefer to be described**, especially in LGBTQI+ communities.

“Gender isn’t a detail in climate stories—it’s the key to understanding them.”

4. ETHICAL INTERVIEWING AND STORYTELLING PRACTICES

Building Trust and Respect with Vulnerable Communities

“The story is never more important than the dignity of the person telling it.”

At the heart of ethical journalism is respect for the people whose lives shape our stories. This is especially true when reporting on climate-affected communities—many of whom are already navigating trauma, displacement, or systemic injustice. Ethical interviewing means going beyond technical standards; it’s about relationship, consent, protection, and integrity.

Informed Consent

“Consent is not a checkbox—it’s a conversation.”

- Always explain:

- Who you are and the purpose of the interview.
- Where and how the story will appear (e.g., online, radio, photo essay).
- If any sensitive topics may arise.
- Consent must be freely given and revocable. If someone changes their mind later, honor that.
- For interviews involving minors or survivors of trauma, parental/guardian consent or support from a social worker may be required.

Ethical Practice Tip Box:

Carry consent forms in both English and local languages.

Verbally reconfirm consent before recording audio or taking photos.

Cultural Sensitivity

“Understanding context is just as important as asking questions.”

- Research local norms before arriving (e.g., who speaks on behalf of a community, gender dynamics in public storytelling).
- Dress, speak, and behave in ways that show cultural awareness and humility.
- Avoid imposing your narrative—let the community lead the way.

Example:

In some indigenous communities, it may be respectful to request permission from elders before photographing people or sacred lands.



⚠️ Do No Harm

“Ethics demand that we not only tell the truth—but protect those who help us tell it.”

- Consider the risks of exposure: Could sharing a story cause backlash, violence, or legal trouble for the source?
- Avoid:
 - Publishing identifying details without consent.
 - Asking leading or retraumatizing questions.
 - Taking photos in moments of visible distress unless permission is granted and context is provided.
- Be especially cautious in:
 - Refugee settlements
 - Conflict or disaster zones
 - LGBTQI+ interviews
 - Climate-affected communities with ongoing resource disputes

Example:

Instead of photographing a woman collecting firewood illegally, consider a symbolic image or anonymous quote to convey the situation without compromising safety.

Privacy and Anonymity

“Sometimes, the most powerful stories are told without names.”

- Always offer interviewees the option of anonymity, especially if their views challenge authority or reveal trauma.
- Use pseudonyms with clear disclaimers (e.g., “Name changed to protect identity”).
- Protect:
 - Survivors of gender-based violence
 - Whistleblowers
 - Individuals in closed or refugee settings
 - LGBTQI+ individuals in hostile environments

Trauma-Informed Reporting

“A good question should never feel like a wound.”

- Give people the right to pause, skip questions, or stop the interview at any time.
- Be mindful of non-verbal cues—does the person look uncomfortable, tired, confused?
- Provide emotional space after difficult questions, and don’t rush the conversation.
- If possible, connect participants with support services (NGOs, legal aid, psychosocial support).

Quick Checklist for Ethical Interviewing

- ✓ Have I explained the purpose of the interview in a language they understand?
- ✓ Did I obtain informed consent?
- ✓ Have I ensured the source is safe—during and after publication?

- ✓ Did I allow them to express what *they* felt was important?
- ✓ Am I telling the story with dignity, accuracy, and context?

“When people trust you with their story, it’s not a transaction—it’s a responsibility.”

5. COMMON ETHICAL CHALLENGES AND HOW TO ADDRESS THEM

Real-World Dilemmas, Practical Responses

“Ethics is not just about what you do—it’s about what you do when it’s difficult.”

Ethical climate and gender reporting often means navigating murky waters. Journalists working in complex settings—such as refugee camps, post-disaster zones, or politically sensitive areas—must make fast decisions that balance truth-telling with safety, integrity, and justice. This section presents common ethical challenges paired with grounded responses that reflect best practices in journalism.

Challenge 1: Reporting Climate Misinformation

“My editor insists on including a climate denier to ‘balance’ the piece.”

Response:

- **Avoid false equivalence.** Not every view deserves equal weight—especially when scientific consensus is overwhelming.
- **Cite credible science** from the IPCC, WMO, or peer-reviewed sources.
- Interview **local scientists or environmentalists** to root facts in national or community-specific context.
- Offer **data visualizations** or timelines to clarify facts and debunk myths.

Tip: Use tools like [Climate Feedback](#) to verify scientific accuracy in claims.

Challenge 2: Pressure from Funders, Advertisers, or Political Actors

“A project sponsor wants final approval before we publish.”

Response:

- **Maintain editorial independence.** Accepting funding should never compromise your right to tell the truth.
- Include a transparency disclaimer if content is sponsored, and disclose any relationships that could raise bias concerns.
- If pressured, push back using your organization’s editorial code of conduct or industry standards (e.g., from the International Federation of Journalists).

Reminder: Undisclosed influence is a breach of journalistic ethics—and a betrayal of public trust.

Challenge 3: Underrepresentation of Women and Gender-Diverse Experts

“I can’t find a woman expert to quote on this issue.”

Response:

- **Look beyond usual sources**—universities, grassroots organizations, climate youth groups, and rural cooperatives often have qualified female voices.
- Use directories like:
 - SheSource (Women's Media Center)
 - [Gender Climate Tracker](#)
- Build relationships before you need a quote. Trust takes time, especially in underreported communities.

Practice Equity: If you only quote men, ask yourself why. Who is missing from your story—and what does that silence imply?

Challenge 4: Covering Disasters, Trauma, or Grief

“Is it ethical to interview someone who just lost their home in a flood?”

Response:

- **Be trauma-informed.** Never ambush someone in shock or distress. Give people time and space to decide if they want to speak.
- Ask open, empathetic questions like:
“What do you want others to understand about your experience?”
- Refrain from publishing images of crying children, injured people, or destroyed homes **without permission or proper context.**
- Offer support contacts if your reporting opens wounds (e.g., counseling services).

⚠️ **Do No Harm:** Not every powerful moment belongs in a headline.

Challenge 5: Digital Exposure and Online Harassment

“A woman climate activist I interviewed is being harassed online after my story ran.”

Response:

- **Assess digital risk** before publishing. For vulnerable sources, anonymize identities or restrict geolocation data.
- Inform sources ahead of time about potential online exposure.
- Collaborate with your outlet’s **digital safety team** or partner with cybersecurity orgs (e.g., [Access Now](#)) for guidance.
- Monitor published stories for **harassment or misuse**, and take appropriate action if harm occurs.

Table: Quick Reference – Challenge / Ethical Action

Ethical Challenge	Recommended Response
Reporting climate misinformation	Rely on scientific consensus; clarify facts using experts and data
Pressure from funders or politicians	Disclose conflicts of interest; assert editorial independence
Lack of gender-diverse expert voices	Seek nontraditional sources; tap grassroots and women-led networks
Disaster or trauma reporting	Use trauma-informed interviewing; prioritize dignity and consent
Digital harm and online backlash	Offer anonymity; assess digital safety pre-publication; monitor for follow-up risks

“Being ethical doesn’t make the story weaker—it makes it more powerful, more human, and more true.”

6. TOOLS AND RESOURCES FOR ETHICAL REPORTING

Credible Sources. Practical Tools. Global Standards.

“Good journalism begins with great sources. Ethical journalism begins with the right ones.”

Whether you're in a newsroom, on assignment in a rural village, or producing a multimedia feature from your phone, having the right tools at your fingertips is essential for ethical, gender-aware, and evidence-based reporting. This section offers a curated list of practical resources—ranging from data platforms and directories to journalism ethics guidelines.

Climate Science & Evidence-Based Data

These platforms provide access to authoritative, peer-reviewed climate data and analysis to support fact-based storytelling.

- [**IPCC – Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change**](#)
Gold standard for global climate science assessments. Use reports and summaries for climate trends, vulnerability, and projections.
- [**NASA Climate Data**](#)
User-friendly climate visualizations, maps, and research for journalists.
- **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**
Seasonal forecasts, disaster risk alerts, and verified meteorological data globally and regionally.

Gender & Climate Justice Resources

Use these tools to integrate gender analysis, access gender-disaggregated data, and highlight intersectional insights in your reporting.

- **[Gender Climate Tracker](#)**
Tracks gender mandates in UN climate agreements. Includes a directory of female climate negotiators and data on national action plans.
- **UN Women – Climate and Gender**
Features reports, infographics, and policy briefs linking gender equality and climate resilience.
- **[WEDO – Women’s Environment and Development Organization](#)**
Intersectional climate justice research, with a focus on women’s leadership and advocacy tools.

Journalism Ethics & Interviewing Guides

These organizations provide codes of ethics, safety guidelines, and professional standards to help navigate ethical dilemmas.

- **International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) – Code of Ethics**
Framework for global journalism ethics, including conflict of interest, human rights, and transparency.
- **[Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma](#)**
Guidance for trauma-informed interviewing, respectful reporting on survivors, and mental health in journalism.
- **[Ethical Journalism Network \(EJN\)](#)**
Resources on ethics in digital media, misinformation, and inclusive storytelling.

Directories for Diverse Sources

Break the "usual voices" pattern. Use these databases to find women, indigenous, refugee, youth, and rural experts across climate and gender fields.

- **SheSource – Women’s Media Center**
Database of media-trained women experts across fields including climate science, human rights, and sustainability.
- **[Climate Voices](#)**
Connects journalists with community leaders, especially in underrepresented regions.
- **[Indigenous Climate Action](#)**
Source for indigenous perspectives on climate, land rights, and environmental justice.

Training & Storytelling Tools

Resources to sharpen your gender-sensitive reporting skills and explore multimedia formats:

- **Thomson Reuters Foundation – Climate Reporting Hub**
Offers free training, grants, and toolkits for journalists covering climate issues.
- **[UNESCO – Gender-Sensitive Indicators for Media](#)**
Useful for media managers and editors seeking to institutionalize gender equity in reporting.

- [Solutions Journalism Network](#)
Techniques for reporting not just problems, but responses—ideal for climate and gender resilience stories.

Highlight Box: Digital Tools for Field Reporting

Tool	Use
TranscribeMe / Otter.ai	Auto-transcription for interviews (consider privacy).
KoboToolbox	Mobile data collection in humanitarian or remote contexts.
Signal / ProtonMail	Secure communication with vulnerable sources.
Canva / Datawrapper	Quick visual storytelling for gender/climate data.

“It’s not just what you report. It’s who you source, how you verify, and why your story matters.”

7. STORY FORMATS TO EXPLORE

Innovative Ways to Tell Climate and Gender Stories
“The story you tell is just as important as the story you find.”

Different stories require different storytelling tools. To capture the rich, complex intersection of climate change and gender—especially in marginalized and underreported communities—journalists can experiment with varied formats that engage audiences deeply and ethically. Below are some proven and creative story formats with examples to inspire your next piece.

Investigative Features

Deep-dive articles uncover systemic gender barriers in climate resilience and policy.

- Examples:
 - Exposing how gender bias limits women’s access to climate adaptation funding.
 - Investigating the gendered impact of land dispossession after natural disasters.
- Approach: Use data analysis, document review, and multiple interviews.
- Tip: Partner with local women’s rights organizations for nuanced insights.

Audio & Radio Diaries

First-person audio narratives bring authenticity and emotional depth, especially from rural women, refugees, and youth leaders.

- Examples:
 - Weekly audio journals from women farmers sharing climate adaptation challenges.

- Refugee youth describing the impact of floods on their schooling.
- Approach: Use portable recorders or smartphone apps to capture stories on the go.
- Tip: Combine personal reflections with expert commentary for context.

Photo Essays & Visual Storytelling

Powerful images tell stories words cannot fully capture, highlighting women-led environmental efforts.

- Examples:
 - Portraits of indigenous women restoring forests.
 - Before-and-after photos documenting clean water projects led by local women.
- Approach: Combine photos with captions or short narratives.
- Tip: Always obtain informed consent for images, respecting privacy and dignity.

Data-Driven Reports

Use gender-disaggregated climate data to reveal gaps and trends.

- Examples:
 - Interactive maps showing regions where women are most vulnerable to climate shocks.
 - Infographics illustrating gender disparities in climate aid distribution.
- Approach: Collaborate with data specialists or NGOs; visualize with accessible tools like Datawrapper.
- Tip: Explain data sources and limitations transparently.

Profiles & Personal Stories

Highlight climate and gender champions—activists, scientists, or community leaders—whose voices inspire change.

- Examples:
 - A young woman innovator creating solar energy solutions in her village.
 - A refugee mother balancing caregiving with environmental activism.
- Approach: Combine interviews with storytelling techniques to build emotional connection.
- Tip: Showcase resilience and agency, not just victimhood.

Short Documentaries & Video Reports

Dynamic visual storytelling for online and broadcast platforms.

- Examples:
 - Mini-docs exploring how climate change affects women's livelihoods in refugee camps.
 - Video diaries capturing youth-led climate protests.

- Approach: Plan scripts that center diverse voices and perspectives.
- Tip: Use subtitles and accessible language to reach wider audiences.

Opinion & Analysis Pieces

Thought leadership from women experts and gender advocates on climate policy and justice.

- Examples:
 - Op-eds by indigenous women on land rights and climate mitigation.
 - Analytical essays on intersectional climate resilience strategies.
- Approach: Engage guest writers or use your platform to amplify marginalized voices.
- Tip: Provide background and references to support claims.

Highlight Box: Mixing Formats for Impact

Combining formats can create richer stories. For example:

- An investigative article with embedded audio clips and interactive data visualizations.
- A photo essay accompanied by a short video and expert op-ed.

8. CHECKLIST FOR ETHICAL CLIMATE & GENDER STORIES

A Practical Guide to Responsible Reporting

Use this checklist before, during, and after producing your story to ensure ethical standards, gender sensitivity, and accuracy in your climate reporting.

Fact Verification

- Have I cross-checked all climate and gender-related facts with credible sources (scientists, official data, UN reports)?
- Are my statistics up-to-date and properly referenced?
- Have I avoided speculation or unverified claims?

Representation & Inclusivity

- Are women, gender minorities, indigenous peoples, and marginalized communities fairly represented?
- Have I actively sought diverse voices rather than relying on usual sources?
- Does the story highlight agency and solutions, not only vulnerability?

Informed Consent & Privacy

- Have I clearly explained the purpose of the interview to all participants?
- Did I obtain informed consent, especially when dealing with vulnerable groups?

- Have I offered anonymity or withheld identifying details if needed to protect sources?

Avoiding Stereotypes & Harm

- Does my reporting avoid reinforcing gender stereotypes or victim narratives?
- Am I sensitive to cultural norms and respectful of local customs?
- Have I carefully considered potential risks to sources or communities?

Language & Accessibility

- Is my language clear, non-technical, and accessible to the target audience?
- Have I used gender-inclusive language throughout the story?
- Is the story available in local languages or formats suitable for the community?

Balance & Fairness

- Have I presented multiple perspectives while avoiding false balance (e.g., climate denialism)?
- Are the roles of women and marginalized groups portrayed realistically and respectfully?
- Have I disclosed any conflicts of interest or funding sources influencing the story?

Accountability & Corrections

- Am I prepared to publicly correct any errors or omissions?
- Have I engaged with communities to review their portrayal when possible?
- Do I have a system in place to receive and respond to feedback?

“Ethical reporting is not a checklist—it’s a commitment. But this checklist keeps us honest.”

This checklist serves as a practical tool to uphold the highest ethical standards while empowering voices often silenced in climate and gender discourse.

9. INFOGRAPHICS AND VISUAL GUIDES

Visual aids are powerful tools for simplifying complex information, enhancing comprehension, and making ethical reporting principles more accessible in fast-paced

newsroom environments. This section provides suggestions and descriptions of key infographics and visual guides that can be included in the toolkit.

A. Infographic: Principles of Ethical Journalism in Climate and Gender Reporting

Purpose: A concise visual summary of the core principles to keep front-of-mind during reporting.

Design elements:

- Icons representing each principle (e.g., magnifying glass for Accuracy, shield for Integrity).
- Brief bullet points highlighting key actions under each principle.
- Color-coded sections for clarity (e.g., blue for Accuracy, green for Fairness).

Content highlights:

Principle	Visual Icon	Key Reminders
Accuracy	Magnifying Glass	Verify facts with reliable sources
Independence	Shield	Avoid conflicts of interest
Fairness & Balance	Scales	Include diverse, marginalized voices
Accountability	Pen	Correct errors transparently

B. Visual Guide: Gender-Responsive Climate Reporting

Purpose: Help reporters quickly check gender-sensitive reporting techniques.

Design elements:

- Flowchart showing steps from gathering gender-disaggregated data to elevating women's voices.
- Icons representing women, indigenous groups, youth, and marginalized communities.
- Tips highlighted in callout boxes, e.g., "Avoid stereotypes," "Use intersectional lens."

Content flow:

1. Collect gender-disaggregated climate impact data
2. Interview women, girls, and marginalized groups
3. Challenge stereotypes — show leadership and resilience
4. Understand intersecting vulnerabilities (age, disability, displacement)
5. Reflect these insights in stories and visuals

C. Flowchart: Ethical Interviewing Process

Purpose: Provide a step-by-step guide for conducting ethical, respectful interviews.

Design elements:

- Linear or circular flowchart with clear steps and decision points.
- Symbols for each stage (e.g., handshake for consent, speech bubble for interview).

Step-by-step outline:

1. **Preparation:** Research context and cultural sensitivities
2. **Consent:** Explain purpose and seek informed consent
3. **Interview:** Use respectful, open-ended questions
4. **Privacy:** Offer anonymity or confidentiality if needed
5. **Post-interview:** Confirm facts and give interviewee opportunity to review
6. **Publication:** Present stories accurately and sensitively

D. Checklist Infographic: Ethical Climate & Gender Reporting

Purpose: Quick-reference checklist journalists can print or keep digitally to self-assess before publishing.

Design elements:

- Checkboxes next to each ethical question.
- Clear, bold text with icons (e.g., a checkmark or warning sign).
- Possibly a downloadable PDF format.

Checklist items:

- Verified facts with credible sources
- Included women and marginalized voices fairly
- Obtained informed consent
- Avoided reinforcing stereotypes
- Made story accessible (language, format)
- Prepared to make corrections if necessary

E. Infographic: Common Ethical Challenges & Solutions

Purpose: Visual matrix mapping common challenges to recommended ethical responses.

Design elements:

- Two-column layout: Challenges on left, solutions on right.
- Use icons such as caution signs or lightbulbs for solutions.

Example:

Challenge	Ethical Response
Climate misinformation	Consult experts; verify with data
Pressure from funders/politics	Maintain independence; disclose ties

Underrepresentation of women	Actively seek female experts
Reporting trauma	Use trauma-informed approaches

F. Suggested Formats and Distribution

- **Print Posters:** For newsrooms and training workshops.
- **Digital PDFs:** Easy to share via email or embed in online training platforms.
- **Interactive Web Graphics:** Clickable flowcharts or expandable tooltips for online toolkits.

10. MULTIMEDIA AND DIGITAL STORYTELLING TIPS

In today's media landscape, multimedia platforms and digital tools offer exciting opportunities to engage wider audiences with climate and gender stories. However, ethical considerations remain paramount to ensure stories are inclusive, respectful, and impactful. This section offers practical guidance on using social media, mobile journalism (MoJo), podcasts, and other digital formats effectively.

A. Social Media for Gender-Responsive Climate Reporting

- **Amplify Marginalized Voices:**
Use social media platforms (Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, TikTok) to share short stories, quotes, and visuals from women, youth, indigenous leaders, and displaced persons affected by climate change. Tag relevant community groups and activists to build networks.
- **Visual Storytelling:**
Share infographics, photo essays, and short videos that highlight gender-differentiated climate impacts and solutions. Use accessible language and culturally relevant imagery.
- **Interactive Engagement:**
Encourage followers to share their experiences or questions on climate and gender issues through polls, Q&A sessions, or hashtag campaigns (#ClimateJustice, #WomenForClimate).
- **Verify Before Sharing:**
Given the rapid spread of misinformation, always fact-check and cite reliable sources before posting.

B. Mobile Journalism (MoJo) Best Practices

- **On-the-Go Reporting:**
Use smartphones to capture high-quality audio, video, and photos directly from affected communities, especially in remote or marginalized areas where traditional equipment is scarce.
- **Ethical Consent:**
Always obtain clear informed consent before recording or sharing any content. Explain how the material will be used and the potential risks.

- **Lightweight Editing Apps:**
Utilize mobile editing tools (e.g., InShot, KineMaster, Adobe Premiere Rush) to create compelling, shareable clips without needing complex software.
- **Battery and Data Management:**
Plan for power and internet limitations in field settings. Use airplane mode and offline editing where necessary.

C. Podcasting for Deep-Dive Gender and Climate Stories

- **Storytelling Through Voices:**
Podcasts are ideal for sharing in-depth interviews, personal narratives, and panel discussions that highlight gendered climate experiences and solutions.
- **Inclusive Language:**
Use gender-sensitive and culturally appropriate language. Include diverse voices, especially from underrepresented groups.
- **Accessible Formats:**
Provide transcripts or show notes summarizing key points for listeners with hearing impairments or those who prefer reading.
- **Distribution:**
Host podcasts on popular platforms (Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts) and promote episodes via social media and community radio partnerships.

D. Digital Story Formats to Experiment With

- **Interactive Maps and Data Visualizations:**
Combine geographic and gender-disaggregated climate data to create interactive online maps showing localized impacts and resilience efforts.
- **Live Streaming:**
Host live discussions or virtual town halls featuring climate and gender experts, activists, and affected community members. Allow audience questions and engagement in real time.
- **Short-Form Video Stories:**
Produce short documentaries or “day-in-the-life” clips showcasing women and gender-diverse individuals leading climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives.
- **User-Generated Content:**
Invite community members to share photos, videos, or voice notes capturing their climate realities and responses. Feature these stories with appropriate consent.

E. Ethical Considerations for Multimedia and Digital Storytelling

- **Privacy and Safety:**
Protect identities when needed, especially in politically sensitive or vulnerable contexts. Use blurring, voice modulation, or anonymity options for sensitive sources.

- **Avoid Exploitation:**
Do not sensationalize suffering or reinforce stereotypes in multimedia content. Highlight resilience and agency alongside challenges.
- **Cultural Sensitivity:**
Respect cultural norms regarding imagery, storytelling styles, and topics. Collaborate with local media and community leaders to ensure relevance and appropriateness.
- **Sustainability:**
Plan for the long-term accessibility of digital stories. Archive content responsibly and provide ways for communities to retain ownership or access.

II. ETHICAL GUIDELINES FOR USING SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media platforms have transformed the way stories are shared and sourced, especially in fast-moving climate and gender reporting. While these platforms offer rich user-generated content (UGC) and real-time updates, they also pose ethical challenges related to accuracy, consent, and privacy. This section outlines best practices to help journalists navigate these challenges responsibly.

A. Sourcing User-Generated Content (UGC) Responsibly

- **Obtain Clear Permission:**
Always seek explicit consent from content creators before using their photos, videos, or posts. This can be done by direct messaging, email, or public comment. Do not assume public posts are free to use.
- **Respect Copyright and Attribution:**
Give proper credit to the original creators. Use exact usernames or real names as provided, and never alter content in ways that misrepresent the source.
- **Be Transparent with Audiences:**
Clearly disclose when content is user-generated and explain how it was obtained to maintain trust and transparency.

B. Verifying the Authenticity of Social Media Content

- **Cross-Check Information:**
Confirm details with multiple sources before publishing. For example, verify event dates, locations, and identities of individuals featured.
- **Use Verification Tools:**
Employ digital tools such as reverse image search (e.g., Google Images, TinEye), geolocation techniques, and metadata analysis to authenticate photos and videos.
- **Assess Source Credibility:**
Evaluate the reliability of the user who posted the content—consider their history, affiliations, and motivations.
- **Consult Experts:**
When possible, cross-reference social media claims with scientific data, official reports, or statements from trusted organizations.

C. Protecting Privacy and Safety on Social Media

- **Anonymize Vulnerable Sources:**
If sharing content from individuals in politically sensitive or high-risk environments (e.g., activists, displaced persons), consider blurring faces, withholding names, or using pseudonyms.
- **Avoid Exploiting Sensitive Content:**
Do not share graphic or traumatic images without careful consideration of the potential harm to subjects and audiences.
- **Respect Platform Community Standards:**
Follow the rules and guidelines of social media platforms regarding content use, privacy, and harassment.
- **Monitor and Manage Consent Over Time:**
Be prepared to remove or anonymize UGC if the source later withdraws consent or faces risks.

D. Ethical Engagement with Social Media Audiences

- **Moderate Comments Respectfully:**
Foster constructive dialogue and quickly address misinformation or harmful language in comments on your posts.
- **Avoid Amplifying Harmful Narratives:**
Be cautious about resharing content that may reinforce stereotypes or marginalize certain groups.
- **Provide Context:**
When sharing UGC, provide sufficient background information to help audiences understand the broader climate and gender issues involved.

E. Summary Checklist for Ethical Social Media Use

- Did I get explicit permission from the content creator?
- Have I verified the accuracy and authenticity of the content?
- Am I protecting the privacy and safety of vulnerable individuals featured?
- Is proper credit given to the original source?
- Have I provided necessary context for the content?
- Am I prepared to respond to feedback or remove content if concerns arise?

By following these ethical guidelines, journalists can responsibly harness the power of social media to enrich climate and gender reporting while respecting the rights and dignity of individuals and communities.

12. FINAL WORDS: TOWARDS TRANSFORMATIVE REPORTING

Ethical climate and gender reporting is more than a journalistic obligation—it is a powerful act of advocacy and justice. As the climate crisis deepens, the stories we tell shape public understanding, influence policy, and can either reinforce inequalities or inspire change.

Transformative reporting means:

- **Centering marginalized voices** who often bear the brunt of climate impacts but are rarely heard in mainstream media.
- **Highlighting resilience and innovation**—the grassroots solutions and leadership emerging from women, youth, indigenous peoples, and displaced communities.
- **Challenging dominant narratives** that portray climate change as distant or abstract, instead showing its lived realities and human faces.
- **Holding power to account** by exposing gendered injustices in climate policies, finance, and aid distribution.

Every story you report has the potential to contribute to a more equitable and sustainable future. This toolkit is a starting point—a resource to equip you with the ethical frameworks, practical tools, and inspiration needed to report responsibly.

Call to Action

We encourage journalists, editors, and media houses to:

- Commit to ongoing learning about the complex intersections of climate and gender.
- Collaborate with communities and experts to tell accurate and impactful stories.
- Use your platforms to amplify voices that are often overlooked.
- Push for newsroom policies that prioritize ethical and inclusive climate reporting.

“When we tell stories that honor the truth and dignity of all people, we fuel hope and action for a just climate future.”

ANNEXES

I. CASE STUDIES AND REAL-LIFE EXAMPLES

Introduction

Learning from real-world experiences helps ground ethical principles in practical journalism. This section highlights inspiring stories of climate and gender reporting from Uganda and beyond. These cases demonstrate how journalists navigated challenges and upheld ethical standards to produce impactful, responsible stories.

Case Study 1: Elevating Women's Voices in Refugee Settlements — Uganda

Context:

In the Kyaka II refugee settlement, a local journalist collaborated with humanitarian agencies to report on how female refugees were adapting to climate-induced water shortages.

Ethical Application:

- The journalist prioritized interviewing women leaders and caregivers, ensuring their perspectives shaped the narrative.
- Informed consent was obtained in local languages, and anonymity was offered to women who feared repercussions.
- The story used gender-disaggregated data from UNHCR and local NGOs to highlight differing impacts on women and men.
- To avoid reinforcing stereotypes, the report focused on women's innovative coping strategies, such as community-led water harvesting.

Challenges:

- Some women were initially reluctant to speak due to cultural norms and fear of stigma.
- The journalist addressed this by building trust over several weeks through community meetings and working with female translators.

Outcome:

The story received national attention, influencing local authorities to increase funding for women-centered climate adaptation programs in refugee settlements.

Case Study 2: Indigenous Women Leading Climate Action — Peru

Context:

A multimedia report showcased how indigenous Quechua women in the Andes were spearheading reforestation projects to combat climate change.

Ethical Application:

- The journalist engaged in participatory storytelling, allowing women to share narratives in their own voices through audio diaries and photo essays.
- Cultural sensitivity was paramount; traditional customs and languages were respected throughout the reporting process.
- The report included perspectives from male community members to provide balance without overshadowing women's leadership.

Challenges:

- Verifying scientific climate data relevant to the local context was difficult due to limited access to regional studies.
- The journalist partnered with local environmental NGOs to access credible data and experts.

Outcome:

The report was used by environmental organizations to lobby for policy recognition of indigenous women's contributions to climate resilience.

Case Study 3: Combating Climate Misinformation with Gender Sensitivity Philippines

Context:

During typhoon season, a radio journalist in the Philippines tackled widespread misinformation linking climate change to superstitions affecting vulnerable communities, especially women.

Ethical Application:

- The journalist fact-checked rumors with meteorologists and disaster experts.
- Interviews with women community leaders highlighted how misinformation disproportionately affected women's disaster preparedness.
- The reporting avoided fearmongering and provided clear, actionable information to listeners.

Challenges:

- The journalist faced pressure from local political figures to downplay climate change impacts.
- Maintaining editorial independence, the journalist transparently disclosed funding from an independent media grant.

Outcome:

The radio series increased public understanding of climate risks and boosted women's participation in local disaster preparedness committees.

Lessons Learned Across Cases

- **Building Trust:** Spending time within communities and collaborating with local partners strengthens ethical reporting and source comfort.
- **Prioritizing Marginalized Voices:** Proactively seeking out women, youth, and indigenous people ensures stories reflect diverse realities.
- **Data and Context:** Reliable, gender-disaggregated data underpin credible reporting and avoid generalizations.
- **Handling Risks:** Ethical storytelling requires balancing transparency with protecting sources' privacy and safety.
- **Navigating Pressure:** Maintaining independence and disclosing conflicts help preserve journalistic integrity.

These case studies illustrate that ethical, gender-responsive climate reporting is both possible and impactful even in challenging contexts. They serve as models to inspire and guide your own storytelling efforts.

2. SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

This list offers journalists a practical guide to conducting ethical, gender-responsive interviews with diverse sources. The questions are designed to elicit nuanced insights on how climate change affects different communities, with a special focus on women, indigenous peoples, youth, and marginalized groups.

A. Questions for Women Farmers and Rural Women

- How has climate change affected your daily work and access to natural resources like water, land, and seeds?
- What specific challenges do you face as a woman in adapting to changing weather patterns?
- Can you share any traditional knowledge or practices your community uses to cope with droughts or floods?
- How do you see the role of women in protecting the environment and promoting sustainability?
- Are there any barriers preventing you from accessing climate adaptation resources or decision-making platforms?
- How has climate change impacted your family's health, nutrition, or education opportunities?
- What kind of support or changes would help women in your community better adapt to climate impacts?

B. Questions for Indigenous Leaders and Community Elders

- How have environmental changes affected your community's way of life and cultural practices?
- What role do indigenous women play in environmental stewardship and climate resilience in your community?
- How does climate change affect different groups within your community, such as elders, women, and youth?
- Can you describe any community-led initiatives to restore or protect natural resources?
- How do you ensure that the voices of women and marginalized groups are included in community decisions about climate?
- What external support or policies would help your community address climate challenges more effectively?

C. Questions for Youth Activists and Climate Advocates

- How has climate change shaped your generation's future and daily life?
- In what ways are young women and gender minorities leading climate action in your community?
- What challenges do youth face when trying to participate in climate decision-making spaces?
- Can you share an example of a youth-led project or campaign that addresses both climate and gender issues?
- How do you use digital media or other tools to raise awareness and mobilize others on these issues?
- What message do you want policymakers and the public to hear about gender and climate justice?

D. Questions for Experts and Policymakers

- How do current climate policies incorporate gender perspectives and address the needs of marginalized groups?
- What are the main barriers to collecting and using gender-disaggregated climate data?
- How can media better support ethical and inclusive climate reporting?
- What strategies are in place to ensure women and vulnerable communities have access to climate finance and adaptation programs?
- How do you ensure transparency and accountability in climate projects that claim to address gender equity?
- Can you share examples of successful gender-responsive climate initiatives or policies?

E. General Ethical Interview Questions

- How comfortable do you feel sharing your story? Are there any topics you would prefer not to discuss?

- Would you like to remain anonymous or have any personal details withheld from publication?
- How would you like your story to be told, and what message do you want it to convey?
- Is there anyone else in your community you recommend we speak to for a fuller picture?
- Do you have any concerns about how this information might be used or received?

These questions are starting points—feel free to adapt them based on cultural context, interviewee comfort, and the story’s focus. Always prioritize informed consent, respect, and sensitivity in all interactions.

3. TRAINING EXERCISES AND ACTIVITIES

Effective training is key to building journalists’ capacity for ethical, gender-sensitive climate reporting. Below are practical exercises and activities tailored for newsroom workshops, online training, or small group sessions. These activities foster understanding, critical thinking, and applied skills.

A. Exercise 1: Analyzing Existing Climate Stories for Gender Sensitivity

Objective: Identify gender biases, gaps, and best practices in climate reporting.

Instructions:

1. Divide participants into small groups.
2. Provide each group with a selection of recent climate-related news articles or broadcasts.
3. Ask groups to evaluate the stories using these guiding questions:
 - Are women and marginalized groups represented?
 - Does the story use gender-disaggregated data?
 - Are stereotypes or victim narratives challenged or reinforced?
 - Is there a clear ethical approach to sourcing and consent?
4. Groups present their findings and suggest improvements.

B. Exercise 2: Role-Playing Ethical Interview Scenarios

Objective: Practice ethical interviewing techniques with a focus on gender and climate sensitivity.

Instructions:

1. Pair participants and assign roles: interviewer and interviewee (e.g., a woman farmer, indigenous youth climate activist, displaced person).
2. Provide each interviewer with a brief set of interview questions from the toolkit’s sample list.

3. The interviewee responds based on a given persona profile emphasizing lived experiences and sensitivities.
4. After the role-play, discuss challenges faced and ethical considerations such as informed consent, privacy, and cultural respect.

C. Exercise 3: Crafting Inclusive Story Outlines

Objective: Develop story ideas that integrate gender-responsive climate reporting principles.

Instructions:

1. Ask participants to brainstorm story ideas focusing on local climate issues with a gender lens.
2. Each participant or group drafts an outline including:
 - Target audience
 - Key sources (women, marginalized groups, experts)
 - Ethical considerations for interviews and storytelling
 - Potential multimedia elements (photos, data visualizations, podcasts)
3. Share and critique outlines collaboratively to enhance inclusivity and ethics.

D. Exercise 4: Fact-Checking and Source Verification Challenge

Objective: Strengthen skills in verifying climate and gender-related information from multiple sources.

Instructions:

1. Present participants with a mixed batch of climate-related social media posts, news excerpts, and scientific statements (some accurate, some misleading).
2. Task them to verify facts using suggested tools (IPCC reports, reverse image search, expert consultations).
3. Discuss strategies for handling misinformation and maintaining editorial integrity.

E. Exercise 5: Social Media Ethics Simulation

Objective: Understand ethical dilemmas related to sourcing and sharing content on social media.

Instructions:

1. Create a scenario where participants receive user-generated climate content from a social media platform, some with unclear consent or potentially sensitive information.

2. In groups, decide whether and how to use the content, considering ethical guidelines on consent, verification, and privacy.
3. Present decisions and reasoning, fostering debate on best practices.

F. Exercise 6: Developing a Community Engagement Plan

Objective: Plan respectful, participatory approaches to engaging marginalized communities in climate reporting.

Instructions:

1. Participants design a plan for engaging a specific community (e.g., refugee settlement, indigenous village) to source gender-sensitive climate stories.
2. Include steps for building trust, obtaining informed consent, ensuring cultural sensitivity, and providing feedback to the community.
3. Share plans and identify potential challenges and solutions.

Facilitator Tips:

- Encourage open dialogue and reflection to surface assumptions and biases.
- Use real-life case studies from local or international contexts to ground learning.
- Incorporate multimedia examples to demonstrate best practices.
- Provide handouts or digital resources summarizing ethical principles and guidelines.

4. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

This section addresses common questions and ethical dilemmas journalists encounter when reporting on climate change with a gender lens. It offers practical guidance to navigate complex situations responsibly.

Q1: How do I balance respecting cultural norms with challenging harmful gender stereotypes in climate reporting?

Answer:

Respect for cultural context is important, but it should not prevent you from highlighting injustices or harmful stereotypes. Approach the community with sensitivity and humility, seek local perspectives, and use storytelling to elevate voices advocating positive change from within the culture. Frame stories in ways that foster dialogue rather than confrontation, emphasizing empowerment and solutions.

Q2: What should I do if political actors or funders pressure me to skew climate stories or exclude certain voices?

Answer:

Maintain editorial independence by clearly communicating your ethical standards to all stakeholders. Disclose any conflicts of interest transparently in your reporting. If pressure compromises journalistic integrity, seek support from editors, professional associations, or ethics committees. Prioritize accuracy and fairness over appeasement.

Q3: How can I report on sensitive or traumatic experiences related to climate disasters without causing harm?

Answer:

Use trauma-informed journalism practices: obtain informed consent, allow sources to set boundaries, avoid graphic descriptions unless essential, and prioritize the dignity of those affected. Provide information on support services when appropriate, and be mindful of re-traumatization risks.

Q4: When is it acceptable to anonymize sources, and how do I do it ethically?

Answer:

Anonymity is vital when sources face risk of retaliation, stigma, or violence. Always explain to the source what anonymity entails and get their explicit consent. When anonymizing, avoid details that could inadvertently reveal identities. Balance anonymity with the need for credible, verifiable reporting.

Q5: How can I ensure that women and marginalized groups are represented fairly if they are reluctant to speak on camera or in public?

Answer:

Build trust through sustained engagement and transparency about your intentions. Offer options like off-the-record conversations, anonymized quotes, or audio-only interviews. Collaborate with community leaders or organizations to facilitate introductions and provide support. Respect their decision if they choose not to participate.

Q6: What are effective strategies for verifying user-generated content (UGC) from social media?

Answer:

Cross-check UGC with multiple sources, use reverse image and video verification tools, analyze metadata, and confirm with local contacts or experts. Avoid rushing to publish unverified content, especially if it could influence public opinion or policy.

Q7: How do I avoid reinforcing stereotypes while still reporting on gendered impacts of climate change?

Answer:

Highlight women's agency, leadership, and innovative responses alongside vulnerabilities. Use gender-disaggregated data and stories that reflect diverse experiences. Avoid portraying women only as victims or passive recipients of aid. Showcase intersectional realities including age, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status.

Q8: How can I make my climate and gender reporting accessible to diverse audiences?

Answer:

Use clear, jargon-free language and local languages where possible. Incorporate multimedia formats such as radio, audio stories, infographics, and social media posts to reach varied literacy levels and platforms. Tailor content to cultural contexts and audience needs.

Q9: What should I do if I realize I have made an error in my climate and gender reporting?

Answer:

Correct the mistake promptly and transparently, whether through published corrections, updates, or public statements. Explain the nature of the error and what steps you took to address it. Use it as an opportunity to reinforce your commitment to accountability.

Q10: How can I engage communities in the reporting process to ensure their stories are accurately and ethically told?

Answer:

Involve community members as collaborators or consultants throughout reporting — from story development to fact-checking. Share drafts for feedback, respect their input, and offer ways to amplify their voices beyond your story. Build long-term relationships rather than one-off engagements.

If you have other questions or specific dilemmas, please reach out to our support team at programs@cemauganda.org.

5. GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS

This glossary defines important terms to promote clarity and consistency in ethical climate and gender reporting. Understanding these concepts helps journalists accurately convey complex issues and avoid misinterpretation.

Climate Change Terms

Climate Change:

Long-term alteration of temperature and typical weather patterns in a place, primarily caused by human activities like burning fossil fuels, deforestation, and industrial processes.

Climate Resilience:

The ability of individuals, communities, or systems to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from climate-related shocks and stresses.

Climate Adaptation:

Adjustments in natural or human systems to moderate or avoid harm from climate change impacts, such as building flood defenses or changing agricultural practices.

Climate Mitigation:

Efforts to reduce or prevent the emission of greenhouse gases to slow down global warming, including renewable energy use and reforestation.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR):

Strategies and actions aimed at minimizing the damage caused by natural hazards, such as early warning systems, preparedness training, and resilient infrastructure.

Gender and Intersectionality Terms

Gender:

Socially constructed roles, behaviors, expressions, and identities of girls, women, boys, men, and gender-diverse people. Gender influences how individuals experience and respond to climate change.

Gender-Disaggregated Data:

Data separated by gender categories (e.g., women, men, non-binary) to reveal differences in experiences, needs, and impacts.

Gender Equity:

Fairness and justice in the distribution of benefits, responsibilities, and opportunities between genders, recognizing that different groups may require different resources to achieve equal outcomes.

Intersectionality:

A framework that examines how multiple social identities (such as gender, race, class, age,

disability, and displacement) intersect to shape unique experiences of oppression or privilege.

Marginalized Communities:

Groups excluded or disadvantaged due to systemic social, economic, or political inequalities, often including women, indigenous peoples, refugees, and persons with disabilities.

Media Ethics and Reporting Terms**Ethical Journalism:**

The practice of reporting news and stories with accuracy, fairness, independence, transparency, and accountability to serve the public interest without causing harm.

Informed Consent:

Obtaining voluntary permission from interviewees or sources after explaining the purpose, use, and potential risks of the information shared.

Anonymity:

Protecting the identity of a source or interviewee to safeguard them from harm, retaliation, or stigma.

Sensationalism:

The use of exaggerated or shocking language and images to attract attention, often at the expense of accuracy or fairness.

Conflict of Interest:

A situation where personal, financial, or political interests could compromise the journalist's objectivity or integrity in reporting.

Trauma-Informed Journalism:

Reporting that recognizes the emotional impact of traumatic events on individuals, ensuring sensitivity and avoiding re-traumatization.

Additional Terms**Sustainable Development:**

Meeting present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs, balancing environmental protection, social equity, and economic growth.

Climate Justice:

A movement and framework recognizing that climate change's impacts and responsibilities are unequally distributed, emphasizing fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people.

Refugee/Displacement:

People forced to flee their homes due to conflict, persecution, or environmental disasters, often facing heightened vulnerability to climate impacts.

6. CONTACT LIST OF EXPERTS AND ORGANIZATIONS

This curated directory provides journalists with trusted contacts across local, regional, and international levels. These experts, NGOs, and resource centers specialize in climate change, gender equality, intersectionality, and ethical media practices. Use this list to access credible sources, gain insights, and enrich your reporting.

Local Experts and Organizations (Uganda)

1. Centre for Environment and Migration Assistance (CEMA)

Focus: Climate change adaptation, migration, gender-sensitive environmental research

📍 Kampala, Uganda

✉ programs@cemauganda.org

🌐 www.cemauganda.org

Contact: Dr. Claire Nansubuga, Program Officer — programs@cemauganda.org

2. Uganda Women's Network (UWONET)

Focus: Women's rights, gender equality, climate justice

📍 Kampala, Uganda

✉ info@uwonet.or.ug

🌐 www.uwonet.or.ug

Contact: Grace Achieng, Climate Advocacy Officer — g.achieng@uwonet.or.ug

3. Makerere University, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies

Focus: Climate science, gender studies, sustainable development

📍 Kampala, Uganda

✉ envstudies@mak.ac.ug

Contact: Prof. David Ochieng, Climate and Gender Research — dochieng@mak.ac.ug

4. Action for Development (ACFODE)

Focus: Gender mainstreaming in environment and climate policies

📍 Kampala, Uganda

✉ info@acfode.org

🌐 www.acfode.org

Contact: Jane Nabirye, Program Coordinator — jnabirye@acfode.org

Regional Experts and Organizations (East Africa)

5. East African Climate Change Network (EACCN)

Focus: Regional climate advocacy, gender-responsive policies

📍 Nairobi, Kenya

✉ info@eaccn.org

🌐 www.eaccn.org

Contact: Peter Mwangi, Regional Coordinator — pmwangi@eaccn.org

6. African Women's Development Fund (AWDF)

Focus: Funding and supporting women-led climate initiatives across Africa

📍 Accra, Ghana (regional offices in Nairobi)

✉ info@awdf.org

🌐 www.awdf.org

Contact: Rose Wambui, Grants Manager — rwambui@awdf.org

7. Regional Environmental Center for Central Africa (CERAC)

Focus: Climate adaptation, environmental justice, gender inclusion

📍 Kinshasa, DR Congo

✉ info@cerac.cd

Contact: Jean-Baptiste Mukuna, Program Officer — jmukuna@cerac.cd

International Experts and Organizations

8. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

Focus: Scientific assessments on climate change

🌐 www.ipcc.ch

Contact: Media inquiries via official website contact form

9. UN Women – Gender and Climate Change Unit

Focus: Global gender equality, climate resilience programs

🌐 www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/climate-change

✉ climate@unwomen.org

Contact: Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director (office contact via website)

10. Women's Environment & Development Organization (WEDO)

Focus: Advocacy for women's leadership in climate policy

🌐 www.wedo.org

✉ info@wedo.org

Contact: Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner, Climate Justice Advocate — kjk@wedo.org

11. Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA)

Focus: Partnership to promote gender equality in climate change policies

🌐 www.gender-climate.org

Contact: Secretariat through website

Media Ethics and Journalism Support Networks

12. International Federation of Journalists (IFJ)

Focus: Media ethics, journalists' rights, training on ethical reporting

🌐 www.ifj.org

Contact: Media Ethics Unit — ethics@ifj.org

13. Climate Tracker


Focus: Journalist network focusing on climate change stories worldwide

🌐 www.climatetracker.org

Contact: info@climatetracker.org

14. African Women in Media (AWiM)

Focus: Supporting women journalists, gender-sensitive reporting training

 www.africanwomeninmedia.org

Contact: info@africanwomeninmedia.org

Tips for Reaching Out

- When contacting experts, clearly state your story's focus and deadlines.
- Be respectful of their time and availability; schedule interviews well in advance.
- Use official channels when possible and verify credentials.
- Consider language preferences and offer interview formats (phone, email, video).

7. TEMPLATES AND SAMPLE DOCUMENTS

Ethical journalism demands clear, documented processes that protect sources and ensure informed participation. Below are ready-to-use template documents that can be customized to different reporting contexts. These tools help standardize ethical practices like informed consent, data usage transparency, and protection of vulnerable voices.

8.1. Informed Consent Form (for Interviews and Visual Media)

Purpose: To obtain voluntary permission from individuals before publishing their stories, images, or identifiable information.

Sample Template:

INFORMED CONSENT FORM

Project Title/Story Name: _____

Journalist/Media Organization: _____

Date of Interview/Recording: _____

Participant Name: _____

Location: _____

Purpose of the Interview:

This interview is being conducted for a story on climate change and gender issues. Your voice and experience are valuable in highlighting real-life perspectives. The interview may be published in print, online, audio, or video formats.

Your Rights as a Participant:

- You may refuse to answer any question.
- You may end the interview at any time.
- You may request anonymity or that your identity not be disclosed.
- You may ask to review how your quote will be used.

Consent Options (Tick as appropriate):

- ☐ I agree to be quoted by name.
- ☐ I prefer to remain anonymous.
- ☐ I consent to having my photo/video taken and published.
- ☐ I do not consent to visual media use.

Signature of Participant: _____**Date:** _____**Signature of Interviewer/Journalist:** _____**Contact Information:** _____**8.2. Media Release Form (for Audio/Video/Photographs)**

Purpose: To secure permission for the use of a person's image, voice, or recorded statement.

MEDIA RELEASE FORM

I hereby grant permission to [Media Organization/Journalist Name] to record, use, and distribute my photograph, video footage, and/or audio recordings for journalistic and educational purposes related to climate and gender reporting.

- ☐ I understand that these materials may appear in media outlets, websites, or publications.
- ☐ I waive the right to approve final use but may withdraw consent prior to publication.

Name: _____**Signature:** _____**Date:** _____**8.3. Anonymity Request Form (Optional Use)**

Purpose: For individuals who wish to remain anonymous for safety or privacy reasons.

ANONYMITY REQUEST FORM

I request that my identity be protected in the media story being produced by [Journalist/Organization Name]. I understand this may include withholding my name, altering identifying details, or avoiding visuals that reveal my identity.

- ☐ I understand that while full anonymity may not be guaranteed in all digital formats, efforts will be made to safeguard my privacy.

Requested Pseudonym (Optional): _____**Signature of Participant:** _____**Date:** _____**Journalist Signature:** _____

8.4. Ethical Guidelines Brief (for Newsroom Teams)

Purpose: Quick-reference code of conduct to guide field reporters and editors.

FIELD ETHICS GUIDELINES

- Always obtain informed consent before recording or quoting someone.
- Use gender-sensitive language and avoid stereotypes.
- Respect local customs and languages in rural or refugee settings.
- Never publish identifying information that could endanger a source.
- Avoid re-traumatizing survivors by pushing them to relive harmful experiences.
- Offer anonymity and emotional support if necessary.
- Fact-check all scientific claims through credible sources.

8.5. Suggested Attribution Statement for Sensitive Stories

“This story includes voices of individuals affected by climate-related displacement. Some names and identifying details have been changed to protect their privacy.”