

# 5

## Ethical Journalism Guide

When it comes to hate speech, journalists and editors must pause and take the time to judge the potential impact of offensive, inflammatory content. This **5 point test**, developed by the Ethical Journalism Network highlights questions in the gathering, preparation and dissemination of news and helps place what is said and who is saying it in an ethical context.



### 1. STATUS OF THE SPEAKER

How might their position influence their motives?  
Should they even be listened to or just ignored?

### 2. REACH OF THE SPEECH

How far is the speech traveling?  
Is there a pattern of behaviour?

### 3. GOALS OF THE SPEECH

How does it benefit the speaker and their interests?  
Is it deliberately intended to cause harm to others?

### 4. THE CONTENT ITSELF

Is the speech dangerous?  
Could it incite violence towards others?

### 5. SURROUNDING CLIMATE—SOCIAL / ECONOMIC / POLITICAL

Who might be negatively affected?  
Is there a history of conflict or discrimination?

**DON'T SENSATIONALISE!**

**AVOID THE RUSH TO PUBLISH**

**TAKE A MOMENT OF REFLECTION**

**Ethical Journalism Network**  
[ethicaljournalismnetwork.org](http://ethicaljournalismnetwork.org)

