8 tips for migration coverage

The tips below are a summary of a speech by Michael O’Flaherty, the Director of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, as reported by the European Federation of Journalists in this article.

1. Collect **impeccable data**: the big picture is known but we know little about the details and the lack of quality information is a problem when we write about human stories

2. Report the whole story about migration policies by **reporting on local communities** and **challenge myths** about migrants

3. Produce videos where refugees speak and explain their situation: **give a voice** to local communities

4. Use **correct wording**: 3/5 people are coming from the top 10 refugee camps in the world, by deduction we can clearly say that the majority of them are fleeing persecution; instead of writing “migrant or refugee crisis” which makes the people a problem it’s better to write “crisis of migrant policy”; instead of talking about the “EU / national values” or “moral values”, it’s
better to talk about the “universal values which Europe hold dear”

5. **Correct misleading images**: refugees and migrants are not young strong men using smartphones or tourist family members travelling with expensive luggage.

6. Use **international tools** like FRA’s [Media Toolkit](https://fra.europa.eu/en/media-toolkit), [EJN’s ethical guidelines on migration reporting](https://www.ethicaljournals.org/migration-reporting), [Charter of Roma](https://www.romacouncil.org/charter-of-roma), [Charter of Idomeni](https://www.charteridomeni.eu), to enhance your reporting skills on migration.

7. Develop better skills on **media literacy**, help your audience better understand how to consume your contents and counter fake news or propaganda.

8. Engage with **social media** and accept the fact that you can’t fully cover and understand that world.