

# A short guide to monitoring migration news reporting

## Why media monitoring?

Media monitoring is a tool for social change. It can be used to gather evidence on selected dimensions of representation in the news worldwide, and in advocacy and policy-making. For a more accurate, balanced and ethical reporting on migration, it is essential to have a picture of how media is faring. Media monitoring is an essential tool that can provide that evidence.

“Media monitoring bridges the gap between activists and media professionals. It creates a link between the media and their audience which has the potential to lead to democratic, professional, more equitable and diverse media systems. The results of monitoring provide a picture of media content that allows discussion about representation in media at a level of specificity, based on ‘hard’ evidence.” <http://whomakesthenews.org/media-monitoring>

Below is an extract from the media monitoring tools used in the Refugees Reporting project in 2017. All resources are accessible at this link: <https://www.refugeesreporting.eu/media-monitoring/> - you can also contact WACC at [info@waccglobal.org](mailto:info@waccglobal.org) for more information.

## 14. PEOPLE IN THE STORY

Columns 6 to 19 are for people *in* the news. Code (i) any person whom the story is about even if they are not interviewed or quoted; (ii) Each person who is interviewed, (iii) Each person in the story who is quoted, either directly or indirectly. Code **only** individual people. Do not code: (i) Groups (e.g. a group of nurses, a group of soldiers); (ii) Organisations, companies, collectivities (e.g. political parties); (iii) Characters in novels or movies (**unless** the story is **about** them); (iv) Deceased historical figures (**unless** the story is **about** them); (v) Interpreters (Code the person being interviewed as if they spoke without an interpreter).

1. **Gender:** Do not know=0, Female=1, Male=2, Other (transgender, etc.)=3
2. **Age:** Do not know=0, 12 and under=1, 13-18=2, 19-34=3, 35-49=4, 50-64=5, 65+=6

**IF THE PERSON IS NOT A REFUGEE, MIGRANT OR ASYLUM SEEKER, SKIP TO QUESTION 13.**

3. **If the age is below 18, the person is identified as a:** Do not know/not specified=0, Unaccompanied minor=1, Accompanied minor=2

4. **Is the person identified as** Refugee=1, Migrant =2, Asylum seeker=3, Illegal Migrant=4, Undocumented Migrant=5, Illegal Alien=6, Two or more of the preceding terms used interchangeably for the same person=7, None of the terms are used=8

5. **The person is identified as coming from:**

0 Do not know / Not specified	7 Rest of Asia (Bangladesh, India, Vietnam, China, etc.)
1 Middle East (Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Iran, Palestine, Yemen, etc.)	8 Eastern Europe (Turkey, Russia, Kosovo, Albania, Serbia, Ukraine, etc.)
2 North Africa (Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Algeria, etc.)	9 Central or South America
3 Eastern Africa (Somalia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, etc.)	10 North America
4 Western Africa (Gambia, Mali, Nigeria, Guinea, Senegal, Ghana, Niger, Ivory Coast, etc.)	11 Oceania
5 Central and Southern Africa (DR Congo, Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa, etc.)	12 Central, Southern and Western Europe (Germany, UK, Italy, etc.)
6 Central Asia (Afghanistan, Pakistan, Georgia, etc.)	

**Please specify the country in the comments section of the coding sheet.**

6. **Is the person mentioned alive or dead?** Do not know=0, Alive=1, Dead=2

7. **Religion:** Not mentioned=0, Atheist or no religious affiliation=1, Buddhist=2, Christian=3, Hindu=4, Jewish=5, Muslim=6; Other=7

8. **Is the person described in terms of a family relationship** (e.g. wife, husband, mother, son, aunt, daughter, uncle, etc.)?

Yes=1, No=2

9. **Occupation or position of the person:** See table.

<b>0</b> Not stated	<b>7</b> Worker in an inter-governmental / international organisation
<b>1</b> Government, politician, minister, spokesperson...	<b>8</b> Activist or worker in civil society org., NGO, trade union
<b>2</b> Government employee, public servant, diplomat, etc.	<b>9</b> Lawyer, judge, magistrate, legal advocate, etc.
<b>3</b> Police, military, para-military, militia, fire officer	<b>10</b> Unskilled labourer
<b>4</b> Academic expert, lecturer, teacher	<b>11</b> Student
<b>5</b> Health professional, social worker, childcare worker	<b>12</b> Person identified only as a 'migrant', 'refugee', 'asylum seeker', etc.
<b>6</b> Religious figure, priest, monk, rabbi, mullah, nun	<b>13</b> Unemployed
	<b>14</b> Other ( <b>only as last resort &amp; explain</b> )

10. **Function of the person in the news story:** See table.

<b>0</b> Do not know	<b>4</b> Personal experience
<b>1</b> Subject	<b>5</b> Eye witness
<b>2</b> Spokesperson	<b>6</b> Popular opinion
<b>3</b> Expert or commentator	<b>7</b> Other ( <b>only as last resort &amp; explain</b> )

11. **The story identifies the person as someone who has experienced:** See table.

<b>0</b> Not applicable	<b>6</b> Other non-domestic violence, crime, robbery, etc.
<b>1</b> An accident or natural disaster	<b>7</b> Violence or discrimination based on religion (eg. FGM, Islamophobia, etc.)
<b>2</b> Human-induced disaster, war, state violence	<b>8</b> Violence or discrimination based on nationality, race, ethnicity

3	Terrorism	9	Violence or discrimination based on gender, age, ability, etc.
4	Domestic violence, rape, murder, etc.	10	Difficult economic situation, poverty
5	Non-domestic sexual violence, rape, assault, etc.	11	Other (specify in 'comments')

12. **The story identifies the person as a perpetrator of:** See table

0	Not applicable	5	Perpetrator of non-domestic violence, crime, robbery, etc.
1	Perpetrator of acts of war, crimes against humanity, state violence, etc.	6	Perpetrator of violence or discrimination based on religion (FGM, Islamophobia, etc.)
2	Perpetrator of acts of terrorism	7	Perpetrator of violence or discrimination based on nationality, race, ethnicity
3	Perpetrator of domestic violence, rape, sexual assault, etc.	8	Perpetrator of discrimination based on gender, age, ability, etc
4	Perpetrator of non-domestic sexual violence, rape, assault, etc.	9	Other Perpetrator (specify in 'comments')

13. **Is the person directly quoted:** Yes=1, No=2

14. **Is there a photograph of the person in the story:** Do not know=0, Yes=1, No=2