

Ask yourself these questions before reporting on migration issues

The following are suggested questions for students of journalism, but also professional journalists, to ask oneself before reporting on migration issues. They can be helpful in reflecting about different points of view on the topic, and identifying and understanding one's own prejudice, stereotypes, opinions and power. They are meant as a helpful framework to think about challenging topics – such as migration – and on who the person reporting the story is, so that the journalist can work more efficiently and bring to the audience a more nuanced and balanced portrayal of migration.

The questions come (verbatim) from:

https://www.clovekvtisni.cz/media/publications/1424/file/en_people-between-the-lines_final.pdf , page 18

1. Are you aware of your own position as an author with a certain socio-economic background, worldview, origin, and possibly also as a member of the majority?
2. Are you using inclusive language? Think about when you're using words like we, us, they, them and how you're using them to describe people.
3. How are you approaching topics and stories you don't understand?
4. Are you using sources that reflect different cultures, opinions, and perspectives?
5. Are you treating migrants and refugees as one entity and the majority or the European Union as their opposite?
6. Are you using diverse sources? Are you using sources that represent different cultural and social contexts and viewpoints as much as those do that represent "your" (personal, European, majority) perspective?
7. Are you avoiding constructions that suggest a "right" or "wrong" image about other cultures? Are you leading the audience to an image they should adopt?
8. Are you including authentic voices of the people you're writing about and do you know the context of their lives?
9. Do you think about whose voice is included and whose isn't? Are you also offering the perspective of the portrayed groups and do they have enough space? How are people in your article presented and described? Are they connected to a collective identity or label?
10. Are you aware of how you are framing your story? What photos, headlines, and section headings you choose, which people you quote? What is the tone of your reporting?

11. Are you looking for the untold before settling on an explanation stemming from your deep-rooted perceptions about the world (e.g. missing socio-economic or socio-historical factors vs. ideas about genetic predisposition to certain behaviour)?

12. Are you just repeating old truths? Is the content you are creating too consistent with received or learned ideas about a given social group, in this case migrants and refugees?