

Recommendations from Refugees Reporting

All recommendations below are taken verbatim from [Changing the Narrative: Media Representation of Refugees and Migrants in Europe](https://www.refugeesreporting.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Changing_the_Narrative_Media_Representation_of_Refugees_and_Migrants_in_Europe.pdf) Published in November 2017. The full report can be found here: [https://www.refugeesreporting.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Changing the Narrative Media Representation of Refugees and Migrants in Europe.pdf](https://www.refugeesreporting.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Changing_the_Narrative_Media_Representation_of_Refugees_and_Migrants_in_Europe.pdf)

For media professionals and news organisations

- Adhere to the five core principles of ethical journalism: accuracy, independence, impartiality, humanity and accountability.
- Respect the five-point guideline on migration reporting: Facts not bias, Know the law, Show humanity, Speak for all, Challenge hate.
- Ensure a better and more consistent use of references to national and international legislation relating to human right and refugee law.
- Continue using correct terminology; avoid at all costs the use of terms that have a negative connotation in the local context.
- Include more individual refugees and migrants in stories on refugee and migration issues, and use more direct quotes from refugees and migrants.
- Ensure that all communities of refugees and migrants living in Europe are given appropriate space in the news, to combat invisibility and improve social integration.
- Go beyond the label: refugees and migrants are experts; include them as such in the news. Seek and share news focusing on the positive contribution of refugees and migrants in host countries.
- Consider training of journalists to promote cultural sensitivity to improve gender ratio in reporting on migration.
- Foster links and mutual capacity building with refugee networks and groups.
- Seek more diversity in the newsroom, including more people with a refugee/migrant background in newsrooms and editorial teams.

For refugee-led organisations and groups

- Identify journalists at the local and national level who work on migration and asylum issues and reach out to them to develop working relationships.
- Train and engage refugee communities in the use of social media to reach out to different publics, especially building upon the expertise of younger generations.
- Engage with the media, at all levels, to raise awareness about refugee organisations, opportunities, situations faced, and needs of refugees and migrants.
- Help identify individuals willing to share their stories and find ways to share refugees' direct experiences to aid public understanding of their realities and perspectives.
- Understand the needs of the media in order to be able to present stories most effectively and in a way that enables media to make the best use of them.

For civil society organisations working with refugees and migrants

- Grant refugees and migrants with whom the organisation is in contact the right to determine whether or not they want to engage with media professionals.
- Ensure that refugees and migrants have a voice in all matters relevant to them.
- Assist in identifying stories with a human angle.
- Together with media professionals, develop training programmes to build media capacity for refugee-led organisations.
- Together with refugee-led organisations, develop training programmes on migration reporting for journalists.